



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

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The 9th ICG was held in New Delhi, India from 6th to 11th November, 2017 at the prestigious Vigyan Bhawan. Being from the host country I didn't want to miss the opportunity to be present at this conference attended by eminent scientists and young researchers from around the globe. Indeed, the conference was a great success and was supported by researchers from around the world. I could meet and interact with experts from my field and exchange ideas with my fellow researchers. The best part of this conference which initially drew my attention was that, it addressed a variety of topics which covered almost all aspects of geomorphology. Most of the speakers from the plenary sessions were outstanding and the topics covered were very apt. I was especially interested to attend the Tectonic Geomorphology (IAG-EGU Joint Session) as my research focuses on this particular area of geomorphology. Few other sessions which drew my attention were Planetary Geomorphology (IAG-WG), Application of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System in geomorphology, Quantitative Geomorphology and Modeling, Geomorphological Mapping and of course the 'Young Geomorphologists' Session where my fellow young researchers presented their work. Overall the weeklong conference turned out to be a great networking hub!! I could present my work in the form of a poster titled, "Evidence for Quaternary Displacements in the Trans Yamuna Segment of the Doon Valley in NW Himalaya: Implications for Earthquake Hazard Assessment". This eventually helped me in discussing my current research and also improve upon it. However, I felt the poster sessions were attended by a limited number of people as it had been clubbed with oral presentations.

However, I must say that attending this conference would not have been possible for me without the grant provided by IAG for participants from less favoured countries. This a unique and great initiative taken up by IAG in encouraging upcoming young researchers constrained by financial benefits to showcase their work in front of the global scientific community. The intensive training course from 12th-16th November, 2017 was an added advantage for all the young geomorphologists. The training course consisted of invited lectures from eminent scientists and professors on the first day. This helped us in understanding the geology and tectonics of the surrounding areas before embarking on our field work. The next two days consisted of field work in Doon Valley and Sataun region of Himachal Pradesh. I was more than overwhelmed to know that the field work was being taken up in areas related to my doctoral research area. This gave me an opportunity to share my knowledge in the field with everyone and this opened up more discussions about the tectonics and geology of other regions around the globe.

Himalaya, due to its varied topography is one of the most complex fold and thrust belts of the world and is itself a plethora of beautiful geomorphic features. It is obviously difficult to understand the varied geomorphic processes operating here in such a short period of time. Still, we did learn a lot about tectonically active geomorphic features, tectonically induced landslides, fluvial geomorphic features and also visited few sites which had paleoseismic importance. It was really interesting to find that researchers from different academic backgrounds and research interests took part enthusiastically and were eager to learn more. Apart from this, we really had a great time visiting a picturesque hill station named Mussorie in the foothills of the Garhwal Himalayan Range, post field work. Few of us from India, were very happy to share our knowledge about the culture, food habits and traditions of the places and vice versa. The informal sessions opened up new ideas of research and we all eventually developed a strong bond of friendship with each other.

This was my first participation at an International Conference and it was much above of what I expected. For me it was very important to discuss and share my research problems which was fulfilled by experts in my field. This conference opened up discussions on the recent global and regional issues in terms of disasters and how young researchers like us can cater to the needs of the society with the help of science. So, we all have a responsibility ahead of us, being the alumni of this prestigious scientific group. I hope the trend continues!

Finally, I would like to thank IAG once again for offering me the scholarship and for organizing a wonderful training program for us.