

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Livelihood and Technology' from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,  
APMN team

News  
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[1] Adapting to change

September 20, 2009

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan mountain ranges are a climate change hotspot and they need to be put on the map' pointed out Andreas Schild, the Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as he welcomed us to the centre located in the outskirts of Kathmandu earlier this month. 'Mountain systems are very fragile and sensitive to climate change... Policy makers need to be made aware of this'.

The scientists at ICIMOD have also come up with various ways to improve cooking methods in the mountains since foraging for fuel wood is a constant problem. They have introduced solar cookers and improved bio-gas plants.

Source:

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/sci-tech/17-earthly+matters-ek-06>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ng6mj9>

[2] New research station opens at Adygene glacier in Kyrgyzstan

September 18, 2009

New research station was opened at the Adygene glacier in Kyrgyzstan, Mikhail Cherny organizer of the conference on reduction of natural disasters' risk in the mountains said. The station cost approximately \$100 thousand and was opened with assistance of the Czech government and some international organizations, the organizer said.

Source:

<http://eng.24.kg/community/2009/09/18/9067.html>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/m2vsok>

### [3] Illegal mining devours eco-fragile mountains

September 17, 2009

Unabated mining and blasting of mountains for extraction of raw material for manufacture of cement has disturbed the habitat of wild animals in various areas of the Valley forcing them to take refuge in residential areas.

Kashmir is blessed with lofty mountains, which play an important role in maintaining its fragile eco-system. However, reckless extraction of stones and other raw material illegally was gradually devouring the mountains and subsequently affecting flora and fauna.

Source:

[http://www.greaterkashmir.com/full\\_story.asp?Date=18\\_9\\_2009&ItemID=63&cat=1](http://www.greaterkashmir.com/full_story.asp?Date=18_9_2009&ItemID=63&cat=1)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/m7efzj>

### [4] Taiwan scientist develops earthquake alarm

September 16, 2009

A Taiwanese scientist has developed an earthquake alarm that could give people a crucial 15-second warning in case of a tremor, one of his team said Wednesday.

The gadget, about one-third of the size of a laptop, can be linked to computers and also be used to halt lifts in buildings when quakes strike. The system relies on seismic waves, which move vertically as well as horizontally. The device detects and analyses these vertical waves, which travel faster and are less violent than horizontal waves.

Source:

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Taiwan\\_scientist\\_develops\\_earthquake\\_alarm\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Taiwan_scientist_develops_earthquake_alarm_999.html)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/nacsd9>

### [5] Warming threatens aquatic resources on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

September 15, 2009

The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is one of the regions hardest hit by global warming, which will have direct and long-term effects on the aquatic animals living in this area, said Wang Ding, a veteran expert from the Institute of Hydro Biology (IHB) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The rising temperatures have led to the continuous melting of glaciers, scientists have found. After the Arctic and Antarctic, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau has the third-largest number of glaciers. But 82 percent of glacier surfaces on the plateau have retreated, and the glacier area itself has decreased by 4.5 percent during the past 20 years, according to Qin Dahe from CAS.

Source:

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6757835.html>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/m7okac>

[6] Myanmar makes efforts to promote tourism industry

September 15, 2009

Myanmar is making efforts to promote its tourism industry through attending international travel trade shows and introducing the country's attractive tourist sites. Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board's Marketing Committee has eyed a series of such international events for the two current years to expand its tourism market.

Rich in natural resources including wildlife and rare species of flora and fauna that attracts tourists, Myanmar is also encouraging entrepreneurs to promote eco-tourism industry at the environmental conservation regions to earn income for the state. The Myanmar marketing committee (MCC) will extend its tourism market to trade and consumer shows in Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Source:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/15/content\\_12057948.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/15/content_12057948.htm)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ml8vey>

[7] India's drought eases: weather office

September 10, 2009

India's monsoon rains have strengthened in recent weeks, easing a drought that has hit large swathes of the country, though some areas remain severely affected, the weather office said.

weather office spokesman B.P. Yadav said the rains for the country were still 20 percent below the norm, stretching to 35 percent below in the hardest-hit areas in the northwest. In some parts of the country a deficit has turned to a deluge with heavy rains causing flooding.

Source:

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Indias\\_drought\\_eases\\_weather\\_office\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Indias_drought_eases_weather_office_999.html)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/no9vnh>

[8] China plans world's largest solar plant

September 10, 2009

The world's largest solar plant is planned for the Mongolian desert of China. Arizona-based First Solar Inc. and Ordos City in China signed an agreement Tuesday to build what will be a 2-gigawatt solar installation.

The Ordos City project will generate 2,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 3 million Chinese homes, with a field of panels stretching for 25 square miles. It will start as a 30-megawatt demonstration unit with construction beginning in June 2010 and additional phases to come online in 2014 and 2019.

Source:

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/China\\_plans\\_worlds\\_largest\\_solar\\_plant\\_999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/China_plans_worlds_largest_solar_plant_999.html)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/mdfqwj>

[9] Lao PDR's Rapid Growth Brings New Development Challenges: ADB

September 8 2009

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) current five-year strategy for Lao People's Democratic Republic remains relevant but more work is needed to respond to challenges posed by the country's rapid economic growth, climate change and human resource and capacity constraints, a midterm review said.

"ADB's priority sector support remains fully aligned with the government's own focus on the four core sectors of agriculture, health, education and infrastructure, and for the remainder of the program period increased emphasis will be placed on sustainable environmental management, addressing education needs, and fostering greater subregional cooperation," said Gil-Hong Kim, Country Director for ADB's Lao PDR Resident Mission.

Source:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/12976-laosian-developments-challenges/>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/m4vw8u>

[10] Sri Lanka featured as a 'new paradise'

September 2, 2009

Defined 'The Emerald Isle' a 43 minutes documentary in German ARTE TV pointed to Sri Lanka as a green holiday destination literally as well as underlining Sri Lanka as an upcoming and leading ecotourism destination.

The television journey goes away from the beaches and into the interior of the island, from the mountain regions via tea plantations to national parks while showcasing the traditional way of life of the people in addition to describing various conservation initiatives

Source:

[http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM\\_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=60175](http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=60175)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/lqwwhv>

[11] China Starts Work on Massive Resort at Mt. Baekdu

August 31, 2009

China has embarked on a project to construct a major resort complex on Mt. Baekdu, which is revered by Koreans as the site where their nation was born. A total of 200 million yuan (around W3.7 trillion) is being invested in the resort complex, the highest amount ever for a tourism site in China.

Source:

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2009/08/31/2009083100740.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/08/31/2009083100740.html)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/lfdxom>

Events:

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[1] IV International Seminar on Mountain Tourism

The seminar is going to held from 22/10/2009 to 25/10/2009

For more information: <http://fr.alparc.org/calendrier/autres-manifestations-internationales/iv-international-seminar-on-mountain-tourism>

[2] Landscape Functions and People—Applying Strategic Planning Approaches for Good Natural Resource Governance

The landscape-level approach is increasingly being recognized and used to ensure effective integrated natural resource planning that links grass-roots and community based initiatives with wider national or regional perspectives. The approach encompasses a diversity of innovative practices involving sustainable natural resource management and attempts to merge ecosystem thinking with multi-stakeholder processes and good natural resources governance.

The course will be conducted from Monday 26th of October till and including Saturday 6th of November 2009 and will be held in Regional Community Forestry Training Centre, Bangkok.

For more information: <http://portals.wi.wur.nl/landscapes/>

[3] Conference on “Mitigation of Natural Hazards in Mountain Areas”

The conference on “Mitigation of Natural Hazards in Mountain Areas” was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from September 15-18, 2009.

For more information: <http://www.mountainhazards2009.com/index.php?menu=20>