SAAEG Life Time Achievement Award to Prof. K.L. Rai and Dr. P.S.N. Murthy – B.L. Narasayya, SAAEG, Visakhapatnam. (E: bandi.narsayya@gmail.com)

An International Conference on “Diamond and other Gemstones, (with Emphasis on India’s Resources and Policy Perspectives)” was organized jointly by the South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (SAAEG), Aligarh and Bhopal Chapters and Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, at Aligarh from 27th and 28th of October, 2017. The Conference was well attended.

SAAEG confers its “Life Time Achievement Award”, every year, on a “Distinguished Academician” and a “Mining Geologist from Mineral Industry” who have made significant/outstanding contributions, in Economic/Mining Geology”. For the year 2017, “Prof. K.L. Rai” (Retd. Professor and Head of the Dept. of Applied Geology, ISM, Dhanbad), President, SAAEG, Bhopal and “Dr. P.S.N. Murthy”, Former General Manager (Investigation and Geostatistics), NMDC Ltd, Hyderabad, Vice-President (South Zone), SAAEG, representing Academician and Industry respectively, have been conferred with the Award on 27-10-2017, at Aligarh. The contributions of both Prof. K.L. Rai and Dr. Murthy are vast and therefore only important aspects are mentioned below.

Prof. K.L. Rai, born on 31st May 1938 in Narsingpur district of Madhya Pradesh, had a brilliant record in his school and college education. He obtained his B.Sc. degree with distinction in Geology and Physics (1959) and M.Sc. in Geology (1961) securing top position at both levels from Universities of Sagar and Jabalpur respectively. The doctoral research work carried out by him along with teaching assignments at Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad from 1965 to 1969 and the post-Doctoral researches accomplished during 1969 - 1972 under the prestigious overseas fellowship of Norwegian Govt. received high acclaim from all quarters and included the Golden Jubilee (MOIL Endowment) Award of ISM in 1976.

Prof. Rai has to his credit a rich blend of Professional Experience, both as a field Geologist (1961-64) and as an academician with a distinguished record of services at various institutions and Universities in India and abroad. This includes his more than three decade-long services at Dept. of Applied Geology, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in various teaching positions including as Prof. & Head of the Dept. (1993-96) and on Deputation of the Govt. of India, at the Dept. of Earth Sciences in University of Constantine, Algeria as Professor of Mining Geology (1980-84) under the Indo-Algerian S&T Bilateral Cooperation and Convention. Even after superannuation from I.S.M. in May 1998, Prof. Rai continued to render his academic services as Emeritus Professor in the Departments of Applied Geology, on invitation first from the Director, National Institute of Technology, Raipur, Chattisgarh (1998-2002) and later on as the Vice-chancellor, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (2002-2004) under sponsorship of the AICTE and UGC respectively.

During his long distinguished career in India and abroad, Prof. Rai successfully guided 11 Ph.D. two post-Doctoral and 48 M.Phil./D.E.S (Mining Geology)/ M.Tech (Mineral Exploration) scholars, while accomplishing sponsored schemes of CSIR, UGC, AICTE and the Central Ministries of Mining Environment & Forests. He has approx. 110 research publications including a research monograph and 10 edited books/ titles to his credit. Besides he has organized several National and International-level seminars, symposia, short-term/refresher courses, etc. In addition to this, his expertise and services have been availed from time to time by various Govt. Organizations notably UPSC, State PSC’s BIS, MoEF, Colleges and Universities,

Mining organizations, etc. in India and abroad. He has also received several awards, honours and fellowships of academic and professional societies.

Prof. Rai was the President of the South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (SAAEG) and Chief Editor of the Association’s “Journal of Economic Geology and Georesource Management” thus rendered Yeoman service for the Cause of Economic Geology.

Dr. P.S.N. Murthy, born on 3rd February 1945 in Veduruparthi village of Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh. He had a brilliant record of his school and University education. He passed both B.Sc (Hons) and M.Sc with first class Distinction and won awards. He had studied in Prestigious Montanistische Hochschule (Leoben, Austria) and Paris School of Mines, by winning Austrian and French Government Scholarships. He has done three doctorates in three different fields namely Applied Geology, Geostatistics, and Musicology, three Post Graduate Diplomas and LLB Degree, which bear a testimony to his versatility and logical thinking capacity. By any International standards he is one of the most qualified persons.

Dr. Murthy joined NMDC in the year 1966 and has to his credit a harmonious blend of rich Professional Experience with an academic bent of mind and strong foundation. During his long distinguished career in NMDC he established a Unique Centre of Geostatistics, conducted many Seminars / training courses and imparted training to about 200 Academicians and Professionals of Mining Industry in Geostatistics. He has done excellent work in Iron ore Geology and published extensively over a wide spectrum of interests from field exploration to Industrial aspects. He is one of the very few persons who have equal experience in Hematite and Magnetite ore deposits. He is the first person in India to apply both Linear Geostatistics and non-linear Geostatistics in modeling of the iron ore deposits. During the studies, he has pioneered in standardizing the exploration norms in respect of secondarily enriched hematite iron ore deposits. This has culminated in conferring “National Mineral Award” on him for the year 1992-93 by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India.

Dr. Murthy had the distinction of working with Govt. of Saudi Arabia as Advisor in Geology and Geostatistics. He also worked as Geological Advisor for M/S Essar Steel.

Dr. Murthy is gifted with great organizing abilities and communicative skills. He is one of the Vice Presidents of SAAEG (South Zone). He organized many Symposia and volunteers to render help to others positively. He is on the Editorial board of the SAAEG’s “Journal of Economic Geology and Georesource Management”. Particular mention may be made here of Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna and Prof. Calamur Mahadevan commemorative volumes (In honor of two outstanding Earth Scientists) both under the auspices of SAAEG Visakhapatnam Chapter as Chief Editor.

Dr. Murthy has to his credit about 60 publications in both International and National Journals of repute. His additional distinctions are his contributions to the field of Musicology by way of 12 publications and 15 articles in the field of Law. Presently also, he continues his efforts in strengthening the objective of SAAEG in its overall growth of earth sciences and mineral industry.

Dr. Murthy is well acquainted with foreign languages like English, French, German, and proficient in Telugu, Kannada, Hindi and Urdu (Indian Languages).