

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on '**Mountain Climate Change**' issue 5 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,

APMN team

News

[1] Black soot choking Tibetan Glaciers

December 15, 2009

On the Tibetan Plateau, temperatures are rising and glaciers are melting faster than climate scientists would expect based on global warming alone. A recent study of ice cores from five Tibetan glaciers by NASA and Chinese scientists confirmed the likely culprit: rapid increases in black soot concentrations since the 1990s, mostly from air pollution sources over Asia, especially the Indian subcontinent. Soot-darkened snow and glaciers absorb sunlight, which hastens melting, adding to the impact of global warming.

Source:

<http://www.usnews.com/science/articles/2009/12/15/black-soot-choking-tibetan-glaciers.html>

OR

<http://bit.ly/4yGPh1>

[2] Too much or too little water in the Himalayas

December 14, 2009

Hundreds of millions of people in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region and in the river basins downstream are being forced to adapt to a new reality: climate change. Even hardy mountain populations, adapted for centuries to survival in extreme environments, are undergoing events so unprecedented that their traditional coping strategies are being overwhelmed by the events unfolding.

These are some of the main findings of a new study released today at the UN climate convention meeting in Copenhagen by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO).

Source:

<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2009/12/14/news0795.htm>

OR

<http://bit.ly/7HW8Ko>

[3] 2000-2009: The warmest decade ever

December 13, 2009

The world meteorological organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations, this week declared the years 2000 to 2009 the warmest decade, at the climate conference in Copenhagen.

The weather, climate and water report released on Tuesday says the year 2009 is likely to rank in the top 10 warmest on record, since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850. This year there was a major climate extreme impact leading to devastating flooding, severe droughts, snowstorms, heat and cold waves, recorded in many part of the world, says the report.

Source:

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14208>

OR

<http://bit.ly/5Ke2fj>

[4] Asia Pacific must act now to tackle the scourge of climate change – ADB

December 13, 2009

The countries of Asia and the Pacific have a strong stake in a successful outcome to the current climate change talks in Copenhagen, senior officials of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Sunday. Most have already prepared action plans to address both the causes and consequences of climate change.

Source:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/13107-asian-climates-changes/>

OR

<http://bit.ly/7nom6a>

[5] Climate change threatening survival of Himalayan communities – UN report

December 12, 2009

Climate change is posing a serious threat to communities in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, bringing both drought and catastrophic floods to hundreds of millions of people, according to a new United Nations-backed report.

Food security, housing, infrastructure, business and even the survival of people living in mountainous regions and their neighbours in river basins downstream in the region are extremely vulnerable to climate change, it said.

Source:

<http://www.webnewswire.com/node/488829>

OR

<http://bit.ly/55g8zy>

[6] Good news for climate change migrants

December 11, 2009

After months of negotiations, the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen have good news for countries that might see hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people migrating or being displaced by climate change.

For the first time the text dealing exclusively with adaptation to climate change - one of several tracks up for negotiation - has included a substantive paragraph on the need to consider planned relocation for people displaced by climate change, with "interstate cooperation" to respond to their needs.

Source:

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?Reportid=87405>

OR

<http://bit.ly/4UW02R>

[7] Melting glaciers cause potential flooding problems

December 11, 2009

The WWF and UNEP, among others, are helping people adapt to climate change by reducing the risk of devastating glacial floods.

The emerald lakes that form at the snouts of glaciers are a beautiful sight, but rapidly melting glaciers can cause these lakes to breach their walls, inundating villages downstream. To reduce the threat, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) monitor and drain some of these lakes.

Source:

<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2009/world/south-asia/news-melting-glaciers-cause-potential-flooding-problems/>

OR

<http://bit.ly/5GdN4Q>

[8] Climate change threatens Tibetan plateau

December 4, 2009

The Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau is Earth's third largest store of ice after the South and North poles. But that store is rapidly melting amid the onset of climate change. It will affect the water supply for up to a billion people and the atmospheric circulation for more than half the planet. Xie Zheng, meets the people living on the plateau and enduring its changes.

Life as a herdsman at more than 45-hundred meters above sea level does not carry lofty expectations. You don't have to always count the number of sheep in the herd, and it almost certainly grows year-by-year.

Source:

<http://english.cctv.com/program/newshour/20091204/103331.shtml>

OR

<http://bit.ly/5Ksqpg>

[9] Climate change increases gender inequality

December 3, 2009

Including gender related issues in climate change policy is just one of the recommendations in a report released by the United Nations and Oxfam representatives at a workshop on climate change in Hanoi on Dec. 2.

All the recommendations were put forward in the context that one million Vietnamese are affected annually by climate related disasters. Vietnam, on average, experiences five to six tropical storms in its coastal areas annually; flooding in its river deltas and flash floods and landslides in mountainous areas.

Source:

<http://english.vovnews.vn/Home/Climate-change-increases-gender-inequality/200912/110417.vov>

OR

<http://bit.ly/8dR2my>

Resources

[1] Global Warming and Surging Glaciers

The Earth's climate undergoes fluctuations and for the past thousand years has experienced periods of warming and cooling. In the seventeenth century, severe and long-standing winters,

known as the Little Ice Age, recurred in the south of Europe. One can see frozen channels and snow-covered Holland in the paintings of famous Flemish artists.

More information:

http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/cache/bypass/lang/en/home/archive/Issues2009/pid/5085;jsessionid=8A4B229600C370B18C419E10283D0EE3?ctnscroll_articleContainerList=1_0&ctnlistpagination_articleContainerList=true

Events

[1] 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference, “Climate Adaptation Futures preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change”, 29 June – 1 July 2010, Queensland, Australia

More information: <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010>