

The Eco Generation

Newsletter

International Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People, 15-19 November 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal



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Highlights

0900-0945

Reports Card for Climate Change: Glantz

1200-1230

Key Note Speech by Gordon Young

1400-1500

Biodiversity and Climate Change; D.R. Bhujju

1530-1615

Teachable moments: D. Pradhananga

Five days International Conference on full swing



The International Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People, second of its kind was inaugurated yesterday on 15 November, 2010 at the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) Auditorium, Khumaltar, Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference chaired by **Dr. Micheal Glantz, Director of Consortium Building University of Colorado, Boulder** was attended by more than hundred graduates from twenty different countries where senior scientists and professors gave on some comprehensive presentations on climate change and issues.

Mr. Dhiraj Pradhananga, President of The Small Earth Nepal, with his welcome remarks on behalf of the organizers, expressed his gratitude to all the guests and the participants. He highlighted on this conference being a learning bridge or rather a chance to unite the knowledge of two different generations. Mr. Pradhananga, with his motivational opening speech, illustrated the need of unified action to combat the global phenomenon of Climate Change. Furthermore he congratulated the participants for their footnote step against climate change. **Prof. Futaba Kazama, ICRE, university of Yamanashi, Japan**, applauded SEN and University and University of Colorado for organizing an international conference of this caliber. She explicated on the importance of this conference in exchanging views and knowledge among the students, researchers and professors to create a strong force of human intelligence for a better tomorrow. **Dr. Robert Monro**, The British Council Nepal, also one of the sponsors for the conference expressed his honor to be part of the program. Opinionating climate change as a complex reality, **Dr. Madhav Bahadur karki** suggested the University of Nepal adopt the Climate and environment related curriculum. Similarly, **Prof. Gordan young**, International Association of hydrological science (IAHS), mentioned his keen interest on conference due to the reasons Nepal, being his area of study and again since the conference was focusing on graduates from as many as diverse backgrounds.



Dr. Young expressed his excitement in the conference being held in Nepal and also noted that the excitement was double when he knew graduates shall be featured in the conference. **Mr. Uma kanta Jha** explained why Nepal is most vulnerable to climate change. In the same way, **Prof. DR. Surendra Raj Kafle** in his short speech encouraged youth for active participation at the conference. **Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel** expressed his curiosity on how the graduates would take on the views and perspectives from the senior professors and scientists form a different generation than themselves.

Finally, **Mr. sundar Layalu (SEN)** gave vote of thanks on the behalf of the organizers. **Mr. Dr. Michael H. Glantz**, concluded the inauguration ceremony with his closing remarks whereupon he suggested on creating an intellect network for solving the problems of climate change.

"I am jovial to be here among the top scientists of the world and the excitement gets more when you get opportunity to make friends with graduates from different parts of the world" Miss Karuna Paudel, student of Environmental Science Kathmandu University expressed her joy and excitement on entering the program venue. She was just one representative among all those enthusiastic participants eager for the conference to start as it could be seen from others too.

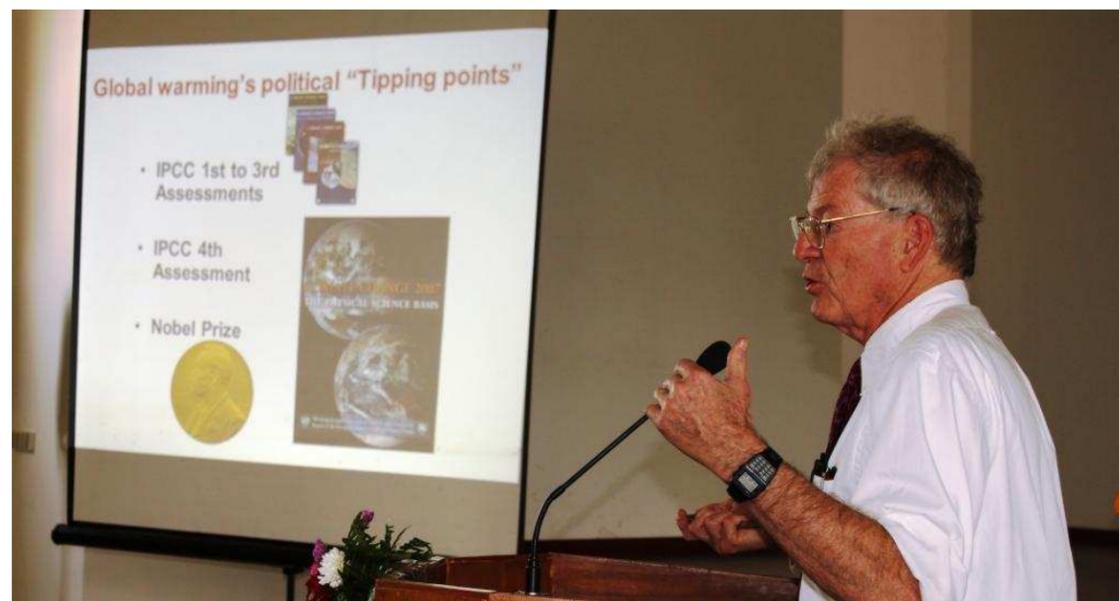
Announcements

Do you have a story to tell? Or you just want to say how you feel every day? If yes, please send your materials at

Benzene980@gmail.com

Please make sure your articles have your Name, Surname and Country and we will make sure to find space for them in The Eco Generation.

Climate, Water and Weather Affairs with Micky



With excitement and lots of facts to share Michael H. Glantz, popularly known as Micky, started his presentation displaying some magazine and publication from the US magazine and different publications entitled global warming and weather. The title of his presentation was Climate, Water and Weather Affairs: Science Serving Society He quoted that “Climate is main stream, only few people did not believe but almost all”. He emphasized monsoon and it’s affecting factors like El-Nino, ENSO which are devastating the climatic system. Water is the most important life supporting system and is being neglected by policy makers. In his words he explained that atmosphere is now the political issue. With reference to IPCC assessments that is 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th the first three assessment report are the backbone report to 4th assessment report which led the noble prize. The spot light has now shifted from Science to impact and policy. Micky was focused on communicating climate change as he quoted *Climate Knowledge is power, Sharing climatic knowledge is empower.*

Dr. Micky drew the concentration of the participants with differentiating weather and climate. He presented some perception on climate as hazard, resource and constraint but all the participants agreed in climate, water and weather as sources when used wisely. Climatic economics is more talked issue today and most of people focus on science, impacts on ecosystem, society, policy, law and politics, economics, ethics and equity. People only blame for harder and tough climate, extreme events, seasonality but neglect the bad decision that might be the cause of the changing environment. He defined the aspect of climate as variability, fluctuation, change, extreme event, seasonality with new global climate state. There are different scientists who have different view and most of climate scientist focuses on models and describe it. We have to understand climate science as component of society which impacts everything like ecosystem. South East Asia is the rooftop of the world as it has Himalaya and the countries like Maldives, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal are mostly impacted with the changing climate. Climate change should be mitigated or adapted, a super law is needed otherwise it would be now or never, he emphasized. We all are loser in the issue of the climate. However, poor people are the most impacted with the changing climate.

Reception Dinner at CW Restaurant

“ I am from Bangladesh, I am from Bhutan, me from Japan, hello I am from South Korea”, introductions poured in to the floor as new friends were made on the reception dinner of the International Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People . After the tiring presentation sessions, the celebrations took- off in the first gear with the participants and graduates coming closer to each other and building a bond, Kudos to unified climate action and the juvenile friendship. The program was officially announced by Miss Pragya Adhikari, The Small Earth Nepal. Dr. Michael H. Glantz, CCB, University of Colorado, Dr. Madhav Bahadur Karki, ICIMOD and Sanjeev Kumar Dhungana, Center of Research for Environment Energy and Water addressed the program with welcome remarks. Though the buses were waiting outside, the cheerful environment glued participants to the party hall as everyone enjoyed the delighting savory of friendship with food and wine. It was hard for anyone to walk through the hall without being cheered and interrogated. The reception dinner was a happy ground for all participants to make new friends and a positive sign that the conference is proceeding in the right direction sending out *here we come all 150 united* message to the Climate Change.



Water for future??

Ashma Vaidya, Center for Rural Technology, Nepal

Increasing demand for water as follow-on to rapid population growth within last few decades has put a tremendous pressure on its resources all over the world. Haphazard exploitation and inability of concerned authority to address proper management and restoration of these resources are causing water bodies as springs, rivers, lakes and seas to dry out rapidly.

In many regions, with water drying out from its sources and inability of concerned authorities to supply water to people, digging wells has become a common practice. Moreover, over-pumping of shallow aquifers is causing them to dry out sooner so people are digging deeper down to extract water which is not replenishable. Especially in arid and semi arid regions lacking substantial monsoon, aquifers are far from the recharge point. A continuous water withdrawal from deep aquifers may lead to higher chances of permanent water loss from the region as a whole.

Accelerated climate change phenomena and ever so growing advertent effects of it on various natural processes as hydrological cycle and monsoonal pattern have been exacerbating the present condition of water accessibility even more, predominantly in developing nations. Although a number of news have emerged in past few years about glacier melting and sea level rise due to global warming, shortage of clean drinking water is yet a grave issue in as rich country in water resources as Nepal. Furthermore, the unpredictable monsoonal pattern due to climate change has been sabotaging the food economy in the developing countries particularly in Asian and African continents by causing a great impediment in agricultural practices.

Therefore, a sustainable way-out need to be carried before its too late and starts affecting other areas of the national economy. Concerned government and organizations need to formulate proper water policies and must adopt a reliable water management and recycling technologies to make the best use of what is available now. Most importantly, adaptive measures to combat water shortages resulting from climate change must be addressed and made to adopt right from the grass-root level.

Participant's voice: “Aren’t developing countries equally responsible for climate change along with developed nations? Why?”

Subhasis Mohanty, India

Yes, developing nations contribute equally to global warming and climate change in respect to the developed nations. The subsequently growing industries, population explosions etc are leading to increased ecological footprints and uncontrolled deforestations are further making the matter worse with climate changing towards the threshold limit of species survival in the planet.

Kedar Rijal, Nepal

Yes they are, but with a different degree and approach. However, the consumption pattern and the behavior sure are leading towards the increasing emission of green house gasses, the global warming.

Pranab Kumar Halder, Bangladesh

No, we cannot say that the developing countries are contributing at the same level because if we compare the general emission rate between such countries, emissions from the developing nations is minimum. Though developing countries, too contribute to climate change, its developed nations who should take the major responsibility

Sujan Timilsina, Nepal

“Equally” may not be the correct word if we are to measure the responsibility. Yes, developing nations contribute to climate change to some extent but the GHG emissions is minimum in comparison to that of those developed nations and seems to be localized, i.e. within the local sphere.

Juan Arratia, Puerto Rico

No, I don’t think so. Developing countries being less privileged to scientific advancements and food security have a less consumption pattern and green opportunity. Their ecological footprint is of lesser amount to that of developed nations.

Tran Van Gial, Vietnam

Yes, they are. Yes, every country is equally responsible for their GHG emission which is one of the major reasons for global warming and Climate change.



Interview with Michael H. Glantz



Michael H. Glantz is the Director of the Consortium for Capacity Building (CCB), at the University of Colorado, Boulder (CU). In 1974, he joined National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) as a postdoctoral fellow, and in 1983 was listed as the first (and still the only) NCAR Senior Scientist. He has authored & edited several books research articles on climate, environment, and society. The Eco-Generation team had the opportunity to have a short talk with Mr. Glantz

EG: You have plenty experiences in your bag and have organized and participated in many such programs. What is the difference between your prior conferences and this one?

M. H. Glantz: This conference is focused on graduate students. They are the next wave of policy makers. The idea of the conference is to broaden the concept of graduates. The influence should start sooner, I expect the graduates to start acting effective right after two or three years of graduation waiting.

EG There are many countries as such as Nepal in the HKH region, what inspired you to organize this program in Nepal?

M. H. Glantz: The conference was basically an outcome of the Sanghai conference in 2010. The whole process embarked from Sanghai as Sundar Layalu I were introduced during the conference. Also, I have worked previously in central Asia but south Asia was a new experience for me, then I came in contact with Dhiraj, we send a proposal to the APN and the whole process started.

EG As a joint program of the conference, what was your and CCB's experience working with the Small Earth Nepal?

M. H. Glantz: It was a good. They are hardworking efficient and effective, we had to work in two different system for organizing the conference, Nepal and United states. Here in Nepal the administrative system is much hierarchical where as that of America much democratic so I had to be extra careful on this one. We were working with two different cultural systems. We worked together and came up with the solution and I think the outcome will be good. I am impressed by the lecture hall we have been provided too, its pretty good and should be effective for the conference.

EG: You have served in the field of environment for such a long time. Considering your dedication, the Eco-Generation team specially looks at you as an icon, a real hero in Climate Action. What has remained as your inspiration for such passion and commitment toward environment?

M. H. Glantz The passion is still strong. Ever since the 1970s I have analyzing the natural systems and what systems blame for disturbances in nature. A lot of policies have been putting peoples in dangerous places this realization has triggered me to continue with similar passion. There are groups of people who do not have rights so basically it's disappointments towards suffering of the people who has inspired me to work for them and environment.

Answer of Eco Generation Quiz 1

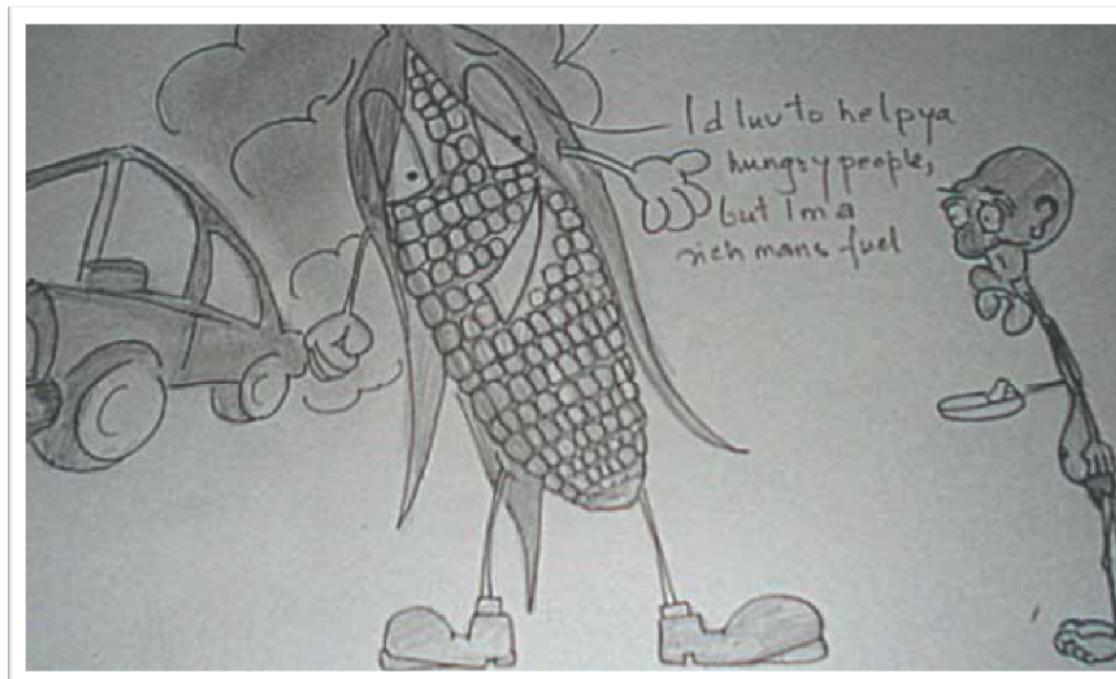
Boon, Germany

Shrijana Manandhar, from Nepal is the lucky winner for yesterday's quiz. Congratulation to the Winner and thanks to all participants.

Contact

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Cartoon of the day



Eco Generation Quiz 2

When and where was Keeling's curve first deployed?

Please send your answer at ecogenerationquiz@gmail.com by 10 pm today. Winner will be awarded with an attractive prize.

Media Team

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