

Message from the Minister



Minister for Environment

Government of Nepal

Ministry of Environment
Singhdurbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

Message

This publication on **Mountains of the World – Their Resources in a Time of Global and Climate Change: Seizing Opportunities – Meeting Challenges** provides background information and a framework for discussing mountain issues in the context of the current climate change dialogue. It synthesizes the state of current knowledge and provides an overview of the evolution and status of the global Mountain Agenda from the time it was agreed upon during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes. It also critically assesses the past and current global commitments on sustainable mountain development and helps provide a new direction and framework to push the Mountain Agenda forward in the context of global climate and other changes. I consider that it provides a good setting for enhanced cooperation among Mountain countries in dealing with climate change.

The Ministry of Environment of the Government of Nepal, in collaboration with its development partners, is hosting an International Ministerial Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change as an initial step for the Mountain Initiative. The Conference is expected to provide a platform to address the concerns and interests of Mountain countries, identify upstream-downstream linkages, and explore sustainable mountain development opportunities to adapt to and benefit from the climate change negotiation process and other initiatives. The Mountain Initiative steered by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal, with the technical backstopping of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), will help to address the issues, concerns and impacts of climate change on mountains across the globe – the source of water and livelihood resources for billions of people.

The paper will be discussed at the International Expert Consultation organized jointly by the Ministry of Environment and ICIMOD to facilitate and provide support to the International Ministerial Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change. The paper is intended to serve as a framework and basis for the concerned stakeholders, civil society organizations, researchers, development partners, policy and decision makers, and international agencies working on issues related to climate change in mountain regions. The paper will also be useful in other international debates including the upcoming Rio +20 dialogue. I hope it will provide a good reference to build up regional and global collaboration and co-operation on the sustainable management of mountain ecosystem services.

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to thank the author, reviewers and others who have contributed to bringing this paper into its present form. Finally, I commend the technical support of ICIMOD in highlighting the need to promote the Mountain Agenda more succinctly.

8 September 2010
Kathmandu

T. P. Sharma
Thakur Prasad Sharma