

Report on the 9th International Conference on Geomorphology and post-conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists

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9th International Conference on Geomorphology

It was a truly wonderful experience attending the recently concluded 9th ICG in New Delhi as one of the IAG-grant holders. It had been a great opportunity for a young researcher like me to meet distinguished scientists and professors from different countries, as well as to share this platform with my international counterparts. The conference was extremely well organized by Prof. Sunil Kumar De. I thoroughly followed this event with so many interesting discussions on various conventional and experimental topics. Especially, most of the plenary lectures were very insightful.



However, in my opinion, it would have been more interactive if there were dedicated slots for panel discussions with a number of experts on concerned topics. Also, I felt that there were too many parallel sessions ran in the same slot. Due to this, the delegates missed a number of discussions. Besides, some of the parallel sessions had only 15%-20% attendance of the presenters. Obviously it is not possible to know about the attendance of the presenters until the start of the session, but this could have been dealt by clubbing together the sessions that experienced low turnouts.

Post-conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists

The post-conference field visit to Dehradun, Mussoorie, Paonta Sahib and Sataun was appropriately arranged by the IAG and EGU. The visit to the active tectonics and landslide zones around the MBT and MCT was a first of its kind experience for most of the young geomorphologists.

The lectures organized on Day 1 covered various topics like active tectonic zones in the Himalayas, tectonic related to the drainage systems in India, landslides in seismically active regions, coastal geomorphology and sea level change etc. Although quite intriguing, it was quite difficult to cope with an extremely long schedule. Amongst the lectures, I found the last one delivered by Dr. George Phillip of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) most useful as far as the scheduled field visits are concerned. In my opinion, the lecture series could have been trimmed a bit for some other activities like hands on training on methods and equipment required for working in the Himalayan landscape.



On Day 2, we visited some active tectonic zones en route Mussoorie. Our group was led by Dr P.K. Champati Ray of IIRS. However, the necessity of an orientation program prior to the field visit was felt by most of the participants, as most of them are visiting the Himalayas for the first time. On this day, we were enriched by the knowledge and experience shared by Dr. Peter van der Beek.

On Day 3, we visited the tectonic landforms in the Dun Valley and Sub-Himalayas en route Sataun. Dr. George Phillip led our group to the places where the geologists of WIHG have been working for many years. There were multiple stops where he systematically explained about the structural units and related topographic expressions.



In spite of coming from various parts of the world, the young geomorphologists gelled together extremely well. During this course, everybody had contributed in their own way. I sincerely hope that this opportunity for interaction should pave the way for many collaborative works in the future. Overall, the conference and the intensive course for Young Geomorphologists were extremely productive. Special thanks are due to the Thomas Cook team for efficiently managing these events.