

## Opening Remarks by

Dr. E.F. Tacke

Right Honourable Prime Minister  
Honourable Ministers  
Your Excellencies  
Distinguished Representatives of ICIMOD Member  
Countries  
Distinguished Representatives of the International Council  
and Research Communities  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure in welcoming you all to the  
activities and meetings on the occasion of the  
Anniversary of the founding and establishment of the  
International Council for Mountain Environment and  
Development (ICIMOD) as

More specifically, I welcome you to the event of today and  
tomorrow, the Tenth Anniversary Symposium on the  
Symposium on the theme "Mountain Environment and  
Development: Constraints and Opportunities"

### Background to ICIMOD's Establishment

ICIMOD was established in December 1983 against the  
background of a sharply growing concern about the  
dramatic deterioration of the mountain environment and  
resource base and the concomitant impoverishment of  
mountain populations. This concern was for the hill and  
mountain regions of the world, in general, but in particular  
for the Hindu Kush-Himalayas - the world's largest and  
oldest mountain range and among the geologically  
youngest and most fragile mountain systems. Increasing  
population pressure and the large and complex nature of  
the mountain bio-system were identified as the main  
underlying causes for the deterioration.

When these matters were discussed in the 1970s, it was  
concluded that, considering the complexities of the issues,  
a holistic and integrated approach to development was  
needed. There was also strong recommendations for the  
establishment of a regional institution focusing on  
integrated economic development and covering both  
underdeveloped and developed aspects, and having a focus  
on the sectors

## PART A

# The Inaugural Session

**I**CIMOD's Tenth Anniversary Symposium was inaugurated on the 1st of December, 1993, at the Nepal Administrative Staff College, Jawalakhel. The programme commenced with opening remarks from the Director General of ICIMOD, Dr. E.F. Tacke, followed by remarks from Dr. I.P. Upadhyay, Chairman of the ICIMOD Board of Governors, and from Dr. H.P. Maag, Chairman of the ICIMOD Support Group.

The Prime Minister of Nepal, the Rt. Honourable Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, then inaugurated the Symposium and delivered the inaugural address.

Following the inauguration, Dr. Klaus Lampe, Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and a Founding Member of the Board of Governors of ICIMOD, delivered the keynote address. The morning session then concluded with country statements from representatives from each of the eight ICIMOD member countries.

Addresses and statements in their entirety are included in this section.