

New Concepts in Global Tectonics

NEWSLETTER

No. 55, June, 2010 ISSN: 1833-2560 Editor: Dong R. CHOI (editor@ncgt.org) www.ncgt.org

Editorial board

Ismail BHAT, India (bhatmi@hotmail.com); Peter JAMES, Australia (pmjgeotech@yahoo.com.au); Leo MASLOV, Russia (ms_leo@hotmail.com); Cliff OLLIER, Australia (cliffol@cyllene.uwa.edu.au); Nina PAVLENKOVA, Russia (ninapav@ifz.ru); David PRATT, Netherlands (dp@davidpratt.info); Giancarlo SCALERA, Italy (scalera@ingv.it); N. Christian SMOOT, USA (christiansmoot532@gmail.com); Karsten STORETVEDT, Norway (Karsten@gfi.uib.no); Yasumoto SUZUKI, Japan (yasu-suzuki@vega.ocn.ne.jp); Boris I. VASILIEV, Russia (tesla@poi.dvo.ru)

CONTENTS

Announcement

NCGT workshop in India, 2011, *Ismail BHAT, M. RAMASARMA and Biju LONGHINOS*.....2

Letters to the Editor.....3

Essay

Falling plate tectonics – rising new paradigm: Salient historical facts and the current situation,

Karsten STORETVEDT.....4

Despite the fact that all critical tests have failed – having made plate tectonics a crisis-ridden construct already by the late 1970s, an almost pathological conservatism has enabled the 'beloved' hypothesis to stumble along, turning global geology into a classical zombie science. The purported simplicity of plate tectonics and the model's promised capacity to unify the Earth sciences are long gone.

Articles

Habits of earthquakes, Part 3: Earthquakes in the Japanese Islands, *Fumio TSUNODA*.....35

Active volcanic and earthquake processes (VE processes) repeat every 30 to 50 years in Japan. Thermal energy of the VE process originating in the South Pacific transmigrates along two routes – the Philippines-Japan (PJ) route and the Mariana Islands-Japan (MJ) route. The VE process that triggered the volcanic eruption at Fugendake, South Japan, in 1990 migrated eastward and generated the disastrous Hyogoken-Nanbu Earthquake in 1995, which then went further north on the PJ route along the Sea of Japan coast.

Global seismic synchronicity, *Dong R. CHOI*.....66

The number and occurrence of seismic events above M5.0 in many parts of the globe have common trends which are synchronized; overall high from 1976 to 1995, low from 1996 to 2003 (global seismic quiescence period), and high from 2004 onwards. A new seismicity cycle started from 1990-1991, as expressed by the massive appearance of deep, very strong quakes. The globally-synchronized seismic activities cannot be explained by the collision or subduction of tectonic plates. Instead, this strongly suggests that the earthquake energy comes from the Earth's outer core. An apparent correlation after 1980 is seen between the earthquake and sunspot cycles implicating the Sun's influence on the Earth dynamics and global climate.

Short note

Gulf of Mexico Basin – A collapsed Late Carboniferous mantle dome? *Johann-Christian PRATSCH*.....74

A huge thermal mantle dome of late Paleozoic age is seen as driving force of initial uplift and subsequent collapse and basinal subsidence in the northern Gulf of Mexico, on- and offshore USA. The resultant basement tectonic developments control the distribution of oil and gas. There is no evidence of events demanded by plate-tectonic theories.

Geopolitical Corner

IPCC Chief mellows for bail out package, *M. Ismail BHAT*.....77

Publications

Disaster management plans in view of recent earthquakes, *Arun BAPAT*.....78

Morphology and origin of an evaporitic dome in the eastern Tihonium Chasma, Mars, *David BAIONI and Forese Carlo WEZEL*.....81

Impact of recent discoveries on petroleum and natural gas exploration, *J. Marvin HERNDON*.....81

News

NCGT Japan group report, *Yo KAMATSU*.....82