

OBITUARY



Shunso Ishihara
(1934-2020)

Dr. Shunso Ishihara was one of the most respected and admired granitologists of the world. Anyone working on granitoids is bound to go through his papers on granites, especially in relation to metallogeny. He classified the Japanese granitoids into ‘magnetite-series’ and ‘ilmenite-series’ based on their magnetic susceptibility, and very effectively correlated them with metallogeny in the Japanese islands. What was published as a proposition to classify granites was the result of his very dedicated, extensive and meticulous study of the granites in the Japanese islands, a mammoth task undertaken by him. This classification scheme was followed by almost everybody working on granites in those days, and I believe, continues to be in use to this day. In July, 2002, the Ishihara Symposium was organized by Geoscience Australia to commemorate 25 years of publication of the work on the ‘magnetite-series’ and ‘ilmenite-series’ granitoids by Shunso – this speaks volumes about the impact of his contribution to granites and metallogeny. The Society of Resource Geology, Japan brought out a special issue on “Japanese Porphyry Copper Enigma”, in tribute to Sunso Ishihara and I hope more such issues will follow.

Since the granites that Shunso studied in the Japanese islands were young (mostly Cretaceous and younger), he was very eager to look at older granites and the oxidation state of the magmatic environment in which they formed. This led to collaboration with scientists from different parts of the world to characterize older granitoids, and my association with him in fact started on this note. It was IAGOD, July 2002 at Windhoek, I was standing at the registration desk and my attention was attracted to the name badge of the gentleman beside me – it was ‘Shunso Ishihara’. I was naturally excited. I had read his papers very keenly during my doctoral work on Malanjkhanda, which I mentioned to him in a hurry as I was to present my work in the conference. Shunso asked me to quickly brief him about granites in

India which I did, drawing an outline map of India and showing the prominent granitic terranes. He almost instantaneously made a plan to come in the next February (2003) and see the Malanjkhanda granite and the copper deposit there. What I found in him was a tremendous commitment to mentor young researchers. I found in him the epitome of magnanimity, a great soul and the most down-to-earth person that I ever met. He again came to India in 2007 to study the REE potentials of the manganese ore horizons in India, and I took him to Joda where we did a week long field work.

I am not going to elaborate on his academic career, contributions and honours since I feel that a person of his stature does not need to be depicted that way. What have been already published by SEG, Society of Resource Geology, Japan and Chinese Academy of Sciences have documented them well enough. He held the position of the Director General of the Geological Survey of Japan and subsequently the Director General of AIST (the premier agency of research in Industry, Science and Technology in Japan) – the stature is quite imaginable. Very often, he used to talk about his experiences of the Hiroshima atom bomb attack and his ordeals after the tragic incident. The determination, grit, devotion and above all the simplicity, were the things that one could learn from him, more than from anybody else – undoubtedly he has been my idol.

I hope that researchers of future generation will work harder to take granite research to greater heights, to solve the ‘granite paradox’ and the ‘granite problem’ – in tribute to one of the most enthusiast granitologists of our times.

*Department of Geology & Geophysics
IIT Kharagpur, Kharagpur - 721 302
E: mkp@gg.iitkgp.ernet.in*

M.K. PANIGRAHI

DOI: 10.1007/s12594-020-1494-0

● **V.S. Krishnaswamy** (1923-2020)

We regret very much to place on record the passing away of Shri V.S. Krishnaswamy (1923-2020) on 12th May, 2020 at White Plains, New York, USA. He was one of India’s pioneering Engineering Geologists closely associated with several nationally important irrigation and hydroelectric projects including the famed Bhakra Nangal dam. He rose to the position of the Director General, Geological Survey of India in a testing period and was widely respected for his administrative acumen and sagacity in addition to his technical competence and vision that enhanced the prestige of the geological profession in the country. Shri Krishnaswamy was a Life Fellow of the Geological Society of India, and published some of his seminal works in the journal of the Society. On behalf of the Society and the geological profession in the country, we offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. – M.S. Rao