

INTERNATIONAL BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON GEOCHEMICAL PRECURSORS FOR EARTHQUAKES

Efforts are on all over the world to measure seismic induced deviations through seismic instrumentations, changes in the levels of radon and helium gas in thermal spring emanations, electrical and magnetic properties, velocity changes in seismic waves, high energy charged particle flux variations in space and even abnormal animal behaviour to be used as precursory signals for seismic predictions.

In an attempt to improve the basic understanding of the process of deep earth gas emissions and their relation to seismic occurrences, a research group at Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP) and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) have been engaged for quite some time in continuous and simultaneous monitoring of radon, gamma and helium emanations from tectonically sensitive thermal spring at Bakreswar, West Bengal, India. Large anomalous signals have been routinely observed before few days of some major earthquakes within a distance of few thousand km like the 9.1 in the Richter scale near Sumatra, Indonesia on December 26, 2004, the 8.7 off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia on March 28, 2005, the 6.0 in Papua, Indonesia on August 08, 2005 and the 7.2 in east coast of Honsu, Japan on August 16, 2005.

The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India sponsored International brainstorming session on the Geochemical Precursor's for Earthquakes during September 11–13, 2006 at Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, 1/AF Bidhannagar, Kolkata 700 064, India is being organised. Interested persons, working in the area of earthquake prediction through geochemical precursory signals, are invited to express his/her willingness to participate along with their list of publications on the topic and a short write-up latest by **15 June 2006**. Details of the academic programme will be conveyed at a later date.

Travel in economic class and local hospitality to some selected and limited persons will be provided.

Contact person: Prof. Prasanta Sen
Phone: 91-33-2321 4983; Fax: 91-33-2337 4637
Mobile: 9830226494; E-mail: prasanta.sen@saha.ac.in

Dated: March 28, 2006.