IGS International Symposium on Snow and Avalanches, 6-10 April 2009, Manali, India
Fig. 1. (a) Pir Panjal Range, Indian Himalayas (Kullu Valley, Manali); (b) Manali local snake charmer; (c) Unmanned Aerial Platform - Vihang Netra (operation range: 15 km); (d) Avalanche snow chute, Dhundhi field research station (3080 m); (e) the only three ISSA ’09 participants from Japan (from left to right): Dr. J. Komori, Dr. A. Sato and E.A. Podolskiy. All three have traditional “bindi” on their foreheads (which is said to strengthen concentration, and to protect against demons) and flower necklaces; (f) Colonel Rajesh R. Seth, SASE; (g) Remote-controlled dirigible, hovering over SASE headquarters, and used for different kind of observations; (h) “Quadrotor” - autonomous flying vehicle with vertical take-off and landing, providing real time video view of the area (communication range: 1 km/100 m).

Fig. 2. (a) Giant fracture lines on slopes of the Pir Panjal Range (4800–5000 m), Indian Himalayas, as seen from the opposite slope of Kullu Valley, Manali, 7 April 2009; (b) The IGS President, Eric Brun, gives a welcome speech to participants at the opening ceremony on the 6 April 2009, SASE, Manali, India (On the left - a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, political and spiritual leader, the Father of the Nation, who led India to independence; on the opposite side of the stage, unseen on the photo, there was a portrait of another distinguished Indian - Rabindranath Tagore - Asia’s first Nobel laureate (1913, Literature).

**IGS 国際シンポジウム、2009 年 4 月 6-10 日, マナリ, インド**

More than 100 participants representing 13 countries gathered in April at the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment in Indian Himalaya to consider 95 presentations on all variety of topics related to the study of snow and ice: snowpack, avalanches, glaciers, isotopes, weather and climate change. Fifty-eight Indian and 37 foreign researches have introduced their papers in 60 oral and 35 poster presentations at the first ever IGS symposium in India (see more details at this issue).