

From: Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Varma, Associate Editor, IGC, Roorkee

I am heartily pleased to inform you that Prof. O.P. Varma has in sequence during the last two months received three Lifetime Achievement Awards, and felicitations in professional best 2016:

1. Dr. Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award-2016 from Indian Geophysical Union
2. SGAT (Bhubaneswar) Lifetime Achievement Award-2016
3. Bharat Gaurav Award-2016 by India International Friendship Society, New Delhi
4. Felicitations by MECL, and
5. Felicitations by CMPDI

Citation of each and images of the lifetime achievement awards presentations are attached. Support letter from the Secretary on behalf of the Core Group of IGC functionaries is also suffixed.

(Anita Varma)

Support Letter from IGC's Core Group

The Dr. Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award of Indian Geophysical Union (IGU) to Prof. O.P. Varma

I am pleased to inform the fellow geoscientists and others that a message has just come from the office of the Indian Geophysical Union (IGU) that Prof. O.P. Varma has been selected for the Dr. Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award of IGU for the year 2016 in recognition of his outstanding contribution in geosciences. The award with a medal and a citation will be bestowed on Prof. Varma at the 53rd Convention of IGU that will be held at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad from Nov. 8-10, 2016.

The prestigious Dr. Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award was constituted in 2011 by IGU and has since been presented to Sr. Scientists of repute who had established schools and made extraordinary contributions to the cause of Indian Earth Sciences. The past recipients of this award are: Dr. S.Z. Qasim, Prof. Harsh K. Gupta, Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Prof. V.P. Dimri and Prof. VLS Bhimasankaram.

Prof. O.P. Varma, crossed 92 & known nationally & internationally, may perhaps be the longest serving geoscientist to get this award in the contemporary time. Profile of his achievements we propose to bring out in the Journal of Ind. Geol. Cong., Vol. 8(2). Hereunder, I propose to reproduce the recommendation letter from the Secretary, Ind. Geol. Cong. Prof. VKS Dave, is cited below to spotlight salient aspects of his monumental startups & implementation programmes in the field of ore geology, mining geology and mineral exploration:

“I have known the nominee, *Prof. O. P. Varma*, as a great teacher who has dedicated his entire life time for popularization, development and advancement of Earth Sciences in this country for more than four decades. I am immensely pleased to support his nomination for *IGU – Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Prof. O.P. Varma, the nominated candidate for the aforesaid Award, has spent his lifetime in serving his country and the cause of geological sciences from the beginning of his career embracing learning, teaching and research and then totally in publication, as Hony. Editor, President & now Executive President in S & T management matters of Ind. Geol. Congress and aware creation about the benefits of geosciences to school-boys & girls and the Indian masses — the IGC being ultimate to him since 1986, which marks a watershed for him in the growth & popularization of geosciences.

In his pioneering efforts to popularize earth sciences among masses, he reached out with a number of suitable programmes and awards to the winners among the participating school boys & girls. Three to four such programmes were implemented during 2011 alone. To widen the scope of awareness building, he moved to common people by arranging lectures in the local languages overwhelmingly well received by the local citizens. Besides these efforts, Prof. Varma has brought out a social awareness program on `Green Earth` by building waste disposal enclosures, fixing hoardings and display boards, distributing brochures/pamphlets and organizing thematic drawing competitions in various schools and colleges in Roorkee and other towns as IGC programmes.

On return to India in 1958, he chose to undertake the development of mining geology & mineral exploration syllabi in India's premier Institution, Indian School of Mines (ISM), globally recognized for such specialized courses. He revised these courses — theory, practical & training programmes in mining geology and mineral exploration— and set-up world-class laboratory, open to researchers from all over the country.

Prof. Varma created a very intimate liaison with the industrial & scientific departments concerned with geological investigations and mineral & mining industry for the good of his students for employment and better training. Success came to his door and he deputed his students for project studies & practical training programmes at major mining centres and field camps of GSI, IBM, MEC, AMD and the like to inculcate in them the latest technologies in mining geology & mineral exploration. As a result, they have occupied top-notch positions both in academies & the mineral industry – Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, Dr. V.P. Dimri, Prof. K.L. Rai, Prof. G.V. Rajamanickam, Prof. D.C. Srivastava, Dr. M. Sudhakar, Prof. A.K. Sen, Dr. R.N. Padhi, Dr. M.S. Pandian to name a few.

He is credited for introducing, first time in India, the **M. Tech. Course in Mineral Exploration in ISM from the beginning of 1976-77 Session** and afterwards on his advice Vikram University also introduced the same course, which he inaugurated. During his headship in ISM, he also introduced M. Tech. Engineering Geology Course.

Prof. Varma is also recognized as initiator of the first Executive Development Programme in ISM on "*Mineral Economics*", which I had the luck of participating. He was, in all possibility, the organiser of the largest number of UGC-sponsored programmes of training on "*Ore microscopic studies & its industrial applications*" year after year. These short-term courses were so popular that even for the year of his retirement, the UGC granted the project for 1984-85 Session. He has been President of Geology & Geography Section of Indian Science Congress, beside that of IGC.

Teaching has been his forte and his accomplishments in teaching have been recognized by the UGC in the award of **National Lecturer in Mining Geology** for the year 1977-78 and two academic awards by ISM after his retirement. Prof. Varma is undoubtedly the most dedicated and sincere teacher that I have come across as a university teacher. He has been very sought-for lecturer for extra-muler programmes in the Indian institutions and industry. It is no wonder that he was lately invited by NGRI to deliver Foundation Lecture and by Bangladesh Geological Society, SAAEG, Indian Science Congress, and BHU for keynote addresses, to name a few. He was invited as a Visiting Professor in the University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee) for one year latter his retirement.

Prof. Varma's outstanding unparalleled contributions to the development of geosciences have emerged from his total devotion and dedication to the affairs of Indian Geological Congress. He has been fully occupied as whole-time honorary functionary & Editor who manages all types of publications in a participatory set-up for the last 26 years. The modern well-organised, tastefully furnished and adequately equipped with up-to-date gadgets, the IGC's 6-room secretariat stands in testimony to his monumental service to Earth Sciences and to the Indian geoscientists still with evergreen urge for creativity and innovations for ever-enlarging nation-wide activities, industry-academia interaction, & scientific collaboration. For over 25 years, he has consistently been widening the scope and creating newer avenues for the popularization of Earth science in India through his IGC office. His dedication is so intense that if sometimes there are no doors & windows, he walks through the wall to get on with his next mission. I am a witness to his acumen for more than half a century, in general and 26 years association in IGC.

Seventy years is by no means a small period in once life to engage himself in professional vocations as a dedicated scientist uninterruptedly — amazingly without break practicing bizarre facets of his expertise in scientific organizations & institutions & freely amidst Indian masses. His endeavours have since gained international recognitions. Well over 92 years of age, Prof. Varma is still very active in his professional activities that centre around the popularization of Earth Sciences through the various activities. Besides IGC, he is a life-member/follow of GSI, Bangalore, MGMI, Kolkata, SAAEG, Bhopal, etc.

Defying his age, Prof. Varma makes the beginning of his career with the passing of each year. In the area of geosciences, he is a prolific writer on various aspects of geology, ore deposits in particular, new area of medical geology and various other thrust areas. Such an internationally known geoscientist and regarded as the most motivating, has been ignored for any life-achievement awards at national level simply because he felt not willing to apply. I agree with his students that he deserves the recognition of his long, unbroken and selfless service to the science and fraternity of Earth System Sciences by the Award. His scientific achievement and published works/articles are so enormous that is really impossible to gather the information and put it on paper.

I am indeed privileged and pleased to have the opportunity to recommend and support his name for the said IGU – Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award,”



(V.K.S. Dave)

Secretary, Indian Geological Congress

Date: 27-08-16

Place: Roorkee

53rd Annual Convention of Indian Geophysical Union (IGU) and Lifetime Achievement Award-2016 Ceremony

At a glittering IGU's award giving ceremony at IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, Dr. Shailesh Nayak, President of the IGU, conferred Lifetime Achievement Award-2016 on **Prof. O.P. Varma** (Four-time lifetime achievement awardee) was heartily greeted by Prof. D.C. Panigrahi, Director IIT (ISM), in the traditional way with a *shawl*.

53rd
ANNUAL CONVENTION

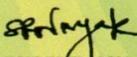


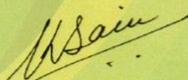
Citation

53rd Annual Convention of
INDIAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION
on
“Geosciences for Sustainability”
November 8-10, 2016 at IIT(ISM), Dhanbad

The Indian Geophysical Union is privileged to select **Prof. O.P. Varma** for the **Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award of IGU for the year 2016** in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Geosciences. Prof. Varma obtained his post-graduate degree from the Banaras Hindu University and Ph.D. from the Royal School of Mines, London. He is one of the rarest and the finest Professors of Applied Geology who has pioneered the disciplines of Mining Geology & Mineral Exploration and continues to promote the Geosciences even at the age of 92 with the same vigor. No Earth Scientist other than Prof. Varma in bygone years seems to have rendered such a long and sustained service for popularization, development and advancement of Earth Sciences in India. Lately, he has made significant strides in Medical Geology.

Prof. Varma has devoted his entire career for teaching & training in Geosciences with special interest to economic geology, ore geology and mineral exploration with a passion. He has been recognized by the UGC with the award of the National Lecturer in Mining Geology for the year 1977-78. He has been providing solution to onsite problems in Geological Sciences, and built the Indian Geological Congress (IGC) single-handedly for the growth and development of Indian Geosciences. He has taught and supervised for Ph.D. to numerous students - many of them have occupied the senior positions in research institutes, universities, and oil & mineral industries. Besides peer-reviewed articles, he has published several books, popular articles edited volumes and reports for the benefit of students and researchers.


PRESIDENT - IGU


HON. SECRETARY - IGU

Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award of IGU - 2016

Some of the memorable photographs of this occasion are shown below:



Prof. D.C. Panigrahi, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad greeting Prof. O.P. Varma in traditional Indian way. Dr. Shailesh Nayak (left), President IGU, and Prof. Rima Chatterjee (right) giving joyous applause.



Dr. Shailesh Nayak garlanding Prof. Varma with gold medal.



Dr. Shailesh Nayak presenting the citation.



Prof. O.P. Varma being presented the citation by Dr. Shailesh Nayak.



Prof. O.P. Varma responding on having received the award.

SGAT Lifetime Achievement Award 2016

Society of Geoscientists & Allied Technologists (SGAT) Bhubaneswar, conferred Lifetime Achievement Award-2016 on Prof. O.P. Varma at the closing function of the International Seminar MINEXPRO 2016 on the 4th December, 2016. Citation and images of the award ceremony are as follows:

CITATION

Professor Om Prakash Varma was born on 10th October, 1924 and had obtained his M.Sc. (Geology) from Banaras Hindu University; Ph.D. and DIC in 1958 from Royal School of Mines, London. In 1959, Professor Varma started his long and illustrious journey of teaching and research by joining the then Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad (now IIT Dhanbad), where he superannuated in December 1984 as Professor of Mining Geology and Head of the Department of Applied Geology.

Teaching has been Prof Varma's forte, and his accomplishments in teaching was recognised by the UGC by awarding him the "National Lecturer in Mining Geology for the year 1977-78". His pioneering efforts contributed immensely to the creation and development of Mineral Exploration, Mining Geology, Ore Microscopy and Engineering Geology. Since 2004, the new discipline of Medical Geology in India is getting Prof Varma's visionary attention. Earlier this year, he articulated the developing facets of Medical Geology at the 35th International Geological Congress, Cape Town.

Widely travelled all around the globe on a number of fellowships & invitations, Professor Varma has contributed innumerable papers and has written extensive reports, editorials, narratives, rejoinders, snippets, etc. Prof Varma has been instrumental in the development of a close relationship among the Indian Mining & Mineral Industry and Academies. His efforts had resulted in a large number of Executive Development Short Courses and Teachers' Training Summer Schools by UGC. Prof. Varma has been nourishing and nurturing, the Indian Geological Congress for over three decades now, where he is currently providing leadership as its Executive President.

In recognition of such monumental contributions in nation building, for more than six decades now; and particularly to the cause of geosciences, geoscience fraternity, school and college students, and spread of awareness of geosciences among the common people; the Society of Geoscientists & Allied Technologists (SGAT), Bhubaneswar feels extremely honoured and privileged to confer the "**SGAT Lifetime Achievement Award 2016**" on **Professor Om Prakash Varma**.



On having presided over Session I of the MINEXPRO-2016, Prof. O.P. Varma is presented memento what a while Prof. B.C. Sarkar (left) gives a heartily applause.



Prof. O.P. Varma receiving Lifetime Achievement Award-2016 of SGAT from Prof. B.K. Sahu, Former Professor, IIT Bombay.



Prof. Varma responds from the bottom of his heart on having received Lifetime Achievement Award & the memento in recognition of his services to geosciences for over six decades. On his right is Prof. B.C. Sarkar and on left Shri R.N. Padhi, alumnus of the Indian School of mines.

— Compiled by Dr.(Mrs.) Anita Varma,
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