



## **Report on the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geomorphology and post-conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists**

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I am a PhD. candidate at the University of Cincinnati. I have successfully presented at the 9th International Conference on Geomorphology in New Delhi and have attended '*the post-conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists*' in Dehradun. I am highly thankful to IAG for providing the necessary grant to present part of my Doctoral research work and allow me to have the opportunity to build a strong communication with other young geomorphologists around the world. Although, initially I was reluctant to attend the intensive course work due to conflicting schedule at my present institute and familiarity of the Himalayan terrain, soon I realized that the purpose of the intensive coursework is much more than familiarizing with the geology and geomorphology of the Dehradun region. I would like to stress more on this aspect of the workshop and then briefly mention some of the points about the conference itself.

I would like to start with a huge thank to the IAG organizers for this wonderful workshop experience. Although, the driving to Dehradun was tiring, but the workshop was very well organized. Most importantly, it helped to build friendship among the young geomorphologists around the world. We shared our thoughts and possible collaboration as well as our life experience in and out of the field. I never thought I would be able to get out more from those informal friendly discussion. Additionally, we developed several common platform in social media to share our research and day-to-day lives, and most importantly to keep in touch. This is great for me, but more than great for my friends who lives in developing countries with very limited resources, like countries in the African continent, in Iran, in Indonesia, in Costa Rica, in India and so on. This social gathering to me is thus, a great success of the entire post-conference workshop.

On another positive note, many of us got exposed to the regional geology and geomorphology of the Dehradun and surrounding mountainous region during the field trips. Although, I personally work in the High Himalaya and Transhimalaya, my knowledge on the Lesser and Sub-Himalaya was limited. The field trips, especially on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, were really great experience for me and many of us. The geological explanations were logical, accommodated with clear maps and satellite images, and proper explanation. I would like to stress on this point little more. Its very important to provide maps before explanation, because it helps to understand the setting. Similarly, field description based on logical explanation can not go wrong and at this stage, as a young scientist, I would prefer that over direct interpretation, which was mostly the case in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of field work. So, in nutshell, future intensive field trips should focus on the logical explanation and description than interpretation (\*\*in fact I forgot all their interpretation at this moment, but clearly remembered all the logical conclusions derived by linking field evidence).

On the cautionary note: geomorphology is a broad, overlapping subdiscipline. Scientists from both geology and geography backgrounds study the subject. No one is better than the other. Some of the invited speakers often liked to draw this distinction between researchers of different background. Often it felt like discrimination and relative superiority of individual discourse over the other. My request would be to be cautious in future in such repeated distinction. Geomorphologists should both be treated equally as geomorphologists irrespective of their background, because at this stage the level of science is not so different.

Now briefly about the conference. It was a great conference overall. Some of the oral sessions were informative. The lunch gatherings were also very effective to meet new people and to improve networking. However, except few conference rooms, there were issues with the projectors in some rooms. This was a minor technical issue and could easily be fixed, but it ruined the entire session and the presenter's motivation. I hope future conveners should be more diligent about this fact. The food (lunches) was great no doubt, but I would prefer some more diversity, since not everyone is a big fan of Indian spices and curry throughout 5 days of the conference.

Overall, this was a great life-time experience for me and I greatly appreciate IAG for everything. I hope to be a part of IAG and lead future conferences around the world. Thanking you.