

ICIMOD Headquarters - Building in Process

An Update

After 20 years, ICIMOD has been able to start building its own Headquarters in Kathmandu. His Majesty's Government of Nepal handed over 1.5 ha (30 ropanies) of land in Khumaltar near the Ministry of Agriculture's vegetable experimentation farm. The site is approximately 4 km away from the present complex of rented buildings in Jawalakhel.

ICIMOD held a competition for the architectural design of the headquarters in October and November 2001. An international panel of experts from Germany, the USA, India, and Nepal judged the fourteen submissions and selected the three top entries and three runners-up.

A decision was made on the design of the building at the Board of Governors' meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan, in December 2001, where Mr. Tom Crees was awarded a contract for architectural design and supervision. The construction design was completed and submitted to the Board in December 2002, and it gave the go-ahead to the tendering process. The Board laid the foundation stone for the building in December 2002.

The consultant prepared the tender documents and a notice of tender was published in March 2003. Twenty-two construction companies offered sealed tender documents, which were opened publicly on 11 April 2003. All submissions were studied thoroughly and the lowest and best offer - from ANK Construction Company - was awarded the contract. The company was handed a letter of intent on 7 May, 2003, and the contract was signed on 27 May, 2003. Excavation work started the same month, and by January 2004 the structure of two floors of the main building was completed.

The concrete roofing of the main structure is now fully completed. An additional training room on the top of the middle section with steel trusses is now being built. Several ancillary buildings are also now on the way to completion (70% of the work is done). The interior design and partition design are also now finalised. The construction of the interior is expected to start in about two month's time.

We plan to complete the building by December 2004, with the inauguration date set for the first week of December.



Front (East) View



West View

The total cost of the building is budgeted at US\$ 1.23 million, as approved by the Board in 2002. Out of this, US\$ 530,000 has been met from the internal building reserve fund, while \$ 700,000 is being sought from external sources.

All the regional member countries have shown enthusiastic support towards the construction of the Centre's Headquarters building. In March 2004, ICIMOD received a special contribution from China of US\$ 100,000 for the Headquarters building. In the same month, Bangladesh has also sent a formal letter confirming its contribution of US\$ 28,300 to build a pavilion with a Bangladeshi aspect. The Ambassador of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Humayun Kabir, and other senior diplomats of the Embassy visited the site on 7 May 2004 to work out further details. Similarly, Bhutan's Board member, Dasho Sangay Thinley, who visited the site on 20 April, also confirmed that Bhutan will contribute a pavilion. In fact, the Bhutanese pavilion is now being built with Bhutanese materials in Thimphu. It will eventually be brought to the site in due course for installation at the headquarters' site. Meanwhile, the Centre is in touch with the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu to work out the form of the substantial Indian contribution to the Headquarters.

This enthusiastic support is a great source of inspiration for all of us who are deeply engaged in the construction of our own Headquarters, so that ICIMOD has a roof of its own under which to function.

We still need to find funding sources for the air conditioning plant and for an elevator for disabled visitors. Provision for both was made in the building but the equipment itself could not be procured due to lack of financial resources.

Once completed, this Headquarters will take us closer to our Test and Demonstration Site in Godavari, and at the same time it is a little further away from the urban pollution of the Ring Road's ambit. However, it is almost the same distance from the airport as the present complex.

The new Headquarters is being built to depict the mountain architecture of the region with the incorporation of some specific elements of the vernacular architecture of the Kathmandu Valley. The design is also meant to give full play to the sense of integration among the various disciplines of the staff, with this better integration helping to produce a synergetic effect.



North View



South View

Special Event

ICIMOD Celebrates its 20th Anniversary



The evening of 5 December 2003 was celebrated with aplomb! It was the Centre's 20th Anniversary and was marked by a special programme at the Shanker Hotel, Kathmandu. It also coincided with the conclusion of the 33rd Board Meeting held in Pokhara.

Invited to the function were persons who had contributed towards the development and growth of the Centre. They included ICIMOD Board Members, Support Group Members, Ambassadors, Officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, representatives of INGOs and NGOs based in Kathmandu, and other well-wishers of the Centre.



The event started with welcome speeches by Mr. Soe Win Hlaing, Chairperson of the Board of Governors; Dr. Ruth Egger, Chairperson of the Finance Committee; Mr. Johannes Knapp, Representative of the ICIMOD Support Group; Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General; and Dr. Binayak Bhadra, Director of Programmes.

Two distinguished scientists, Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise and Dr. N.S. Jodha were presented with awards as a mark of their contribution to the development of the Centre over the years. Also felicitated were staff members who had received their PhDs: Dr. Jian Liu, Dr. Juerg Merz, and Dr. Yan Zhaoli.



An ICIMOD Theme Song, composed by Dr. Eklabya Sharma, was sung by the staff choir. An evening of entertainment comprising of a lively cultural programme and cake cutting ceremony followed. The honour of cutting the birthday cake, baked in the form of the ICIMOD Logo, was shared between representatives of the ICIMOD Board of Governors, the Support Group, and Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General.

ICIMOD THEME SONG

ICIMOD with its partners and
Member countries in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas
We will build prosperous, secured communities,
For peaceful, equitable, sustainable
livelihoods

"Let us all join our hands
To enrich our cultural wealth
and take our cause to the world"

