



# Centre News

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Expanding partnerships in Afghanistan

### ICIMOD opens country office in Kabul



ICIMOD Director General, Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Chairman, ICIMOD Board of Governors, H.E. Gulam Mostafa Jawad (far right), and guests from the government and the development community at the country office inauguration

At the request of the Government of Afghanistan, ICIMOD inaugurated its country office in Kabul on 11 February 2007. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H. E. Obaidullah Ramin, keynote speaker and special guest, described the event as “an important and valuable step at this stage in Afghanistan’s history”.

He stressed the importance of food security and addressing sustainable livelihood issues in Afghanistan, and welcomed ICIMOD’s cooperation. He also expressed a desire for his country to learn from ICIMOD’s over two decades of experience in forestry and forest protection and the need to mobilise support

(from ICIMOD and other international agencies) in implementing Afghanistan’s Agricultural Master Plan. Water and soil conservation, desertification, and deforestation are the other critical areas he identified for potential collaboration.

ICIMOD Director General, Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, thanked the distinguished guests from the government and from international community for attending the inauguration. He briefed the distinguished audience about ICIMOD and its programmes, and its key areas of cooperation, and expressed special gratitude to Chairman H.E. Ghulam Mostafa Jawad, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Afghanistan’s representative to the ICIMOD Board of Governors for his support in establishing the Afghanistan office, and his contribution to fulfilling ICIMOD’s mandate and role. H. E. Ghulam Mostafa Jawad is the current Chair of the ICIMOD Board for 2007.

In concluding remarks, the Honourable Deputy Minister expressed appreciation for the partnership with ICIMOD, especially the workshops and training programmes carried out with ICIMOD assistance. He saw the need for capacity building in the various areas of ICIMOD’s work, and the value to Afghanistan of belonging to a regional organisation that linked the country with other mountain areas in the Himalayan region.



The inaugural ceremony was facilitated by Mr. Hazrat Hussain Khaurin, Director of Forest, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Afghanistan. From ICIMOD, Mr. Farid Mateen Ahmad, the new Programme Coordinator for ICIMOD based in Kabul, Mr. Anupam Bhatia, and Ms. Tika Gurung attended the inauguration. The country office is located at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Forest, Kabul.

**Tika Gurung**, [tgurung@icimod.org](mailto:tgurung@icimod.org)

## ICIMOD begins the process of setting the strategic direction for 2008-2012

ICIMOD held a series of focused consultations towards developing the next **Medium-term Programme Strategy for 2008-2012**. A three-day internal workshop developed a draft concept paper on a future strategy. To guide the workshop process, the Director General-designate, Dr. Andreas Schild, held consultations with the Integrated Programmes as well as with the Directorate. He also reviewed reports on policies, programme priorities, and planning cycles of the regional member countries, specially prepared for the strategic planning exercise. Discussions with the ICIMOD Directorate were also held regarding ongoing projects, organisational obligations, and the outputs of earlier workshops.



Narendra Bajracharya

Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General designate, leads a small group discussion on ICIMOD core competencies during the focused consultations.

The workshop was facilitated by a team led by PPD and participated in by ICIMOD's professional staff. Views were exchanged on critical lessons learned during the implementation of the current MTAP, prospects, ICIMOD's core competencies, and partnership strategies. Deliberations were also carried out on the monitoring and evaluation process. Successive versions of the draft concept paper evolved, incorporating the inputs of the participants through a critical examination of strategic elements related to knowledge management, improved member country presence, core competence, and performance monitoring. The concept paper was finalised in mid-February 2007 and shared internally.

## ICIMOD Board of Governors 2007 Regional Board Members

**Eng. Ghulam Mostafa Jawad**  
CHAIRPERSON  
ICIMOD Board of Governors  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Afghanistan

**Dr. A.K.M. Helal uz Zaman**  
Secretary-In-Charge  
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs  
Bangladesh Secretariat  
Bangladesh

**Dasho Sangay Thinley**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

**Prof. Li Jiayang**  
Vice President  
The Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

**Dr. Prodipto Ghosh**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

**U Khin Maung Zaw**  
Pro-rector  
University of Forestry, Myanmar

**Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel**  
Vice Chairman  
National Planning Commission  
Nepal

**Mr. Muhammad Ismail Qureshi**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock  
Pakistan

## Independent Board Members

**Dr. Jacqueline A. Ashby**  
Senior Research Manager  
Development Sociologist  
CIAT, Colombia

**Dr. Tone Bleie**  
Chief, Gender and Development  
UN ESCAP, Thailand

**Dr. Elke Förster**  
Head of Section  
Promotion of Agriculture and Food  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische  
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany

**Prof. Bruno Messerli**  
VICE-CHAIR BOARD  
Professor  
Institute of Geography  
University of Berne, Switzerland

**Dr. Amir Muhammed**  
Rector, National University of Computer and  
Emerging Sciences, Pakistan

**Dr. Rob Visser**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DSI)  
The Netherlands

**Dr. Linxiu Zhang**  
Professor and Deputy Director  
Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy  
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)  
PR China

**Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell**  
(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

The draft strategy paper will be shared by the DG-designate with the donors and the Board members, especially the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members of ICIMOD and will be finalised as ICIMOD's Strategy Paper (2008-12) by June 2007. In consultation with the members of PAC and the ICIMOD Board, the document will be shared with key RMCs partners

and donors to obtain their support and ownership. The process of developing the MTAP (2008-12) is expected to begin in April 2007, and the final version of the Strategic Paper and the MTAP to be completed in October and approved by the Board in its annual meeting in November 2007.

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Madhav Karki, mkarki@icimod.org

## 'Kathmandu Valley Environment Outlook' released

ICIMOD, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), recently released and launched, *Kathmandu Valley Environment Outlook*. The book paints a picture of environmental decline in the Kathmandu Valley, citing growing urbanisation, population growth, unhampered and poorly planned land development, and insufficient coordination among government agencies as the major causes. It was launched during the 10th Governing Council Meeting and silver jubilee of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Kathmandu, 25 January 2007. The Honourable State Minister, Mr. Man Bahadur Biswokarma, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST), Government of Nepal, was special guest.

ICIMOD and UNEP hope the book will provide sound bases for decision-making by the Government of Nepal and concerned authorities at the policy level, to address Nepal's deteriorating environment. The book can also serve as reference for all those who are involved in the field of environmental management.

The book was disseminated through various development networks, and was well covered through book reviews in various local, regional, and international mass media.



Narendra Bajracharya

The Honourable State Minister of MoEST shows a copy of the book.

During its launching, MENRIS, ICIMOD also launched the Mountain Environment Knowledge Hub (M-eKH), which is a part of UNEP's Environment Knowledge Hub (eKH). The Mountain Environment Knowledge Hub is a platform for both users and providers to build, share, and communicate environment data, information, and knowledge on mountain ecosystems and services of the HKH region for sustainable mountain development. It can be accessed at <http://menris.icimod.net/m-ekh>.

Bidya Banmali Pradhan, bbanmali@icimod.org



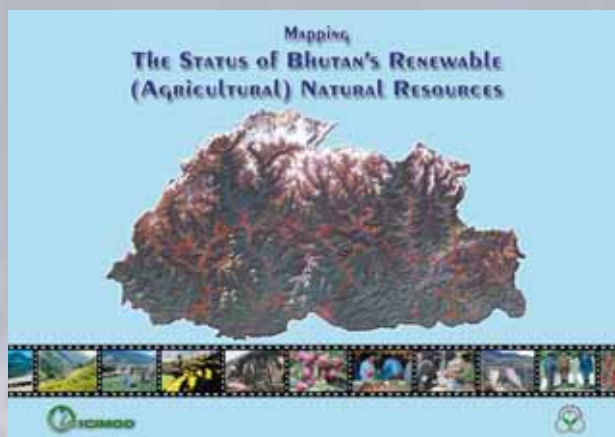
Visit the  
Mountain Environment  
Knowledge Hub (M-eKH)  
[www.icimod-gis.net](http://www.icimod-gis.net)



## 'Mapping the Status of Bhutan's Renewable (Agricultural) Natural Resources' launched in Thimphu, Bhutan

A policy dissemination workshop was jointly organised by the Policy and Planning Division of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA/PPD), Royal Government of Bhutan and ICIMOD on 12 January 2007 in Thimphu, Bhutan. More than 50 participants from different organisations attended the workshop, which also launched the joint publication, *Mapping the Status of Bhutan's Renewable (Agricultural) Natural Resources*.

The book, which comes with a multi-media CD version, is the outcome of a successful joint collaboration between ICIMOD and MoA/PPD to package and disseminate renewable natural resources (RNR) census indicators at the district level, in the form of an atlas making use of GIS tools and techniques. It was launched by Dasho Sangay Thinley, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, and aims to assist decision makers and



development planners make informed decisions and plans. The event was covered by *Kuensel*, the national newspaper of Bhutan.

**Basanta Shrestha**, bshrestha@icimod.org

## Agreement for launching the CFC-FAO-ICIMOD-MAPPA Project in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal

ICIMOD signed Project Implementation Agreements (PIAs) with the Governments of Bangladesh (19 October 2006), Bhutan (18 December 2006) and Nepal (8 January, 2007) for implementing the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) supported "Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihood in Eastern Himalayas" project in these countries. The Ministries of Commerce, Finance and Forests, and Soil Conservation signed the agreements on behalf of the respective Governments. Ninety percent of the US\$ 1.29 million grant will go directly for implementation in the countries.

The project, to be implemented and coordinated by the ICIMOD based Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA), aims to develop and promote the appropriate production and post harvesting technologies, marketing strategies with community based enterprise approach and marketing information dissemination systems. In addition, conserving valuable rare medicinal plants in their natural habitats and developing appropriate policies to enhance rural livelihoods in these countries.

**Dyutiman Choudhary**, dchoudhary@icimod.org  
**R.B.S Rawat**, rrawat@icimod.org



MAPPA Project



## New Independent Board Members

ICIMOD is pleased to announce the addition of three highly respected experts in their particular fields as new Independent Board Members of the ICIMOD Board effective November 2006. They were appointed during the 37th ICIMOD Board of Governors meeting held in Swat, Pakistan.

### **Dr. Jacqueline A. Ashby, Senior Research Manager, Development Sociologist, CIAT, Cali**

Dr. Jacqueline Ashby is currently Director of the Rural Innovation Institute at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia and Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*. She is also associated with the University of Florida, USA, where she teaches a graduate course on Managing Innovation, and is a senior technical adviser to Catholic Relief Services, a global NGO, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Latin America Programme.

Before 2001, Dr. Ashby was CIAT's Director of Research for Natural Resource Management and Coordinator of the CGIAR Programme on Participatory Research and Gender Analysis, which she helped launch in 1997. Widely recognised internationally for path-breaking work that established participatory action research as a scientific methodology relevant to agricultural fields

as diverse as soil science, plant breeding, and pest management, she is the author of numerous journal articles, book chapters, and training manuals. As a practitioner of participatory action, Dr. Ashby helped to found two successful NGOs in Colombia, one of which promotes farmer-led research.



Dr. Ashby has a Ph.D. in Development Sociology from Cornell University, USA, a Diploma from the University of Cambridge, and a B.A. Honours from the University of York, England. She is not new to the region, having started her career in Nepal as a volunteer under the British Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) in the early '70s.

## Announcing...

### **Joint International Grassland Congress and International Rangeland Congress**

in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China  
29 June - 5 July 2008

#### **For more information on this joint congress**

- Congress Programme
- Call for Papers (Titles due June 1, 2007)
  - Trade and Industry Exhibition
  - Pre-, Mid- and Post-Congress tours
  - Workshop themes
- Delegate Sponsorship and Sponsoring Organisations

visit [www.IGC-IRC2008.org](http://www.IGC-IRC2008.org)



Xu Jianchu

**Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector,  
National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Pakistan**

Dr. Amir Muhammed from Pakistan is currently the Rector of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Pakistan, in addition to being active in several organisations including Asianics Agro-Dev International, Pakistan, where he is President; Japan Scientific Planning Group of Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) Kobe, as Co-Chairman; the System of Training, Analysis and Research (START) in Global Change Research as steering committee member; and the South Asia START Committee (SASCOM) as chairman.

He helped establish the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), where he retired as Chairman in 1990. At one time the Federal Secretary of the Government of Pakistan, he was also closely associated with the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Service for National

Agriculture Research (ISNAR), serving the boards and several committees. He did consulting work for various development organisations including World Bank, Asian Development Bank, FAO, UNDP, and, in 1990, led ICIMOD's 3rd Quinquennial Review.



A recipient of many honours, including the Gold Medal from the Prime Minister of Pakistan for outstanding contribution to agricultural research in 1989, Dr. Muhammed has an M.Sc. (Hons) 1953; B.Sc. (Hons) in 1952, from Punjab University, Lahore; and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Oxford University, United Kingdom, 1959. He has written over 150 research papers and articles and several books.

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**Dr. Linxiu Zhang, Professor and Deputy Director,  
Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP)**

Dr. Linxiu Zhang is a Professor and the Deputy Director of the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing. An agricultural economist, she currently heads the research programme, 'Integrated Rural Urban Development and Anti-Poverty Policy' in China, and has led other important projects including the Outstanding Young Scientists Project (2003-2006); Social and Economic Determinants of Fertiliser Application by Rural Farmers (2003-2005); Rural Governance and Community Development (2001-2005); Land Tenure and Gender in Rural China (2004-2005); and Integrating Social and Gender Analysis in Natural Resources Research (2006-2008); Rural Education and Health Care (2007-2009); Public Goods Investment in Rural Areas (2006-2008). Her expertise and contributions in these fields are reflected in books, reports, and articles that she has published, in both the English and Chinese languages.

Dr. Zhang is associated with many professional organisations and has served on the boards of several Chinese research academia and international organisations. She has also worked as a consultant to various international development agencies including UNDP, FAO, UNEP, IFAD, World Bank, and was a member of ICIMOD's Quinquennial Review in 2006. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Management (1982) from the Nanjing Agricultural University, China; an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics (1986) from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos; and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics (1995) from University of Reading, England.



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Asia pacific node of the Mountain Forum**



# ICIMOD workshops, meetings, and training programmes

November 2006-February 2007

Event	Date	Place
Second South Asia Sustainable Tourism Forum	3 November 2006	Kathmandu
ICIMOD's 35th Board of Governors Meeting	3-5 November 2006	Swat, Pakistan
Training Workshop on "Earthquake Vulnerability and Multi Hazard Risk Assessment"	13-14 November 2006	National Centre of Excellence in Geology of Pakistan, University of Peshawar, Pakistan
International GIS Day Celebration 2006: Discovering the World through GIS	15 November 2006	Kathmandu, BICC
Geographic Information System (GIS) for Beginners	13-17 November 2006	Kathmandu
Hands-on Training on Bio-briquette Making	17-18 November 2006	Lalitpur, Nepal
Exposure Visit of the Agricultural Marketing and Enterprise Promotion Project (AMEPP) team to North East India	18-24 November 2006	North East India
Land Use Transition and Human Health in Eastern Himalaya: an Adaptive Ecosystem Approach	20-23 November 2006	Kathmandu
Training on Rapid Urban Assessment	20-24 November 2006	Kathmandu
Training in Beekeeping Management for Honey Production and Pollination	20-29 November 2006	Himachal Pradesh, India
Hands-on Training on Bio-briquette Making	21-22 December 2006	Kathmandu
Culmination Workshop for the Assessment of the Decade of Indigenous Peoples in Asia	27-29 November 2006	Kathmandu
A National Policy Workshop on Policies for Sustainable Use and Management of Rangeland Resources in Pakistan	28-29 November 2006	Islamabad, Pakistan
The 4th Project Meeting of "ASSESS-HKH"	2-6 December 2006	Lahore, Pakistan
Consultation Workshop on Capacity Building for Flash Flood Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas	4-5 December 2006	Kathmandu
Regional Workshop on Policy Priorities for Sustainable Rangeland Management in Hindu Kush-Himalayas	4-7 December 2006	Kathmandu
M & E workshop	8 December 2006	Kathmandu
Himalaya Tourism Conference 2006, Mountaineering, Livelihoods and Environment	11-12 December 2006	Kathmandu
'Sharing Mountain Knowledge' Book and Technology Fair	11-12 December 2006	Kathmandu
Regional Workshop on Sharing Geographic Information in the HKH region – Geo-Network Metadata Implementation	11-15 December 2006	Kathmandu
International Workshop on 'Integrated Beekeeping Development in South Asian Countries'	13-14 November 2006	New Dehli, India
Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of Indigenous Honeybees and Field Visit	14 December 2006	Dangadi, Far Western Nepal
Policy Seminar on Creating a Useful Dossier for Policy Work	14 December 2006	Kathmandu
Regional Exposure Visit Programme to Observe Effective Advocacy-related Activities in Nepal	18-28 December 2006	Kaski, Parbat, Baglung, and Palpa districts of Nepal
Training Course on 'Geo-informatics for Conservation and Management'	6-20 January 2007	Myanmar
Gather Professional Inputs in Developing the next MTAP Programme Strategy	10 January 2007	Kathmandu
Book Launch, Mapping the Status of Bhutan's Renewable (Agricultural) Natural Resources	12 January 2007	Bhutan
Training on Sustainable Tourism Market Linkages	15 January-17 March 2007	Kathmandu
Earthquake Safety Day	16-18 January 2007	Kathmandu
Mountain Forum Open House	18 January 2007	Kathmandu
Meeting on ICIMOD Funding Strategies	24 January 2007	Kathmandu
Book Launch, Kathmandu Valley Environment Outlook and MeKH Portal Launch	25 January 2007	Kathmandu
To develop ICIMOD'S next Medium Term Programme Strategy	29-31 January 2007	Kathmandu
World Wetlands Day	2 February 2007	Kathmandu

## Appreciation evening for Gabriel



Narendra Bajracharya

It was a night of nostalgic songs, touching speeches, and deep gratitude, but will also be remembered for the fun and entertainment, and the easy camaraderie that has come to characterise the ICIMOD family.

Over 150 ICIMOD staff members, well-wishers, and friends showed up at the Radisson Hotel on 23 February 2007 for the 'Appreciation Evening for Gabriel'. It was ICIMOD's way of honouring Dr. James Gabriel Campbell, outgoing Director General, and his work for the Centre and the cause of mountain development; also honouring the inspiring leader and collegial work colleague and friend that he has come to be for most of us. It was also during his term that the Centre acquired its own building with the generous contribution of the regional member countries.

The staff presented him a plaque of appreciation for these contributions, and a poster capturing some memorable moments at the Centre during his term, special gifts including a book of messages from the staff, some ICIMOD Board of Governors, and ICIMOD Support Group members, and a portrait done by ICIMOD's own 'artist-in-residence', Asha Kaji Thaku of the Information Management, Communication and Outreach Division. Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General, Programmes; Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, Director, Administration and Finance; Dr. Eklabya

Sharma, Programme Manager of NRM and Staff Club representative, and Ms. Tika Gurung, Directorate, all paid tribute to Dr. Campbell the anthropologist, work colleague, boss, and friend. In a warm response, Dr. Campbell – plain 'Gabriel' to most of us – thanked everyone, the Board and ISG members, and the ICIMOD staff, taking time out to name each staff member in recognition of their individual contribution to making ICIMOD and his over seven years with the Centre productive and fulfilling. In a light moment, he also invited one and all to break bread and toast 'aila', a local Newari brew, with him using his new set of Newari silver cups which came as part of the gifts. A programme followed showcasing the talents of the staff, and songs in Nepali, English, Chinese, and Hindi, as well as dances representing Nepali, Chitrali, and Tibetan cultures, and a medley of mountain songs from all over the world were performed in his honour – the last number bringing the house down and making everyone break into a dance.

Dr. Campbell came with his wife, Dr. Lynn Bennett, a respected development anthropologist with the World Bank. ICIMOD bids the well-liked Director General good wishes for the future and continuing contributions to mountain development as Senior Fellow of The Mountain Institute (TMI), with a new email address [gcampbell@mountain.org](mailto:gcampbell@mountain.org).



# Global Mountain Forum Secretariat

## Biodiversity conservation featured at the Mountain Forum Open House

The Mountain Forum Secretariat and the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)/ICIMOD co-organised an Open House for Mountain Forum members on 18 January 2007. The focus of the Open House was Biodiversity Conservation, also the theme of the International Mountain Day celebration in December 2006. The programme featured two guest speakers: Dr. Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD Community Biodiversity Specialist, who spoke on 'Biodiversity conservation beyond boundaries: A landscape approach through partnership'; and Dr. Siddhartha Bajracharya, Member Secretary of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), who presented the 'Community-based biodiversity conservation in Annapurna Conservation Area'.



Narendra Bajracharya

Abstracts of both papers can be accessed at:  
<http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/mfoh2007/1-AbstractPaper-session1.pdf>  
<http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/mfoh2007/2-AbstractPaper-Session2.pdf>

More than 50 participants attended the event, which was also an opportunity to be familiar with the services provided by Mountain Forum which include publications, an online library, a website, and e-conferences.

Certificates of membership were distributed to participating Mountain Forum members.

The Mountain Forum Open House was widely covered in local newsletters by stakeholders such as FIT-Nepal and EV-K2-CNR.

## Mountain Forum's new website launched in March 2007



Mountain Forum launched its new and improved website, which features, among others:

- › New design
- › New section on Mountain News
- › Aggregated content on specific themes each month
- › Individual web pages for each member including facility to add photographs and documents
- › Real-time profile updating systems
- › Improved membership systems which allow for city-specific networking
- › New features

## E-conference Report and MF Bulletin to be released soon

The e-conference report on 'Mountain-to-Mountain Cooperation: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, including Genetic Resources in the Andes and the Himalaya' will be released by mid-March 2007. The e-conference was held during 12-30 June 2006, and organised by the Mountain Forum Secretariat in association with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the HimalAndes Initiative, ICIMOD, and the Asia-Pacific and Latin-American nodes of Mountain Forum.

The January 2007 issue of the *Mountain Forum Bulletin* will also be released in mid March. Both the report and the *Bulletin* are already available online.

## New intern at MF

Mr. Suman Jaiswal joined Mountain Forum Secretariat as an intern beginning January 2007. Mr. Jaiswal, a Nepali national, has a background in Computer Engineering. He has worked with several IT companies in Kathmandu, and brings with him expertise in programming and web development and design. He will be developing a database of images for Mountain Forum's internal, and possibly public use.

## Asia Pacific Mountain Network

The Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is the Asia-Pacific node of the Mountain Forum (MF). It is an informal and democratic information network of individuals and organisations interested in the promotion of sustainable mountain development in the mountain countries of the Asia-Pacific region. At present APMN is funded by SDC and hosted by ICIMOD, where it is managed by the Information Management, Communications and Outreach (IMCO) Division. As well as moderating two MF discussion lists (mf-asiapacific and mf-centralasia) and contributing to Mountain Forum's other activities, APMN has its own programme and website (<http://apmn.icimod.org>).

The spring issue of *APMN Bulletin* ([http://apmn.icimod.org/publications/APMN-bulletin\\_vol\\_7\\_no\\_2.pdf](http://apmn.icimod.org/publications/APMN-bulletin_vol_7_no_2.pdf)) has just been published. The Bulletin is intended particularly for off-line members of the network. It

highlights recent activities of APMN and critical and emerging mountain issues, as well as mountain-related events and activities taking place in the Asia-Pacific region. APMN is also carrying out three different tasks for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and the MFS led UN-FAO/ICIMOD agreement. In

the first, APMN will carry out a brief assessment of the potential for broadband communications to contribute to socioeconomic development in areas of low connectivity in the mountain areas in Nepal. The second activity is developing communication tools to support information exchange and activities of the Biodiversity Conservation Initiative; and in the third, APMN will perform a communication needs assessment and look at partner linkages in the Central Asia region.

To help Mr. Udayan Mishra, Acting APMN Node Manager, a new intern Ms. Sapana Lohani has joined APMN from January 2006. She will be helping to bring out two issues of the *APMN Bulletin* as well as facilitating other activities of APMN.



## Change of ICIMOD telephone numbers

Effective January 2007 ICIMOD telephone numbers have changed to:

Main line  
5003222 (in place of 5525313)  
Fax  
5003299 (in place of 5524509)

## Our other numbers are

	New Numbers	Old Numbers
Direct inward station access line	5003310	5525310
Direct inward station access line	5003311	5525311
Directorate	5003318	5525318
NRM	5003013	5531903
ARID	5003141	5536741
WHEM	5003177	5543227
CEGG	5003040	5536740
IKM/IMCO	5003246	5536746
IKM/MENRIS	5003242	5536742
Mountain Forum	5003139	5522839
Alternative Fax number	5003277	5536747



# New Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements signed

October 2006 to February 2007

## October 2006

Bangladesh Neem Foundation (BNF), Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh  
Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihood in Eastern Himalayas

## November 2006

CGIAR Consortium for Spatial Information (CGIAR-CSI), Sri Lanka  
Promoting Spatial Information and Applications for Sustainable Development

## November 2006

Geo-informatics Centre of Asian Institute of Technology (GIC-AIT), Bangkok, Thailand  
Cooperation and Participation in Digital Asia Project

## November 2006

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Pokhara, Nepal  
Land Management and Livelihood Options and Opportunities for Shifting Cultivation and Sloping Land Areas

## December 2006

Department of Aid and Debt Management (DADM), Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan  
Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihood in Eastern Himalaya

## December 2006

Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre (DEBTEC), Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihood in Eastern Himalaya

## January 2007

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNTWO), Madrid, Spain  
To collaborate towards sustainable development and promotion of mountainous areas for tourism to ensure maximum socioeconomic benefits to local communities and minimise possible adverse environmental impact



Narendra Bajracharya

## January 2007

Herbs and NTFP Coordination Committee (HNCC), Kathmandu, Nepal  
Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihood in Eastern Himalaya

## January 2007

Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal  
To share competencies in designing and delivering specific courses in mountain development focusing on natural resource management

## 15 February 2007

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Collaborative programme-level effort in the fields of mutual interest as determined by the priorities of BARC and ICIMOD and the comparative advantages and resources within the two institutions

## Recent ICIMOD publications

The following are the major documents published between December 2006 and February 2007. The three prices quoted are applicable to developed countries, developing countries, and ICIMOD's regional member countries respectively, and include post and packing. Publications are available at a reduced rate at the Centre itself. Publications can be provided free-of-charge to institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the greater Himalayan region. Order on-line (see below) or from the Distribution Unit, [distri@icimod.org](mailto:distri@icimod.org)

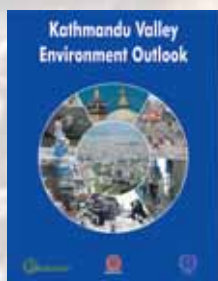
### ICIMOD (2007) Kathmandu Valley Environment

**Outlook.** 33p ISBN 978-

92-9115-019-9 / ISBN-978-

92-9115-020-5 (electronic)

Price: \$20 / \$15 / \$10



Kathmandu Valley is a place of extraordinary natural and cultural beauty. But it is a valley now transformed almost beyond recognition. Constantly growing traffic congestion, polluted air from vehicles and brick factories, rapidly expanding urban sprawl, streams and rivers that too often resemble sewers, piles of waste, and shortages of drinking water too often obscure the beauty beneath and beyond. In Kathmandu Valley Environment Outlook, ICIMOD has joined with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Nepal Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology to provide a detailed account of the status of the Kathmandu Valley environment highlighting five key environmental issues – air quality and traffic management, unplanned settlement, degradation of water resources, waste management, and natural disaster preparedness. The book reviews their status, and recommends measures to prevent or minimise negative impacts, providing direct options for management by various levels of government, civil society, the public-private sector, and residents. (Erratum: Please note on p. 64, Table 5.10, 'm/d' should read 'm<sup>3</sup>/day'.)

### ICIMOD (2006) Mapping: The Status of Bhutan's Renewable (Agricultural) Natural

**Resources.** 147p ISBN

978-92-9115-011-3

Price: \$20 / \$15 / \$10



In 2000, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Royal Government of Bhutan carried out the first ever agricultural census for the whole country to give the Renewable Natural Resources Statistics 2000. The present publication presents these data in the form of thematic maps showing the distribution of selected indicators by district, thus allowing a rapid visual grasp

of the implications in terms of geographic distribution and difference. The publication is divided into four parts: an introduction with a brief background on the work, and a description of the main features of the census together with a discussion of its limitations; a brief overview of Bhutan with descriptive information of some major features; the RNR Statistics 2000 in the form of text, tables and maps; and a final section with a summary of the data, the conclusions and recommendations from the study, and a short bibliography. The themes covered include agricultural land use characteristics, cereal production and yields, agricultural inputs, horticultural production, livestock population and production, agricultural marketing, and major constraints faced by the rural farm households.

### General publications

- › Newsletter No. 51: Managing Watershed in the Himalayan Region (Winter 2006)
- › Annual Report 2006
- › ICIMOD Brochure: Partnerships in Mountain Development, Securing the Future of the Himalayan Region Update, Feb 2007
- › ICIMOD Catalogue of Publications 2007

### Leaflets

- › Living with Risk - Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Preparedness in the Himalayan Region. Update, Feb 2007
- › Conservation Beyond Boundaries - Participatory Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Landscapes of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region Feb 2007
- › Flash Flood Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas. 4p. Nov 2006
- › Regional Cooperation for Flood Disaster Mitigation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region. Oct 2006

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## New appointments

### Farid Mateen Ahmad, Afghanistan Programme Coordinator, PPD

Mr. Farid Mateen Ahmad completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in his home country, Afghanistan. He was awarded a one-year fellowship to the US, where he did postgraduate studies in International Agriculture Development at the University of California-Davis. He later joined the agriculture faculty of Herat University as lecturer, but soon moved on to civil society organisations and NGOs, where he has eight years of experience in implementing agriculture, rural development, and alternative livelihood

programmes in different parts of Afghanistan. He was also in monitoring and evaluation, community development, and capacity building. Before joining ICIMOD, he was development officer with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). He joins ICIMOD as Afghanistan Programme Coordinator.



### Chodok, DSS Programme Officer, IKM-MENRIS

Dr. Chodok, a Chinese national from Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), joined ICIMOD in January 2007 as Country Coordinator TAR, China of the Decision Support Systems-Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya (DSS-HKKH) Project. He has a Ph.D. in Geography from the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a Bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Science from Nanjing Institute of Meteorology. Before joining ICIMOD, he was Division Head and Associate Professor of the Tibet Center for Remote Sensing Applications, Tibet Meteorological Bureau.

Dr. Chodok has considerable experience in Tibetan Plateau meteorology and various aspects of GIS and

remote sensing applications as applied in the Tibetan Plateau environment. He successfully coordinated several Tibetan Plateau studies including land use/land cover changes and integrated environment evaluation in the central Tibetan Plateau, satellite mapping of surface biophysical parameters, vegetation and snow cover monitoring, a study of ultraviolet and ozone layers, and climatic resources assessment in the Tibet Autonomous Region. At ICIMOD he will be responsible for the RS components of the DSS-HKKH project specialising in land cover and land use mapping and analysis.



### Tawheed Gul, Assistant Coordinator, Decentralisation and Local Governance, CEGG

Ms. Tawheed Gul from the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Pakistan joined ICIMOD in February 2007 as Assistant Coordinator of the Decentralisation and Local Governance in CEGG programme.

Ms. Tawheed has an MA degree in International Relations from the University of Peshawar, NWFP and has worked for a decade with development organisations and foreign-funded projects with special focus on gender, empowerment, and poverty aspects. She was the Human and Institutional Development/Planning and Monitoring Coordinator of a Swiss-funded Innovation for Poverty Reduction Project (IPRP) implemented by Swiss Inter-Cooperation before joining ICIMOD. Amongst the pioneers who have taken up the challenge of working in the conservative Malakand division of Northern Pakistan, Ms. Tawheed has broken

ground in bringing women in these areas into the development chain. Through her work and dedication, IPRP received the Swiss Inter-cooperation Gender Award in 2006 for best performance in gender mainstreaming interventions.



Ms. Tawheed also worked with the UN World Food Programme, DHV the Netherlands, and Asian Development Bank in close collaboration with the government Forest Department and a special unit for the development of the rural poor. She facilitated organisational strengthening and institutional development of local NGOs in Pakistan and added value in their services for the community.

### **Nonna Lamponen, Project and Programme Development Specialist, PPD**

Ms. Nonna Lamponen joined ICIMOD in January 2007 as Project and Programme Development Specialist to work within the PPD programme. Ms. Lamponen brings with her over 10 years of work experience in the UK and Nepal combining both business and development activities.

Her main experience lies within project management, report writing, partner and customer management, as well as market development. Prior to joining ICIMOD, she was a consultant to SNV-Nepal and with private firms in the UK. In her free time, Ms. Lamponen also runs two charitable organisations in Nepal - an

orphan centre in Kathmandu and an education programme for underprivileged Nepali girls. Ms. Lamponen has an M.Sc. in Business and Economics and is originally from Finland but has resided in London for all of her adult life.



She is also an active freelance journalist writing in both English and Finnish languages, mostly on outdoor activities and extreme sports.

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### **Dechenla Sherpa, Gender Specialist, CEGG**

Ms. Dechenla Sherpa joined ICIMOD as Gender Specialist at CEGG in November 2006. She is responsible for gender training programmes for the organisation and the regional partners. She brings in the experience of gender mainstreaming in the tourism programme of UNDP Nepal. The youngest regional professional at ICIMOD, Ms. Sherpa has a strong grassroots foundation and has travelled to 22 districts of Nepal to train rural women and men as well as to monitor and implement programmes.

She started out a career in journalism and has worked as a communication specialist. She was involved in different promotional campaigns within and outside Nepal, has led journalists' familiarisation tours, and

developed communication strategies. She has a strong passion for travel documentaries and to date has written 14 documentaries focusing on poverty, tourism, environment, women, and community development issues. She has also taken courses on conflict and women's development.



Ms. Sherpa comes from a predominantly ethnic village in the lower belt of the Everest region in Nepal. She is a graduate of Delhi University, India and Tribhuvan University, Nepal

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### **Salman Asif Siddiqui, DSS Programme Officer, IKM-MENRIS**

Mr. Salman Asif Siddiqui completed his M.Sc. in Forestry with specialisation in Forest Engineering from the Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar and afterwards did a Mastère SILAT, a specialised masters degree programme in geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing (RS) from CEMAGREF/ENGREF, Montpellier, France in 1997-1998.

He has over a decade of work experience in GIS and RS and has worked with international research and development organisations such as the International

Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI) and the United Nations Development Programme in Pakistan. Prior to joining ICIMOD he was with the newly established Water Management Center of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) as head of the GIS unit, involved together with a team in the formulation of mitigation and preparedness plans for drought-affected areas and providing support to hydro-geological studies using GIS techniques.





## Associates, consultants, and interns

(as of February 2007)

### Associates/Consultants

Chhetri, Payas, IKM-IMCO  
Dangol, Pradeep Man, IKM-MENRIS  
Gurung, Deo Raj, IKM-MENRIS  
Joshi Sharad Prasad, IKM-MENRIS  
Karmacharya, Jay, IKM-IMCO  
Mahat, Tek Jung, IKM-IMCO  
Maskey, Rejina, IKM-MENRIS  
Mishra, Udayan, IKM-APMN  
Rai, Numa, CEGG  
Regmi, Prajna, IKM-MENRIS  
Shrestha, Rakesh, MENRIS  
Shrestha, Ram Kumari, NRM  
Uddin, Kabir, IKM-MENRIS  
Yu Haiyang, WHEM

### Interns

Chhipi Shrestha, Gyan Kumar, WHEM  
Dhakal, Subodh Prasad, WHEM  
Dhakal, Tara, CEGG  
Hamal, Nagma, ARID  
Htun, Khin Thida, CEGG  
Ghimire, Shobhana, PPD  
Jaiswal, Suman, Mountain Forum Secretariat  
Lama, Sonam, ARID  
Lohani, Sapana, IKM-APMN  
Nepal, Santosh, WHEM  
Pradhan, Paribesh, Mountain Forum Secretariat  
Rai, Xitij, CEGG  
Shrestha, Prawesh, Directorate  
Upadhyay, Lokendra, ARID

### Staff separation

Bhatta, Mandakini, Web Assistant, IKM-MENRIS (1 Oct 2003–31 Dec 2006)  
Dhakal, Susmita, Intern, Kyoto-ARID (1 May 2006–15 Feb 2007)  
Ghaffar, Sardar M. Abdul, Intern/Beekeeping Project, ARID (1 Apr 2006–31 Dec 2006)  
Gupta, Radhika, Coordinator, Equity and Rights (1 Nov 2004 - 5 Jan 2007)  
Li Qiaohong, Research Associate, WHEM (6 Sept 2006 - 13 Jan 2007)  
Li Zhouqing, Consultant, WHEM (10 Oct 2006- 15 Feb 2007)  
Min Zao Oo, Intern, CEGG (15 Sept-9 Feb 2007)  
Liang Chungfang, Intern, MENRIS (27 Nov 2006 -12 Jan 2007)  
Sah, Ram Prasad, Consultant, PPD (23 Aug 2006-22 Feb 2007)  
Min Zao Oo, Intern, IKM-MENRIS (15 Sept 2006-9 Feb 2007)  
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An old Chepang man from Dhading. The Chepangs are one of 65 ethnic groups (Source: NEFIN) in Nepal.

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# ICIMOD staff members

As of February 2007

## Directorate

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Tuladhar, Milan Raj, Director, Administration & Finance  
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