

Message from the Director General

Dear Readers, Friends, and Supporters of ICIMOD,

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of ICIMOD for 2009. This year's report reflects the growing concern for climate change and the opportunities for engagement, knowledge generation, and innovation that this presents to an organisation such as ICIMOD. The year 2009 also brought growing interest in the Mountain Agenda and tangible recognition of the need for regional cooperation by member countries. ICIMOD is now becoming involved in programmes driven and initiated by regional stakeholders. Various international organisations acknowledged us as a knowledge hub and expressed interest in collaboration to scale up activities in their development programmes.

As a regional organisation working with and through national partners, ICIMOD faces the challenge of showing the results of its work. As a way of documenting our impact, we have started to use the 'impact pathway' as a methodology. You will find some examples of our efforts in this annual report. I hope this will provide a better understanding of our work and make the report more readable. Anyone looking for more comprehensive and technical information is encouraged to

read some of our more detailed analyses and studies, or to refer to the Annual Progress Report, which contains details of all outputs and outcomes. Our website has also grown in popularity with the number of downloads doubling in the past year. We hope to gradually convert our website into an instrument of active communication with you and all stakeholders.

The highlights of the present report include reflections on ICIMOD's participation in the COP15 event in Copenhagen and the controversy around the IPCC report on glaciers. The report also covers progress in promoting the Mountain Agenda at international forums, such as the World Water Forum, and offers some



Mt Kailash, PR China

glances at new programmes, especially those initiating regional cooperation – the Kailash Sacred Landscape project, Indus Basin study, and Third Pole programme.

The report on the water programme briefly describes some central learning on how local communities adapt to 'too much and too little' water and how it has contributed to building the capacity in the region for monitoring water, glaciers, and hazards. The



environment programme made progress on regional cooperation with the trans-Himalayan transects and landscape corridors and the vulnerability analysis of the Eastern Himalayas. The livelihoods programme reports on its innovative work on payment for environmental services (PES) and promoting value chains. It has also added new knowledge to the study of migration as a livelihood strategy of mountain people. This is followed by a brief report on knowledge management. The report includes reports of the programmes of the country offices in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We are presently reviewing our presence in Afghanistan and expect some changes in the coming year.



Mountaineers march, COP 15, Copenhagen



Assam, India

We are reporting on new developments concerning the organisations and networks with which we work. The newly established decentralised hub of the Mountain Partnership for Asia-Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network node of Mountain Forum will continue to develop their activities at regional level, but the global level networks are being reorganised for more intensive coordination and efficiency by reducing the number of international secretariats. It gives us special pleasure to announce that SANDEE, the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economy, has been hosted by ICIMOD since August. We are confident that the partnership between SANDEE and ICIMOD will yield new opportunities and interesting knowledge. The report concludes with the presentation of the staff, Board Members, publications, financial status, and our major sponsors.

This report gives me the opportunity to thank our staff members, the regional member countries, and the partner institutions for their good cooperation and confidence. The Board has been extremely supportive during the whole year and we benefited from the generosity of our regional and international sponsors. To them a special thanks.

Andreas Schild
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Farmer in Yuanmou, Yunnan, China