

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Livelihood and Technology', Issue 8 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Asian water wrangles

February 8, 2010

Pollution and water scarcity threaten livelihoods in central south Asia. But, argues Michael Renner, international efforts could help to forge a solution.

The quantity and quality of available water play a crucial role in the politics of central-south Asia. Access to clean drinking water is a major, though largely unmet, objective and poor management lies at the heart of many problems.

Source: <http://bit.ly/a10SmL>

[2] Expert: Central Asia needs common energy system

February 12, 2010

An interconnection of energy systems is necessary in the Central Asian region, Tajik expert on water and energy problems in Central Asia Anvar Kamolidinov said.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are considering combining their energy systems, Kazakh Ambassador to Tajikistan Abutalip Akhmetov said at the news conference in Dushanbe.

Source: <http://bit.ly/dtB3xF>

[3] Hydropower construction company by 2012

February 8, 2010

Druk Green Power corporation's (DGPC), Bhutan planned hydropower construction company, once formed, will bid for a slice of the Nu 525 bn construction pie of the 10,000 MW projects.

The DGPC plan is to set up the construction company by 2012 with Nu 500 mn investments. The hydro construction company would initially be set up as subsidiary of DGPC, which would be holding a majority 51 percent of shares, in case of private participation, and also provide technical expertise like engineers, management, etc. to set up the company.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9LGX0v>

[4] Record slump in tourist arrivals

February 8, 2010

Tourist arrivals dropped in Bhutan by 15 percent in 2009 from the year before, prompting people in the industry to call it one of the worst slumps in recent years.

Arrivals fell to 23,480 in 2009, compared to 27,636 tourists in 2008, a drop of 4,156 tourists. Bhutan Tourism corporation ltd (BTCL), one of the major tourism companies, saw an almost 60 percent decrease in arrivals. BTCL received 1,200 tourists compared to 3,000 in 2008.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aNR54y>

[5] Peru: Women combine invention, tradition to improve rural diets

February 7, 2010

Although Huancavelica is the poorest region of Peru, it has more than just poverty, malnutrition and unmet needs. There are also women using their creativity, efforts and traditional indigenous knowledge to improve the diets of their families and communities.

The provincial capital of Huancavelica, in the rugged Andean highlands, is 450 km southeast of Lima, and Padre Rumi is a three hour drive away over a rough road.

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

[6] Nepal to finalise national wind policy

February 5, 2010

Nepal is set to finalise a draft national wind policy in the coming months, to harness wind energy's potential as a solution to its current energy crisis.

The policy, prepared by Nepal's national wind task force (NWTF), will be finalised in the next three months, said NWTF member Manoj Kumar Mishra at a national workshop on wind energy .

Source: <http://bit.ly/cAf6MT>

[7] UN agricultural agency aiding Peruvian alpaca farmers

February 5, 2010

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is rushing veterinary care to the rural population in the Peruvian Andes, where the Government has declared a state of emergency after two weeks of heavy rains.

Livestock farmers in the central and southern regions of Apurimac, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Puno and Cusco are in a serious crisis, according to FAO, as the rains threatened their means of

livelihood. These areas, home to alpaqueros – smallholders whose livelihoods depend completely on raising alpacas are most vulnerable to damage from heavy rains and snowfall in areas over 4,000 metres above sea level.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b0Rbc1>

[8] Lao PDR expanding electricity access, boosting power exports

February 5, 2010

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is helping Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) roll out new power lines in underserved areas which will help improve living standards and increase opportunities to export excess power to neighboring Thailand.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bivv3R>

[9] Kyrgyzstan: Where have all the men gone?

February 3, 2010

For generations, life in Temir Kanat has stood still. High in the Tian Shen mountains, 1,000 once-nomadic villagers lead the timeless life of the jailoo, the alpine pastures grazed by prized horse herds and stalked by tamed hunting eagles. It is an ancient existence which has withstood a succession of invaders, from the Mongol hordes to the armies of Soviet Russia.

With rural unemployment at epidemic levels and the once-booming economies of neighboring Russia and Kazakhstan sucking in migrant labourers, some 800,000 Kyrgyz, in particular men aged 18 to 35, have simply left.

Source: <http://bit.ly/8Z2M9o>

Events

[1] Forest landscapes and global change: New Frontiers in Management, Conservation and Restoration, 21 - 27 September, 2010, Bragança, Portugal

Abstract submission deadline: 22 February, 2010

More at: <http://www.ipb.pt/iufro2010/>

[2] Forum Carpathicum Integrating nature towards Sustainability, 15-17 September, 2010, Krakow, Poland

Abstract submission Deadline: 28 February, 2010

More at: <http://www.forumcarpathicum.org/DatesDeadlines.html>

[3] International Conference on Environmental Sustainability with Green Building Technology, 15 - 17 March, 2010, Chennai, India

More at: <http://www.icesgbt10.org/>

[4] 2nd Advanced Wind Technology and Investment Summit 2010, 13 - 14 May 2010, Jiangsu, China

Contact: catrionas@noppen.com.cn

More at: http://www.noppen.com.cn/events/2nd_Wind/2nd_Wind.asp

Announcements

[1] Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) –United nations University (UNU)

Fellowship Programme

Application Deadline: 28 February, 2010

More at: http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=6&ddlID=143

[2] Call for Abstracts: 13th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Commons , 10 - 14 January 2011, Hyderabad, India

Abstract submission deadline: 31 March, 2010

More at: <http://iasc2011.fes.org.in/index.php>

[3] Excellence scholarships for PhD students to participate in YES' PhD Program 'Global Food Security' at the University of Hohenheim, Germany

Application Deadline: 5 April, 2010

More at: <https://fsc.uni-hohenheim.de/79512.html>

[4] Regional Director Asia, SNV

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Closing Date: Until filled

More at: http://www.snvworld.org/en/jobs/intcareers/Documents/VN%205282%20-%20Regional%20Director%20Asia_external.pdf

Resources

[1] Asia Pacific Mountain Courier: Winter Vol. 10 No. 2, ICIMOD

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/678>