



The Himalayan Club

In association with

Indian Merchants' Chamber

Invites you for a talk on

'Geologic Evolution of the Himalaya'

By

**Dr. Rasoul Sorkhabi,
University of Utah, Salt Lake City**

On

14 December 2009

From 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

At

**Walchand Hirachand Hall 4th Floor
Indian Merchants' Chamber
Churchgate, Mumbai**

For registration kindly contact

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About the Speaker:

Dr. Rasoul Sorkhabi is a professor of geology at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. Originally from Iran, he decided to study geology when he first saw the breath-taking view of Kashmir in 1980. Educated in India, Japan and the USA, he finally completed his doctorate thesis on the geologic formation of Ladakh and Zaskar in 1991. He then extended his work to Garhwal and Nepal. He has published numerous articles on the Himalayas and has co-edited *Himalaya and Tibet: Mountain Roots to Mountain Top*, published by the Geological Society of America in 1999. Over the years, he has also contributed articles to the *Himalayan Journal*.

Abstract of the Lecture:

The story of the Himalaya began some 300 million years ago when India was part of the Gondwana supercontinent in the southern hemisphere and the Tethys Ocean was washing its northern shores. As Gondwana split into several continents and as India drifted northward, the Tethys Ocean subducted beneath the southern margin of Paleo-Asia. Finally, India crashed into Asia along what is known as the Indus-Tsangpo Suture Zone, and the Tethys Ocean disappeared, although sedimentary rocks and fossils of this ocean are still found in a zone between the High Himalaya and the Indus-Tsangpo Suture Zone.

The Himalaya has been evolved through “deep time” as a dynamic system linking earth, sea, sky, and more recently (geologically speaking) people. Since the nineteenth century, the Himalaya has attracted geologists, but in recent decades, with the advent of plate tectonics, this part of the world has become a “natural laboratory” for investigating the processes of continent-continent collision tectonics, and to better interpret the records of similar mountains formed in the past eons of our planet.

This is only a rough outline of the fascinating geologic story of the Himalaya, which has engaged geologists from various parts of the world for decades, and which is the subject-matter of this presentation.