

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Mountain Climate Change', Issue 7 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN). This issue contains additional resources on turbulent debate on 'Himalayan Glaciers' and other regular features, news, events, announcements, resources etc.

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Charting unknown Himalayan waters

January 27, 2010

In the wake of a recent controversy over the retreat of Himalayan glaciers in which the UN's climate science body admitted that it was an error to assert that they would disappear by 2035, water availability has emerged as a key issue with even more uncertainty.

Receding Himalayan glaciers grabbed headlines because they feed major rivers in South Asia and some parts of Southeast Asia, which is home to a sizeable proportion of the planet's population.

Source: <http://bit.ly/c19YZT>

[2] Glacier melting blunder puts Nepal in a fix

January 27, 2010

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the scientific body dealing with climate change issues, on January 20 pointed to an error in the report while drafting estimates of the rate of recession and mentioning the date for the disappearance of Himalayan glaciers.

Source: <http://bit.ly/cU7qgl>

[3] Japanese government to commit to 25% CO₂ cut

January 27, 2010

The government of Japan has officially decided that it would participate in the Copenhagen climate agreement and internationally pledge to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, by 25 percent from 1990 levels by 2020, government officials said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ccZoZn>

[4] Japan, ADB help Bhutan strengthen resilience to climate change

January 25, 2010

Landlocked, mountainous Bhutan is getting support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan to counter the harmful impacts of climate change on its rivers - the lifeblood of the economy.

The Japan Special Fund, financed by the Government of Japan and administered by ADB, is providing a \$700,000 grant for building up the capacity of Bhutan's National Environment Commission (NEC).

Source: <http://bit.ly/bKn50l>

[5] World's glaciers continue to melt at historic rates

January 25, 2010

Glaciers across the globe are continuing to melt so fast that many will disappear by the middle of this century, the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) said.

The announcement of the latest annual results from monitoring in nine mountain ranges on four continents comes as doubts have been cast on how much climate scientists have exaggerated the problem of glacier melt, which is seen as a leading indicator of how much the planet is heating up.

Source: <http://bit.ly/5USxyq>

[6] Glacier dispute reveals holes in research

January 21, 2010

The "glacier row" that erupted last week over a claim that the Himalayan glaciers will disappear by 2035 has highlighted important gaps in scientists' understanding.

The controversy arose because of a prediction in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 report that Himalayan glaciers could disappear by 2035 because of climate change. The prediction was based on one scientist's conversation with a journalist that the former now terms "speculative"

Source: <http://bit.ly/cJlJOf>

[7] UNEP and WGMS report highlights global trends on glaciers and ice caps

January 21, 2010

The last assessment on glacier melt by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) shows that the average annual melting rate of glaciers doubled after the turn of the millennium.

Source: <http://bit.ly/6xuY7r>

[8] Vanishing glaciers, rising worry

January 3, 2010

If you want to see a glacier melt, try Yulong Snow Mountain, an 18,000-foot peak in southern China's Yunnan province.

On a recent morning, the mountain is etched against the sky in shades of gray - definitely more gray than white. Naked boulders of limestone and daubs of shrubbery protrude from the shallow snow cover.

Even with bald spots, the mountain is a picture postcard. But scientists worry about the way it is changing.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bqQeMo>

Events

[1] 3rd International Workshop on Uncertainty in Greenhouse Gas Inventories, 22 - 24 September 2010, Lviv, Ukraine

Abstract submission date: 1 April 2010

More at: <http://ghg.org.ua>

[2] Workshop on Climate Change Scenarios at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 2 March 2010, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Registration deadline: 24 February 2010

More at: http://www.c2sm.ethz.ch/news/scen_workshop/

[3] Technical Conference on Changing Climate and Demands for Climate Services for Sustainable Development, 16 - 18 February 2010, Antalya, Turkey

More at: http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/wcrp/documents/Antalya_Flyer.pdf

Announcements

[1] Call for papers: Climate change and the Sustainable Management of Water Resources, 1-7 November 2010

Abstract Submission deadline: 31 March 2010

More at: <http://www.climate2010.net/>

[2] New Zealand Development Scholarships

More at: <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/nzds/>

[3] International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO), Course 2010: Protecting Mountain Biodiversity

More at: <http://www.ipromo-school.it/en/course2010/>

Resources

[1] Mountains and Climate Change: from Understanding to Action, published by the Centre for Development and Environment

Available at:

http://www.cde.unibe.ch/userfiles/Fullversion_low_Mountains_and%20Climate_Change.pdf (16MB)

[2] Mountain Partnership Newsletter 'Peak to Peak', Jan 2010

Available at: <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/common/newsletter/last.html>

[3] Perceptions of ecological migration in Inner Mongolia, China: summary of fieldwork and relevance for climate adaptation, CICERO Report 2009:

Available at: <http://www.cicero.uio.no/media/7543.pdf>

Featured resources: ICIMOD's comments on a turbulent debate on 'Himalayan Glaciers'

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues.

The following are the links to coverage on the statement released by ICIMOD- "Melting Himalayas – ICIMOD's comments on a turbulent debate" on 22 January 2010.

[1] Himalayan glaciers are in retreat: UN body

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/eniornment/himalayan-glaciers-are-in-retreat-un-body_100308120.html

[2] BASIC ministers support IPCC despite Himalayan blunder

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/eniornment/basic-ministers-support-ippcc-despite-himalayan-blunder_100309126.html

[3] Melting Himalayas-ICIMOD's comments on a turbulent debate

<http://www.groundreport.com/Business/Melting-the-Snow/2916511>

[4] Climate Sceptics and the Himalayan Glacier Melt

<http://www.countercurrents.org/nazareth230110.htm>

[5] Melting Himalayas – ICIMOD's comments on a turbulent debate

<http://www.einnews.com/pr-news/68611-melting-himalayas-icimod-s-comments-on-a-turbulent-debate>

[6] Climate Change, the Himalayas and India

<http://www.countercurrents.org/nazareth260110.htm>