

Breakout Session

Cities and Mountains



ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Date: 19 November 2014

Time: 17:15 – 18:45 hrs

Venue: Committee Room A, BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Cities that are surrounded by or next to high mountains face additional challenges in managing air quality. Topography influences ventilation by blocking or channeling air flow. It creates night-time drainage flows that pool cold air in low areas, enhancing temperature inversions. The diurnal patterns of air pollution are affected not only by the diurnal patterns of emissions, but also by the local meteorology that is strongly influenced by the mountains.



Meanwhile, mountain environments are often affected by emissions from far-away urban and industrial centres. Pollutants transported over long distances affect not only air quality and visibility in mountain areas, but temperature, precipitation patterns, and even snow and ice cover. However, the effects are not one-way. Melting of glaciers and rainfall in mountain areas affect water availability and floods in far-away downstream cities as well.



Objectives

- To raise awareness about topographic effects on urban air quality
- To increase understanding about linkages between urban areas and far-away mountain environments
- To share experience about designing relevant science-based policies

Intended Outcome

- Statement in BAQ plenary outcome document

Target Participants

- Policy makers from countries with mountains

Detailed agenda

Session Chair: Arun B. Shrestha, ICIMOD

Time	Topic	Speaker	Remarks
17:15–17:20	Session introduction	Chair	5 min
17:20–17:50	Cities and Mountains: Processes, challenges, interconnections and opportunities	Arnico Panday, ICIMOD	20 min
	Lessons from Mexico City	TBC	15 min
17:50–18:10	Panel Discussion Dorji Tshewang, National Environment Commission, Bhutan Arjun B Karki, Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal JS Kamyotra, Central Pollution Control Board, India [TBC]		20 min
18:10–18:45	Moderated Discussion		35 min

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Photos: Arnico Panday; Subasana Shrestha

