

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Livelihood and Technology', Issue 9 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] The global crisis of water scarcity

March 9, 2010

In recent years, climate change seems to have elbowed out other environmental issues to become the number one global problem. But the alarming world-wide water scarcity is an equally important issue, and an even more immediate threat.

A decade ago, it was predicted that a third of the world's population would be facing water scarcity by 2025. But this threshold has already been reached. Two billion people live in countries that are water-stressed. And by 2025, two-thirds of the world population may suffer water stress, unless current trends alter.

Source: <http://bit.ly/coXGI3>

[2] Improved Wood Stoves could improve air quality and health

March 10, 2010

Two billion people worldwide do their cooking on open fires, producing sooty pollution that shortens millions of lives and exacerbates global warming. If widely adopted, a new generation of inexpensive, durable cook stoves could go a long way toward alleviating this problem.

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

[3] Asia-Pacific has one of the world's worst gender gaps

March 8, 2010

While Asia and the Pacific can take pride in the region's vibrant economic transformation in recent decades, this has not translated into progress on gender equality.

Discrimination and neglect are threatening women's very survival in the Asia-Pacific region, where women suffer from some of the world's lowest rates of political representation, employment and property ownership. Their lack of participation is also depressing economic growth.

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

[4] Great Himalayan Trail: trekking's holy grail

March 11, 2010

Have you got six months off? Do you fancy a long walk? If so, World Expeditions may have just the holiday for you. They have become the only trekking outfit to offer a guided trip along the first completed section of the Great Himalayan Trail (GHT).

Stretching for 1,700km along the length of Nepal, the GHT will take you a mere 157 days to complete. You'll see eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000m, including Everest, and cross passes reaching up to 6,000m, climbing a total of 150,000m.

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

[5] Int'l scientists to launch environmental studies on "Third Pole"

March 8, 2010

International scientists are preparing to launch a joint study on the environment of the "Third Pole" region centered on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and neighboring areas, a Chinese scientist said.

Like the South and North Poles, environmental changes in the "Third Pole" has attracted increasing worldwide attention against the backdrop of concerns over global climate change, said Yao Tandong, director of the Institute of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Research with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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

[6] Everest climber Kenton Cool aims to break summit record

March 11, 2010

One of the world's best mountaineers, who lives in Gloucestershire, is about to set off on an expedition to climb Everest for a record time. Kenton Cool who lives in Fairford, is to climb the world's highest mountain for the eighth time - breaking his own British record.

Source: <http://bit.ly/94SHZj>

[7] Mount Rinjani proposed as UNESCO global geopark

March 9, 2010

Mount Rinjani, the 3,726 meter mountain is a unique site, may soon be classed as a geopark, a nationally protected area containing a number of geological heritage sites of importance. With the presence of crescent-shaped Segara Anak lake on its crater and active volcano Baru Jari nearby, Mount Rinjani is the second-highest volcano in the country after the 3,800-meter Mount

Kerinci in Sumatra. Its peak is located on the eastern part of the caldera, where a new active volcano has emerged.

Source: <http://bit.ly/92OL5p>

[8] Vietnam to get \$790 mln climate change funding

March 8, 2010

Vietnam has received \$790 million in pledges from donor countries and international organisations to devise measures to cope with climate change and curb carbon emissions, a state-run newspaper reported.

Vietnam is recognised as one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Floods, droughts and rising sea levels threaten the lives of millions of farmers and the yields from the country's top cash crops, rice and coffee.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9tGRC9>

[9] Impact of Ancient Indonesian Volcanic Eruption

March 8, 2010

The Toba super eruption occurred between 69,000 and 77,000 years ago at Lake Toba (present day Indonesia), and it is recognized as one of Earth's largest known eruptions. The related catastrophe theory holds that this super volcanic event plunged the planet into a 6 to 10 year volcanic winter, which resulted in the world's human population being reduced to 10,000 or even a mere 1,000 breeding pairs, creating a bottleneck in human evolution. Some researchers argue that the Toba eruption produced not only a catastrophic volcanic winter but also an additional 1,000 year cooling episode.

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

[10] China to move ahead on clean energy 'combustible ice'

March 6, 2010

China's western Qinghai Province, containing major deposits of the country's 'combustible ice,' will see increased explorations for this emerging clean energy, Provincial Governor Luo Huining said.

The plateau province plans to allow large energy companies along with researchers to tap this new source of energy while minimizing environmental threats, Luo said on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

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

Events

[1] Ecosystem Services, (IEEM Spring Conference), 24 March, 2010, London

More at: <http://www.ieemnet/ieemspringconference2010.asp>

[2] Seventh Annual Penn Future Watershed Workshop, 17 April, 2010, Philadelphia

More at: <http://my.pennfuture.org/site/Calendar/1384453531?view=Detail&id=104861>

[3] Seminar on Environmentally Sound Management of Banks of Ozone Depleting Substances, 14 June, 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

Contact: ozoneinfo@unep.org

More at: <http://ozone.unep.org/Events/meetings2010.shtml>

[4] 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, 28 June - 2 July, 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland

More at: <http://www.cfc2010.org/>

[5] Renewable Energy World Asia, 2 - 4 November, 2010, Singapore

More at: <http://www.powergenasia.com/index.html>

Announcements

[1] 2nd Call for Papers: 3rd worldwide online Climate Conference CLIMATE 2010

Deadline for abstract submission: 31 March, 2010

More at: <http://www.climate2010.net/>

[2] A UNEP position on 'Ecosystem Management Programme on Asia and Pacific' at Bangkok
Regional Programme Officer,

Application deadline: 8 April, 2010

Contact: recruitment@unon.org

[3] Call for applications: Environmental Accounting: Externality Valuation and Input-Output
Tools for Policy Analysis, 11- 17 July, 2010, Venice

Deadline for applications: 1 April, 2010

Contact: exiopol@feem.it

More at: <http://www.feem-project.net/exiopol/>

[4] Scholarships for MSc in Climate Change & Development/Climate Change & Policy

Deadline for application: Open

More at: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/climatechange>

Resources

[1] Beyond Barriers: The Gender Implications of Trade Liberalization in Southeast Asia, IISD, 2010

Available at: <http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/research/pub.aspx?id=1233>

[2] Environment and Energy screening tools and guidelines to Support the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into development assistance – a Stocktaking report, United nations development Programme, 2010

Available at: http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=2386947