

a general lack of understanding of the natural and human processes affecting these mountains and exclusion of mountain peoples from decision-making. The development interventions designed were often extensions of solutions designed for the



The Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region plains and narrowly addressed the symptoms rather than the causes. They also largely ignored appropriate opportunities for development. However, the mountains provide opportunities for mountain-specific development and conservation that are increasingly providing a basis for reducing poverty and increasing sustainability. Despite the prevailing constraints in mountain areas there exists immense potential to promote a chain of development activities which can lead to the total well-being of mountain people. ICIMOD's efforts are all ultimately geared towards improved livelihoods of mountain peoples of the Himalayan region, particularly the farmers and grassroots level development workers and community leaders. The Centre partners are agents of change to bring about widespread improvements, such as policy and decision-makers, development researchers and practitioners, and non-government and community-based institutions.

#### An effective avenue for alleviating poverty in poor mountain areas

Through the selection of characteristic biological breeds, discovery of developing skills, and operation of productive modes of production, the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment has created an effective avenue for alleviating poverty in poor mountain areas. This avenue combines scientific research and industry development and enables regional economic growth. The efforts have produced clear social, economic, and biological benefits. Based on regional ecological conditions, seven characteristic, high efficiency biological breeds were selected. Meanwhile, two productive modes were created. They operate in a way that the farmhands are collected and coordinated by a company, and farmers either become contractors or employees of the company. In both modes, the company invests in farmland construction, technological support, market organisation, and information gathering and assumes all the risks. The modes have become effective mechanisms for the development of poor mountain areas.

#### International Scientific Exploration Across the Himalaya

The Science Exchange Centre, CAS in collaboration with ICIMOD and with support of relevant institutions in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Nepal, has completed scientific exploration across the Himalayan region, which have made possible comprehensive investigations on glaciers, geology, hydrology, vegetation, remote sensing, aquatic organisms, and social economics of these areas. Nepal, India, and scientists working at ICIMOD provided active cooperation while the exploration worked on the southern side of the Himalaya.

#### National training on mountain hazards emergency management held in Chengdu

In cooperation with the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs Disaster Relief Department, the Chinese Disaster Reduction Centre, and the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, three national training programmes on the theme 'Mountain Hazards Emergency Management' were held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in 2006. The seriousness of the threat of mountain disaster provided the rationale for training. Training is important to improve the capacity of communities for emergency management and to move forward the preparation of a disaster emergency help model, as well as in devising efficient and quick disaster emergency management mechanisms. More than 200 participants from Asia and Africa attended the training courses, which are a significant move to promote management experience and improve regulation standards for mountainous disaster.

#### Enhancing the Protection of the Ecosystem of the Tibet Autonomous Region

Tibet, the main part of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, sits in a high altitude region characterised by severe atmospheric conditions, and an eco-environment. The Autonomous Government of Tibet has organised efforts to preserve the Tibetan eco-environment towards building prosperous mountain societies in China. The Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment has undertaken projects in this direction and has attained some clear achievements. Some of the projects that exemplify these efforts include: the Tibet Autonomous Region 10 and 11 Five Year Plans, investigation into the avenues for increasing revenue for Tibetan farmers and herders, construction design for small Tibetan Towns, comprehensive development demonstration project, amongst others. These efforts have all contributed in building a relatively well-off society and a prospering countryside in Tibet and the other mountain areas of China.

"CNICIMOD can strengthen exchange in technology and sciences with many South Asian countries and promote scientific activities of member institutions."

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## First Issue



Volume 1, No. 1, March 2007

# CNICIMOD Newsletter

Newsletter of the Chinese Committee for Integrated Mountain Development

## China and ICIMOD mark a milestone in closer cooperation

The Chinese Committee for ICIMOD (CNICIMOD) was formally established on 20 October 2006 and marks a milestone for closer cooperation in research and management of mountains between China and ICIMOD.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), established in 1983 in Kathmandu, Nepal, serves eight regional member countries of the greater Himalayan region and the global mountain community. As a mountain learning and knowledge centre, ICIMOD seeks to develop and provide innovative solutions, in cooperation with over 300 regional and international partners, which foster action and change for overcoming mountain peoples' economic, social, and physical vulnerability (www.icimod.org).

Since its establishment, ICIMOD has kept close collaboration with many Chinese partners, such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

China is a mountainous country, more than half of its territory lies in the mountain areas. Recognising this, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), a leading institution in research in basic and technological sciences, made the decision to set up the Chinese Committee on International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (CNICIMOD) to more actively with ICIMOD and relevant Chinese partners to ensure that its studies on mountains will be at the forefront of the global mountain research and strategy.

CNICIMOD will be supervised by CAS and its secretariat based in the Chengdu Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, which consists

of three separate regional offices in Chengdu, Kunming, and Lhasa. The establishment of CNICIMOD integrates Chinese institutions engaged in studying mountain issues, and promotes cooperation with ICIMOD for better, more leveraged results.

"I believe CNICIMOD will play a more active role in collaboration with ICIMOD and other international organisations. Based on this platform, we can strengthen exchange in technology and the sciences with many countries in South Asia and promote the internationalisation of scientific activities of the member institutions." Professor Deng Wei, Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS, and CNICIMOD Secretary General said.

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, ICIMOD Director General, made a special trip to Chengdu to be at the CNICIMOD inauguration. He brought with him a large number of significant publications on mountain development. Dr. Campbell was joined by Dr. Fu Biye, Director General of the Bureau of Resources Research and Environment, on behalf of Chinese Academy of Sciences, at the inaugural ceremony.

#### The 36<sup>th</sup> ICIMOD Board meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal

On the assignment of CAS Vice President and ICIMOD Board member from China, Dr. Li Jiyang, Dr. Ding Wei of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS, attended the 36<sup>th</sup> ICIMOD Board Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Ding Wei was accompanied by Prof. Hu Pinghua, head of the secretariat office of CNICIMOD in Chengdu.



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Participants of the 36<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting held in Kathmandu

During the meeting, Dr. Ding Wei and Prof. Hu held special talks with ICIMOD management including the Director General, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Madhar Karki, Deputy Director General-Programmes, Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, Director for Administration and Finance, and other relevant ICIMOD staff members. Discussions included concrete intentions for cooperation, the future work of CNICIMOD, and collaboration with ICIMOD.

#### ICIMOD has a New Director General

Dr. Andreas Schindl has been selected as the new Director General designate of ICIMOD during the 37<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. He succeeds Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, current Director General, from March/April 2007.

Dr. Schindl, a Swiss national, is a development specialist with over 30 years experience in designing, planning, executing, and monitoring cooperation programmes, mainly in sustainable natural resource management. He acquired important management experience through a number of positions that he has held, including Country Director of Swiss Development Cooperation in Nepal and Rwanda/Burundi, Executive Director of Intercooperation, a major Swiss NGO, and Chief Technical Advisor in North Korea for the UNDP financed aid coordination programme. He is currently the team leader of the Oversight Consultant of the National Solidarity Program (NSP) in Afghanistan. He has worked in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region in Nepal, Bhutan, India, and Pakistan. Dr. Schindl has a Ph.D. in History and Sociology from the University of Berne in Switzerland.



Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell and Dr. Andreas Schindl, Director General and new Director General designate of ICIMOD, respectively

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#### The 37<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting in Pakistan

A delegation from CAS headed by Dr. Li Jiyang, Vice President of CAS, and three CAS members, Prof. Hu Pinghua, Dr. Zhai Jinyang, and Mr. Zhangqian, attended the 37<sup>th</sup> ICIMOD Board Meeting held in Swat, Pakistan. The Pakistan Office of ICIMOD in Islamabad was also inaugurated during the occasion. The Board meeting formally started on 4 November 2006 at Serena Hotel in Swat. The Board unanimously elected Engineer Ouhama Mustafa Jawad, Board member from Afghanistan, as new Chair of the ICIMOD Board. The Board approved the minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Board meetings. Dr. Lianlu Zhang from China was appointed as a new Independent Board Member together with Dr. Amir Muhammad from Pakistan, and Dr. Jacqueline Ashby.

On the invitation of the Secretary of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock, the delegation from CAS visited the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and held friendly talks. Both sides introduced their respective institutions and their areas of study and work. Dr. Li Jiyang stated that CAS provides assistance in the aspects of personnel education, exchange visits, and study projects. Meanwhile, an expert group from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS, explored geo-hazards along the Karakoram Highway with experts from the National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar. Their collaborative work was submitted to Mr. Liu Renqing, First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. Mr. Liu expressed his concern for this project and vowed to do his best to implement the project.

The next meeting of the ICIMOD Board will be held in Kathmandu in November 2007.



The 37<sup>th</sup> ICIMOD Board meeting



ICIMOD Director General J. Gabriel Campbell welcoming incoming Chairperson of the ICIMOD Board 2007, H. E. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Afghanistan

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The Chinese delegation from CAS meet with Pakistani Agriculture Research Council partners

#### Workshop on Flash Flood Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas held in Kathmandu, Nepal

Three Chinese experts from CAS, Dr. Cui Peng, Prof. Hu Pinghua and Prof. Li Tianchi from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, took part in a consultative workshop on 'Flash Flood Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas' held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 4-5 December 2006. Dr. Cui Peng gave a presentation on flash floods management in China. During their stay in Nepal, Dr. Cui Peng was also invited to give a lecture on geo-hazards along the highways of China-Pakistan in the area of the Karakoram. The experts also discussed the collaborative project with ICIMOD on geo-hazards along the border highways of China-Nepal, China-Pakistan, and mountain geo-hazardous highway construction in the Himalayas.



#### CNICIMOD holds Secretariat working meeting in Chengdu

The Secretariat working meeting of CNICIMOD was held in Chengdu from 16-17 December 2006. The meeting's participants came from the Bureau of International Co-operation, CAS, and three regional offices of CNICIMOD based in Chengdu, Kunming, and Lhasa. Dr. Ding Wei, Secretary General of CNICIMOD, hosted the meeting. During the occasion, Wang Zheng Yu, head of the Organization Division of the Bureau of International Co-operation, CAS, highlighted how, among many relevant international organisations, CAS has been paying special recognition and providing financial support to ICIMOD. Now that a stronger

relationship has been established between CAS and ICIMOD, he said, "we must do our best to strengthen this collaboration and to open communication channels between ICIMOD and the Chinese partners."

In the same meeting, Dr. Wang Yuhua from Kunming, and Mr. Yang Yong from Lhasa offices reported their cooperative activities with ICIMOD in 2006 and the status of these activities. The Work Plan for 2007 was also discussed. The first newsletter of CNICIMOD will be published in the first quarter of 2007. The meeting proposed the holding of the first members meeting of CNICIMOD in April or May 2007, and the second working meeting of the CNICIMOD Secretariat in August or September 2007 in Lhasa.

#### Expert from IMHE takes part in regional workshop on Sharing Geographic Information in the HKH Region

The Director of the Digital Mountain Research Laboratory, Dr. Jiang Xiaoli, visited Kathmandu to take part in a regional workshop on 'Sharing Geographic Information in the HKH Region' from 11-15 December 2006. More than 20 experts in remote sensing and geo-information systems from eight ICIMOD regional member countries participated in the workshop, which discussed the background, status, problems, and future trends in GIS. The workshop emphasised the important role of information and geo-information for mountain development. Among the significant achievements of the workshop was the drafting of a memorandum of understanding among the participating member countries to improve information sharing in the HKH region.

#### The Greater Himalayan Region: Basic Facts

The greater Himalayan region sustains 150 million people and impacts the lives of three times as many people living on the plains and in the river basins below. The Himalayas are not only the world's highest mountain regions, they are also the poorest and most complex. The region extends over 3,500 kilometres from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east, and ranges from the plateau regions of Tibet and other mountain areas of China in the north to the Ganges Basin of India in the south. The upland watersheds of Asia's eight major river systems - the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra (Yarlungtsangpo), Irrawaddy, Nu Salween, Mekong (Lancang), Yangtze (Jinsha), and Yellow Rivers (Huanghe) - originate in these mountains. Its wealth lies in the immense diversity of its flora and fauna, and ethnic groups and languages. There are about 55 different mountain ethnic groups in the mountains of China alone, and estimates for the whole region would exceed 300 groups. Despite this rich diversity, the peoples of this vast mountain region are, in the majority, extremely poor and vulnerable to environmental, social, and economic forces. Some pockets experience eight months of hunger or food deficit in a year. A variety of pressures, both natural and human, have fueled conflict, and in several areas this conflict has erupted into violence. In the past, policy-makers neglected mountain areas, resulting in

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