NEWS AND NOTES

The 9th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission (ASC), 2012 – Dipok K. Bora, Department of Physics, Diphu Government College, Diphu, Karbi-Angling, Assam (*Email: dipok23@gmail.com*)

The 9th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission was held in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia from 17-20 September, 2012. The General Assembly was organized by the Permanent Council on Seismic Risk Mitigation of the Government of Mongolia, Asian Seismological Commission (ASC), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), Research Center of Astronomy and Geophysics (RCAG) of Mongolian Academy of Sciences and also cosponsored by International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI). The opening ceremony was held at the Government Building of Mongolia on 17th September. The aims of the assembly were to promote scientific corporation and exchange among its national members, to upgrade research activities, to strengthen disaster mitigation and to cooperate with other international and regional organizations. The assembly was inaugurated by Mr. D. Terbishdagva, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia followed by the speech of Prof. Kazuro Hirahara (President of Asian Seismological Commission, 2012). The assembly was attended by 400 delegates from 25 countries which included young research scholars. A total of 87 oral and 40 poster presentations were made.

The oral presentations were held in nine sessions. In session 1 (ES), 'Seismic Monitoring, Data Analysis Products' focused on the significant development in seismic monitoring system and data analysis. Session 2 (SH) was on earthquake hazard assessment and was entitled 'Strong Ground Motion, Earthquake Hazard and Risk'. Session 3 (SM) on 'Seismic Sources and Prediction', focused on seismic sources, fault plane solution and source mechanism.

In Session 4 and 5 (SD) entitled, 'Earth Structure, Geodynamics and Seismotectonic', significant improvement in the Earth Structure i.e., Lithosphere structure, Mantle Anisotropy, Teleseismic Tomography and Lithosphere-Asthenosphere Boundary (LAB) were highlighted. The Session 7 (OS), 'Outreach Society and Cooperation' focused on development of disaster education and community participation in disaster risk mitigation. Session 8 (SS) on 'Study on the geodynamic process and seismic activity in Ulaanbaatar city and Central Asia', illustrated Seismic activity around Ulaanbaatar area and investigation of active faults near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Session 9 (SN) on 'Role of the CTBT in Promoting Civil and Scientific Application of Verification Technology', focused on Civil and Scientific applications of CTBTO monitoring data. The following four keynote lectures were presented:

1. *Prof. Harsh Gupta, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi: Reservoir Triggered Seismicity and Earthquake Recurrence at Koyna, India.*
2. *Prof. Eric Calais, Purdue University, USA: Kinematics and Dynamics of Present-Day Continental Deformation in Asia.*
3. *Prof. Mengtan Gao, Institute of Geophysics, China Earthquake Administration, Beijing, China: The Seismic Hazard Assessment in China and the World.*
4. *Prof. Yasuyoshi Ichihashi, Visiting Professor, International Center for Urban Safety Engineering, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo.*

From India, five participants attended the 9th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission. The

presentations focused on Reservoir Triggered Seismicity (RTS), Source Parameters of small to moderate earthquakes in northeastern region of India, Seismic hazard evaluation and GPS studies. Prof. Harsh Gupta (Member, National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi) in his keynote lecture presented the seismic activity near Koyna-Warna region in Western India because of artificial water reservoir. R.K. Chadha (National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad) visited as an honorable Secretary General to the ASC, 2012. Dipok Kumar Bora (Diphu Government College, Diphu, Assam) delivered presentation on estimation of source parameters (seismic moment, source radius, stress drop, and source displacement) of small to moderate earthquakes originated in Shillong-Mikir Plateau and its adjoining region in northeastern India. Dr. Uma Ghosh (Lalbaba College, Howrah, West Bengal) presented on the topic Seismic Hazard evaluation in the Himalayas. In her presentation a comprehensive study of seismic hazard and radiated energy is made in the area. M. Ponraj (Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai) presented a paper on Model inversion of GPS and strain estimation in the Kumaun Himalaya region of the Lesser Himalaya.

On 20th September, all the participants visited the most seismically active area of Mongolia i.e., the Hustai and Emeelet fault as a field visit.

The General Assembly brought together scientists, academicians and young research scholars working on various aspects of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior on a single platform to interact on different issues relating to seismic strong ground motion, earthquake hazard and risk and to update the existing knowledge.