

Programme

Friday July 23 – Sunday July 25, 2004

Pre-conference field trip for international participants

Saturday July 24, 2004

13:00 - 17:00 Pre-workshop session for TAR participants

Sunday July 25, 2004

08:30 - 12:30 Pre-workshop session for TAR participants cont'd

18:00 - 19:00 Registration

19:00 Welcome Cocktail and Dinner

Monday July 26, 2004

Opening Ceremony

09:00 - 09:10	Welcome Address by <i>Lobsang Danda, General President of TAAAS</i>
09:10 - 09:20	Welcome Address by <i>Hans Pfeifer, Director, InWEnt, Environment, Natural Resources and Food Department</i>
09:20 - 09:30	Welcome Address by <i>Uwe Wissenbach, First Secretary, EU Delegation, P. R. China</i>
09:30 - 09:40	Welcome Address by <i>Gabriel Campbell, Director General, ICIMOD</i>
09:40 - 10:15	Highlights of the TAR Government Plan for Rural Development in Tibet and Official Opening <i>Mr. Tsering, Vice Governor of the Tibet Autonomous Region for Agriculture</i>

- 10:15 - 10:30 Objectives and Structure of the Conference
Ji Yimin, Chairman
Director of International Cooperation, Department of Rural and Social Development, Ministry of Science and Technology, P. R. China
- 10:30 - 11:00 Group Picture and Tea/Coffee Break

Plenary Session I: Poverty in Remote and Mountainous Regions

- 11:00 - 11:10 Working Definitions and Glossary
Ji Yimin, Chairman
- 11:10 - 11:30 Sustainable Rural Development in Tibet: from Poverty to Prosperity
Tej Partap, Himachal Agriculture University, India, and Nyima Tashi, TAAAS, TAR, P. R. China
- 11:30 - 11:50 Perception, Assessment and Indicators of Poverty and Food Security in Mountain Areas of TAR
Tanzen Lhundup, Chinese Centre for Tibetan Studies, P. R. China
- 11:50 - 12:10 Perception, Assessment and Indicators of Poverty and Food Security from the Perspective of the Panam Integrated Rural Development Project
Karl Kaiser, EU-PIRDP, P. R. China, Zhan Dui, DOFCOM, Shigatse
- 12:10 - 12:30 Introduction to the Working Approach, Terms of Reference and Formation of Working Groups
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 - 16:00 Working Group Discussions
A, B, C, D
- 16:00 - 16:30 Tea/Coffee Break
- 16:30 - 18:00 Working Groups cont'd
- 18:30 Dinner Reception

Tuesday July 27, 2004

- 09:00 - 09:10 Introduction to the Day
Ji Yimin, Chairman
- 09:10 - 11:00 Plenary Presentation and Discussion of Working Group Results
- 11:00 - 11:30 Tea/Coffee Break

Plenary Session II: Approaches and Experiences (Case Studies)

- 11:30 - 11:50 Land Resource Management in Herder Areas of Qinghai
Yang Gaihe, Northwest China Agriculture University, P. R. China
- 11:50 - 12:10 Livestock Development: Toward Livelihood Improvement of Herders in Tibet
Zhao Haoxin, Chen Yuxiang, Nyima Tashi, TAAAS, P. R. China
- 12:10 - 12:30 Environmental Management in the Tibetan Plateau
Zhang Ze Yong, EPA-TAR, P. R. China
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 - 14:20 Rural Livelihoods in Nepal
Kamal Banskota, ICIMOD, Nepal
- 14:20 - 14:40 Village-based Development in the High Mountains of Pakistan, Lessons from the AKRSP Pakistan
Abdul Malik, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan
- 14:40 - 17:00 Round Table Discussion Approaches and Experiences in Rural Development by NGO Projects in TAR
Incl. Tea/Coffee Break
- 18:30 Dinner

Wednesday July 28, 2004

- 09:00 - 09:10 Introduction to the Day
Ji Yimin, Chairman

Plenary Session III: Challenges

- 09:10 - 09:30 Poverty in the Rural-Urban Gap and Regional Disparities with a Focus on TAR
Lu Qi, CAS, Beijing, Nyima Tashi, TAAAS, P. R. China
- 09:30 - 09:50 Participation in Development through Local Organisations
Liu Yonggong, CIAD-CAU and Lynda Nicholls, CIDA, Shannan, P. R. China
- 09:50 - 10:10 Participation in the National Market and Exchange Relations
Tudeng Kezhu, Tibet University, P. R. China

10:10 - 10:30	Impact of Globalisation on Rural Development in Mountainous Regions <i>Pema Gyamtsho, ICIMOD, Nepal</i>
10:30 - 10:45	TOR and Formation of Working Groups
10:45 - 11:15	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
11:15 - 12:30	Working Group Discussions A, B, C, D
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 16:00	Working Groups cont'd
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
16:30 - 18:00	Plenary Presentation and Results of Discussions of Working Groups
18:30	<i>Dinner</i>

Thursday July 29, 2004

09:00 - 09:10	Introduction to the Day <i>Ji Yimin, Chairman</i> <i>Plenary Session IV: Strategies and Policies</i>
09:10 - 09:30	National Strategy for Rural Development in Mongolia <i>Karl Wierer, Doljinsuren Nyamdorj</i> <i>EU-TACIS Integrated Crop and Livestock Project</i> <i>Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia</i>
09:30 - 09:50	Impact of Changing Policies in the TAR <i>Melvyn Goldstein,</i> <i>Co-Director, Centre for Research on Tibet,</i> <i>University of Cleveland, USA (presented by Hermann</i> <i>Kreutzmann, University of Erlangen, Germany)</i>
09:50 - 10:10	National Strategy for Rural Development in the TAR <i>Prof. Zhou Chunlai, DG, Department of Agriculture</i> <i>and Animal Husbandry, TAR</i>
10:10 - 10:30	Plenary Discussion and Questions for Clarification

Plenary Session V: Recommendations

10:30 - 10:45	Terms of Reference and Formation of Working Groups
10:45 - 11:15	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
11:15 - 12:30	Working Group Discussions on Recommendations A, B, C, D
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 15:30	Working Groups cont'd
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>

16:00 - 17:30	Working Groups cont'd
18:30	<i>Dinner</i>

Friday July 30, 2004

09:00 - 09:10	Introduction to the Day <i>Ji Yimin, Chairman</i>
09:10 - 11:00	Plenary Presentation and Results of Discussions of Working Groups
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
11:30 - 12:00	Synthesis of Conference Results
12:00 - 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>

Closing

15:00 - 16:00	Report on the Findings and Official Closing with Invitees (For Conference Participants-Lhasa Sightseeing Tour 16:00 – 18:15)
16:00 - 18:00	Briefing of the TAR Government by the Chairperson and Representatives of Conference Organisers
18:30	<i>Farewell Dinner and Cultural Show</i>

Saturday July 31 - Monday August 02, 2004

Post-conference field trip for Chinese participants

Chair Facilitators

Dr. Nyima Tashi
Prof. Liu YongGong
Mr. Frank Diingjie
Dr. Georg Bokeloh
Mr. Geert Balzer

Co-organisers

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Dr. Karl Kaiser, EU-China/PIRDP
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Annex 3

Information about the Organisations

InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH, Capacity Building International, Germany

InWEnt stands for the development of human resources and organisations within the framework of international cooperation. InWEnt's range of services caters to skilled and managerial staff as well as decision makers from businesses, politics, administrations and civil societies worldwide. Each year, some 55,000 persons participate in our measures.

Programmes and measures at InWEnt aim at promoting change competencies on three levels: They strengthen the individual's executive competencies, increase the performance of companies, organisations and administrations, and at the political level improve decision-making skills and the capacity to act. The methodological tools comprise modules and can be adapted to meet changing requirements in order to provide solutions. Apart from face-to-face situations in measures offering training, exchange of experience and dialogue, emphasis is on e-learning-assisted networking. InWEnt cooperates equally with partners from developing, transition and industrialised countries.

InWEnt's shareholders comprise the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft that represents the business community, and the German Foundation for International Development that represents the Länder (German federal states).

InWEnt was established in 2002 through the merger of Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft (CDG) and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE).

Tibetan Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences

The Tibetan Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences (TAAAS) was re-formed in 1995, with the mission to improve livelihoods for rural Tibetans by improving the overall efficiency and productivity of the agriculture system through implementation of applied problem-solving programmes; generation, synthesis, and dissemination of appropriate technologies to farmers and extension-workers; and training of trainers' for integrated mountain agriculture development, rural development, and poverty alleviation projects.

TAAAS is the principal institute implementing Chapter 13 of UNCED's Agenda 21 and the TAR's Agenda 21 for Sustainable Agricultural Development. It is the focal institution for carrying out and implementing national and regional research and development programmes on agriculture, livestock, vegetables and horticulture production in TAR.

There are four research institutes and one laboratory under TAAAS; the Tibet Agricultural Research Institute, the Livestock and Veterinary Research Institute, the Vegetable and Horticultural Research Institute, the Centre for Highland Agricultural Resource Management and Environmental Research, and the Central Laboratory, which was also setup as the Lhasa Centre for Agri-Products Quality Inspection and Control. There are six divisions at the headquarters: the Administration Office, the Division of Finance, the Division of Integrated Mountain Agriculture Industry, the Division of Research Project Management, and the Division of International Cooperation.

As the only academy at the provincial level for conducting research on agriculture, TAAAS has the objective of promoting the development of economically and environmentally sound highland agricultural systems with the vision of securing prosperous and peaceful highland communities in TAR. TAAAS pursues a scientific approach to environmentally sustainable agriculture and rural development in TAR by influencing development decisions and practices. TAAAS implements, conducts, tests, disseminates and consults on problem-solving research and methodologies and it develops models and strategies for sustainable agricultural development by acting as a 'Centre of Excellence' for relevant research, demonstration, extension and training. TAAAS has the roles of mobilizer and promoter, formulator and implementer, trainer and learning transfer centre, consultant and advocate, collaborator and partner, ideas generator, and knowledge centre.

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

ICIMOD is an international, independent mountain learning and knowledge centre committed to improving the sustainable livelihoods of mountain peoples in the extended Himalayan region. ICIMOD serves eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan area: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan as well as the global mountain community. Founded in 1983, ICIMOD is based in Kathmandu, Nepal, and brings together a partnership of its regional member countries, over 300 partner institutions, and committed donors. The Centre is multidisciplinary, area-focused, and mountain-based.

ICIMOD's Ecoregion

The greater Himalayan region served by ICIMOD extends for 3,500 km from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east sustaining over 150 million people. The peoples in this mountain region are disproportionately vulnerable, poor, marginalised and cut off from access to markets and social services. Mountain areas of this region and the world are home to most of today's conflicts. Yet promising new opportunities exist for sustainable, community-based natural resource management, new products and incomes, hazard mitigation, social inclusion and empowerment, long-term sustainability, and effective communication and knowledge sharing.

ICIMOD's Mission

To develop and provide integrated and innovative solutions, in cooperation with regional and international partners, which foster action and change for overcoming mountain people's economic, social, and physical vulnerability.

ICIMOD's Long-term Vision

Prosperous and secure mountain communities committed to peace, equity, and environmental sustainability.

EU-CHINA

Panam Integrated Rural Development Project (PIRDP)

Panam County is located in the south-western part of Tibet in the centre of Shigatse Prefecture. It has a total area of 2,759 sq.km. and a population of approximately 42,000 of whom more than 95% are Tibetans. More than 95% of the area is mountainous and unsuitable for cropping. About 85% of the population live in the two valleys of the Nyashu and Chu Sun and cultivate around 8,700 ha of irrigated land, with an average farm size of 25 mu (1.8ha). Fifteen per cent of the population live as herders from raising livestock (yak, sheep, and goats).

Conceived as a mono-sectoral irrigation project in the early 1990s, the Panam Integrated Rural Development Project (PIRDP) evolved over the years into an integrated rural development project. Between 1994 and 1999, the Chinese side invested the equivalent of around 14.2 million US\$ into the construction of the Chu Sun irrigation system: the Chu Sun dam and nine earthen secondary canals with a total length of approximately 58km. The primary canal is the Chu Sun River.

Similar to most other parts of Tibet Autonomous Region, one of the biggest constraints in Panam County is the lack of alternative fuel sources, which forces people to burn manure instead of recycling it to crop land. Other major constraints are unbalanced nutrition, poor hygiene, and the outdated teaching methods in the primary school of Panam County.

PIRDP aims to have, at its closure, developed a sustainable and replicable model for improving the quality of human development of the people of Panam County. With its support to irrigation, agriculture/crops, community forestry, and livestock and extension, PIRDP is contributing towards making the major farming systems of Panam County more sustainable, productive, and profitable (Main Result 1). By providing clean drinking water, basic health, and education, PIRDP contributes towards improving the capacities and capabilities of the people of Panam County.

The total European funds amount to €7.6 million, while in addition to the initial investment the Chinese government has allocated the equivalent of a further €2.3million.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) at national level and the Department of Commerce at regional and prefecture levels are the institutions of the Chinese government responsible for PIRDP. At county level, the different components of PIRDP are implemented by the

following government line bureaux: Panam County Water Resources' Bureau, Panam County Bureau of Agriculture and Livestock, Panam County Education Bureau, and Panam County Health Bureau. On behalf of the European Union, the German consulting company AHT Group, the British INGO, Save the Children-UK, and the Italian INGO ASIA are jointly implementing the project. The project will end on December 31st, 2005.

Welcome Addresses

Welcome Address

by

Gabriel Campbell, Director General, ICIMOD

Hon'ble Vice Governor of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China;
Professor Lobsang Danda, General President of TAAAS;
Dr. Hans Pfeifer, Director, InWEnt;
Distinguished Guests and Participants;

Dear Colleagues,

I am indeed thrilled to be back here in this great city and to have this opportunity to meet you all. Let me first of all join Professor Lobsang Danda and Dr. Hans Pfeifer in welcoming you to Lhasa on behalf of ICIMOD and my colleagues who are participating in this conference.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to me and to ICIMOD that TAAAS, which is one of our most important partners in mountain development, is hosting this conference on 'Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the Tibet Autonomous Region'. It is only appropriate that this should focus on agriculture in Tibet, as nowhere are the challenges of eking out a living from mountain ecosystems more daunting than on the roof of the world.

I am also particularly pleased to mention here the very fruitful collaboration that we continue to have with InWEnt, Capacity Building International, represented here by Dr. Pfeifer and his colleagues, Dr. Jürgen Richter and Ms. Petra Kade. This conference represents the third of a series of conferences that we have jointly organised with other development partners in the HKH region. The first one was held in Kathmandu from January 31st to February 4th 2000 and the second in Chengdu from November 11th-15th 2002 in collaboration with the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, InWEnt, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). We have published the proceedings of the second conference, and these will have been distributed to you already or will be shortly. We hope that this conference will be as successful as the first and second ones and look forward to a very fruitful exchange of experiences and perspectives for the future development of mountain areas.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The pre-conference field trip has served to remind us of the many challenges that face sustainable development of rural areas as well as the opportunities for development. We are impressed by the numerous initiatives being taken by the government and its development partners in improving agricultural productivity, in environmental protection, in natural resource management, in social services, and in tourism. Yet, the difference between rural and urban areas was striking; and it reminded us all that there is still a long way to go before rural areas can attain the level of living standards that people in the cities enjoy. There are important lessons that each one of us learned and brought back from the field trip, and these will no doubt help us in guiding our deliberations in the next few days. Let me thank Dr. Karl Kaiser and his team for organising this wonderful field trip.

I see that we have a very comprehensive agenda for the conference, covering many diverse topics from a wide geographical region. We will be hearing presentations ranging from assessment of poverty in Tibet to the impact of globalisation on rural development in mountainous areas; and from livelihood systems in Nepal to a national strategy for rural development in Mongolia. This width in diversity of topics and geography will no doubt allow us to share invaluable experiences and to engage in meaningful dialogues towards better solutions to the problems and more efficient ways and means of harnessing the opportunities available. It will also provide us with a forum for forging closer ties and understanding between rural and urban regions, between mountain regions in different countries, and between professionals and individuals involved in mountain development.

Of the many challenges facing rural mountain communities, out-migration to cities by young people to seek better employment and income-earning opportunities is one that deserves serious consideration in this conference. While, out-migration does have a positive impact in terms of the remittances sent by migrants to the families in the villages and reduction of pressure on local natural resources, it is a drain on the human capital of rural areas, capital that is vital for their sustainable development. Therefore, I feel that the challenge ahead is how to make rural areas attractive enough for the youth to remain behind. It would, in my opinion, need a combination of not only providing basic amenities like schools, health services, electricity, and communication facilities, but also opportunities for employment and income generation within their areas. Therefore, selective investment should be made consciously and adequately in rural areas where there are comparative advantages like

tourism, bio-products, and off-season vegetable production to overcome the traditional supply side constraints in a competitive market. Unless we are able to mitigate the flow of rural-urban migration, we will continue to be plagued with the dual problems of unproductive and empty rural areas on the one hand and increasing numbers of slum dwellers and poverty in the urban areas on the other.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

Before I conclude, may I take this opportunity to assure our partners from TAR and other regions and countries represented here, that ICIMOD remains fully committed to working with them to find lasting solutions to the above challenges as well as the many other challenges facing us in the HKH region. In December this year, we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary with a symposium to reflect on our achievements and to contemplate on our future as a mountain research and development institution. We hope that the recommendations from this conference will help us to embark on a clearer agenda for the future with regards to development of rural mountain areas, which will remain our primary mission.

In concluding, let me thank the organisers, particularly Dr. Nyima Tashi, Dr. Karl Kaiser, and Dr. Jürgen Richter, and their respective teams.

I wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Lhasa.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.

Welcome Address
by
Mr. Cheng Zhengrong, Director of TAAAS

Leaders, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Today the International 'Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the Tibet Autonomous Region' is officially opened. On behalf of the Tibetan Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences, I would like to extend the warmest welcome and most sincere wishes to our friends coming from afar.

This conference is hosted by the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region, and jointly sponsored by TAAAS, InWEnt, the Europe-China Panam Integrated Rural Development Project, and ICIMOD. The main subject for the conference is the issue of sustainable rural development in Tibetan mountain areas. We have forty international delegates from twelve different countries and fifty-two domestic delegates here with us today. They have altogether submitted twenty-three essays and papers.

TAAAS, as the only comprehensive research organisation in the TAR combining scientific research, promotion, development, and agricultural testing and modelling, was re-established in 1995. Ever since then, with nine years of relentless effort, we have achieved important progress in the quality control of agriculture, animal husbandry, grazing, horticulture, and vegetables and other produce, providing strong technological support for agricultural and animal husbandry development in this area. International exchange and cooperation have been strengthened in recent years, with long-term relationships being established with over 20 countries, international organisations and institutions, and more than 30 domestic agricultural academies. These exchange and cooperation programmes have enhanced the efficiency and innovative ability and promoted human resource development in our academy, thus helping with its general development. At this point, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to everybody and state that we will continue our efforts in these programmes.

Currently, we are working towards the objectives of building a more specialised academy that will embrace innovative abilities, storage abilities, and commercialisation capacities. We will further readjust and

make science and technology the focus of our work. We will actively implement the three strategies of human resource development, project promotion, and developing the academy through industrialisation. We will strengthen our research efforts and try to achieve more progress in developing and promoting high-yield crops and animal species; introducing and presenting new technologies; and processing produce and developing industries with local features. We will then be able to provide powerful technological support to agriculture and husbandry development in the TAR, helping farmers and herders to increase their incomes and build a prosperous society in an all-round way.

We greatly cherish the opportunity this international conference gives us to learn from you, hold academic exchanges with the scholars participating in the conference, make more friends, and strengthen cooperation between us. Here, we sincerely invite everybody to pay a visit to our academy to inspect and help with our work.

Finally, I wish this international conference every success and hope everybody is enjoying good health and a happy stay here in Tibet.

Welcome Address
by
Dr. Hans Pfeifer
Environment, Natural Resources and Food Department
InWEnt

Your Excellencies, Honourables, Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is my privilege and great pleasure to welcome you in the name of InWEnt – 'Capacity-building International'. We are very glad to join in and contribute to this conference, following a good tradition which started thirty years ago in my home town of Munich. The 'Munich Mountain Environment Manifesto' (1974) addressed the still valid, key issues of mountain-related development. However, the importance of mountain areas and plateaux, such as the Tibetan Plateau, did not come into focus immediately and took a long time coming. But now experts, researchers, and decision-makers from China and all over the world are meeting here in Lhasa and InWEnt is very proud to join in since the 'Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung' (DSE)-the predecessor organisation of InWEnt-was one of the prime initiators of that conference in Munich.

Shortly after the Munich declaration, the supra-national UNESCO-led, research programme under the title 'Man and Biosphere' (MAB) was launched. A shift from a solely natural science-led approach to interdisciplinary, problem-oriented investigation could be realised and became known as the 'Theory of Himalayan Environmental Degradation'. Population growth as a phenomenon and the mountain farmer as the decisive actor were made responsible for deforestation, land degradation, erosion in the mountains, and flooding and catastrophes in the plains below.

The gravity of the problems led to the establishment of the 'International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development' (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu in 1982. This research institution was meant to be included in the CGIAR network of topical research and have a prime focus on the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalayas stretching in a West-East direction from Afghanistan to Bhutan, and North-South from the Peoples Republic of China to India. The German government played an important role in funding ICIMOD and this has continued until today.

Fifteen years ago, Jack Ives and Bruno Messerli published a book entitled 'The Himalayan Dilemma' in which they questioned the theory of Himalayan environmental degradation. Their book can be credited with bringing about a paradigm shift in efforts to understand the socio-economic, cultural, and ecological processes in mountain communities.

A combination of activities supported the Swiss government in lobbying for independent recognition of mountain issues in Agenda 21 during the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Consequently, Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 became the point of reference for follow-up activities in mountain development.

The UN declaration of the 'International Year of the Mountains 2002' became the culmination point for activities in the field of mountain research and development so far. InWEnt, as part of the German cooperation activities, followed these through a sequence of conferences in which experiences from other world regions were projected towards the Inner Asian mountain region and in which a unique concept was applied. The nexus of research, development practice and policy-making, and implementing has often been gravely neglected. The conferences organised by InWEnt have specifically addressed the issue of reducing the gap in communication and exchange.

In the millennium year, InWEnt cooperated with ICIMOD in hosting a conference in Kathmandu under the title 'Growth, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Resource Management in the Mountain Areas of South Asia'. The InWEnt approach of bringing together experts from different backgrounds and facilitating communication among them through specific working groups is what distinguishes our conferences from academic symposia.

Inspired by the success of the Kathmandu conference, shortly after the Bishkek 'Global Mountain Summit', Chengdu became the venue for a second conference on 'Poverty Alleviation in the Mountain Areas of China'. In cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ICIMOD, and the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environments (IHME) in Chengdu, the specific lessons learned from the Chinese experience with poverty alleviation, food security, and participatory approaches in rural development were the central issues. Once more, the working group results demonstrated how important it is to acknowledge sectoral expertise and disciplinary languages when coping strategies, institutional development, and decision-making processes need to be understood. These elaborations are well in line with the Bishkek Mountain Platform which intends to "guide governments and everyone involved with mountain issues on future activities and actions in the 21st century." Its ultimate goal is "to improve the livelihoods of mountain people, to protect mountain ecosystems, and to use mountain resources wisely".

Today the focus is no longer on ecological aspects alone, but also on capacity building for mountain development. It has been recognised by the international community as well as by national governments that changes will happen only if successful capacity building programmes take place. To bridge the gap between theoretical research and county-level implementation is the special knowledge InWEnt gathered through more than 40 years of activities.

In a region-centred approach we have met here in Lhasa for the 'International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the Tibet Autonomous Region'. TAAAS and the EU-funded Panam Project are the local hosts, in cooperation with InWEnt and ICIMOD, promoting discussion and communication about poverty in remote mountain regions. The specific situations of the districts and counties in sustainable rural development are discussed with representatives from there, while, at the same time, examples and experts from neighbouring mountain areas are presented.

Thirty years after the Munich Declaration and three years before the envisaged opening of a railway line to Lhasa, the Tibetan Plateau and its agriculture are the focus of an international conference. It is my sincere wish that this conference will contribute to a better understanding of subsistence production and market-oriented strategies in mountain agriculture. The ultimate goal is the combination of sustainable development and increased incomes for mountain farmers.

Welcome Address

by

Lobsang Gyalstan, Vice Governor of the Government of
The Tibet Autonomous Region

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Lhasa in July is endowed with bright sunshine, a pleasant climate, and flowers in full bloom. In this beautiful season, the 'International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the Tibet Autonomous Region' hosted by the TAR People's Government and jointly sponsored by the TAAAS, InWEnt, EU-China Project for Panam Integrated Rural Development, and ICIMOD is having a grand opening today in Lhasa, this beautiful and ancient city on a plateau. Experts from 12 countries, and from inside and outside Tibet, have gathered together to discuss issues of sustainable rural development in mountainous regions and are focusing on agriculture in Tibet. This will play a positive role in promoting sustainable economic and social development in our region. On behalf of the TAR People's Government and the 2.6 million people of Tibet, I would like to extend our congratulations to the conference and express a warm welcome to all the experts from home and abroad.

Tibet Autonomous Region, located on the border area of China's southwest and with a total area of over 1.2 million sq.km., is the main component of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau as well as the source of many rivers. Tibet is vast in territory, densely occupied by mountain ranges rising and falling, displaying a wavy and complicated terrain, and enjoying the reputation of the 'Roof of the World', with 86.1% of the land over 4,000 masl. The unique landforms of Tibet result in its rich climatic, biological, and soil diversity. The region consists of approximately four natural ecological zones: namely, the North Tibet Plateau, Tibet's main pastoral area, with an average altitude of over 4,500 m. and making up two thirds of the total area of Tibet; the South Tibet Valley, the major agricultural area boasting flat terrain and fertile soil and lying at about 3,500 masl; the Southeast Tibet Zone endowed with high mountains, deep valleys, magnificent views, and a vertically distributed ecological system fit for farming, animal husbandry, and forestry; and, lastly, the Himalayan mountains, the grandest and most majestic of the mountain systems on earth, with an average elevation of 6,000 masl and accredited to be the kingdom of the most precious fauna and flora in the world.

Tibet is a multiethnic region, with Tibetans being the main inhabitants living here generation after generation. In the extremely harsh environment,

they have fashioned their ethnic characteristics, featuring industry, bravery, and wisdom, and created their unique modes of production and Tibetan culture—dating back to antiquity.

After the peaceful liberation of Tibet, under the leadership of the CPC, Tibet experienced fast economic growth, greatly improved living standards, and social stability. Now Tibetans are working and living in peace and contentment. In 2003 Tibet achieved a total production value of 18.457 billion yuan, up 12.1% over the previous year; a local fiscal general budget revenue of 815 million yuan, a rise of 19.5%; social fixed asset investments totalling 13.862 billion yuan, up 27.2%; annual per capita share of grain reaching 378.8 kg, achieving basic self-support and self-sufficiency; and an average annual net income for farmers and herdsmen of 1,690 yuan. Meanwhile, inputs into education have greatly increased and school-operating conditions have improved. Attendance in primary schools among all schoolchildren reached 91.8%, and the gross attendance rate for junior middle schools reached 61.1%. The medical care system based on free medical care in the agricultural and pastoral areas covers all counties and 96.1% of the townships. There has been sound development of cultural undertakings and smooth progress of the New Tibetan Project, a project establishing roads reaching every village, and Project 2131 distributing cinema to farming and pastoral areas. Now radio and TV cover 83.1 and 84.4% of the population respectively. Great importance has been given to the protection of ethnic culture. There are 1,800 cultural and historical sites in the region, among which 27 are given special protection by the state and 55 by the region.

The TAR Party Committee and government have invested large sums of money and materials in farming, animal husbandry, water conservancy projects, forestry, pasture, agricultural machinery and farmland capital construction, and greatly improved infrastructure and production conditions. Now agricultural and pastoral means of production have been supplied on a large scale, agricultural machinery developed from scratch, and popularisation of science and technology, in particular, has been given great emphasis. The recent years have witnessed the dissemination and application of over 30 scientific and technological achievements, opening of different types of training classes, and emergence of a large contingent of skilled personnel and farming and pastoral technicians. Now a scientific and technical team has been formulated with Tibetan people as the main participants implementing the strategy of revitalising Tibet through science and education. With constantly intensified efforts, our scientific and technological undertakings are making headway rapidly. Now the region boasts 34,702 technicians of various kinds, 1,398 of

whom are scientific researchers; 26 independent academies; 7 private research institutes; 20 institutions of specialised secondary education and higher education, 54 academic societies; and 140 organisations for farming and animal husbandry technology dissemination at the regional, prefecture and county levels. The basics of a scientific research and dissemination system with plateau features have been formulated and are playing a principal role in scientific research, popularisation of science and technology, scientific farming, and stock raising.

The Party Central Committee, the State Council, the TAR CPC Committee, and the TAR Government have always attached great importance to issues related to agriculture, farmers, and rural areas, undertaking sustainable rural development, increasing farmers and herders' incomes and, rapidly building a more prosperous society in the region as the core task of governments at various levels. I believe that, as long as we conform to the requirements of scientific concepts of development and work together with one heart, Tibet's farming and animal husbandry will have a better tomorrow.

However, we should realise that Tibet has very harsh natural conditions, a fragile ecological environment, and relatively backward basic facilities. All these factors have restricted the speedy agricultural growth of Tibet. Now experts from home and abroad are assembled in Lhasa, jointly discussing and studying the issues of sustainable development in the mountainous regions of Tibet. It offers us a very good opportunity to learn from you. Your academic research and exchange of ideas will provide us with valuable experience and suggestions that will surely be conducive to the swift development of our farming and animal husbandry.

Now Tibet is enjoying political stability, people are working and living in contentment, ushering in a prime time for fast growth. With the implementation of the Western Development strategy and substantiation of the spirit of the 4th Working Conference on Tibet of the Central Government, the infrastructural facilities and software environment in Tibet have greatly improved and are more conducive for investment and business. I'm convinced that the 'International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the TAR' will not only be an opportunity for scientists to learn from each other and carry out academic research, but also will be a grand gathering for enhancing understanding, increasing collaboration, and making friends. Meanwhile, the far-sighted scholars and experts are more than welcome to apply your scientific research results in Tibet.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
July is the best time for sightseeing in Lhasa. I hope all our guests will take the opportunity to look around a bit and get an idea of the splendid panorama of the plateau and unsophisticated local customs and practices.

To conclude, I would like to wish the conference every success. I wish all our guests good health and a pleasant stay in Lhasa. Good luck and happiness to you all.