Inauguration of Earth Sciences Building at the University of Hyderabad – A.C. Narayana and K.S. Krishna, University of Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 046 (E: a_c_narayana@yahoo.com)

The earth science programs of teaching and research at the University of Hyderabad were started a decade ago, emphasizing on the training of skilled man power in Mineral Exploration Techniques through a 2-year M. Tech in Mineral Exploration Programme. Prof. K.V. Subbarao initiated and steered the M. Tech in Mineral Exploration programme in the initial stages. Subsequently, it was decided to start a 5-year Integrated M.Sc in Earth Sciences and 2-year M.Sc in Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences programmes and these programmes were introduced in 2012 and currently these two programs are running successfully. The research programmes in the fields of geodynamics, geological and geophysical, ocean and atmospheric sciences, climate dynamics and modelling, paleoclimate etc. are being carried out by the faculty drawn from different academic and regional backgrounds. The Centre was functioning in a temporary space provided by the University for the last 10 years.

The present Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Appa Rao Podile, was kind enough to sanction a new building spanning an area of 22000 sq. ft with provision for class rooms, laboratories for teaching and research, geological museum, faculty rooms and 100 seat conference hall. The

Earth Sciences Building was inaugurated by Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Vice-Chancellor, on 14th November 2018.

The faculty of the Centre requested the Vice-Chancellor to name the conference hall after Late Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna, founder and past president of the Geological Society of India. Prof. Appa Rao Podile himself is a leading plant scientist and realised the contributions of Dr. B.P.R to the growth of geology and allied fields in the country, and how Dr. BPR was inspirational to the earth scientists of different generations in the country for more than seven decades. Prof. Appa Rao readily agreed to name the conference hall in the Earth Sciences building as “Padmashri Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna Conference Hall” and allowed the faculty of earth sciences at the University of Hyderabad to pay their tributes to this great guiding and inspirational soul, who left us in 2012. The faculty and students of earth sciences express their sincere gratitude to Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Vice-chancellor of the University for his kind gesture.

A few photographs showing the building and its inauguration, and conference hall are given below.