



**Upper Indus Basin Network  
5<sup>th</sup> Regional Annual Meeting  
November 12-15, 2024, Chengdu, China**

**About the meetings**

ICIMOD, serving as the secretariat for the Upper Indus Basin Network (UIBN), is organizing the 5th Regional UIBN Annual Meeting (RUAM) from 12-15 November 2024, preceded by the 9th Regional Strategic Committee (RSC) meeting on 12 November 2024. According to the UIBN governance framework, the RUAM convenes annually to review progress, address emerging challenges, and explore opportunities within the country chapters, while the RSC meets biannually to align the network's strategic direction with evolving needs and contexts. A primary objective of this year's RUAM is to conduct an authors' workshop aimed at developing and drafting chapters for the Indus River Basin Assessment, which will provide an overview of the basin's status in terms of hydrology, disaster risks, resource development, and ecosystems for advancing integrated basin-wise management and cooperation. These two meetings will be held in conjunction with the International Mountain Forum (IMF) in Chengdu, China from 11-15 November 2024, to highlight the work of the UIBN. The meetings are organized by ICIMOD's Action Area A: Managing Cryosphere and Water Risks under Strategic Group (SG) 1: Reducing Climate and Environment Risks, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government of Norway.

**The key objectives of the RUAM are:**

- Disseminate new and relevant research on the UIB
- Conduct an authors' workshop for the Indus River Basin Assessment
- Explore opportunities to engage and support country chapters in the UIBN

**The key objectives of the RSC meeting are:**

- Provide guidance for the Indus River Basin Assessment and dissemination plan
- Discuss the arrangements for the next RSC meeting

**Background**

The Upper Indus Basin (UIB) shared by Afghanistan, China, India, and Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change impacts considering the large downstream dependence on the upstream for water resources. The UIBN was established in 2014 and

expanded in 2018 to all the riparian countries by key stakeholders from these countries. UIBN is a voluntary and neutral knowledge and research network which aims to foster coordination among the stakeholders in research related to climate, cryosphere, water, hazards and vulnerability, and adaptation. It plays an important role in bringing together representatives of relevant government and non-government organizations, academia and policy makers to promote a shared understanding of regional challenges and opportunities and joint solutions to deal with the effects of climate change on water resources, water-induced hazards, and upstream/downstream linkages.

More on UIBN: <https://www.icimod.org/initiative/about-uibn/>.

## Day 1 (12 Nov)

International Mountain Forum  
Academic Hall, IMHE-CAS

### 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Strategic Committee Meeting

12 November 2024, Chengdu, China

All timings are in China Standard Time

Venue: Room 823, IMHE-CAS, Chengdu, China

## Agenda

Time	Activity	
10:50–11:00	Registration	
11:00–11:15	<b>Opening session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap of the decisions and actions of the last RSC meeting – <b>Arun Bhakta Shrestha</b>, ICIMOD</li> <li>Objectives of the meeting – <b>Faisal Qamer Mueen</b>, ICIMOD</li> </ul>	Facilitator: <b>Faisal Qamer Mueen</b> , RRB Intervention Manager, ICIMOD  Rapporteur:
11:15– 11:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the expectations and give suggestions for the Indus Basin Assessment Writeshop</li> </ul>	
11:40– 12:00	<b>Discussion session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring activeness and sustainability of country chapters: How to keep country chapter members active? What strategies can make country chapters sustainable?</li> </ul>	Facilitator: <b>Arun Bhakta Shrestha</b> , Strategic Group Lead, SG 1: Reducing climate and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next RSC meeting: Decide on the next RSC meeting, and discuss meeting agenda, dates, and venue.</li> <li>• AOB</li> </ul>	environmental risks, ICIMOD Rapporteur: <b>Rongkun Liu</b> , Analyst, ICIMOD
<b>12:00-12:10</b>	<b>Remarks by RSC Chair</b>  <b>Vote of thanks – Arun Bhakta Shrestha</b>	

## Day 2 (13 Nov)

### 5<sup>th</sup> Regional UIBN Annual Meeting

All timings are in China Standard Time

Venue: Room 823, IMHE-CAS, Chengdu, China

Time	Activity	Responsible
<b>9:00–9:30</b>	Registration	
<b>9:30–10:00</b>	Welcome remarks – Arun Bhakta Shrestha, SG1 Lead, ICIMOD Welcome remarks – He Daming, UIBN RSC Chair  Background, objectives, and review (of last meetings) – Arun Bhakta Shrestha, SG1 Lead, ICIMOD	Facilitator: <b>Faisal Qamer Mueen</b> , RRB Intervention Manager, ICIMOD
<b>10:00–10:40</b>	Session I: Country chapter’s experiences, progress, and plans  UIBN Afghanistan Chapter UIBN China Chapter UIBN India Chapter UIBN Pakistan Chapter	
<b>10:40–11:00</b>	Group photo and tea break	
<b>11:00–12:30</b>	Session II: Experiences and new research findings from the Indus Basin  Scientific presentations by from Afghanistan 1. Valuation of Ecosystem Services in Afghanistan- An Assessment of the Past and Future, Omaid Najmuddin, Fujian University of Technology	Facilitator: <b>Rongkun Liu</b> , Analyst, ICIMOD

	<p>Scientific presentations from China</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Characterizing the Behavior of Glaciers in the Karakoram Anomaly Region, Liu Shiyin, Yunnan University</li> <li>2. A Review of Glacial Hazards in Xinjiang Over Past Seventy Years, Shangguan Donghui, NIEER-CAS</li> </ol> <p>Scientific presentations from India</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Glacier's health under changing climatic conditions case studies from the Baspa, Ravi and Beas basins of Himachal Pradesh, tributaries of the Indus River, Rajesh Kumar, Central University of Rajasthan</li> <li>2. Ice Nucleating Particles in the North-Western Himalayas: Implications on Aerosol-Cloud-Precipitation-Climate Connection, Shweta Yadav, Central University of Jammu</li> </ol> <p>Scientific presentations by from Pakistan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agricultural Intensification and Implications for Water Management and Food Security in the Indus Plains, Sawaid Abbas</li> <li>2. Community Resilience Building in the Indus Basin, Mehwish Afridi</li> </ol>	
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	Lunch break	
<b>13:30-15:00</b>	<p>Session III: Indus River Basin Assessment</p> <p>Scope and structure of the Assessment Division of tasks and chapters Briefing of the authors' workshop</p>	Facilitator: <b>Faisal Qamer Mueen</b> , RRB Intervention Manager, ICIMOD
<b>15:00-15:20</b>	Tea break	
<b>15:20-16:00</b>	Session IV: Closing and way forward	

## Day 3 (Nov 14)

### Authors' Workshop on the Indus River Basin Assessment

Room 419, IMHE-CAS

Time	Activity	Responsible
9:00–9:30	Registration	
9:30–10:15	Opening session:  Objectives and outcomes of the workshop (10 mins)  Past assessments conducted by ICIMOD for reference (HKH Assessment, HI-WISE, River Reports, etc) – Reflections (15 mins)  Key elements of the Assessment – an overview (10 mins)  Q & A (10 mins)	Facilitator: <b>Faisal Qamer Mueen</b> , RRB Intervention Manager, ICIMOD
10:15–11:00	Session I: Big research questions for the Indus Basin Assessment  Visioning exercise for identifying the key questions for the Indus Basin Assessment (30 mins)  Presenting the big key questions of the Assessment (15 mins)	
11:00–11:15	Tea break	
11:15–12:30	Session II: Chapter development and assignment  Designing the chapters of the assessment (15 mins)  Group formation: Chapter -wise (15 mins)  Group discussion: Chapter-wise (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Coordinating Lead Author (CLA)</li><li>- Lead Authors</li><li>- Outline of chapters (annotated)</li><li>- Approach and methods</li><li>- Collaborative common space (Teams/One Drive; WhatsApp/WeChat groups – common and chapter-wise, depending on chapter CLAs and Las)</li></ul>	

<b>12:30-13:30</b>	Lunch break	
<b>13:30-14:45</b>	<p>Session III: Chapter-wise key research questions</p> <p>Chapter 1 – Key research questions (30 mins)  Chapter 2-3 – Key research questions (30 mins)  Chapter 4 – Key research questions (30 mins)  Chapter 6-8 – Key research questions (30 mins)  Chapter 5, 9-12 – Key research questions (30 mins)</p> <p>Presentation of key research questions of each chapter and linking to big questions of the Assessment (45 mins)</p>	
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	Tea break	
<b>15:00-16:40</b>	<p>Session IV: Chapter-wise group work</p> <p>Annotated outline of each chapter – brainstorming and write-up (40 mins)</p> <p>Plenary: Chapter-wise presentation (45 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Chapters</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A (15 mins)</p>	
<b>16:40-17:00</b>	CLAs and ICIMOD team: Review of the day and plan for the next day	

### **Day 4 (Nov 15)**

### **Authors' Workshop on Indus River Basin Assessment (Cont'd)**

Room 419, IMHE-CAS

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>9:00–9:30</b>	<p>Reflection of the previous day and objectives of the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss the content and start the write-up (at least in bullet points)</li> <li>- Finalize the timeline and process</li> <li>- Communication and publication plan for the Assessment</li> </ul>	
<b>9:30–10:15</b>	Discussion and drafting of chapter specific content including design and graphics requirements of each chapter	
<b>10:15–11:00</b>	<p>Cross-chapter discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 2, 3 and 4</li> <li>- Chapter 5, 6, 7</li> <li>- Chapter 8, 11, and 12</li> </ul>	

	<p>- Chapter 9 and 10</p> <p>Working tea break</p>	
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<p>Back to own chapter and update content based on cross-chapter discussion</p> <p>Division of tasks among the group as per section and sub-sections of each chapter</p>	All
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<p>Discussion and commitments</p> <p>Timeline for production of the Assessment (15 mins)</p> <p>Communication and publication plan for the Assessment (15 mins)</p>	
<b>12:00-12:30</b>	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Remarks: Volunteers from each chapter</p> <p>Vote of thanks: ICIMOD</p>	