

Integrated Knowledge Management and Capacity Development



Integrated Knowledge Management (IKM) provides support to the Strategic Programmes in knowledge management approaches, information technology, geo-information services, communication, web services, institutional capacity building, and network support.

IKM has four divisions:

- Knowledge Management Services and Development (KMSD)
- Information Technology and Communication (IT&C)
- Mountain Environment and Natural Resources' Information Systems (MENRIS)
- Human and Institutional Development (HID)

In 2008, IKM reviewed the latest developments and good practices on knowledge management in development

organisations in order to adjust and re-assess its knowledge management direction. Based on internal and external consultations, IKM drafted a KM Framework to serve as a medium-term action plan for the coming years. The framework is based upon three pillars: institutional and staff capacity building; improved processes for capturing knowledge, products and services; and developing and implementing an information management environment for storing, sharing, packaging and disseminating from programmes. Communication is seen as including face-to-face and online discussions; workshops, conferences, and other meetings; web-based information; formal printed and electronic publications; training; exchange visits; exhibitions; various forms of PR material; and many others.

In 2008, IKM made progress in several areas:

- ICIMOD's new knowledge sharing platform was implemented by selecting, developing, and piloting (with ECES) a new workflow and collaboration tool. At the same time, the library was converted into an electronic Mountain Learning and Information Centre. IKM focal points were nominated in the programmes and divisions to provide a continuous link and channel for exchange of information between IKM and programmes.
- Almost all staff were equipped to work using the new approaches in ICIMOD, embodied in the Strategic Framework, through an extensive programme of change management training, including introduction of a management by objectives performance evaluation programme, coordinated and implemented by the HID group which ran throughout the year.



- A new corporate look or 'brand' was developed for ICIMOD's website, publications, stationery, and all other printed and electronic products. All of ICIMOD's technical publications were uploaded to the Internet; during the year more than 18,000 full books and 4000 parts of books were downloaded, doubling our total distribution and markedly broadening the outreach potential.
- MENRIS organised the Tenth International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography attended by 200 participants in Kathmandu. The UN charter was used to obtain satellite images for humanitarian causes when the Sapta Kosi river in eastern Nepal flooded, and the images given to ministries and agencies involved with flood relief to support informed decision-making.

The IKM programme faces several issues heading into the next year: The IKM programme faces several issues heading into the next year: changing ICIMOD's communications to have better outreach so that knowledge is tailored to different audiences; engaging NGOs, young researchers, and students to share knowledge and promote an environment for research development; developing and applying a comprehensive set of knowledge tools to enhance our knowledge sharing efforts; and targeting ICIMOD knowledge at policy makers to bridge research and those who can use it by making the information applicable to the local setting.

ICIMOD: New challenges, new look

During 2008, ICIMOD developed a clear new brand look to support the new orientation and way of working outlined in the Strategic Framework introduced in January 2008.

The new brand was formally launched on 15th September. The new look underscores ICIMOD's belief in flexibility with consistency, and diversity within a common framework. It reflects the need to reduce the complexities of development thinking and focus on clarity and simplicity within a complex field. The

logo highlights the focus on mountains and the importance of the environment and water for the people of the region, while the strapline emphasises ICIMOD's theme 'For Mountains and People'. Visually arresting images are used to underscore the communication messages.

ICIMOD was fortunate to be able to interest an experienced consultant from the UK in the project. Supported by a dedicated team of ICIMOD staff, Mr Treadway took on the responsibility of developing the overall brand, the designs of all materials including the website, and much of the photography. In 2008, all



existing products were redesigned. Examples of the design can be seen everywhere, from this Annual Report, through to signs and information boards in the HQ building and the Training Centre, to business cards, email signatures, and ICIMOD vehicles. ICIMOD publications now have a clear visual identity and an attractive design that invites readers' interest and underscores the professionalism of ICIMOD's work. Especially the new information sheets have proven very popular and a useful vehicle for communicating the results of ICIMOD's work to a broad audience.



The website www.icimod.org was completely restructured and rebuilt to facilitate knowledge sharing and support ICIMOD's regional role as a platform and a hub. The website offers an overview of the new strategy, programmes, and activities, and an introduction to the themes and topics that are the focus of ICIMOD's activities and among the most important for the people of the region. The many additional websites linked to ICIMOD's programmes will slowly be integrated into the main website so that eventually all ICIMOD information will be fully searchable and available in one place. The new website is helping ICIMOD to communicate more effectively and provide easy access to the data, information, and knowledge compiled and developed to help the people of the region.



Remote sensing technology for high mountain ecosystems

In September 2008, the 10th International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography (HMRSC-X)¹ was attended by more than 180 participants from 18 countries.

The delegates discussed five specific themes in six sessions: 1) Remote sensing technology, image processing and cartography; 2) Monitoring and environment; 3) Morphology and hazard mapping; 4) Himalaya from space; and 5) Cryosphere and Water.

Participants discussed how these fast developing techniques enable more precise monitoring of glaciers and glacial lakes and preparation of mountain hazard and risk maps. The technologies also provide instruments for the planning and management of natural resources.

The symposium provided a platform for professionals and academics from the region to share and learn from each others' experiences and establish networks, which help develop their capacities to apply the tools and technology for the benefit of the region.

