

Jamia Millia Islamia
Office of the Media Coordinator

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Press Release

Renowned Earth Scientist delivers lecture on Geology of the Himalaya, Karakoram and Tibet at JMI

World-renowned Professor of Earth Sciences at University of Oxford, UK, Prof Michael P. Searle, today delivered an extension lecture on "India-Asia collision and tectonic affects along the Himalaya, Karakoram and Tibet" organised by Jamia Millia Islamia's Department of Geography.

Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof Talat Ahmad who is also an eminent Indian Earth Scientist chaired the session.

Prof Searle's interesting presentation captured in over 100 slides of pictures taken during his numerous geological field investigations and mountaineering expeditions to the Himalayas, Karakoram and Tibet covered a wide range of subjects, including, fascinating history of the formation, folding and the uplift of the world's youngest and the highest mountain range, the Himalayas. He presented slices of his study of the region's geology which he has been undertaking over the last three decades. With over 130 research papers to his credit in top-notch peer-reviewed journals and four books that he has co-edited for the Geological Society of London, Prof Searle remains one of the most cited scholar on the subject. He is also the author of the book, *Colliding Continents: A Geological Exploration of the Himalaya, Karakoram and Tibet* (2014) published by Oxford University Press.

Prof Searle also discussed the Geological Map of the Mount Everest region, Nepal and South Tibet (2003, 2007) which he has published and is widely recognized for.

Prof Ahmad said that he was delighted to invite Prof Searle to JMI and recalled their friendship which goes back to the time when they worked together on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Leicester (1988-89). He hoped that Prof Searle's ground-breaking work on the geology of the Himalayas will enthuse young students of Geography at the university to engage with this interesting area of study. He praised Prof Searle's extensive work on the Himalayas in Nepal and Ladakh regions and invited him to extend his investigation to the North East Himalayas.

Prof Ahmad who is the Chair of the Scientific Programming Committee of the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) to be held in India in 2020 also informed the audience that Prof Searle was the first geologist to be invited for a lecture in the high profile Congress which happens once every four years. The last time India had hosted the IGC was in 1964.

Prof Searle was accompanied by Dr Oliver Strimpel from MIT, Boston. Others who attended the extension lecture included partners from IGC--- Secretary-General, Dr P. R. Golani and Dr Saibal Ghosh, Proctor JMI, Prof Haroon Sajjad, senior faculty members and students of the Geography Department of JMI.

Dr Lubna Siddiqui introduced the speakers while Prof Masood Ahsan Siddiqui, Head, Dept of Geography, JMI gave away the vote of thanks.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Media Coordinator, JMI



