

#ArcticHKH

The first Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya

6–9 September 2023

www.icimod.org/arctichkh

About the conference

The [Arctic Centre](#) of the University of Lapland and ICIMOD are jointly organising the first Inter-Polar Conference in collaboration with the [UArctic Chair](#) in Arctic Legal Research and Education, and the [Law Thematic Network](#).

The Arctic and the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, both contain important elements of the cryosphere, the near-permanent presence of water in a frozen state. However, as temperatures in both regions are currently increasing, these areas are rapidly thawing, and several elements of the cryosphere are possibly at tipping points.

Changes in the cryosphere will have major impacts on local communities and ecosystems, and also lead to larger-scale changes: the rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers and changes in snowpack will have significant regional effects related to the provision of water to a quarter of humanity, and the melting of cryosphere in the Arctic will contribute significantly to global sea level rise, affecting the 10% of humanity living within 10 m of sea level, as well as global trade as docks and other infrastructure at sea level are affected.

The interlinked aspect of the cryosphere thaw and climate change has been evidenced as crucial in promoting polar science. However, the Arctic and Third Pole are almost always considered separately, demonstrating very little knowledge about the commonalities, links, and differences between both regions, especially concerning geo-political, socio-cultural, environmental, and legal dynamics of effects of and responses to these changes.

Objectives

- Discuss inter-polar perspectives from both Arctic and the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, and scope out the possibilities of creating an inter-polar knowledge network bringing experts from both regions
- Better understand climate change-driven impacts on the regions and help prepare scholars and stakeholders to develop an in-depth understanding of sustainability in both regions

AGENDA

DAY 01: 6 September, 2023

Venue: Kailash hall, ICIMOD

Time (NPT)	Programme
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
Inaugural plenary session	
Moderator: Pradyumna JB Rana , Climate Change Adaptation and Governance Analyst, ICIMOD	
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Strategic Group Lead, Reducing climate and environmental risks <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kamrul Hossain, Director of NIEM at the Arctic Centre & UArctic Chair (Law) <p>Introduction to the Arctic: a holistic way of looking to the Arctic region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Markku Heikkilä, Head of Science Communication, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland <p>UArctic and its thematic networks and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kirsi Latola, Vice-President TN, University of the Arctic <p>#SaveOurSnow: A science-communication campaign for a cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Annie Dare, Head of Communications, ICIMOD
11:00 – 11:30	Group photo, tea break, and networking
Keynote session	
Moderator: Udayan Mishra , Communications Officer, ICIMOD	
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Keynote 1: Arctic governance amidst geopolitical tensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Timo Koivurova, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland <p>Keynote 2: Science, technology, and resilience building in the face of climate change in the Himalayas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser, Department of Science and Technology Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board, Government of India (Virtual) <p>Keynote 3: Building climate resilience of vulnerable communities in the face of cryospheric change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aisha Khan, Chief Executive, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Pakistan
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30	Breakout session 1 Cryosphere – Theory, Ideas and practice	
Panel 1 Venue: Kailash Chair: Deepshikha Sharma	Panel 2 Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Avash Pandey	Panel 3 Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden
Kamrul Hossain Cryosphere: Legitimising deconstruction of the normative structure of international law? Reference to the Arctic and the Third Pole	Medy Dervovic Melting Boundaries in the Cryosphere: Connecting Arctic Baselines and Himalayan Land Borders	Suman Chakrabarty People's Perception on Climate Variability in the Sub-Himalayan Regions: A Case Study among the Rabha Tribe in West Bengal State of India
Ranjan Datta Climate change and disaster research from indigenous perspective - Lessons to be learned from the Arctic	Shazzad Mohashin Inuit Jurisdiction in the Arctic: An Assemblage Encounters Sovereignty	Marlene Payva Almonte Rethinking nature in a climate-changing world: An Inter-Polar perspective
Ayushi Nirola How much can the hills hold? - Perspectives on transformation of a Tiny Sikkim Himalayan State	Daniel Stein 20th Century Polar Literature	Tom Tshering Lepcha Effects of Climate Change, Resilience and Sustainability among Lepcha Indigenous Community in the Sikkim Himalayas: Challenges and Opportunities
Margot Hurlbert Indigenous rights and time of the Anthropocene	Deo Raj Gurung Assessment to inform adaptation actions in high mountains geographies of Central Asia – AKAH's pilot study	Raushan Tara Jaswal Arctic Amplification and its Impacts on Indian Summer Monsoon: Navigating Climate Vulnerabilities and Collaborative Conservation
15.30–16.00	Tea Break	

Panel 4 Venue: Kailash	Panel 5 Venue: Tirich Mir	Panel 6 Venue: Hkakabo Razi
Chair: Pradyumna Rana	Chair: Babar Khan	Chair: Medy Dervovic
Laura Junka-Aikio Military use of Indigenous lands: on the colonial dimensions of militarization of the Arctic	Marco Volpe Comparative analysis of science diplomacy in the Arctic and in the third pole	Asylbek Aidaraliev et al. Consolidation of Institutional, Regional and Global Cooperation for Global Sustainable Mountain Development
Trym Eiterjord Toward an Inter-Polar Epistemic Community: Navigating Science Diplomacy and Geopolitics	Tapas Ranjan Chakraborty Communicating Science with Mass Community in Rural Bangladesh	Ahmed Nawaz Linking conservation with socio-economic benefits of local communities: An analysis of resources regimes of Central Karakoram National Park, Pakistan
Shreya Sinni Assessing the Social Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods in the HKH Region: The Role of Communication in Advancing the SDG13	Avash Pandey Institutionalizing regional cooperation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya	Binita Verma Challenges to Peace and Stability in the Arctic: Role of the Arctic Council
Eleni Kavvatha Melting: Linkages, Similarities, and Best Practices on Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation from Indigenous Communities in the Arctic and the Himalayan Region		Tanuja The role of adaptation policy and governance in addressing climate change in himalayas

=== End of Day 1 ===

DAY 2: 7 September, 2023

09:00 – 09:15	Day 2 opening plenary, and tea
Venue: Kailash	Introductory presentation on Living Mountain Lab - Surendra Joshi , Head, Living Mountain Lab, ICIMOD

09:15 – 10:45	Breakout session 3 Melting glaciers and water
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Panel 7 Venue: Kailash Chair: Pem Kandel	Panel 8 Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Aisha Khan	Panel 9 Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden
Hasina Spiritual ecology of Glaciers: A case study of Gilgit Baltistan	Khusboo Sharma & Pramod Kumar Snowfall Shift and Precipitation Variability over Sikkim Himalaya Attributed to Elevation Dependent Warming.	Suhail A. Lone Basin-wise dependence of streamflow on meltwater in Upper Indus Basin, western Himalayas
Sewa Bhattarai Love for the mountains in songs of Himalayan communities	Aman Kumar Analysing the Spatiotemporal Evolution and Transitions of Dry and Wet Events in the Upper Indus Basin for Water Resource Management.	Surbhi Vyas Assessing climate-related risks at the district level: A profile of Sikkim, India
Tanmay Dhar Calibration of WRF-Hydro for Bhagirathi-Alaknanda basin	Shristy Kayastha Assessment of wastewater treatment Plant at Dhulikhel Hospital	Kabiraj Rokaya Estimating Glacier Velocity and Understanding Climate Change Impacts in the Nepalese Himalayas
Mohd. Sayed Ul Hasan Pixel Based Assessment of Future Trend and Directional Distribution of Precipitation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Under Changing Climatic Condition	Shaheena Gulam Assessing Cryosphere Contributions to Streamflow in the Upper Indus Basin: Insights from Stable Isotope Analysis	Anna Maria and Roger Norum Growing Glaciers – Validating Indigenous Expertise
10:45 – 11:00	Tea break	

11:00 – 12:30		Breakout session 4 Polar perspectives	
Panel 10 Venue: Kailash Chair: Medy Dervovic		Panel 11 Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Marco Volpe	
Sara Fusco Negating “ecological grief”: Reposition of Indigenous Environmental Rights in constitutional law: A reference to Arctic Constitutions.		Balasubramanian C Emerging Geopolitical and Environmental Challenges: China's Impact in the Arctic and Himalayas	
Suprita Suman Reflection of Interpolar Connectivity of the North Pole and the Third Pole: Envisioning through the Prism of Science, Law and Geopolitics		Federico Prizzi Italian Scientific Research between the Arctic and the Third Pole-Himalaya - A winning example of Cultural Diplomacy among the ice	
Pratap Bikram Khand Thakuri Preventing Transboundary Harm in the Third Pole: Prospects of Modelling the Arctic Practice for the Himalayas		Yitong Chen What Can We Learn from the Arctic Governance to Protect the Third Pole?	
Tiina Seppälä Entangling Global South/Arctic: Disaster Social Work for Sustainable Development in the Himalayan Region		Kanagavalli Suryanarayanan India's unique role as a ' Tripolar state' in connecting the Arctic and the Third Pole	
		Panel 12 Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden	
		Akriti Sharma Security Perspectives from the Arctic and the Third Pole: A Case for Cooperation	
		Sanna Kopra The Role of China in Polar Geopolitics, especially in the Arctic	
		Monila Limboo Saving the Sacred Groves: A case study of Devithans in the Sikkim Himalayas	
		Rajan Kotru Indo German Development Cooperation Programme - GOPA Consultants Worldwide International CTA	

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 17:00	Excursion to ICIMOD’s Living Mountain Lab This excursion will include a guided tour of ICIMOD’s Living Mountain Lab, which is located at Godavari (30-minute drive from the ICIMOD headquarters premises). The tour will take around 1 hour of slow hiking through a hilly forest landscape, observing the demonstration of sustainable technologies for mountains. Please come prepared with comfortable outdoor clothing, and a pair of hiking shoes!
Prior registration required: https://hkh.pub/LMLVisit2023	
Max capacity: 75-80	

=== End of Day 2 ===

DAY 3: 8 September, 2023

09:00 – 09:15	Day 3 opening plenary, and tea
Venue: Kailash	

09:30 – 11:00		Breakout session 5 The role of science and technology in changing polar landscapes		
Panel 13 Venue: Kailash Chair: Marco Volpe		Panel 14 Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Medy Dervovic		Panel 15 Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Arun Bhakta Shrestha
Sher Muhammad Malik Impact of Climate Change on Irrigation Water in the Hindu Kush-Karakorum-Himalayas: A Case Study of Irrigation Water Management in Village Kushum, Pakistan		Michelle Blade Two-eyed seeing: pairing of permafrost science with Indigenous knowledge for enhanced characterization of Nunavut, Canada permafrost and changing permafrost landscape dynamics		Bishnu Maya K.C. Bamboo based eco-rehabilitation technology in Siwalik (Churia) hills: A low cost climate change resilience technology to mitigate the cryosphere thawing
Nitish Mondal Climate sustainability and its impact on health from the perspective of the Sikkim Himalaya		Saeeda Estimation of above ground biomass of a forest area in bunerswat to evaluate their environmental significance in combating climate change		Namdu Lhamo Thermal Performance of Different Building Typology in Thimphu
Albert van Wijngaarden Desperate times require desperate measures?: Technoscientific interventions to mitigate cryospheric decline in the Arctic and the Third Pole		Archana Bawari Assessment of Aerosol Characteristics and its Impact on Radiative Forcing Over the Central Himalayan Region		Surjeet Singh Randhawa Multi-Sensor Capability to Map the Climate Induced Hazard Threat in parts of Upper Indus Basin from Himachal and Trans Himalayan Region of Tibetan Catchment, India
Zhanna Anshukova Advancing Regional Sustainability: Exploring the Strength of Scientific and Educational Collaboration in Climate, Cryosphere, and Community Resilience through the Arctic Five				Sidra Tul Muntaha Satellite-based Analysis of Drought and Heat Wave Events in Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Pakistan
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break			

11:30 – 13:00		Breakout session 6 Life on Thawing Land	
Panel 16 Venue: Kailash Chair: Mandira Shrestha		Panel 17 Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Sonam Chuki	
Panel 18 Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Neera Shrestha Pradhan			
Narayan Gautam An overview of climate change and water resources: special case of Nepal		Anna Sinisalo Changing cryosphere- changing values – a case study from the Arctic to Himalaya	
Gunjan Ghimire Regional Cooperation Among Youths Towards Shaping Climate Resilience		Laxman Khatri Climate Change, Food Security, and Migration: Nepal's Interconnected Challenges	
Sudarshan Prasad Regmi Valuation of Common Property Resource – The Pastureland a Means of Livelihood Security in Nepal		Sangay Diki Bhutia Climate Change and Religious Practices with Special reference to the Eastern Himalayas	
Jose Edgardo Gomez Jr Urbanization and a Warmer Third Pole: Climate Change and Strategic Responses of Nepalese Cities		Gh Jeelani Permafrost: An important component of the cryospheric system in the Upper Indus Basin	
Yashika Subba Tea gardens of Darjeeling Hills in changing climate		Govinda Choudhury Climate change, vulnerability and rural livelihood diversification in the Himalayan region of Eastern India	
Anusree Ghosh Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods and Culture in the Meghalaya Foothill Wetlands located in Bangladesh			

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Closing session Moderator: Udayan Mishra
	Closing remarks - Albert van Wijngaarden , Visiting Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland Vote of thanks - Pem Narayan Kandel , Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD
14:30 – 16:00	Interactive networking, and Tea

=== End of the conference ===

DAY 4: 9 September, 2023
Departure from Kathmandu