

kathmandu recommendations

The Process

The group made recommendations from the workshop with the purpose of sharing them widely among concerned agencies that were working on water-induced disasters in the region. Participants selected representatives from each country present, to consolidate the conclusions and recommendations that had been made into a document titled **‘Kathmandu Recommendations’**. This declaration would be circulated among the ICIMOD Board Members and institutions affiliated with ICIMOD, including those that dealt with water-related disasters.

The final text was as follows.

The Kathmandu Recommendations

In the “Regional Workshop on Water-Induced Disasters in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region” held at the Hotel Himalaya in Kathmandu from December 11-14, 2001, thirty-nine participants from the countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas and from Thailand and Japan met to discuss:

- Risk and vulnerability analysis and hazard mapping
- Flash flooding, flood forecasting and landslide hazard assessment
- Community awareness and disaster response preparedness
- Natural hazards, poverty and development
- Disaster management information systems
- Gender aspects of disaster management

The unstable nature of the Himalayas is well recognised worldwide. The topography and fragile geology combined with intense monsoon rains, make the young mountain system one of the most hazard-prone areas in the world. The Himalayan region hence suffers from water-induced disasters including debris flows, landslides, glacial lake outbursts, erosion, and sedimentation. These hazards create severe problems for water resources and other development projects, and directly impact on people by destroying their environment for living and production, thereby seriously affecting social and economic development. These disasters are hampering sustainable development of the region as a whole. To find answers and to collectively mitigate the recurrent damage, experts from the region met in Kathmandu. They jointly recommend all concerned authorities and stakeholders of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region to focus on the following.

1. Prepare comprehensive disaster management programmes and integrate them

with national development plans

2. **Promote and support community-based disaster management programmes ensuring self-reliance, poverty alleviation and women's participation in all processes**
3. **Generate a standardised database on water-induced disasters**
4. **Enhance regional cooperation and timely exchange of information regarding local as well as transboundary water-induced disasters**
5. **Educate the public and ensure active involvement of the media in information dissemination on disaster management**
6. **Promote basic and applied research on water-induced disasters in the region**
7. **Support regional institutions like ICIMOD and other national organisations involved in disaster management**
8. **Continue and expand the PDMP project by UNDP in the countries of the HKH region**

