

Q. Where did you get the culture of thermophilic bacterium from?

A. From my boss.

Q. And where did he get it from?

A. From his boss in America.

Address for Correspondence

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rise in temperature, coinciding with the T_{\max} of thermophilic microflora, catalyzes uncharacterized chemical reactions, resulting in further heating and the mass of material catching fire.

Summary

The discoveries outlined above have demonstrated that the study of thermophilic organisms has not only provided us with insights on the evolution of life on this planet, but also led to a variety of significant practical applications. More discoveries are expected to emerge as interest on these fascinating organisms is on the rise.



Information and Announcements

Foundation Course in Physics and Chemistry of the Earth

sponsored by Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore

in collaboration with University of Allahabad, Allahabad

November 7 - 27, 2005

The course is aimed at sharpening the conceptual foundations of young scientists in the Science of the Earth, by engendering capabilities for understanding and analysing planetary systems and processes generally and that relating to the earth in particular, in a quantitative manner. It is accordingly designed to focus on the most basic aspects of physical and chemical principles and their numerical application in calculating the thermodynamic conditions of critical earth processes such as lithospheric stretching leading to development of sedimentary basins, physics and chemistry of melts, mineral phases and their transformations through the earth's crust and mantle, amongst other topics.

Selected participants will be provided with local hospitality and actual train fare for travel by three-tier AC or bus fare by the shortest route. Those wishing to be considered for selection to participate in the course, should send their application to the **Course Coordinator, Professor Alok K Gupta, Director, National Centre of Experimental Mineralogy and Petrology, 14 Chatham Lines, University of Allahabad, Allahabad 211 002, Tel.0532-2250840, Fax:0532-2644951; Email: ncempau@sancharnet.in.**

Applications must include the following information : (i) Name, date of birth, full postal and email address, telephone number(s) (ii) Qualifications and nature of current activity supported by appropriate documents (iii) a clear statement about background knowledge of the pre-requisites, and (iv) a statement in 200 words to indicate the scientific motivation for participating in this course.

Last date for receipt of applications: September 15, 2005.

