



Volume 12 | No. 1
June 2011

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



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Using Art to Communicate Climate Change

Art in all its forms is a powerful means of communication. The arts help overcome barriers of language and culture, and they provide a creative pathway for debating and exploring global problems. For young people concerned with climate change, the arts offer a way to reach out and raise awareness among their friends, in their communities, and in the world beyond.

This issue of the Asia-Pacific Mountain Courier is devoted to artistic means of expression related to youth and climate. It builds on the previous issue on youth and climate published in November 2010, which focused on youth views, understanding, and climate change activities (www.icimod.org/publications/index.php/search/publication/727).

The contributions include posters, photo essays, illustrations, and other art works. They are drawn from youth leaders and youth motivators affiliated to several networks promoting youth engagement in sustainability, climate action, and the mountain agenda. Many of the contributions are drawn from the Youth Forum – Empowering Youth with Earth Observation Information for Climate Actions, held from 1 to 6 October 2010 at

Coordinator's Note

The Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is growing at a steady pace. To date, there are 292 organisational and 2,081 individual registered users from 43 countries across the Asia-Pacific region. This shows that stakeholders are recognising more and more the added knowledge value of APMN and the impact the network can have in the wider Asia-Pacific region and beyond to connect, exchange, and share mountain issues. In the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes, the Rio+20 meeting next year, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation meeting on the Mountain Agenda and Bhutan's Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas (both in October 2011), we are entering an exciting year in which we aim to unleash the youth potential to advocate for the mountain agenda and climate change adaptation in various ways under the banner of 'Youth for Sustainable Mountain Development' (Y4SMD).

Using the lessons learned from previous years, we envision 2011 as a year of empowering and engaging youth in mountain development. This will be realised through a continuation of the ongoing collaboration with SERVIR Himalaya (an ICIMOD initiative supported by NASA and USAID); the British Council's International Climate Champions programme; the Asia Pacific Youth Forum initiative of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO); and the Youth Encounter on Sustainability course of Activating Talent in Sustainability (ACTIS), a spin-off project of ETH Zurich, among others. New partnerships are being explored in the context of the Education Supporting Sustainable Asian Livelihood (ESSAL) project facilitated by the Himalayan University Consortium of ICIMOD; and the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) project of the Mountain Partnership.

Looking at the present status of the Y4SMD initiative, we already have a number of good stories to share with you. We trained 75 young people last year on climate change adaptation, the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and Earth observation, and knowledge exchange. These individuals are now actively advocating for the mountain agenda and climate change adaptation in ICIMOD's regional member countries — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal have taken new initiatives such as media campaigning, organising regional conferences, and advocacy of these issues at international meetings, including the UNFCCC processes and Asia Regional Youth Forums. APMN supported youth initiatives in Nepal and India, most noticeably Small Earth Nepal (SEN); Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA); Climate Himalaya Initiative (CHI); and Youth Network for Social & Environmental Development (YONSED), who have all made significant progress. In 2010 alone, we supported more than 12 youth initiatives in the region, benefiting more than 500 young people. There are many other developments which we will continue to share with you through our publications, website, discussion lists, and thematic digests.

Following the positive response to the Mountain Courier special issue on 'Youth and Climate Change' of November last year, we are pleased to present this issue showcasing artistic expressions related to climate change contributed by many young people and their motivators and promoters, from the Himalayas to the Alps and beyond.

Daan Boom

ICIMOD in Kathmandu, and the Asia-Pacific Forum: Youth Action on Climate Change; Exploration through Cultural Expression, organised by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) from 24 to 27 January 2011 in Bangkok. Other contributions were received in response to a call for contributions through APMN. We would like to thank all the contributors who helped to make this such an enjoyable issue.

We thank the British Council's 'International Climate Champions' programme, the Asia Pacific Youth Forum initiative of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), and the Youth Encounter on Sustainability course Activating Talent in Sustainability (ACTIS) for their support in identifying contributions for this issue. In particular we would like to thank Smreeti Dewan, Programme Manager, and Ashim Kharel, Projects Officer, of the British Council, Kathmandu; Kevin C Kettle, Project Development Officer of SEAMEO-SPAFA, Bangkok; Roger Baud, Executive Director of ACTIS, Zurich; and Bidya Banmali Pradhan, SERVIR Himalaya/ICIMOD, for motivating their youth and network members to share their work through this issue.





Featured Artwork

Transformation Cycle

Klaus Elle*



Change processes have their own clear rhythms. Here, one figure moves in waves of high and low pressure; one searches for structure, fighting against chaos to be able to reach, finally, a higher level of consciousness.

Life is change: the question is how our culture prepares us for these change scenarios. Today, when we talk so much about sustainability and climate change, the question is: how are things changing, how are we transforming?

The Global Illness

We feel everybody on our planet suffers: the figure sweats in a fever, it melts, it cannot hold onto the water anymore, and stands in a lake of urine. We demand more investigations, more analysis to find out whether we must really change or not.

The man holds the stick of analysis in his hand. He cannot feel anymore, and waits, waits, waits.

* Klaus is a creative artist and an inspiration for youth sustainability leaders. He has been one of the core members of YES (Youth Encounter on Sustainability) for over a decade.

From the Forum on Earth Observation

The Youth Forum – Empowering Youth with Earth Observation Information for Climate Action was held from 1 to 6 October 2010 in Kathmandu, to coincide with the international symposium 'Benefiting from Earth Observation: Bridging the Data Gap for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region'. The Forum was organised by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and its Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) under the framework of the SERVIR Himalaya Youth Initiative, and was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Some 40 young people from the Himalayan countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan took part in the six-day event, more than half of them women.

The Forum familiarised participants with the potential benefits of information derived from Earth observation (satellite and other images) to address pressing issues related to climate change, and imparted GIS/RS knowledge and skills for using Earth observation data. The Forum also provided a platform for sharing experiences and learning related to climate change issues in the countries of the Himalayan region. The participants were true climate champions, selected from 750 applications based on individual essays, fields of study, and social involvement to provide a representative sample of voices from across the region. The overwhelming response from these 750 young people was a real testimony to their zeal and energy. The selected participants were asked to prepare a poster to display in a 'market place' during the international symposium Benefiting from Earth Observation. A selection of these posters and a photo story are presented on the following pages with the participants' comments and explanations.

Save Endangered World

Progga Paromita Majumder, Bangladesh



As a young climate activist, it is my moral duty to make everyone aware of the present situation of the world, and I have expressed this through my poster.

In my poster, an insect is standing between fire and water.

The insect symbolises our world. The fire represents global warming, while the water is the sea level rise. The leaf is the atmosphere. The fire and the water are threatening the insect as if in a nightmare. One step ahead, and the fire will burn it, one step back, it will drown in the water. The leaf has also caught fire, symbolising how our atmosphere is also getting warmer.

Our world is our home and our home is in danger. To save it we have to start working together immediately. We have no time to waste. The world has two options – either adapt to climate change or do something to reduce this terrible condition. We human beings are responsible for this problem and it is we who can solve it. I hope our combined effort will help improve the planet's present situation and allow us all to stay in peace.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Everyone is responsible

Climate Change: Everyone is Responsible

Dechen Yeshi, Bhutan



Bhutan covers a total area of 38,816 square kilometres and is situated on the southeastern slope of the Himalayas, bordered to the north and east by Tibet and to the south, west, and east by India.

One of the pillars of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness is environmental conservation. This shows our country's commitment to maintain forest cover at 60 per cent at all times.

However, we have our own set of challenges to address. More than 80 per cent of the population is still dependent on forest resources. Rapid industrialisation has led to an increase in the demand for timber, while rural urban migration has led to huge amounts of waste. Forest fires are increasing annually and leading to deforestation across the country.

The change in weather conditions is an emerging issue in Bhutan, and all the factors mentioned above are responsible for it. We need to be aware and work together on adaptation, mitigation, and more importantly, on mainstreaming climate change adaptation into conservation planning.



Melting glaciers

Glaciers are primary source of freshwater in Bhutan. With an increase in temperature glaciers are melting fast and it is not very far before Bhutan faces water shortage. Another impact of melting glaciers is the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) which has been already experienced by Bhutanese. The 1994 outburst from one of the glacial lake called Luge Tsho caused the Pho Chu flood in the Punakha valley has claimed live and property of the people in the valley.

Waste

When biodegradable waste are tossed in the garbage and sent to a landfill they decompose anaerobically (without oxygen), and in the process create methane, a greenhouse gas which is considered 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.

Forest fires

Forest fires are one of the major threats for the forest biodiversity in Bhutan and incidences are normally high during the dry winter months, especially in the eastern part of Bhutan where the area is dry with Chir Pine with Lemo grass as undergrowth. Apart from releasing tons of carbon dioxide during the process of burning it destroys the green forest which acts as a carbon sink.

Industries

The major manufacturing industry in Bhutan are located in the southern belt which are of cement plant, board products, chemical plant, carbide, ferro alloys and agro industries. Besides these, there are a number of other small manufacturing plants located in various parts of Bhutan. The harmful gas emitted from these industries changes the composition of the atmosphere and therefore influences the earth climate negatively.

The 16th SAARC Summit was held in Bhutan. Its main theme was climate change. The summit ended with a joint declaration and a statement on climate change to address its adverse effects in the region and make organisations more resilient and relevant for the people of South Asia.

POSTER TEXT

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One Earth, One Change, One Love

Haripriya Madhavan, India



Mountains and forests are temples of biodiversity. With rapid urbanisation and the mad rush for money and entertainment, no natural resource is being spared. Mountainous regions, best known for their serenity and abundance of resources, are

among the main victims. Trees are being felled, minerals are being mined out, animals are being hunted down — this all poses a grave threat to our life-supporting ecosystems, the mountains. Exacerbating the situation are irresponsible tourism activities in these places.

Can WE make a change? Yes. Before delving deep, the first step is to gather information through different methods, as shown on the poster. The information gathered can then be used for strategising conservation plans.

The poster also presents the ideas that today's youth community must adopt to spread awareness about protecting the richness of our natural heritage. Networking and campaigning, promoting environmental activism through the mass media and social media, using the Right to Information Act (provided under Indian Law), and practising sustainable lifestyles can take our movement forward. Let us dissolve our differences and boundaries, and join hands to support the movement towards a sustainable world.

Highland Saviour

Ei Pa Pa Khine, Myanmar



The little tree stumps have joined hands, demonstrating their solidarity and to stop more trees from being felled like them. There is also a sign banning the use of chainsaws which can cut down trees the fastest.

The colours of the sarong worn by the highland farmer are taken from the blue and red colours contained in the flag of the Union of Myanmar. The colour of this sarong was also chosen to show how we need to make the forests of Myanmar greener and greener.

The saplings remind us to plant more seedlings on our hills and mountains.

The leaves of the tree are depicted like the atlas of the world because of the desire to send out a warning that the devastation of forests will seriously affect Mother Earth.

Let's unite to save Mother Nature through Action.



Hope in Adaptation

Maresh Shrestha, Nepal



Even a single plant planted in a land of drought can be of hope if preserved, watered, and nurtured properly. There is hope: hope in adaptation. The poster is divided between the drought-stricken area and the green land. The partition is a human-made problem: it is up

to humans whether the divide will move towards the area of drought or towards the green land. Yet, there is a sign of hope, with a plant growing in the area of drought. This can change the barren land into fertile land. Hope is a never-ending process. Dreams can be true if we desire them to be true, wholeheartedly.

Ice Cream Party

Sushila Pandit, Nepal

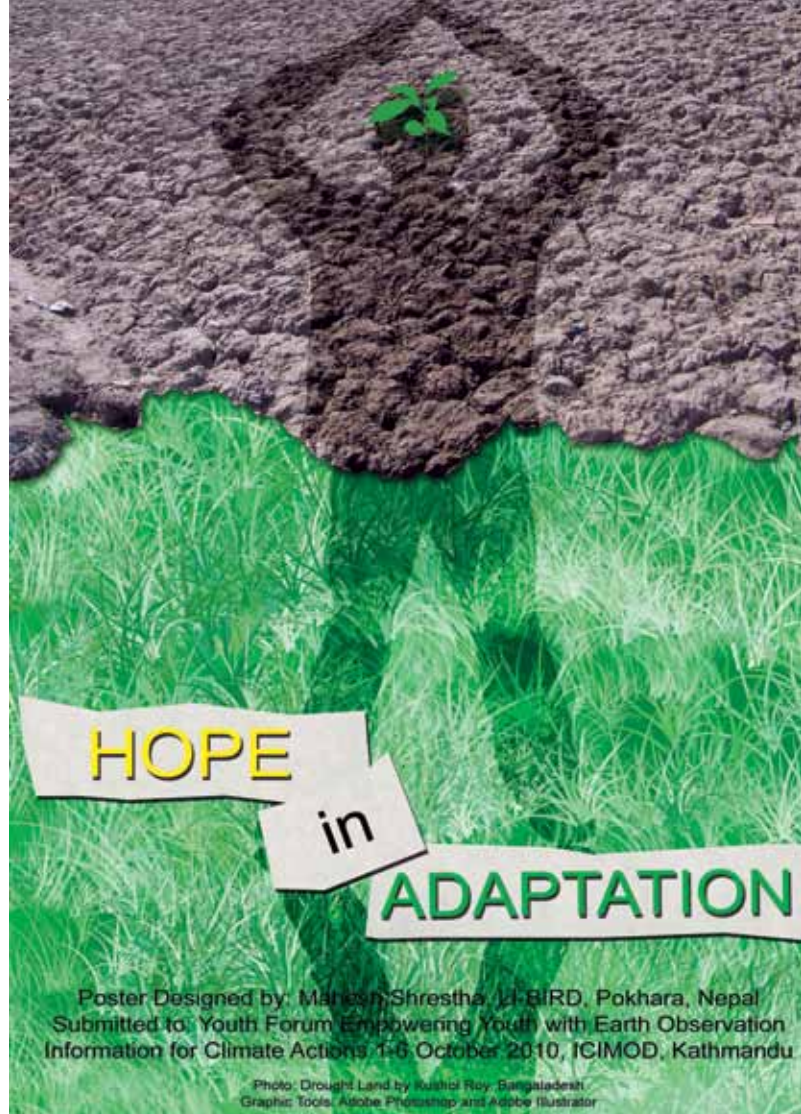


"Hey, let's dance, let's enjoy ourselves, and let's have a wonderful time! The weather is so hot but we are keeping cool with ice cream. WOW! It was tough to break the ice cream before, it was rock solid but it's really easy now — it's so hot the ice cream is

melting and we have a party every day!" So says the Big CO₂, who invites friends to join his party. Let's come and join hands with him to celebrate the biggest change, the biggest source of happiness: climate change! Reporting for Party+, GHG Channel, and Atmosphere.

Shocked by the news? Climate change is a very weird phenomenon, as we have been observing. The inspiration for my poster came from the correlation between the melting of mountain snow and the alarming rate of increase in GHGs (greenhouse gases). With the increase in GHGs, the potential hazards of climate change have been observed. Not a single sector remains unaffected. GHGs are produced both by unnecessary human activity and sometimes by people with no other options, like the people in mountain areas who are forced to use firewood, which emits CO₂. As manufacturers increase around the world, unidentified and unknown gases, whose sources and impacts may be a mystery, also can be released into the atmosphere.

The poster was painted on handmade, 100 per cent recycled paper. As the paper is porous, it's really tough to work on. The idea came into focus with the hard work and wonderful painting of my creative artist brother, Ronaz Bhandari, who is a science student in Grade 11.



Ambiance Think Tank

Kabita Karki, Nepal

My poster was created using watercolours and shows a human in motion. It depicts the rapid, human-induced carbon cycle: black carbon affects the climate dramatically. Continuing the current trajectory of global warming, there is glacier melting, sea-level rise, with coastal regions at a high risk of inundation. People try to escape the consequences, but do not realise that they themselves are responsible for creating the problem. Industrialised nations enjoy the services achieved through environmental degradation, while developing countries suffer the effects of a crime they never committed!



Earth On Fire

crt. Global Warming

Earth on Fire!

Amal Shakeel, Pakistan



The picture depicts a hopeless globe, shrouded in darkness, with spreading fire rapidly enveloping the distressed Earth.

The despair is excruciating, more so because the hand that ignites the home is that of the inhabitant.

Nature gives us examples of creatures like the snake that eats its own offspring because hunger and survival demand selfishness; but is there a living being that destroys its own home? Yes, humans! Despite figuring out how to reach the moon, and how to carry out cloning, we sadly do not possess the sense to save our own home.

My picture highlights global warming, the phenomenon where the very human race, ruling the planet, is knowingly or unknowingly preparing its destruction. This piece of art reflects the alarming sense of hopelessness of a youngster who is desperately trying to be as obtrusive as possible to awaken a sense of alarm and urgency in others. Can we wake up and put out the fire before it's too late?



Warming or Warning?

Pariva Dobriyal, India



The Earth is heating up. This affects nature as well as our ancient culture, with the impacts of climate change being more evident locally than globally. Western Himalayan mountain communities are a good example. Climate change has affected their health, culture, and social life, both directly and indirectly. Less access to natural resources has led to increased intracommunity competition, ultimately affecting the social fabric in a negative way. The shifting of vegetation towards higher altitudes, with a low regeneration rate, and changes in the flowering and fruiting season, has deprived

people of many resources. As a result, they have to cover larger distances to obtain resources like fodder and fuelwood. This causes health problems such as backache. By spending most of the time in resource gathering, people give less time to their family, their health, and their children's education, which ultimately affects their family and social life. Due to the rise in the average temperature, people in the western Himalayas have changed the habit of wearing hand-woven fabric made of sheep wool. Today, people mostly wear cotton clothes. Resource depletion due to climate change has affected their mental health by making them worried about short-term resource availability. Their lifestyle has also changed: their small houses with small windows and doors, slate roofs, mud walls and floors, designed for low temperatures, are being replaced by bigger cement houses. Changes in rainfall and snowfall patterns have adversely impacted the agricultural yield, resulting in economic insecurity for local communities.



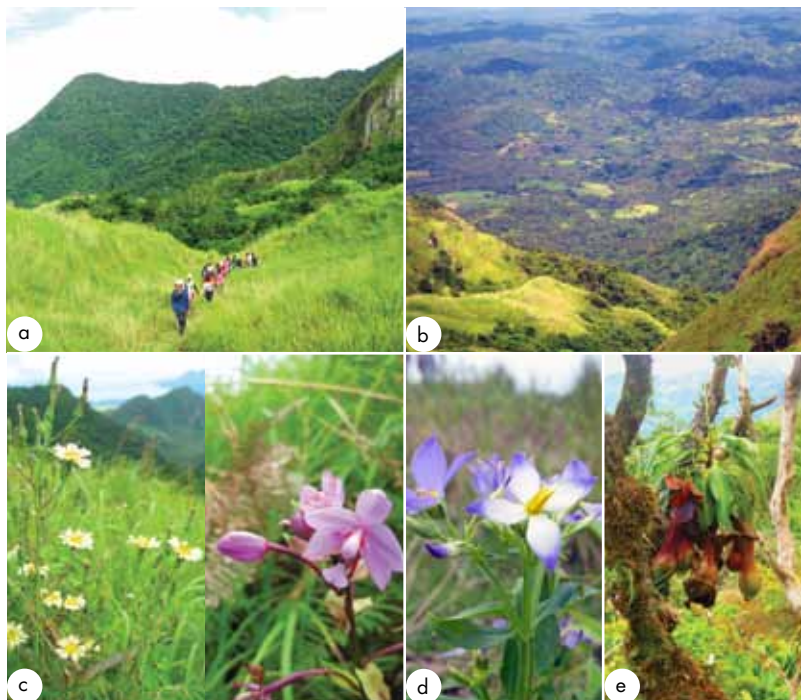
From Other Youth Motivators and Activists

A Journey Not Too Far: The young people who paint the 'colours of the wind' in Lobo's central highlands, the Philippines

Anacleto Caringal, Romel Briones, Mars Panganiban, and the Society for the Conservation of Coastal and Mountain Ecosystems (SCCME)



At 800 metres above the sea, in the central highlands of southern Batangas, some 140 kilometres south of Manila, is the refreshing scenery of the world's 'centre of the centre' of marine and coastal biodiversity. Verde Island Passage and Lobo's coastal plain and mountain range were the subject of an on-the-spot painting session on 23 October 2010, organised by the Society for the Conservation of Coastal and Mountain Ecosystems (SCCME) as part of its commitment for the International Year of Biodiversity. The society is based at Batangas State University in the municipality of Lobo and has 50 active members plus their academic mentors, all residents of the coastal plain. There was much enthusiasm in joining the one-day, nature-focused journey. Each participant was given a certificate of credit in mountaineering during the society's year-end ceremony on 17 December 2010.



- a) The wind is literally green in Lobo's central highlands, owing to the relatively well-preserved oak forests and rainforests of Mt. Lobo.
- b) This mountain (1,007 masl) sustains a perennial stream flow to the low-lying farmland and basin-like village of Jaybanga. Wet season flooding of the Lobo River which flows near this village ends in the alluvial plain and meets the sea of Verde Island Passage.
- c) In the highlands, the rangeland complexes that adjoin Jaybanga and Mt. Lobo provide a favourable micro-climate and good edaphic conditions for the evolution of some of the country's rare flora such as asters and palm grass orchids.
- d) The purple ground orchid.
- e) An epiphytic colony of pitcher plants, *Nepenthes* species.

The rest is history for these youngsters of this isolated frontier, who for the first time were able to rediscover by foot the land they call 'the home of the sugar apple, giant hardwood beetle, indigenous rice, oak and teak forests, pitcher plants, deer, wild pig, and flying foxes'.

It is never too late to make a fresh start and be more ecologically conscious about land that suffers from the desiccating effect of El Niño (extreme prolonged drought) every two years.

SCCME's academic research focus for the next five years (2011-2016) is to assess and document the specific biodiversity components of the area and to monitor the climate change impact over these highlands, and in this way assist Batangas State University and other cooperating entities and local communities in enhancing local economic development anchored by sustainable nature and cultural tourism.

Adopt a Tree Campaign – Photo Story

Nguyen Thuy Duong, Vietnam



350Vietnam was born with the aim of deepening community awareness about the challenges of the climate change crisis and empowering the young generation to take green action. The 'Adopt a Tree' project is the result of 350Vietnam's objectives and vision of connecting young people and children.

Adopt a Tree was an education project in which the hard-working youth contingent taught primary and secondary schoolchildren about climate change in an easy-to-understand way. The project, implemented from March to October 2010, started with a pilot event at Van Khe Primary School in May. Here we learned from children how and what they knew about climate change, expanded their knowledge of it, and taught them what they could do to tackle it, such as planting trees, recycling, saving water, and saving electricity. By learning

to plant trees – by smelling and touching the warmth of the Earth – they learned the need to save Mother Earth. The pilot was a fantastic day and 100 trees were planted. It attracted many journalists as well as national television. In the months that followed, we went to 20 schools, approached more than 1,000 children, and planted 1,010 trees in Hanoi (to celebrate the 10:10 Global Party of 350.org). We have come to realise that we young people actually are inspired by children to take more positive action. We do believe in the power of youth and all the amazing things young people have been doing. But we also believe in the potential of children and in the bright future they can build and protect.

For this year's World Environment Day, we will hold a week-long Recycling Week at the Foreign Trade University. We will try to collect 1,000 used bottles to plant small trees in after labelling them with a green tip.

This may not be the greatest story compared to others, but this is the most meaningful project in Vietnam. It is the first time that youth and children here have held hands and made a difference.



Indigenous Peoples are Not for Sale

Jocelyn Hung Chien, Taiwan



Indigenous youths from 12 Asian and Pacific countries developed the online photo campaign 'Indigenous Peoples are NOT for SALE! Listen to Indigenous Peoples' Solution for Climate Justice'. The campaign was developed at the Asia Pacific Climate Youth Camp, hosted by

the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network from 3 to 5 November 2010, Baguio City, the Philippines,

It is a campaign to collectively call for the wider involvement of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes, and the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights in all climate change- relevant negotiations and policies.

It was originally a two-month campaign, targeting UNFCCC COP 16. Since we've received great support and believe we could do more with the campaign, we decided to extend it for one more year and hope to bring the campaign to COP 17.

Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN, <http://apiyn.org>) was the coordinating organisation, but since we have extended it for one more year, the Global Indigenous Youth Alliance (GIYA, <http://giya.wikispaces.com/Intro> and <http://facebook.dj/giya>) has joined as co-coordinator to further enhance the working group.

You can see further details in the attached action proposal and on our campaign page: www.facebook.com/IPs.are.NOT.for.SALE

KaKhaRa..... the Beginners

Sambida Rajbhandari



KaKhaRa is an art-based social organisation established in 2010 through the joint effort and participation of fine artists, writers, and media activists engaged in genuine creative activities in the field of fine art and mass media.



KaKhaRa believes that art can help find effective solutions to problems. Human culture developed when art and expression began to flourish. Art not only includes paintings, literature, music, theatre, and dance – art can even be a poster. Art has been a means of expression since time immemorial. People use it to communicate, to know themselves, and to know each other. In this sense, art is the mirror of society, reflecting its issues, values, and changing faces. Art is a universal language. Art voices cultural identity and vice versa. Art is also for the common



people, providing a refuge when the world around them is on fire. Art is a medium that reflects our humanity and our empathy.

In January 2011, KaKhaRa organised a Green Art Camp for children with about 30 participants. 'Green' was the theme of the art camp. Children performed ballet and drama, wrote stories, and painted in the camp. Almost every performance focused on climate change issues.

Bibek, a Grade Six student said, "Green is the most important colour on the Earth".

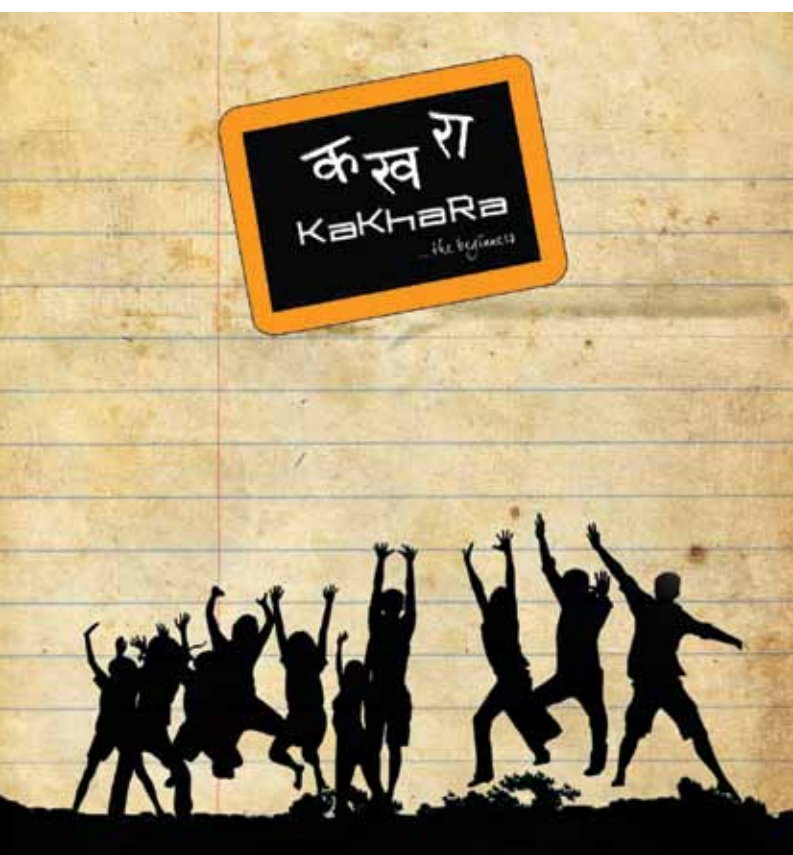
Children enjoyed exploring their creativity in the camp while gradually becoming aware members of society working to save the planet. Artistic social activism focuses on larger impact groups working with smaller groups to encourage participation. It digs out many buried and unheard experiences which can be valuable building blocks in the process of identifying problems and finding solutions. In sum, art is the right medium to envision a better world.

KaKhaRa is available on the following social media platforms:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/KaKhaRa-kakhara/122447137803842>

Our blog: <http://kakharanepal.blogspot.com>

Picasa web album: <https://picasaweb.google.com/115648116162427549967>



Realising Change: Change is possible when it starts from you, as a passion

Tek Jung Mahat



Realising CHANGE is a mission that aims to inform youth about change interventions, views, and relevant environmental topics. It is a platform offering professional tips and updates on contemporary issues, and a vision that aims to inspire

early career professionals and environmentalists to share things they know, to raise their concerns, and to put their knowledge in the public domain. It also shows good practice, demonstrating how the combination of a blog, a Google group (mass mailing system) and a Facebook account (social network) can help form a group of like-minded people and keep them connected. It also shows progress being made at the individual level through the rigorous work started with the establishment of the Environment Professionals' Group: Water, Climate Change, and Biodiversity Information Network (<http://groups.google.com/group/environment-professionals>) in 2005. This was the first network of its type in Nepal, and progressed through the formation of the Climate Himalaya Initiative in 2007 (www.climatehimalaya.org.np/) which raised regional awareness in the Himalayas on climate change impacts and options to a noticeable level. The group now enjoys an active membership of 520 organisations and individuals from 30 countries. More at <http://realisingchange.blogspot.com>

The Story of Four Harmonious Friends

Once in a forest in Varanasi, four animals – an elephant, a rabbit, a monkey, and a partridge – were in dispute about the ownership of a tree where all of them had fed. The elephant claimed, “This is my tree because I saw it first”.

To this the monkey replied, “Now, elephant, do you see any fruit on this tree?”

The elephant agreed that the tree was without fruit.

The monkey continued, “That’s because I had been feeding on the fruits of the tree long before you ever saw it”.

Next the rabbit spoke up. “I fed on the leaves of this tree when it was just a small sapling, before the monkey ate its fruit and way before the elephant ever saw it”.

Finally the partridge, who had been watching the argument, came forward and asserted, “The tree belongs to me because the tree wouldn’t have grown if I hadn’t spit it out as a seed. I helped plant the seed that grew into this huge tree before the rabbit fed on it, or the monkey ate its fruit, or the elephant saw it”.

The elephant, monkey, and rabbit conceded that the partridge was the first to find the tree. So all of them bowed to the partridge and regarded it as their elder brother.

The four animals became friends and decided to share the tree together in peaceful harmony, enjoying the beauty of the tree’s fragrance, the nourishment of its fruits, and the bounty of its shade. They worked together to obtain fruit: the partridge and the rabbit found the fruit on the ground and on the lowest branches by working together. The monkey climbed the tree and dropped the fruit for everyone to share, but only the elephant could reach the highest branches with his trunk. The four animals worked cooperatively, and with their combined strength each one benefited and no one went hungry.

Other animals in the forest often saw them together with the partridge on top of the rabbit, who was held up by the monkey, who rode on top of the elephant. Since then, they were called ‘The Four Harmonious Brothers.’ The four animals were looked upon as an example of peace, harmony, cooperation, interdependence, and friendship.

The Story of Four Harmonious Friends

ICIMOD team

The allegory of the ‘Four Harmonious Friends’ (above), as told in the canonical text ‘The Foundation of Discipline’, holds lessons for us in the context of climate change. Buddha Sakyamuni is supposed to have told this story to his disciples in order to impress on them the importance of mutual respect and the practice of the Buddhist virtues. The account here is taken from a version widely copied on the Internet.

The tree in the story can be likened to the Earth, the only home we human beings have, which we share with each other and which today is bearing the brunt of climate change. The four animal species in the story can be likened to the various interest groups – nation states, NGOs, big business interests, and civil society – that were represented in the Copenhagen and Cancun summits. Had these interest groups internalised the principles of interdependence and cooperation like the four animals and come to some form of harmony (or consensus), the outcome of the summits would surely have been much more favourable to Mother Earth. One can only hope that the climate summits of tomorrow will pay due attention to the wisdom of yesteryear – not just to politics – and not do what is convenient in the heat of the moment (and repent later), but what is right!



Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools

Pavitra Rana, ICIMOD



The 'Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools' programme aims to help students develop a sense of responsibility towards conserving biodiversity, especially herbal plants, and associated knowledge.

ICIMOD joined with Nepal's National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) to organise a competition 'Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools' under the broader umbrella of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, and to mark World Environment Day 2010 (5 June). The competition was held in collaboration with PABSON (the Private and Boarding Schools Organisation of Nepal) in the Kathmandu Valley. The 15 participating schools were encouraged to set up herbal gardens within their school premises. The competition had three interlinked components: herbal recipe with poster, herbal profile, and herbal garden. The recipe with poster and herbal profile competitions were held in June and September. Three monitoring visits by a team of judges assessed progress in the gardens in July, August, and November and the awards were made in December 2010. For more details, see www.icimod.org/?page=1128.

In 2011, the seven winning schools will share the knowledge they have gained and will help extend the programme to government schools, including at least one outside the Kathmandu Valley, which will replicate the herbal garden concept.

Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools

ICIMOD



Interschool Herbal Poster with Recipe Competition, Kathmandu, Nepal
Winner: Rato Bangala School



From the Asia-Pacific Forum: Youth Action on Climate Change

The Asia-Pacific Forum: Youth Action on Climate Change Exploration through Cultural Expression was organised by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) from 24 to 27 January 2011 in Bangkok. The Forum had 150 youth participants, most from SEAMEO member countries and Japan, with a few from the Himalayan countries and other mountainous countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The youth forum, jointly organised by the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) and the Japan Foundation, encouraged expression through the medium of art as a powerful and engaging way to convey messages that capture the imagination and have both an immediate and a lasting impact. The first contribution below provides a more detailed account of the Forum. The following two contributions were exhibited during the event in Bangkok and nominated by the organisers for inclusion in this edition of the Mountain Courier.

Expression through Art

Pragati Shahi, Media Professional, Kathmandu*



Art can be used as a medium to express the abstract impacts of climate change that cannot be expressed through words. It can be a most powerful way to help inform, educate, and entertain larger audiences in your school or local community.

It is undoubtable that climate change is happening now, mostly as a result of human activities. Our planet currently exists in a fragile ecological state. With global warming hastening unheard-of change, we need to act now, particularly young people who carry the burden of making the future secure for themselves and future generations.



The Forum themed 'Youth Action on Climate Change' provided a platform for young people to come up with innovative and interactive approaches to environmental education and to express the environmental concerns of their particular country and local community through art and culture. As the theme suggests, young people from different countries and regions were inspired to share environmental information and to express their concerns through various forms of art and culture, which complement the science behind climate change and its impacts at the local and global levels.

From photo collage, documentary, and songs to drama and artwork using bio-degradable products, the presenters showed their commitment to expressing contemporary social and environmental concerns to help people think about the deeper meaning of the environmental issues we currently face. Issues ranging from water scarcity to

grassroots-level participation, health impacts, indigenous people's rights, and the green economy were presented. Various impacts seen in Southeast Asia such as floods, tsunami, rise in sea level, and outbreaks of disease were also highlighted through various artistic and cultural approaches.

Noting that youths can be key agents of change in their local community, their nation, and across the globe, Kevin C. Kettle, project coordinator at SPAFA, said that the forum was organised to give young people a platform to voice their concerns about environmental problems through any form of artistic creation so that their passion for the environment inspires others. Different forms of art such as images, dance, drama, and music lead to a more complete understanding of how the planet is undergoing environmental degradation and the role of people in creating both problems and solutions to deal with it, he added.

Joseph Reyloan Vira, a participant from Manila, the Philippines, uses paintings to create awareness about environmental issues. He shared that painting should not be harmful to the environment. The use of recycled, reused, and natural products is the main attraction of his artwork.

"Fight against climate change through creativity. Today, in addition to more strategic and scientific methods, art can be the best way to express your ideas for a better future. Return to your home country and work for your communities to create a better world for all", urged Katsumi Kakazu, Director General of the Japan Foundation, Bangkok.

The four-day forum, while designed for participants from Southeast Asia, also attracted participants from South Asian countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. They discussed the impacts of climate change in the subregion, such as melting glaciers in the Himalayas and rising sea level, as well as immediate consequences like flooding in Bangladesh.

* The author's participation in the Forum was sponsored by ICIMOD.





A Drop of Water and Blood Spillage: How competition for resources can lead to conflict

Zulfadhli Nasution, Indonesia



One impact of climate change is increased scarcity of natural resources, such as fresh and clean water. My poster describes a threat caused by water scarcity that can lead to competition between populations, combined with other related factors such as poor governance and management, and ethnic rivalries.

Based on findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published in 2007, climate change is expected to cause a water crisis among 1.9 billion of the world's people, particularly in developing countries. The worst impact is going to be in the Asian and African regions. Approximately 130 million people in Asia will suffer water scarcity by 2050. This will also affect 180 million African people by 2080. Other research (reported by Solve Climate News 2007) states that 40 per cent of the world's people live in river or lake basins that cross one or more international borders. Of the 200 biggest water systems in the world, 150 are used by two nations, and the other 50 are shared among three to ten countries.

If we do nothing to reduce and adapt to climate change, people's lives will be directly affected. Water scarcity could cause a drop of water to become spilled blood.

Bank Sendu

Ricky Raymon, Indonesia

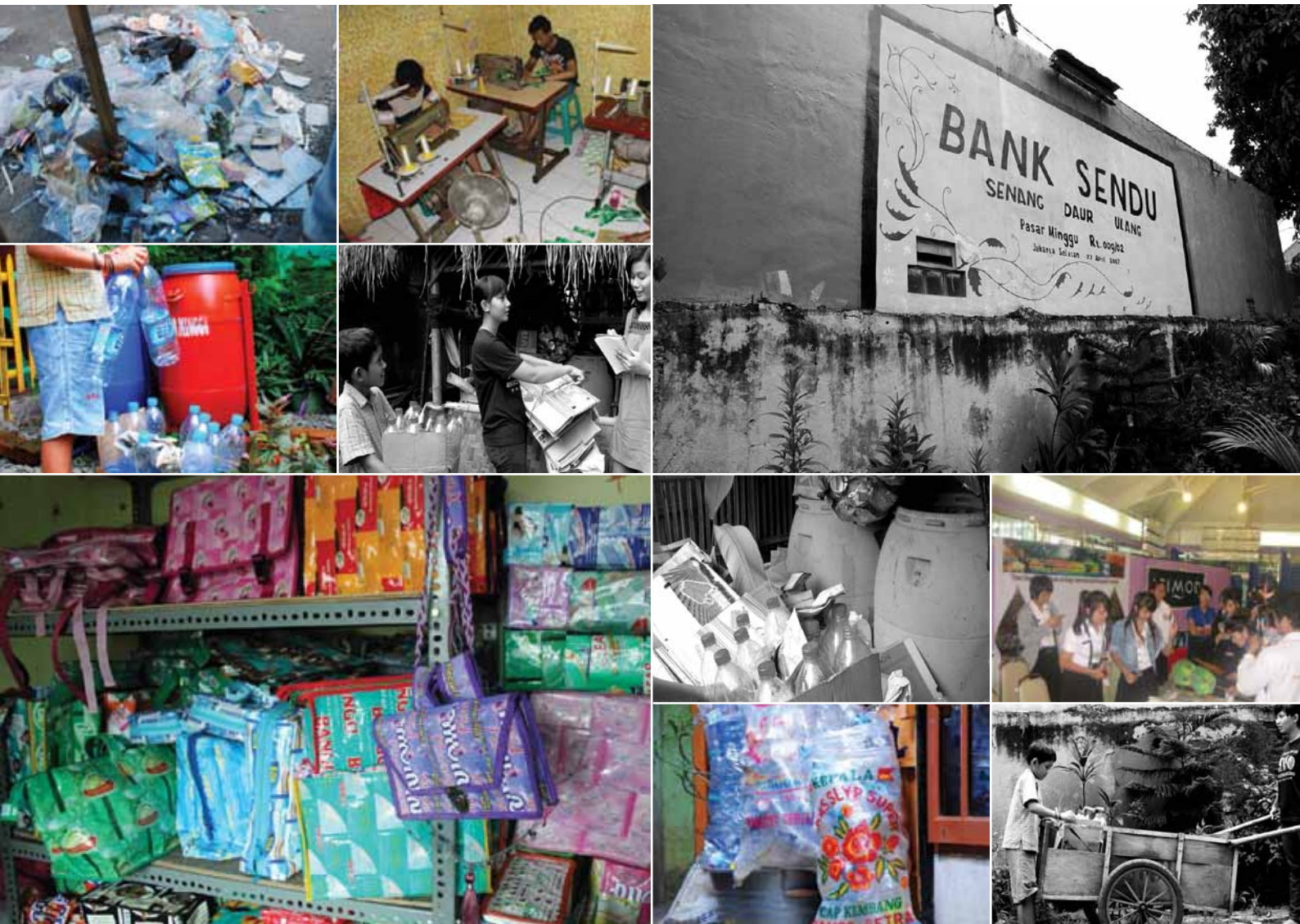


Bank Sendu is a bank where people can sell their own garbage, depending on the amount and type. Sendu stands for 'Senang Daur Ulang', which means 'love to recycle'. Bank Sendu gets money from selling the garbage to outside buyers

who need garbage for many purposes. Each house or family in the neighbourhood has an account in the bank. Each batch of garbage that is sold to the bank is recorded and the money can only be taken monthly. Members of the neighbourhood usually use the money for communal purposes rather than individual ones, such as greening their neighbourhood (buying plants, especially plants that have special utility), and other kinds of activities (such as a communal vacation). Besides selling garbage to outside buyers, Bank Sendu also functions as a garbage collector

and supplier for businesses that use garbage as their main raw material. This business is from the neighbourhood, run by the neighbourhood, and for the neighbourhood. Since it employs people from the neighbourhood, it can also reduce the unemployment rate here and increase people's welfare.

YEP (Youth Empowering) is a youth community in Indonesia that was inspired by the effort of the Bank Sendu founders and promises to help and join the founders in spreading the idea (and the products too, so the business can sustain the neighbourhood longer) to other communities in Jakarta specifically and Indonesia in general. At present, we are still promoting the idea in other places, and more time and youth participation is needed to implement it fully. In fact, the founders themselves needed approximately a year to encourage the neighbourhood to join and implement this idea. They have sacrificed their time and energy to raise people's awareness on how important it is to live in a clean and green environment.



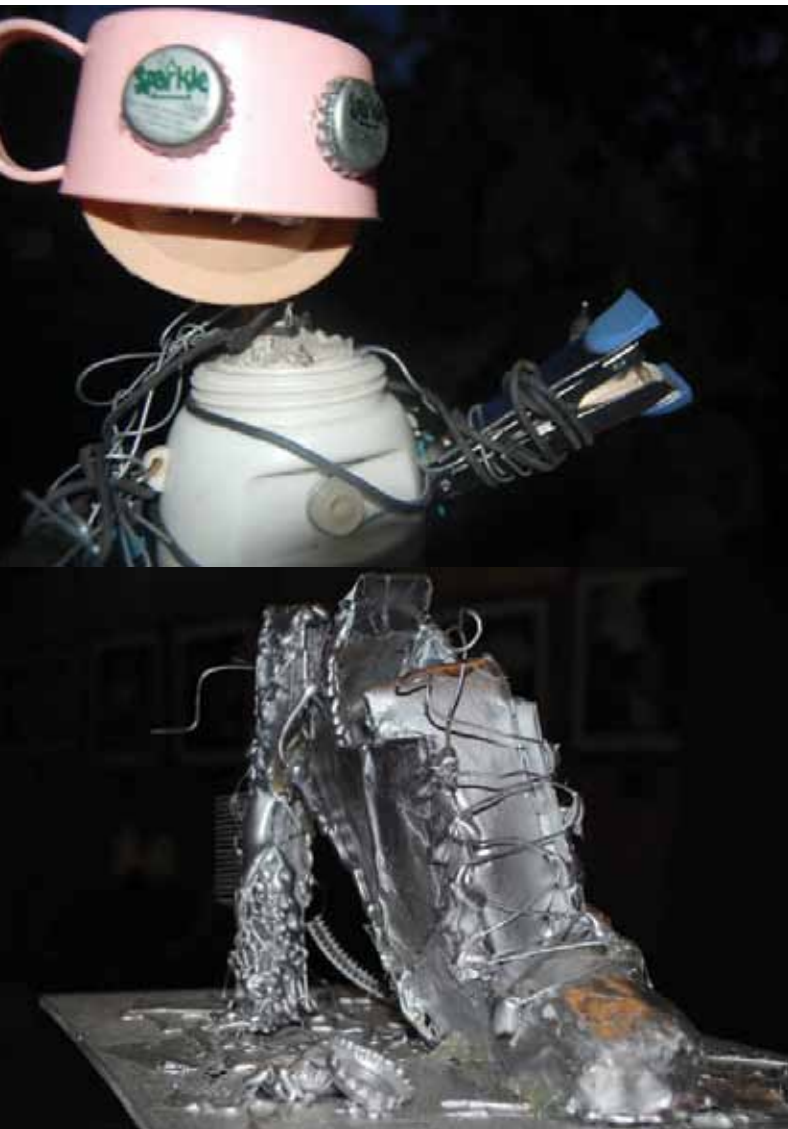
You and Earth

Maria Angelica Reyes, Philippines



I am a senior AB Communications student at De La Salle Lipa in the Philippines. Our project in Lipa City is entitled 'You and eARTh: Promoting environmental care through media and art'. It is intended for the youth of Lipa, particularly grade school students.

Equipped with an erasable marker, our refrigerator's white side, a good storyline and an inquisitive mind, I was able to produce educational video materials – the first part of the 'You and eARTh' project. I sketched on the refrigerator's side to save paper and inspire resourcefulness. Through the assistance of friends and some organisations, we circulated the videos among students through several school visits. We also uploaded the videos on the Internet so that many people could watch them.



The second part of the project was the 'Be eARThistic!' exhibition of artwork and design created from recycled materials. This was held at the Museo de Lipa for 15 days, at the Antipolo Elementary School for 3 days, and at De La Salle Lipa for 3 days. We invited students and different organisations to view and learn from the exhibition. The exhibition also highlighted 'The 1,000 eARThistic Cranes of Batangas', which were made by 2,000 pairs of hands belonging to young people who have committed themselves to recycling.

The young people from 13 schools, 7 barangays, and 15 organisations of Batangas who became part of the 'You and eARTh' project are considered partners, not beneficiaries. With the awareness and knowledge they get through the videos and with the attitudes and skills they have developed from our recycling workshop, I believe they can help in solving environmental problems in the community. Small things can start solving complex problems. We just need to be eARThistic!

From British Council International Climate Champions

The British Council's 'International Climate Champions' programme helps young people to develop ideas that can help to tackle climate change and supports them in motivating others and voicing their opinions to decision makers. You can read more about the programme in the November 2010 issue of the Asia-Pacific Mountain Courier. The following contributions describe two Climate Champions' activities.

Story Cycle

Saurav Dhakal



Story Cycle helps storytellers from the community develop, produce and disseminate their own stories. Making these films allows people to explore different topics, including how the changing climate is impacting them and their families,

how they are coping, and what they need in order to adapt. We listen and capture multimedia stories from the community and disseminate them to the world via our website (www.storycycle.com), our partners in mainstream media agencies, and public showings. We also use other conventional means such as multimedia magazines, MMSs, and DVD clips for distribution to communities without Internet access. A story cycle is complete when stories flow from the origin to the masses and then return to their origin.

Karna Bahadur Bote's family live in Kumaltari of Tanahun District, Nepal, and are dependent on fish from the Madi River. The livelihoods of 142 households in this area depend on fishing. The villagers are making arrangements to migrate to Trishuli, Marsyangdi, Kaligandaki, and Budhigandaki in search of gold after the fish supplies



dwindled. This served as the outline for the 'Fish, Fish and No Fish' video, which we uploaded onto www.storycycle.com. The story was later broadcast as a newscip on Kantipur Television. Our next video, 'Walk with Anil', focuses on a walk in different heritage sites in Bhaktapur, Kathmandu. The walk mainly emphasises sharing tradition and culture. This will be helpful for promoting tourism in Bhaktapur and other heritage sites.

'Fish, Fish and No Fish' and 'Walk with Anil' were shown in Bhaktapur at an open projection of ten environment and climate change related documentaries. Documentaries prepared by youth groups for local awareness on environmental conservation, recording the changing livelihoods of different parts of Nepal, were showcased. Both videos received much commendation from the audience. The videos are now labelled under the 'livelihoods' theme on storycycle.com.

Nepal Infopark manages the technical arrangements, production training, team management, and procuring investments for storycycle.com. Diyaalo Technology is behind the platform development of storycycle.com.



Forum Theatre: 'Intuition'

Utsav Maden, ICIMOD

From 20 to 28 February 2011, the forum theatre presentation 'Intuition' ('Bodh' in Nepali), developed under the International Climate Champions project, was showcased at ICIMOD and five other locations around Kathmandu. Directed by Ram Babu Regmi, one of 10 International Climate Champions selected by the British Council in Nepal, this theatrical presentation has two problems as its subject: climate change and the garbage problem in the Kathmandu Valley.

Forum theatre (in Nepali, 'Kachahari Natak'), also known as the 'theatre of the oppressed', is an interactive form of theatre where the audience actively participates in and shapes the drama's end on stage. Through the theatrical presentation, the viewers both analyse the problems they face and act out, or 'rehearse', possible solutions that they can use in their lives.

In the prologue to 'Intuition', an actress representing Earth is at centre stage, and other actors dressed in black, symbolizing greenhouse gases, circle around her. She tries to escape, but they do not let her. Then the play begins. Dhani Ram, the protagonist, has migrated to Kathmandu to get away from the effects of floods in the Terai. He

to grow vegetables on the land Lakpa has leased. Lakpa's daughter and son-in-law, freshly returned from the United Kingdom, convince Lakpa to give up farming and invest in environmentally friendly houses.

Having lost his partner, Dhani Ram ends up with less produce and cannot pay his rent on time. He approaches Lakpa and asks him for a loan to pay his lease. At the same time, he observes one of the newly constructed environmentally friendly houses. Inspired, Dhani Ram makes a proposal to his landlord, Mahesh Man, about setting up a proper garbage management plant to generate biogas and compost from waste. Mahesh Man even agrees to lease his land for just that, but he stalls until he receives payment. His wife convinces him against the agreement.

"What if I fall sick like Dhani Ram's wife? No, better lease it to the brick kiln", remarks his wife. Thus convinced, Mahesh Man agrees to lease his land to the brick kiln instead. Unable to harvest any more crops, Dhani Ram argues that he should be allowed to lease the land. The drama comes to a stop and the narrator poses the following questions to the audience.

"What must Dhani Ram do to continue farming?"

"What must Dhani Ram do to turn garbage into compost?"

In this play, the characters represent the three regions of Nepal – the plains, the hills, and the mountains. The impacts of climate change in these three regions provide the context for the story. The main characters – Pandit, Dhani Ram, Lakpa, and Mahesh Man – bring an element of cultural diversity to the drama.

The presentation was much appreciated. Bibek Ghimire, a 14-year-old student of Bright Future School, Satdobato, noted, "I learned that garbage can be made into compost manure and if we use it, it will increase vegetable production". Nirpesh Adhikari, a teacher at Children's Model High School, remarked, "The drama makes people aware about the greenhouse effect and the remedies to minimise its destructive impact".

is a displaced climate change refugee who has lost his home and fields to the floods, and is in Kathmandu to earn a living. With his sick wife at Bir Hospital, he is seen loitering at Ratna Park. He sees peanut hawkers, fortune tellers and vegetable vendors at the park and sits down with a palm reader to learn his future. The palm reader tells him that the greenhouse gases have been behind his misfortune.

At the park he also makes friends with Lakpa, a displaced person from the mountains. Dhani Ram partners with Lakpa



Book Review

Youth and Climate Change

Sanam Aksha, ICIMOD, Nepal



The UN's fourth World Youth Report, 'Youth and Climate Change', was published in December 2010. The report appraises the involvement of today's youth in addressing climate change and shows how, at different local and international levels, young people can address climate change among their peers. The past youth reports were 'Young People's Transition to Adulthood – Progress and Challenges' (2007); 'Young People Today and in 2015' (2005); and 'The Global Situation of Young People' (2003).

The report is organised into four chapters. Chapter One describes the fundamentals of climate change and its impact on ecosystems and livelihoods, as well as the international legal and policy framework with UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Chapter Two focuses on how the threat that climate change poses to livelihood, food security, health, and safety affects the development of young people in developing countries. Chapter Three highlights consumption patterns, lifestyles, and the role of education for sustainable development and in preparing young people to take advantage of green job opportunities. Chapter Four showcases existing youth mobilisation efforts and initiatives to combat climate change.

Climate change is recognised as one of the greatest challenges of this century to humankind. Addressing the challenges and adjusting to them is certain to be a defining feature of the coming years for young people. It is therefore essential that they educate themselves and become more actively involved in combating this threat. This report is intended to assist youth and youth organisations in such an endeavour. This publication has come out at a time when efforts to address climate change are receiving unparalleled attention in the international arena, offering young people a unique opportunity for their voice to be heard in the debate. The young will be facing the impact of climate change throughout their lives. They must contribute to the process of addressing this critical challenge.

Figures and boxes illustrate the topics and make it easy for them to be understood. The report is backed by a statistical index about demography, literacy, gross and net enrolment ratios, labour force participation, unemployment, access to sanitation and water, and the leading causes of death among young people. Comparisons are made between different countries and regions. The first three chapters end with a short annotated list of references for readers interested in more in-depth information on climate change. The report clearly highlights the important role played by young people in addressing climate change and offers suggestions on how they might be more effectively integrated as individual and collective agents of change within the realm of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The publication can be downloaded at www.un.org/esa/socdev/nyin/wyr10.htm

World Youth Report: Youth and Climate Change

United Nations publication

ISBN 978-92-1-130303-2

United Nations 2010

Upcoming Events

1-6 July 2011

Young Leaders' Conference, Karachi, Pakistan

Call for Participation

6-day residential conference providing opportunities for youth from all over Pakistan and abroad to interact and network with each other and with leading personalities from the world of business, development, politics and culture.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: Namreen A Syed, ylc@sol.edu.pk

Event website: <http://bit.ly/h8FRyd>

27-30 July 2011

Global Youth Assembly 2011, Alberta, Canada

Call for Participation

The John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, host of the GYA, invites you to participate in this vibrant platform of change and growth. This year, delegates will explore the theme 'Our World, Our Water'.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: info@youthassembly.ca

Event website: <http://bit.ly/loHVpo>

8-12 August 2011

Youth Forum on Climate Actions and Mountain Issues, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal

Call for Applications

The overall objective of the Youth Forum is to celebrate International Year of Youth 2011/12 and International Youth Day, 12 August, through the continuation of a series of activities started in 2008 to build the next-generation leadership in sustainable mountain development and climate change adaptation in ICIMOD Regional Member Countries and beyond, especially in the context of the upcoming UNFCCC COP 17 and Rio+20 meetings.

Deadline: 20 August 2011

Contact: youthmedia@icimod.org

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/fq2UCM> Deadline: 20 June 2011

Join APMN. Visit: www.mtnforum.org/mem/join.cfm

Write to: tmahat@icimod.org

Browse the entire calendar of events at
www.mountainpartnership.org/events

4-10 September 2011

Pan African Youth Summit: Call for applications. Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, South Africa

One hundred students, professionals, academics, and heads of multilateral organisations across Africa and the world are meeting to debate the African Renaissance.

Contact: Ms Pumeza Mdangayi, conference.payd@gmail.com

Event website: <http://bit.ly/e2pFlv>

26 -28 September 2011

Fifth Asia Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity (5APCEI), Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Call for papers

Educational integrity includes topics such as plagiarism and values in teaching and learning. With increasing globalisation this is a vitally important consideration for all providers of higher education.

Deadline: 1 April 2011

Contact: Lee Partridge, lee.partridge@uwa.edu.au

Event website: <http://bit.ly/eKX5cp>

10-12 October 2011

International Conference on the Mountain Agenda, Lucerne, Switzerland

The Government of Switzerland will host an international conference on the mountain agenda on behalf of the Mountain Partnership Consortium members, including ICIMOD. The meeting is expected to develop a position paper on sustainable mountain development which will be discussed during the Rio+20 meeting in June 2012.

Contact: Tek Jung Mahat, tmahat@icimod.org

14 October 2011

Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas, Thimphu, Bhutan
Led by the Government of Bhutan, the 'Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas', also known as the Bhutan Climate Summit 2011, will be organised to adopt and endorse a 10-year road map for adaptation to climate change on the southern slopes of the eastern Himalayas for ensuring food, water and energy security while maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Contact: Tashi Jamtsho, csummit2011@gmail.com

Website: <http://bit.ly/e4wDGL>

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Photos: pp.16-17, SEAMEO-SPAFA; all others by authors

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If you have any information on sustainable mountain development in Asia and the Pacific that you would like to share with other mountain communities, please send it to:

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APMN is supported by a grant
from the Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation

