



Daily brief – by the
participants,
for the participants



ICIMOD



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FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Our Voice

...Connecting Green Youth



Photo: Nabin Baral, ICIMOD

Warming planet: Melting glaciers and shrinking biodiversity

- **Jeeban Panthi, Nepal**

"Area of higher altitudes in the Hindu-Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region is warming faster than lower altitudes", Dr. Arun Bhakta, Climate Change Scientist, presented the facts with some scary figures of temperature rise projected by IPCC. Melting of glaciers can be taken as an indicator of changing climate. He showed that some of the glaciers are advancing like those from Karakoram but most of others are shrinking. A recent study in the glaciers in Nepal shows that the number of glaciers is increasing by 9 % with continuous fragmentation but the area is reduced by 20 %. He showed a contradictory projection of IPCC in glaciers melting in Himalayan region and suggested the participants to be careful while referencing the source in climate change facts. He also explained different types of glaciers available in the area and their morphology.

Nexus between climate change and biodiversity was presented by Dr. Nakul Chettri. He started his presentation with various components of biodiversity as ecosystem diversity, agro-biodiversity, cultural diversity etc. The biodiversity increases with increase in cultural diversity as people's food preference and lifestyle increases with diverse culture. He summarized the value of biodiversity as supporting, provisioning, regulatory and cultural. In the HKH region, the western part is arid and semi-arid thereby comprising less biological diversity than the eastern wetter part. He highlighted the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity as change in state of ecosystem and their goods and services, phenology, agro-biodiversity, productivity, food security, vegetation shifting.

Highlights of the day

For the Role playing activity participants were divided into eight groups with different roles like government, academia, NGO, media, community, private sectors, and donor agencies. They had given a hypothetical scenario of agriculture damage by intense rainfall. They identified their role, existing information and information missing. Each group found their potential group for cooperation and explored the way of mutual cooperation.

Use of mobile technology for data generation was presented by Anjesh Tuladhar, YIPL. He shared the growing mobile technology that can be used for capturing pictures and analyzing them to know the environmental condition of particular location.

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Climate Change offers us opportunities to begin to re-conceptualize development pathways.

-Ajay Dixit



Participant asking question to Nakul Chettri about his presentation

Youth Learning ABC D....RR

-Dipesh Chapagain, Nepal

Second day of the Forum mainly focused on technical aspect of growing environmental challenges. Ms. Bidya Banmali Pradhan, ICIMOD, shared that the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) is one of the major environmental problems in the South Asian region which has the trans-boundary effect. Mr. Kamran Hussain, a participant from Pakistan, shared that the atmosphere was totally hazy and could not see the ground during his flight to attend youth forum. ABC is the mixture of primary pollutants (CO, SO_x, NO_x) and secondary pollutants (O₃) in small water droplets.

Ms. Pradhan also shared about the Black Carbon (BC) and according to her; BC is contributing for 30 % of the current global warming. The source of BC is mainly the biomass burning in Asian countries which covers 56 % of the global emission. She added that China and India alone are contributing for 30 % and 10 % of the global BC emission respectively. She highlighted that the BC have major impact on glaciers melting because of its heat absorbing property. However, the BC have short lifespan ranging from few days to week, so its mitigation can have immediate contribution in reducing of global warming and melting icecaps. She shared that the ABC and BC have impacts on water budget, human health and agriculture as well.

In next presentation, Mr. Hari Krishna and Mr. Vijaya Khadki from ICIMOD

shared on Disaster Risk Management (DRM). Mr. Hari Krishna mentioned that the natural disaster is occurring since historical time; however, the climate change is accelerating its frequency and severity. According to him, the average number of disaster events is increasing rapidly. They also shared some successful practices on DRM from India, Nepal and other parts. Finally, they stated that the community empowerment can be much powerful in coping with a catastrophe than individual efforts.



Participant's Impression

The presentation by a climate change specialist, Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha, about the Warming Planet and Melting Glaciers during the Asia Pacific Youth Forum 2011 was very informative to me. I used to hear about it in the geographic class when I was in high school 5 years ago. Cambodia doesn't have glacier so the concerns of climate change in Cambodia go to diesel uses, deforestation, pollution, water shortage, plastic uses and some other human activities.

-Tith Chandara, Cambodia

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