OBITUARY

C. Subrahmanyam
(1945 –2020)

We regret to report the passing away of Dr. C. Subrahmanyam, a noted scientist in the field of Geophysics, on July 17th in Hyderabad after a brief illness. He retired as Director Grade Scientist from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in 2005, where he also served as CSIR-Emeritus Scientist from 2005–2010.

Dr. Subrahmanyam (Dr. CS or Dr. Subbu as fondly remembered by his friends) was born in Chennai, but spent majority of his childhood and early education (till graduation) in Kakinada. He pursued his post-graduation in Geophysics (M.Sc. Tech.) from Andhra University, Waltair (Visakhapatnam). He then joined NGRI as a Research Fellow and started his career in the areas of gravity and magnetic studies. As a scientist at NGRI, he carried out extensive geophysical field research in the application of gravity and magnetic techniques over Dharwar craton in Karnataka and came out with some innovative models. He did his Ph.D. under Prof. R.K. Verma of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

Subsequently, Dr. Subrahmanyam shifted his research activity to Marine Geophysics and acquired voluminous amount of multi-channel seismic data working in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography. He participated in numerous geophysical cruises (eg., Sagar Kanya). His publications (EPSL, Tectonophysics - Elsevier) based on this activity brought to light new ideas on the evolution of sea floor spreading over the west coast of India.

With expertise gained in marine seismics, Dr. CS was invited to Germany under DAAD Fellowship to participate in their marine geophysical programs. He spent nearly three years in Germany and travelled widely across several countries in Europe on research activities. While in Germany, he developed a keen interest in their culture, language and people, which he continued to maintain on his return to India.

In the last phase of his scientific career, he launched a new field of study on gas hydrates, for the first time at NGRI and perhaps in India. He developed a new cadre of scientists in the area of gas hydrates research and guided several research scholars to their doctoral degrees

in this field, many of whom now occupy leading positions in related fields in India and abroad.

With an enviable command in the field of geophysics, especially application of gravity and magnetism, Dr. CS remained dedicated to his research throughout his professional career, contributing richly to Indian geophysics on both continental and marine aspects. He was amongst the early generation of researchers at NGRI who brought laurels to the institute. Although Dr. CS missed out on formal recognition and awards, he leaves behind a voluminous amount of inspiring research, well-documented in the annals of Earth science that he pursued so fondly.

Apart from his scientific achievements, Dr. CS was chiefly responsible for starting the Indo-German Nackontakt Association (IGNA) for German returned scientists and academia, and served as its President and adviser for several years. With extra-ordinary organizational skills, he took IGNA to a high level, conducting international seminars and symposia on science and society, excursions and other events. Dr. CS played a pivotal role in Geothe-Zentrum's cultural activities in Hyderabad as well. He was also very active in the organizational matters related to CSIR-Pensioners Association, Hyderabad and played an important role in its activities.

Dr. CS is fondly remembered by his peers, students, and associates as a jovial, friendly, and a person with a straight forward attitude and enthusiasm for life. His sudden demise is quite difficult to reconcile not just for his family members, but everyone who was associated with him. All his admirers would like to place on record their heart-felt condolences and pray to God to give strength and courage to his family and friends to cope up with the unprecedented loss.

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