

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Livelihood and Technology', Issue 7 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] India steps up efforts to conserve Himalayan ecosystem

February 2, 2010

India is formulating a policy to save environment and ecology in the Himalayas, the water house for China, India and Pakistan.

An official of the Ministry of Environment and Forests said other countries adjoining the Himalayas had also been consulted through the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an independent non-political inter-governmental organisation of eight regional member countries.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aUgUBm>

[2] ADB supports PRC's push to accelerate large-scale solar power development

January 29, 2010

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is making its first foray into the solar power sector in the People's Republic of China (PRC) through a technical assistance project designed to pave the way for large-scale concentrated solar thermal (CST) power use in the country.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9Ei9n5>

[3] Farming of giant maize made 'cultural heritage' in Peru

January 27, 2010

The Peruvian government has declared the knowhow associated with growing a variety of large-eared white maize to be 'cultural heritage'.

The maize grows in a narrow 70-kilometre corridor in the Urubamba or 'Sacred' Valley in the mountains of southeast Peru and is produced by just 5,000 households.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b63IFT>

[4] Himalayas key to south Asian monsoons

January 26, 2010

Harvard climate scientists suggest that the Tibetan Plateau—thought to be the primary source of heat that drives the South Asian monsoon—may have far less of an effect than the Himalayas and other surrounding mountains. As the monsoon brings needed rainfall and water to billions of people each year, understanding its proper origin, especially in the context of global climate change, is crucial for the future sustainability of the region.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9QXJH4>

[5] Thousands of tourists stranded at Machu Picchu

January 26, 2010

Peru was Tuesday conducting an airlift evacuation of more than 2,500 foreign tourists trapped in and around its famed Machu Picchu ruins by rain and mudslides that killed at least seven people.

The operation, which began Monday, had rescued 125 of the foreigners by late Tuesday, emergency services said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/czGqkR>

[6] Himalayan snow melting in winter too, say scientists

January 25, 2010

Snow has started melting even in winter in some areas of the Himalayas, which could influence regional river patterns, Indian satellite data has revealed.

Using data from the Indian remote sensing satellite RESOURCESAT-1, scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC) part of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) — analysed changes in snow cover in the central and western Himalayas

Source: <http://bit.ly/aLNZrj>

[7] Huge water reserves discovered in northwest China basin

January 21, 2010

Two giant groundwater reservoirs have been discovered in the Qaidam Basin, China's highest basin on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, said geologists.

The reservoirs under alluvial cones in Golmud and Delingha areas had a stunning total storage capacity of 2.8 billion cubic meters, said Luo Yinfei, an official with environment and geological prospecting bureau of Qinghai Province.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aJckOR>

[8] China to build world's highest airport

January 13, 2010

China has announced plans to construct the world's highest airport in Tibet, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

At 4436 m the Nagqu Daging Airport will be 102 m higher than Bamda Airport the current record holder, which is also in Tibet.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bxFc0h>

[9] US scientists demand government ban on mountaintop mining

January 7, 2010

Mountaintop mining should be banned for causing vast and permanent destruction to US environment and exposing its people to serious health consequences such as birth defects, a new study says today.

An article in the journal Science, by a team of 12 ecologists, hydrologists, and engineers, provides the most comprehensive analysis so far of the damage done by the controversial mining practice.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9mxkzO>

Events

[1] Global Land Project (GLP) Open Science Meeting: Land Systems, Global Change and Sustainability, 17-19 October 2010 at Arizona State University, USA.

More at: <http://www.glp2010.org>

[2] 14th Conference on Mountain Meteorology, 30 August – 3 September 2010, Lake Tahoe Vicinity, CA

Abstract Deadline: 16 April 2010

More at: <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201014mm.html>

[3] International conference Regionalization of Environmental Governance REGov, 16-18 June 2010, Geneva, Switzerland.

More at: <http://www.reg-observatory.org>

Announcements

[1] PhD & Postdoctoral Fellowships - Sustainable Development

Deadline for applications: February 28, 2010

Contact: fellowships@ias.unu.edu

More at: http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=6&ddlID=127

[2] Regional Project Coordinator for the project 'Establishment of a Regional Flood Information System in the HKH region' at ICIMOD, Nepal

Application deadline: February 15, 2010

More at: <http://www.icimod.org/?page=746>

[3] Poverty Environment Initiative Advisor at PEI Nepal

Application deadline: February 8, 2010

More at: <http://www.undp.org.np/vacancy/>

Resources

[1] State of the World Indigenous people, United Nations, 2009

Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP_web.pdf