

The Eco Generation

Newsletter

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



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Highlights

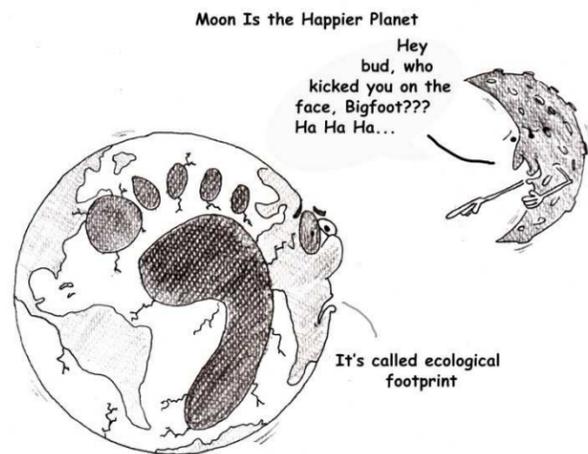
- 0900-1015**
Opening ceremony
- 1100-1130**
Climate and Water Affairs: by Prof. M. H. Glantz
- 1400-1500**
Are Regional Ecosystems Changing? Can Societies Cope? Chaired by L. Zubair
- 1400-1500**
A Guided Discussion led by Dr. Pralad Yonzon & M.H. Glantz on social dimension of climate change

150 grads in Kathmandu for Climate Action

With the objectives of multidisciplinary capacity building of graduate, undergraduate students and experts of different disciplines in climate affairs, the International Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People organized from 15-19 November 2010 in Nepal has been an awaited event for the Small Earth Nepal and the Consortium for Capacity Building (University of Colorado) along with other collaborators and sponsors. The conference aims to build scientific capacity of young students fostering fine networking processes and raising awareness for sustainable development options in the region that motivates them work in close network in the days to come to fight adverses of climate change in the region and also in global arena.

Moreover, it tends to equip students with knowledge of climate change that demands multidisciplinary activities regardless of their academic discipline. Participatory methodology of conducting conference with students' direct participation through interaction, panel discussions and students' presentation, the conference aims to build students with proactive and meaningful sharing of knowledge and experiences among students and experts that capacitates and ensures sustainable networking around the region. The conference sessions ranging from physical science, policy implications, economics, ethics to equity incorporate the overall dimensions of climate change where climate science are equally highlighted with its policy implications too.

Cartoon of the day



The Conference kicks-off

November 15, 2010, The much anticipated Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People kicks-off from today at the National Trust for Nature Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal. The graduate conference shall embark with opening ceremony decorated by presence of chief guest Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal and Dr. Michael Glantz, Director, Consortium for Capacity Building, University of Colorado, Boulder, as the Chairperson. With a long list of high profile guests and attendants from diverse fields, the conference is expected to be a highlight across the greater south Asia.

The conference is going to be a colorful umbrella of more than 150 participants from 20 different countries. Prime Minister of Nepal Madhav Kumar Nepal has addressed the conference as a positive step towards climate action and congratulated the organizers for hosting such program in Nepal. With assistance of a dozen co-sponsors and co-organizers, fluent logistics and some exhibition stalls the program is expected to be fun and a memorable for the participants. Today's program shall officially begin from 9 am and shall feature presentations from Prof. M. H. Glantz, Dr. G.H.A.C Silva, Dr. Pralad Yonzan, Prof.J. Arratia and Dr.M.L. Shrestha.

Announcements

Participants are requested to wear their respective identity cards and for foreigner carry their passports for security reasons & if any problem occurs during the program please contact 9801040010; 9801040012

Regarding Reception Dinner
One side shuttle service shall be provided to all participants to the C.W restaurant, reception dinner venue. However, participants other than those accommodated at hotel Clarion and Goodwill are requested to arrange their own transportation while returning from the dinner.

|| I want to testify today about what I believe is a planetary emergency - a crisis that threatens the survival of our civilization and the habitability of the Earth. ||

----Al Gore

The Ball is Rolling, can not wait anymore for the Conference

Jeeban Panthi, The Small Earth Nepal

“Please, be at the office tomorrow from early morning for the concluding preparations of the conference.” These were the motivational words of Ms. Sangita Maharjan, the Human Resource Officer at The Small Earth Nepal (SEN). Twenty plus staff members at SEN have been actively involved since September in the logistic management of holding the conference and half a dozen other people have been involved since June to manage software. “All logistics for the conference is okay,” said Piyush Dahal, Communications Officer at SEN. He seems very busy and happy with added pressure as he has not shaved his beard for more than two weeks. “Though I have not taken my lunch for three days, I am enjoying the work,” he adds, a smile spreading on his stubbly face. The conference aims to accommodate more than one hundred and fifty national and international graduate students as well as experts from various and diverse field who will travel to Kathmandu from twenty countries.

The conference venue at the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) has already been prepared and decorated. “The hall has been designed to accommodate 150 participants comfortably and all the preparations including stall construction has been finished,” Niranjan Bista, Outreach Expert at SEN, says. “Two hotels near the conference venue and one in Thamel have been reserved for international guests and participants,” says Ms. Kelli Lopez from co-organizers the Consortium for Capacity Building (CCB) at the University of Colorado Boulder Ms. Lopez who has

been maintaining the database of and corresponding with participants from the US for months, arrived in Kathmandu just three days ago.

The Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Nepal Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel has kindly accepted the invitation as the chief guest for the inauguration ceremony of the conference and the Vice Chancellors of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) as well as the secretary of the Ministry of the Irrigation will also be addressing the conference for the inauguration ceremony. Moreover, the Prime Minister of Nepal, Madhav Kumar Nepal, taking time from his busy schedule, has sent a welcome message to the organizers and participants. We thank him for his interest in this crucial event.

Some 300 plus guests are expected for the inauguration ceremony. As Ankit Bilash Joshi, who is lead on the distribution of invitation cards, says, “Invitation cards for the inauguration and reception dinner were sent before Friday to the high profile dignitaries.” Climate change researchers, activists, academicians, journalists, lawyers, advocates, politicians, and practitioners have also been invited for the inauguration ceremony. Furthermore, the reception dinner has been organized on the same day in the evening at CW Restaurant in Kamaladi and 250 plus guests and participants have been invited for the dinner.

Dr. Michael H. Glantz from CCB at the University of Colorado, Boulder has actively been working to make the conference a grand success and just arrived at Kathmandu

two days back. Gordon Young, President of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and vice Principal of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) are also now in Kathmandu and will deliver the Keynote address on Wednesday 17 November. “We are all prepared for the conference, and I am in this final stage along with the rest of my team, so we cannot wait any longer for the day to arrive,” said Dhiraj Pradhananga, President of SEN and chief of the organizing committee who has had several sleepless nights for the management of the conference. The inauguration session of the conference is open to everyone and the organizers welcome all guests interested in attending.

Use of ICT for adaptation to climate change

Towsif Mohammad, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a critical role to play in combating climate change through the reduction of global green house gas (GHG) emissions. The increased use of ICTs contributes to global warming -- millions of television sets and computers are never fully turned off at night in homes and offices. But ICTs can also be a key part of the solution, because of the role they play in monitoring, mitigating and adapting to climate change. The ICT sector itself (in this definition, telecommunications, computing and the internet, but excluding broadcasting) contributes around 2 to 2.5 percent of GHG, at just under one Giga-tonnes of CO2 equivalent. The main constituent (40 percent) of this is the energy requirements of personal computers and data monitors, with data centers contributing a further 23 percent. Fixed and mobile telecommunications contribute an estimated 24 percent of the total. International Telecommunications Union (ITU) working in this area focuses on the use of ICTs (including weather satellites, radio and telecommunication technologies) in weather forecasting, climate monitoring and predicting, detecting and mitigating the effects of natural disasters.

Another important way in which ICTs can respond to climate change is in the area of disaster prevention and relief. In Bangladesh we can promote the use of telecommunications/ICT for disaster prevention and disaster relief. In many cases when disaster strikes, the 'wired' telecommunication infrastructure is significantly or completely destroyed and only radio communication services can be used for disaster relief operations -- especially radio amateurs and satellite systems. We had tremendous experiences during Cyclone Sidr (November 15, 2007) that Radio and Cell phone were engaged in direct missions to help affected people. We can work in this field with standardization of call priority in emergency situations, for example Recommendation E.106 on the International Emergency Preference System for disaster relief. ITU-T has also assigned a special E.164 country code (888) to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for the purpose of facilitating the provision of an international system of naming and addressing terminals involved in disaster relief activities.

Conference aims for nation building!!!

Pranav Pokhrel, The Small Earth Nepal

November 15, 2010, **International Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People**, already five conferences on environment been hosted in year 2010 in Nepal; can this conference be a stand-out in contributing to nation building? Definitely a five day event linked with nation building, a task grueling and demanding as the mighty Egyptian pyramid, suspicions are obvious.

Unlike prior conferences, the contrast is it spotlights on capacity development and network building rather than only achieving certain declarations with relatively slim chances of implementation. Since the bulk of youth population is shifting towards the greater Himalayas region and Nepal itself boast 53.7% of the most energetic and fertile youth population of the total population, nurturing potential leaders and adept manpower by youth motivation is the key for national progress.

Energetic multidisciplinary graduates and youths in one side and prolifically experienced wise scholars who are willing to guide this quantum in a proper direction on the other side, the conference blends both to highlight the diverse, contentious and grave multi-disciplinary issues of Climate Change. Through inter-generational multidimensional table meets, knowledge sharing and a network development, the conference should develop finesse among youth on Climate Change and form a sturdy group, energetic and smart enough to counter challenges from Climate Change.

Climate Change levies multidimensional effects on every aspect including all economy, society and environment and thereby impede any process of development. Living beneath the top of the world thus is not docile especially when the ceiling is tumbling down. Repetitively experiencing the bitter savory of failures, a mere per capita of \$470 and 115th-largest economy in the world does Nepal has any plans to safeguard the security of 28,676,547 people amidst the vulnerability of Climate woe? Certainly not. Like the story of survival for the fittest, Nepal and those who are not adept to out-smart the changing climate shall face the worst shocks of climate changes.

To avoid a situation where Climate Change bombs out of the blues like a *Fat Man in the Japanese sky*, every nation needs potential leaders and adept manpower for planning, advocating Climate Change and direct flux of development towards a sustained climate-resilient society. A capacity developing program as such should produce Climate Change heroes that can take responsibility to guide nation towards development.

Individual make society, societies make nation and brawny individuals are the fundamentals led to a strong nation. The conference is themed on the Climate Change on Greater Himalayas thereby accesses directly to the roots of Nepalese society and lifestyles. We do wish the conference to be success, when these participants emerge as planners, scientist researchers and stockholders in future, the contribution of the conference in the nation building should be obvious.

Participant's voice: "What are the Expectations From the Conference?"

Bibishan Rai

Nepal

The conference should not only broaden knowledge on climate change but also make youth realize their responsibility and since it focuses on multiple chapters it should provide youths with options to proceed with their future.

Kanchan Ojha

Nepal

I hope this conference is going to be a landmark and moreover it will be an important platform for young researchers. The variations in the topics is indeed an incredible step as it covers the relation of climate change to water, bio-diversity, society and all concerned. Being a research graduate and conducting research on climate change which will indeed be of great help to accomplish my project as well.

Trishna Jaisi,

Bhutan

I expect lots of discussions and youth participation in the conference and certain goals and commitments as outcomes of these discussions.

Karuna Paudel

Nepal

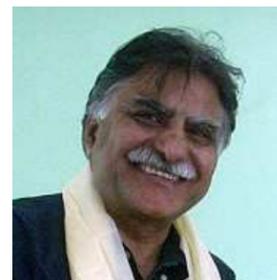
The conference is an interesting opportunity for young students like me to meet seniors scientists and researchers and graduates all across the world, I expect to increase my knowledge on Climate Change and develop a network through the conference.

Ganesh Bhattarai

Nepal

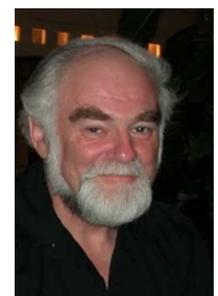
The conference would be to know and share the effect of climate change and its adaptation with various experts related to different sectors and secondly, I am excited to meet the delegates from various countries and to share their learning on the approaches for minimizing the risk of climate change.

Attending the conference...



Dr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel is the Vice-Chairperson of National Planning Commission, Nepal and our honorable Chief-Guest for the program. He is a PhD on Regional Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has been one of the leading figures in inter-sectoral policy coordination, environment and sustainable development in Nepal. Dr. Pokharel can be reached at jcpokharel@npcnepal.gov.np

Professor Dr. Gordon Young is the president of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and professor at the Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. He achieved PhD in glaciology from McGill University Canada in 1971 and from 1991-1992 and served as coordinator of the International Conference on Water and the Environment, based in the World Meteorological Organization, Geneva. In 2000, he was appointed as coordinator, World Water Assessment Program the secretariat of which is attached within the Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO, Paris.



A Rendezvous...



Mr. Dhiraj Pradhananga is the President of The Small Earth Nepal and the chair of the conference. He is also lecturer at the Department of Meteorology, Tri Chandra Multiple Campus, Tribhuvan University, Nepal and general secretary of Society of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal (SOHAM). The Eco-Generation team had the opportunity to have a short talk with Mr. Pradhananga

Eco-generation: SEN and CCB are organizing the conference of the international level and gathering many experts and graduate students from different corners of the globe. Unlike other conferences, this conference will not focus on achieving a declaration but solely contribute towards capacity building. What inspired you to organize such a conference?

Mr. Pradhananga: Since our education limits to text books and exams, students are required to be exposed to interactions and group discussions to get a complete update of what is happening across the globe. The Small Earth Nepal has always been keen on capacity building of young graduates and so is the Consortium for Capacity Building (CCB), USA. In fact, I am very much inspired with Dr. Michael H. Glantz, director of CCB. His commitment towards youth empowerment is very appreciable and inspiring. The first undergraduate conference on water, weather, climate and society in Sanghai in 2009, which was attended by two researchers from SEN and inspiration from Dr. Glantz was what it triggered me to organize such program in Nepal.

Eco-generation: Unlike other conferences there shall be no declarations on this one, what are the objectives you planned for the conference and does your approach towards such kind of the conference would contribute to control the Climate Change effects in the third pole and the greater Himalayas?

Mr. Pradhananga: The graduate students will be discussing among themselves and proposing their thoughts for Cop16 but the focus will remain in their Capacity Building. As Dr. Glantz said “focus is forward awakening graduate students”, the attempts shall be making them capable to think about relation between climate change and bringing in a bigger network among graduates, “The Eco-Generation”.

Eco-generation: Organizing a conference is definitely not an easy task; can you share some of the difficulties you encountered during the event organization?

Mr. Pradhananga: We had several difficulties, but we have a strong advising committee and capacity building committee who were always a supplementary for the organizing committee. More than twenty young energetic student affiliates in the SEN fully working with organizing committee and CCB are trying to make the conference as best as possible. Having a very experienced and well hearted Dr. Glantz who has over 5 decades working experience in Asia and dedication for his work was always the brighter part for organizing the conference.

We have a strong support for the renowned co-organizers and co-sponsored without whose support we could not have lifted the conference to this level.

Eco-generation: To some extent, Climate Change has been introduced by business and industrialization, how do you think the conference shall be responded by the corporate and stockholders and then by the government, graduates, general people and climate change aware societies?

Mr. Pradhananga: We have co-sponsors and participants who are business houses and entrepreneurs and are showing positive response towards the conference. The response from graduate students is over whelming. We are very sorry that we could not involve all of them. Definitely, the conference is well appreciated by government and general people. We are grateful to them.

Eco-generation: What are your expectations from the conference? What are your plans for the succession of the conference?

Mr. Pradhananga: We are very positive and committed towards our objectives. We would like to see the youth being well informed about climate and its relation to society. We will regularly clue-up with the networks that will be formed through this conference.

Eco-generation: So much spoken and debated over, definitely climate change is the hottest topic of 21st century. How would you define Climate Change in your own words?

Mr. Pradhananga: In my opinion the weather and climate has both direct and indirect influence on each and every aspects of all the living entities. The faster rates of changes introduced by our lifestyles are disrupting several natural phenomena including water availability and intensified the frequency of several natural disasters. The faster rate is beyond coping capacity of nature and human, either from poor or the rich countries.

Therefore, I would say climate change is a phenomenon of series of changes and impacts, which can be overcome with unified actions of people across the globe.

Eco-generation: A message to the participant

Mr. Pradhananga: First of all, a very warm welcome to the participant of the conference on behalf of the organizers. We hope that they will find the conference very useful and the conference shall motivate to make them committed towards climate change and society.

I believe that the inter-disciplinary participation will bring positive effects and intimacy among the participants. I cordially invite all of them for their active involvement in the overall program.

Eco Generation Quiz

Where is the secretariat office of UNFCCC?

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

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