

CONFERENCE ON

**GROUNDWATER
POLLUTION FROM
NATURAL SOURCES OF
ARSENIC AND FLUORIDE –
A QUANTITATIVE
ASSESSMENT, HEALTH
HAZARD AND REMEDIAL
MEASURES**

23-24 DECEMBER, 2004, PATNA



Organised by

**Institute of Geoexploration &
Environment, Patna**

Head Office

7 HF-6-20, HIG Flat,
Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Lohianagar,
Patna – 800 020, India
Tele #: 0612-2368327, Fax # 0612-2341853

Institute of Geoexploration & Environment (IGE), a registered body under society act, offers technical programs and training facilities to problems of national significance. IGE is a premier organization in earth and environmental sciences in eastern India, dedicated to the advancement of multi-disciplinary subjects like water resource management, prospecting of natural resources and environmental impact assessment.

THEME

Two major problems in rural and urban water supply are being faced due to the presence of excess fluoride and arsenic in groundwater in different parts of the country. Arsenic occurs naturally in sedimentary and hard rock aquifers, which are in many developing countries like India used as source of drinking water. Natural arsenic is also found in thermal and mineral waters, which reach the earth's surface either by natural discharge in springs or by geothermal exploitation, which may affect the environment if not treated. In different countries in Asia such as Eastern India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, the scenario of arsenic toxicity is alarming with reports of severe health problems among the population. Arsenic occurrences in groundwater in Gangetic plain of West Bengal and Bihar, India and Bangladesh is a major environmental health hazard of the present century. At least 50 million people are at risk of cancer and other arsenic related disease due to the consumption of high arsenic in groundwater. Excessive limits of arsenic in groundwater due to natural sources, is therefore an issue of primary environmental concern, and hinders the economic and social development. Hence, there is need to improve our understanding on the genesis of high contents of arsenic in groundwater from the various aquifers in order to develop strategies

to improve the socio-economic status of the affected regions.

Similarly, fluoride problems are widespread in nine states covering the peninsular India. Nearly 66 million people face the risk of high concentration of fluoride occurring naturally in groundwater of which an estimated 6 million are children. Excess fluoride intake cause fluorosis - a serious bone disease - among affected population.

Studies concerning the occurrence of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater, their mobility, water-sediment / rock interactions, geochemistry, impact on human health and economy, and remedial measures need to be addressed. This conference is intended to serve as platform for exchange of scientific ideas and to identify future research in understanding high arsenic and fluoride in groundwater and their impacts. The conference is designed to: i) delineate arsenic and fluoride-bearing aquifers within the country, ii) update the latest scientific development, and iii) create mass awareness among administrators, policy makers and corporate bodies on the problem, and to improve the life of people through national and international cooperation.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference would include both oral and poster presentations. Participants intending to present a paper are requested to send abstract within 500 words. The abstract should contain information on title, author(s), affiliation, and a summary of work giving methodology, results and major findings. Postal and e-mail addresses and fax numbers of the corresponding author should also be mentioned. Authors should submit the full paper on acceptance. Accepted papers will be printed in the proceedings of the conference. The full text (double spacing) should not exceed 3000 words inclusive of Tables and Figures. Original works will be given

preference. Two copies of the abstract in Microsoft Word format be sent by post or e-mail (groundwater@indiatimes.com) to the organizer. **Abstracts received after July 31st deadline may not be accepted.** Results of the reviews will be communicated by August 15th 2004.

DEADLINES

Abstract	: 31 st July, 2004
Acceptance of Abstract	: 15 th August, 2004
Full Text	: 30 th October, 2004

REGISTRATION

Student	: Rs 500
Individuals	: Rs. 1000
Institution & Organisation	: Rs. 2000
Delegates from other Countries	: USD 200

VENUE

The venue of the Conference will be the Auditorium of Indira Gandhi Science Complex – Planetarium, Adalatganj, Patna 800001.

EXHIBITION FACILITY

Space for exhibition will be available for organizations and firms to display products, books, hardware, software and other material related to the conference theme. Details of these facilities available upon request on payment basis. Interested parties may contact the IGE, Head Office at Patna:

Dr. R. N. Singh

Secretary,
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7 HF-6-20, HIG Flat,
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Tele #: 0612-2368327, Fax # 0612-2341853

SOUVENIR

Efforts will be made to publish a souvenir, interested parties are requested to contact for rates from

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For all communication relating to participation, submission of Article, Poster Presentation, Sponsorship and other information

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REGISTRATION FORM

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Affiliation:

Full Address:

Phone: _____ | Fax: _____

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Nature of Participation (α)

1. Presentation of Paper	ε	
2. Poster Presentation	ε	
3. Deliberations	ε	
4. Display of Exhibits	ε	
Status	Student	ε
(α)	Individual	ε
	Institution	ε
	Organisation	ε
	Corporate Body	ε
	Special Invitee	ε

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