

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Livelihood and Technology', Issue 5 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Pamir Mountains, the crossroads of history

December 19, 2009

East meeting West, North meeting south: since time immemorial, the Wakhan Valley, in the Pamir Mountains, has existed at the intersection of trails trodden by nomads, peddlers, pilgrims and, at times, the soldiers and emissaries of great powers. When I'd thought about traveling to see this rugged branch of the ancient Silk Road, it had seemed like an adventure to the far-flung periphery of the world.

During the last century, this long-strategic nexus of Asia, earlier crossed by Scythians, Persians, Greeks, Kushans, Hephtalites, Gokturks, Huns, Arabs and Mongol hordes, became a cul-de-sac at the command of the Russians.

Source:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09353/1022276-37.stm>

OR

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

[2] Tibet records all-time high in tourists in 2009

December 18, 2009

Tibet is expected to receive 5.56 million domestic and foreign tourists persons-time by the yearend, up 147 percent over the same period last year. Meanwhile, the region earned 5.2 billion yuan (761.28 million U.S. dollars) from its tourism services, a 132 percent rise, according to statistics released at the Tibet Economic Work Conference.

Source:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-12/18/content_12665805.htm

OR

<http://bit.ly/6z8CA8>

[3] Wind power for remote communities in Asia gets ADB support

December 18, 2009

Wind offers a reliable and carbon emission-free source of electricity and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing support to expand its use throughout remote communities in Asia, helping to alleviate poverty and improve lives.

Nearly one billion people in Asia and the Pacific are still trapped in poverty with no access to electricity and a large number of them live in remote windy areas where it is both difficult and costly to connect to power grids. Pilot activities will be carried out in remote mountainous communities, deserts and grasslands, and ocean islands, which will provide models for replication in similar areas.

Source:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/13122-electricity-access-projects/>

OR

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

[4] Bangladesh: food security in great peril from climate change

December 18, 2009

Unless the world comes to its aid, Bangladesh says the vulnerability of its agriculture sector to climate change could spell severe consequences for its millions of people, who stand to lose their main source of livelihood. "As a poverty-stricken and densely populated country, we cannot cope with these challenges unless we have a proper financial and technological support from the developed world," said Sabir Hassan Chowdhary, one of the delegates from Bangladesh to the Copenhagen climate talks, in an interview with IPS.

Source:

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=49740>

OR

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

[5] India's first commercial solar power plant

December 16, 2009

India inaugurated Azure Power's 2-megawatt photovoltaic plant in the state of Punjab, the first privately owned, utility-scale power plant on the Asian subcontinent.

Built under a 30-year power purchase agreement with the Punjab State Electricity Board, the plant will help power 4,000 rural homes for 20,000 people.

Source:

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Indias_first_commercial_solar_power_plant_999.html

OR

<http://bit.ly/72Y0zq>

[6] Indian farmers adapt to shifting weather patterns

December 15, 2009

As global leaders and top scientists in Copenhagen debate how to deal with climate change, farmers in flood-prone areas of northern India are taking it into their own hands to adapt to shifts in the weather.

For decades, people of Uttar Pradesh, whose population is more than half that of the United States, have been witnessing erratic weather, including increasingly intense rainfall over short periods of time. The rain, combined with heavy mountain run-off from nearby Nepal, which is also seeing heavier-than-usual rains, has inundated villages, towns and cities in the region.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20091214/sc_nm/us_india_climate_adaptation

OR

<http://bit.ly/6IkPdS>

[7] Rural communities lead Nepal's green fight back

December 15, 2009

Thirty years ago, Nepalese farmer Badri Prasad Jangam realised that the once thickly-wooded hillside that overlooks his home had been transformed into a barren slope.

Decades of deforestation had taken their toll, stripping away the topsoil, affecting vital underground water sources and threatening to bring disaster to a community entirely dependent on farming for its livelihood.

Source:

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Rural_communities_lead_Nepals_green_fightback_999.html

OR

<http://bit.ly/8H0u1p>

Events

[1] 5th International Symposium on Gully Erosion “Human Impact on Gully Erosion”, 20 - 25 April, 2010, Lublin, Poland

More information: <http://gullyerosion.org/>

[2] World Renewable Energy Technology Congress & Expo-2010 Document Actions, 18- 20 March 2010, Delhi, India.

More information: <http://www.wretc.in/>

[3] World Future Energy Summit, 18-21 January 2010, Abu Dhabi

More information: <http://www.worldfutureenergysummit.com/home.aspx>

Announcements

[1] International Research Initiative on adaptation to Climate Change

Application Deadline: January 7, 2010

More information: <http://www.idrc.ca/iriacc/>