

CSIR NEWS

VOL 58 NO 16 30 AUGUST 2008

Two NGRI Scientists Bag APCOST Awards

Two senior scientists of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad,—Dr Tirumalachetty Harinarayana and Dr(Mrs) Chakravadhanula Manikyamba have been selected for the Andhra Pradesh Scientist Award for the year 2008 in the field of Earth Sciences for their outstanding contributions, by the A.P. State Council of Science & Technology (APCOST), Government of Andhra Pradesh. This field has been newly introduced this year by APCOST in recognition of the International Year of the Planet Earth. The two NGRI scientists thus become the first recipients of this award.

Earlier, Dr Harinarayana had won the National Mineral Award (1991) and was recently elected to the prestigious Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (RANS) and also as the Bureau Member of Electromagnetic Studies for Earthquakes and Volcanoes (EMSEV). He has also been elected recently (2007) as an executive member of International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA). Dr Harinarayana received Hogg award by IAGA Working Group 1.2. He has successfully handled and completed mega projects at NGRI related to oil exploration, geothermal exploration, deep crustal studies and earthquake

studies. The concerted efforts made by him in geophysics have opened up new areas for oil exploration in Saurashtra, Kutch, Narmada-Cambay regions, Manabhum area and Arunachal Pradesh. Application of innovative techniques have paved the way to delineate the unknown deep geothermal resources in Puga region, Himalayas, Tattapani region in Chattisgarh and Ganeshpuri-Kokenere regions in the west coast of India. He recently introduced a new geophysical technique in India, namely marine magnetotellurics and applied it in the Gulf-of-Kutch region for oil exploration. He is presently the Head of the Magnetotellurics Group at NGRI.

Dr Manikyamba's significant contributions are in wide ranging areas of Geology and Geochemistry. She has contributed immensely towards the understanding of the formation and evolution, Archean crustal growth and related mineralization by studying various types of rocks of different greenstone belts of Dharwar craton, India. This has created lot of geochemical data on greenstone belt lithologies, Proterozoic Cuddapah basin and documentation of several new rock types like boninites, Nb-enriched basalts, high Mg andesites and adakites for the first time from

Gadwal greenstone belt of Dharwar craton of A.P. She has identified the Phanerozoic type of subduction zone processes in different greenstone belts like Sandur, Penakacherl, Kushtagi, Hutti, Gadwal, Narayanpet and reported many new rock types which are published and widely cited.

Dr Manikyamba is also a recipient of the CSIR-Young Scientist Award (1995), Dr B.P. Radhakrishna Prize (1999) of Geological Society of India and the prestigious National Mineral Award (2002) from the Ministry of Coal and Mines, Government of India, in recognition of her scientific achievements in the field of Geochemistry.