

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **India-ICIMOD Week 2015** ***Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development***

(14 December 2015, New Delhi, India)

The India-ICIMOD Week 2015, *Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development* from 11 to 15 December started off with an inaugural programme on the morning of 11 December 2015 at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The guests of honour, Mr Hem Pande, Special Secretary of the MoEF&CC, and Dr SS Negi, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, highlighted the need for learning from best practices in the mountains and action towards climate change.

During the opening session, Prof. Jayant Bandyopadhyay, Jawaharlal Nehru University, delivered a keynote address, 'Our Mountains, Our Future', underscoring the significance of mountains, particularly the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), in development discourse.

This week-long event is being organized by the MoEF&CC, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), and ICIMOD and attended by participants from government agencies, academic and research institutions, international development organizations, local NGO partners, diplomats, the private sector, and the media.

The event aims to highlight ICIMOD's engagement in India by profiling partners' work and creating opportunities to network with a range of stakeholders, including policy makers and members of the private sector. To augment partners' engagement in various programmes and activities in India, 28 exhibition stalls are showcasing mountain products and sharing mountain technologies.

Five technical sessions are being held over the five-day event, culminating in a special session, 'Indian Himalayan Region: A Way Forward', on 15 December in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of the MoEF&CC.

The first technical session on Transboundary Landscapes focused on understanding the significance of transboundary cooperation in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region and profiled learning from the transboundary landscape approach, particularly experience in the Kailash Sacred Landscape.

Discussions during the sessions have highlighted the need to establish a learning mechanism at the national level on transboundary landscape initiatives; to assess incentive-based mechanisms across the IHR for policy uptake; to standardize packages and practices and promote domestic certification; to promote customized technologies; and to monitor natural resource governance.

The second technical session, 'Managing Change: Strengthening skill development for promotion of Mountain Goods and Services', highlighted the risks and vulnerabilities from climate change, and partners showcased approaches and initiatives on adaptation to change. Innovative technologies, like a community based flood early warning system installed in Lakhimpur District, Assam, have helped save lives and property and have prepared women as risk managers to reduce losses from flash floods. It also highlighted the need to increase investment for capacity building and support through enabling policies.

On 15 December, in the concluding session, the Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC, will be launching *Climate+Change Indian Himalayan Region: Our Mountains, Our Future*, an unprecedented, long-term collaborative initiative for actions to strengthen a resilient Climate Smart Community across the Indian Himalayan region. Combining outreach, documentation, creative expression, exhibition, dialogues, and education around climate-related issues, the initiative aims to provide a platform for innovative solutions to the challenge of living in a time of rapid transition. All of this will take the form of an evolving exhibition co-created with the communities it travels to. Yet it will be far more than a participatory exhibition of stories and diverse knowledge. *Climate+Change* will cut across local, linguistic, cultural, and geographic boundaries to facilitate innovation toward climate-related adaptation and climate change mitigation. By convening diverse stakeholders through discussion, dialogues, storytelling, artistic expression and educational programmes, it will facilitate a synthesis of knowledge.

A second meet of parliamentarians from Himalayan states will also be held, chaired by the Hon'ble Minister.

The entire programme is dedicated to the celebration International Mountain Day 2015, which falls on 11 December 2015. This year's International Mountain Day theme is *Promoting Mountain Products for Better Livelihoods*.