

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Livelihood and Technology', Issue 10 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] These rice are not for sale

April 27, 2010

In isolated mountain communities in Southeast Asia, upland rice (a dry field crop like wheat) is traditionally grown on sloping fields, yielding barely enough grain to feed the family that grows it.

Source: <http://bit.ly/csXJ5k>

[2] Saving Himalayas from climate catastrophe

April 26, 2010

Climate change is affecting the Arctic and the Himalayas more severely than other places of the globe. Though lately drawn into controversy, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th assessment report predicted that the Himalayas would lose its entire snow by 2035.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aQP3p7>

[3] 20,000 Tourists Visit Re-Opened Machu Picchu

April 26, 2010

Close to 20,000 tourists visited the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu during the first two weeks of April, when the archaeological complex was reopened to the public after being closed for two months because of torrential rains, Peru's National Culture Institute, or INC, said Monday.

Source: <http://bit.ly/d7nRgq>

[4] Volcanic disruptions

April 25, 2010

The eruption of the tongue-twisting Icelandic volcano, Eyjafjallajokull - which translated into English means 'island-mountain glacier' - severely disrupted a large chunk of the world's aviation system for over a week.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b5cf6N>

[5] Leh region receives fresh snowfall, locals fear crop damage

April 25, 2010

Leh region of Jammu and Kashmir has received light to moderate snowfall on its higher reaches. Snowfall also lashed other high altitude areas of the region including Kargil, Changthang, Zangskar and Nubra valley.

It disturbed the normal life besides affecting road and air traffic in the remote Himalayan region.

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

[6] First SAARC level micro hydropower center set up in Nepal

April 20, 2010

The first South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) level micro hydropower center has been set up in Nepal with the help of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the center will be made autonomous, though kept under alternative energy promotion center at present.

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

[7] Scientists develop sensor to predict freak weather, from flash flooding to landslides

April 19, 2010

In the fight against climate change, scientists have created a sensor that can alert us to freak weather.

When the town of Cockermouth, Cumbria, was hit by floods late last year, the freak weather led to deaths and serious injuries, and caused huge damage to thousands of homes and businesses. People from all around the UK watched the disaster and called for greater prioritisation of flood defences.

Source: <http://bit.ly/clvpF3>

[8] Everest expedition to clean world's highest garbage dump

April 19, 2010

An expedition of twenty Nepali climbers will head out this week to clean what's known as the world's highest garbage dump. Located above 8,000 meters (26,246 feet) in the "death zone" of Mount Everest, it's named for its notoriously oxygen-poor air, freezing temperatures and dangerous terrain. Since the first successful ascent of the world's tallest summit by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953, Everest has become a proverbial dump, carrying an estimated 50 tons of trash generated by the 4,000 climbers who have followed since.

Source: <http://bit.ly/98b9YM>

[9] Women climbers in close race for highest peaks

April 19, 2010

Two of the world's top female climbers are vying to become the first woman to conquer the world's 14 highest mountains.

The rivals and their teams are each preparing to make an assault on their final peaks - and either could win.

Source: <http://bit.ly/cd1IAZ>

[10] Proposed wind power grid to make wind power more reliable

April 14, 2010

The energy needs of the entire human population could potentially be met by converting wind energy to electricity by means of wind turbines. While offshore wind power resources are abundant, wind turbines are currently unable to provide steady power due to natural fluctuations in wind direction and strength.

Source: <http://bit.ly/90zhtj>

[11] Kashmir opens 100 peaks in Himalayas to tourists

April 10, 2010

In an effort to persuade potential tourists to forget its recent troubled history, state authorities in Kashmir have announced that more than 100 high altitude peaks previously off-limits to foreigners are to be opened to all.

Source: <http://bit.ly/d9RHHj>

[12] Future funding for agricultural research uncertain

March 31, 2010

Financial donors to a global network of 15 agricultural research centres want changes to the way the influential group plans to reshape its research programme. The tensions, voiced at a conference in Montpellier, France, raise questions over future funding for the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), which supports thousands of scientists working on agriculture and food security in developing countries.

Source: <http://bit.ly/949cye>

Events

[1] E-discussion on Biodiversity and Gender in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, 3 - 21 May 2010

Contact: tmahat@icimod.org

More at: <http://bit.ly/bKhCiv>

[2] MRI Workshop on global change research in mountain regions, 7 May 2010, Vienna, AT MRI workshop

More at: <http://bit.ly/aAJHul>

[3] Forestry, Biomass & Sustainability 2010, 13 - 14 May, 2010 London

Contact: conferences@environmental-finance.com

More at: <http://bit.ly/9nTEsE>

[4] 'Romanian rural tourism in the context of sustainable development, Present and prospects' 28 - 29 May 2010, Romania

Contact: alyhaller@yahoo.com

More at: <http://bit.ly/bHdMQK>

[5] South Eastern European Mountain Research and Global Change– Strategy Development and Networking Conference, 26 - 29 August 2010, Timisoara, Romania

Contact: florentina.popescu@cbg.uvt.ro

More at: <http://bit.ly/bH75qj>

[6] Eurosun 2010, International Conference on Solar heating, Cooling and buildings, 28 September - 1 October 2010, Graz, Austria

More at: <http://bit.ly/cAHped>

Announcements

[1] Call for submissions: ICIMOD Photo Contest on Mountain Biodiversity

Submission deadline: 10 May 2010

Contact: photocontest@icimod.org

More at: <http://bit.ly/9f51wB>

[2] Call for applications: Liu Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship Energy, Climate and Development

Application deadline: 14 May 2010

Contact: sally.reay@ubc.ca

More at: <http://bit.ly/cXRFnQ>

[3] Sir Partha Dasgupta Research and Writing Fellowship in Environment and Development Economics

Application deadline: 20 May 2010

Contact: application.sandee@gmail.com

More at: <http://bit.ly/bldyso>

[4] 4th International Conference of the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture , 16-19 December 2010, Western Australia

Proposal submission deadline: 30 July 2010

Contact: issrnc2010@gmail.com

More at: <http://bit.ly/d2G9qh>

[5] Center for sustainable development: Online Learning Catalogue; Summer and Fall 2010

Application deadline: open

More at: <http://bit.ly/cmdy00>

Resources

[1] 'Building Capacity in Communication and ICT Applications for Community-Based Adaptation' - Proceedings III Conference on CBA

Available at: <http://bit.ly/begt4o>

[2] Nexus for ICTs, Climate Change and Development Resource Table

Available at: <http://bit.ly/alWaMN>

[3] Remoteness, Exclusion and Telecentres in Mountain Regions: Analysing ICT-Based "Information Chains" in Pazos, Peru, 2009

Available at: <http://bit.ly/ch06n9>

Some organisations working in Mountain livelihood and Technology issues

[1] The Mountain Institute: Washington D.C.

URL: <https://www.mountain.org/index.cfm>

[2] Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information System (MENRIS), ICIMOD, Nepal

URL: <http://geoportal.icimod.org/Applications/GeneralContentList.aspx?gcid=7&gscid=28>

[3] The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

URL: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/>

[4] Central Asian Mountain Partnership, Kazakhstan

URL: <http://www.camp.kg/>

[5] G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, India

URL: <http://gbpihed.gov.in/>

[6] Rural Reconstruction Nepal, Nepal

URL: <http://www.rrn.org.np/>

[7] Mountain Area research institute of the Hebei province, China

URL: <http://tch.hebau.edu.cn/zhuye/sys/>

[8] Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association, Thailand

Contact: impect@cm.ksc.co.th

[9] Mountain Partnership

URL: <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/>

[10] Pragya, Heritage Based Livelihoods in the Eastern Himalayas

URL: <http://pragya.org/index.htm>