

SHIFTING OF KARACHI GEOMAGNETIC OBSERVATORY TO SONMIANI & COMPARISON OF DATA

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Pakistan (23-40°N, 60-80°E) is spread over 800,000 square km. The country consists of a variety of terrains with flat Indus plain to the east, mountains to the north and northwest Balochistan plateau to the west.

The geomagnetic observatory at Karachi (24.95°N, 167.14°E) was established in 1983. Due to development of infrastructure and vehicular movement near the observatory, quality of the data became poor.

This observatory has now been shifted to Sonmiani, 48 km north of Karachi. The site was selected after performing a magnetic survey and selecting the cleanest and lowest magnetic gradient parts. Additionally, being part of a huge government property in rural surroundings, the Sonmiani site offers long-term protection from cultural noise.

The Observatory has been named after Pakistani Physicists Nobel Prize Abdus Salaam, who was Scientific Director at Sonmiani in the 1960's.

Our activity: site selection, operation of Sonmiani observatory and the data from both observatories is compared and is presented.

The work was carried out with collaboration of IRM, Belgium.

Geomagnetic observatory, magnetic survey, cultural noise

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