



First Circular - Call for Abstract



2nd KTH-Dhaka University International Seminar

Natural Arsenic in Groundwater of South Asia (NAGSA-2005)

Department of Geology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Organized by
Department of Geology, Dhaka University
and
Groundwater Arsenic Research Group (GARG)
Department of Land and Water Resources Engineering, KTH

15-17 January 2005

Sponsors

Swedish Research Council (VR)
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Introduction

In several South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Myanmar, groundwater is used as a primary source of drinking water. Groundwater is also extensively used for irrigation, which accounts for most of the extracted groundwater. Over many regions in these countries, groundwater is enriched with arsenic. Concentration of arsenic is above the national drinking water standards and the WHO guideline, and thereby has emerged as a public health hazard. The source of arsenic is geogenic and mostly confined to the Holocene sedimentary aquifers in the region. The use of arsenic-contaminated groundwater for irrigation has also resulted in an increase in the arsenic concentrations in the agricultural soils in several areas of Bangladesh and other parts of South Asia. Recent researches have revealed evidences of bioaccumulation of arsenic in rice and other foodstuff being grown on irrigated land. More than a 100 million people in south Asia may be exposed to arsenic directly through drinking water and also indirectly through consumption of food.

The two day NAGSA-2005 will serve as a platform for the dissemination of the results from the ongoing research on the various issues concerning arsenic contaminated groundwater of the South Asian region, impact on the food chain, environmental health and risk assessments, as well as its remediation and management. Discussions during this seminar would help to identify future research needed to improve the understanding of the mechanisms of arsenic mobilization and its management in the SA region.

Themes:

1. Sources characterization of arsenic in the groundwater environment
2. Biogeochemistry of arsenic, including speciation and mobility controls in soil and groundwater environments
3. Techniques for arsenic investigation in groundwater
4. Environmental health and risk assessments including impact of arsenic on agriculture.
5. Country case studies from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar
6. Remediation and management of arsenic contaminated groundwater

Presentations:

The seminar will include invited keynote papers, oral and poster presentations.

Publications:

Volume of Extended Abstracts

Proceedings of the Seminar (Published as Transactions of the Royal Institute of Technology-TRITA-LWR Series)

Seminar Convenors:

Kazi Matin Ahmed, Professor (Dhaka University)

Prosun Bhattacharya, Associate Professor (Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan)

Local Organizing Committee:

Prof. Md. Hossain Monsur, Prof. M Badrul Imam, Prof. Aftab Alam Khan, Prof. Syed Humayun Akhter, Prof. S M Imamul Huq, M. Aziz Hasan, M Jakariya, M. von Brömssen

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Prof. Monirul Hoque (Bangladesh), Prof. M Feroze Ahmed (Bangladesh), Prof. Dipankar Chakraborti (India), Dr. Debashis Chatterjee (India), Prof. Viqar Hussain (Pakistan), Prof. Gunnar Jacks (Sweden), Prof. Ravi Naidu (Australia), Dr. Willy Burgess (UK), Dr. Alan Welch (USA), Prof. R Leoppert (USA), Dr. Arun Mukherjee (Finland), Prof. Doris Stüben (Germany), Dr. Ondra Sracek (Czech Republic), Dr. Naoaki Shibasaki (Japan)

Deadlines:

Preliminary registration: **15th October 2004**

Submission of Extended Abstracts: **8th November 2004**

Acceptance of Abstracts: **20th November 2004**

Submission of full length paper: **20th December, 2004**

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