

2007 Nobel Laureate **Dr Rajendra K Pachauri** will talk about climate change in the Himalayan region and the way forward

ICIMOD is proud to announce a Knowledge Forum with Dr Rajendra Pachauri, a figure so renowned that he requires little introduction. Dr Pachauri is Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a New Delhi based global think tank working on the intersection of energy, environment, and development. As Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr Pachauri was co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize on IPCC's behalf, sharing that honour with former Vice President of the United States Al Gore.

The Nobel Prize recognised the IPCC – an intergovernmental body that provides a clear scientific view on the current state of climate change and its potential consequences – for helping to put climate change squarely on the global political map. In 2007, the IPCC issued its Fourth Assessment Report, which states that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal”, and that “most of the global average warming over the past 50 years is very likely due to increases in anthropogenic greenhouse gases”.

Dr Pachauri also chairs the Board of Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate and Society. He is Director of the Yale Climate and Energy Institute. He has won numerous awards for his exemplary leadership over the years, not least as a global spokesperson for action on climate change. In January 2008, the President of India conferred on Dr Pachauri the 'Padma Vibhushan' – one of India's highest civilian awards – in recognition of his services in the field of science and engineering.

At the ICIMOD Knowledge Forum, Dr Pachauri will speak about climate change in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region. The HKH has been identified as a major data gap region, owing to the fact that routine data collection in mountainous regions is often hampered by highly inaccessible terrain, harsh climatic conditions, and lack of investments in long-term scientific research. The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report stated that data for the HKH region are insufficient for any realistic climate assessment, and therefore underscored the need to ramp up climate change monitoring and research in the region. This is absolutely critical given that the HKH region not only serves as the 'Water Tower of Asia' for some 1.3 billion people – a fifth of the world's population – but is also home to about 40 per cent of the poorest people of the world.

Title: Climate Change in the Himalayan Region and the Way Forward

Date: 4 September 2011, 17:30 (doors open at 17:00)

Venue: ICIMOD Headquarters, Khumaltar, Lalitpur (Kathmandu)

ICIMOD's occasional Knowledge Forum series is intended to foster scientific discussion on issues of mountain concern and to share global, regional, and member country knowledge and perspectives with stakeholders and interested persons.

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