

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below a special digest on sustainable mountain development, prepared in the context of our preparation for the Rio+20 meeting next year. This digest includes list of media clips, key organisations, events planned (or held) and other relevant resources. Please note this is the first issue and there will be two more issues shared with you next and following week. We'll keep adding other useful information (media clips, key organisations, events planned (or held) and other relevant resources) to the list.

We take this opportunity to invite you all to an e -discussion on Sustainable Mountain Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. This e-discussion is open to anyone who has understanding of the issues, challenges, opportunities and interest to contribute in sustainable mountain development agenda in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. Your contribution will be read, reviewed, responded and utilized to prepare a Regional Assessment of the SMD in the HKH. This e-discussion, as is the practice, is strictly a professional forum and we encourage a very live and useful professional discourse. In order to achieve this we will not accept any politically motivated and personal type of comments and feedback as per practice.

Further details is available on the web at <http://www.icimod.org/?q=3193>

Please click here to join the e-discussion

Hope you will enjoy the read!

Best,
e-discussion organizing committee

Media Clips

1. UN Chief lauds China for spearheading Green Economy
03 April 2011

United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-moon has praised China's efforts towards making a transition to a low carbon, resource efficient Green Economy.

Source: <http://bit.ly/e84Glg>

2. Eco-Tourism Sees Clearer Direction
02 April 2011

At a briefing by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) mission on ecotourism for Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) in Bumthang this week, the agriculture minister, Lyonpo (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho said that eco-tourism cuts across all sections of the society. Hence, there is a need to boost its growth by extending the tourist visiting season and diversifying products.

Source: <http://bit.ly/hdD3gx>

3. Will Rio+20 Squander Green Legacy of the Original Earth Summit?
31 March 2011

Next year, a honking big global Earth Summit is coming our way - one with a proud heritage. Formally titled the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development, the meeting is known as RIO+20 because it will come 20 years after the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

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

4. Biodiversity Needed for Sustainability
31 March 2011

For centuries farmers have been saving their best seeds and animals across the world in a variety of conditions. What developed was a broad range of products that sustained us, with a net effect of good genetic variety of plants and livestock.

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

5. Wind Can Keep Mountains from Growing
29 March 2011

Wind is a much more powerful force in the evolution of mountains than previously thought, according to a new report from a University of Arizona-led research team. Bedrock in Central Asia that would have formed mountains instead was sand-blasted into dust, said lead author Paul Kapp.

Source: <http://bit.ly/f1jquY>

6. Agroecology a 'Spectacular' Success, Says UN Expert
25 March 2011

Agroecology, a science-based, ecological approach to agriculture, has been underestimated by policymakers even though it could play a vital role in boosting crop yields and advancing economic development, says a UN report.

Source: <http://bit.ly/gTGI8I>

Events

1. 07 April 2011

Policy Dialogue on Green Economy, Geneva, SWITZERLAND

Event website: <http://bit.ly/gN9KSA>

2. 23-28, May 2011

South Asian Youth Conference: Road to Rio +20; Bangalore, INDIA

Event website: <http://bit.ly/h9jRVC>

3. 16-18, April 2011

ICSU-UNESCO RIO+20: Regional Workshop for Asia and the Pacific; Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

Event website: <http://bit.ly/hsfcCN>

4. 11-15, July 2011

World Leadership Conference 2011: Asia-Pacific: Towards Rio +20, SINGAPORE

Event website: <http://bit.ly/e54zZb>

5. 10-11 October 2011

Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social Dimension - UNRISD Call for Papers and Conference, Geneva, SWITZERLAND

Event website: <http://bit.ly/eZQa2Y>

6. 20--23, October 2011

Sixth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference (HPRC 2011); Nepal Study Center; The University of New Mexico; Call for Abstracts, USA
Event website: [//bit.ly/eOiaTJ](http://bit.ly/eOiaTJ)

7. 04-06, June 2012
RIO+20 UN Conferences on Sustainable Mountain Development
Event website: <http://bit.ly/h36RAU>

8. 05-08 June 2011
World Student Forum on Environment and Sustainability, Call for participation, Tongji University, Shanghai, CHINA
Event website: <http://bit.ly/gtpAvt>

Organisations Working in Sustainable Mountain Development

1. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu
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.
URL: <http://bit.ly/cDsHDy>

2. The Mountain Institute, Himalaya Office, Kathmandu
The Mountain Institute empowers communities in the world's great mountain systems through education, conservation and sustainable development. TMI has been supporting the environment, economy and culture of mountain populations for more than 38 years.
URL: <http://bit.ly/gKMSoC>

3. Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal, Kathmandu
ISET-Nepal was established in 2001 as a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization to study and analyse developmental issues of rapidly changing social and environmental context that demand new insights into the emerging challenges to manage resources for sustainable development.
URL: <http://bit.ly/i4k6W3>

4. WWF Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in the Eastern Himalayas, Kathmandu
The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was set up to provide strategic assistance to nongovernmental organizations, community groups and other civil society partners to help safeguard biodiversity hotspots - the biologically richest and most threatened areas on Earth.
URL: <http://bit.ly/hJKg8j>

5. G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora
Established during Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Birth centenary year in August 1988 as an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, the Institute is identified as a focal agency to advance scientific knowledge, to evolve integrated management strategies and demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources, and to ensure environmentally sound development in the entire Indian Himalayan region in harmony with the local perceptions.

URL: <http://bit.ly/hAzLEC>

6. Himalayan Environment Trust, New Delhi

To mobilise support from mountaineers, trekkers, alpine clubs, adventure tour operators and the Himalayan region governments, to protect the Himalayan environment, its flora and fauna and natural resources as well as protect the customs and interests of the local people.

URL: <http://bit.ly/fTKLXY>

7. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun

The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is an autonomous research Institute of the Department of the Science & Technology, Govt. of India established in June, 1968.

URL: <http://bit.ly/g4Oq6x>

8. Aaranyak, Assam

Aaranyak is a registered society working in the field of biodiversity conservation in North East India since 1989. Its strength lies in applied research in biological and social field and its thrust area of work is the North Eastern India and Eastern Himalayas

URL: <http://bit.ly/dRedm1>

9. The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Gilgit

It is an internationally recognised community-based development organisation that has been working in northern Pakistan in the field of integrated rural development. AKRSP's mission is to alleviate poverty through promoting sustainable livelihoods of the mountain communities of the Northern Areas and Chitral.

URL: <http://bit.ly/eDebT9>

10. Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment, Bumtang

It is a Government based research and training institute. We strive to foster better stewardship of our natural heritage – land, water, air and species therein – through rigorous science based research and transmission of cutting-edge science results to field practitioners, environmental leaders and policy makers.

URL: <http://bit.ly/gzDi1Z>

11. Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Dhaka

Institute of Water Modelling provides world-class services in the field of Water Modelling, Computational Hydraulics & Allied Sciences for improved integrated Water Resources Management. The applications of IWM modelling tools cover a wide range of water related areas such as: flood control, flood forecasting, irrigation and drainage, river morphology, salinity and sediment transport, coastal hydraulics, port, coast and estuary management, environmental impact assessment, bridge hydraulics and related infrastructure.

URL: <http://bit.ly/eSwAA8>

12. Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Beijing

A scientific research institute founded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), The Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research was thus born, aiming at the study of the climate and environment of the Tibetan Plateau and its surrounding regions by taking root in the region.

URL: <http://bit.ly/eYpeGU>

13. Third Pole Environment (TPE), Beijing

The Third Pole Environment (TPE) program aims to attract relevant research institutions and academic talents to focus on a theme of 'water-ice-air-ecosystem-human' interaction in the TPE, to reveal environmental change processes and mechanisms on the Third Pole and their influences and regional responses to global changes, especially monsoon systems, and thus to serve for enhancement of human adaptation to the changing environment and realization of human-nature harmony.

URL: <http://bit.ly/dSoC7t>

14. United Nations Environment Programme, Vienna

It was established to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

URL: <http://bit.ly/ehDKPH>

15. Mountain Agenda, Bern

Mountain Agenda is an informal group of people, drawn from the academic and development cooperation communities worldwide, who have a professional interest in sustainable mountain development. The group was created prior to the Rio Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development 1992) to enhance the position of mountains on the global development and environment agenda. Mountain Agenda focuses on policy support, advocacy and sensitisation. In different configurations, the group has produced a series of brochures dealing with important issues in mountain development prepared for key international debates, can be found at

URL: <http://bit.ly/gZZ4GH>

16. United Nations Development Programme Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

UNDP in Asia and the Pacific works in this dynamic and complex environment with the aim to support countries in the region in achieving their own development goals.

URL: <http://bit.ly/fe8m2s>

17. Mountain Forum, Lima

Mountain Forum is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the well being of mountain people, their environments and cultures. Its mission is to promote global action toward equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development and conservation through information sharing, mutual support and advocacy.

<http://bit.ly/g0NZQU>

18. Mountain Partnership, Rome

The Mountain Partnership is a voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world, launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002.

URL: <http://bit.ly/eb7toF>

19. Ev-K2-CNR, Bergamo

The Ev-K2-CNR Committee is an autonomous, non-profit association, which promotes scientific and technological research in mountain areas. Particular emphasis is placed on the Hindu Kush – Karakorum – Himalaya region and on work in the countries of Nepal, Pakistan, China (Tibetan Autonomous Region) and India.

URL: <http://bit.ly/hywVLU>

20. World Wild Life Fund, (WWF), Washington
For more than 45 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature. The world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by 1.2 million members in the United States and close to 5 million globally. WWF's unique way of working combines global reach with a foundation in science, involves action at every level from local to global, and ensures the delivery of innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature.
URL: <http://bit.ly/eUxylf>

Resources

1. Green Growth Strategy Interim Report: Implementing Our Commitment for a Sustainable Future Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level
URL: <http://bit.ly/dQiNz3>
2. Secretary-General's Report on Objectives and Themes of the United Nations Conference
URL: <http://bit.ly/g2eS3z>
3. RIO+20 Issues Briefs: Trade and Green Economy
URL: <http://bit.ly/ezM5eK>
4. Mountain Initiative for Climate Change
URL: <http://bit.ly/flIBwM>
5. A Pocket Guide to Sustainable Development Governance
URL: <http://bit.ly/hyeMOe>
6. Greening the International Financial Institutions (IFIs): Finance for the next decade's sustainable development
URL: <http://bit.ly/gm7oy0>
7. Concept Note Regional Preparatory Process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20
URL: <http://bit.ly/gBrXYS>
8. Rio+20 - United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
URL: <http://bit.ly/h36RAU>
9. Online resources for Green Jobs, Green Business, Green Education
URL: <http://bit.ly/ha9JGR>
10. Sustainable Development Policy and Practice
URL: <http://bit.ly/gz2T6t>
11. Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future
URL: <http://bit.ly/glcFap>
12. FAO @ RIO 20

URL: <http://bit.ly/eSt7eb>

13. European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC)

URL: <http://bit.ly/hBP5Ih>

14. The Earth Charter Initiative

URL: <http://bit.ly/ic1T3A>

15. Earth Summit 2012

URL: <http://bit.ly/gI991Y>

16. South Asia Sub-Regional Report For the World Summit on Sustainable Development
September 2001

URL: <http://bit.ly/gAsuOU>

17. Beyond Rio+20: Governance for a Green Economy

URL: <http://bit.ly/gjswu6>

18. The Road to Rio+20 for a development-led green economy

URL: <http://bit.ly/hFCRih>

19. China's Pathway to a Green Economy

URL: <http://bit.ly/dP6utt>

20. Skills for green jobs in Bangladesh

URL: <http://bit.ly/flhjSZ>

21. Sustainable Development Governance towards Rio+20: Framing the Debate

URL: <http://bit.ly/hxWotq>

22. Assessing Sustainable Development: Principles in Practice

URL: <http://bit.ly/h1Oqap>

23. Rio + 20: Making it Matter (Presentation)

Hilary French, UNEP Regional Office for North America

URL: <http://1.usa.gov/dUbV2c>

24. India Taking Leadership Role in Biodiversity Conservation, To Host 'Rio + 20' Summit in 2012
(Press Release, Ministry of Environment and Forests)

URL: <http://bit.ly/g0eTC7>

25. HIMALDOC

The Himalayan Document Centre is managed by ICIMOD's Information Centre

URL: <http://bit.ly/gn1SMk>

26. Asia Pacific Mountain Network

URL: <http://bit.ly/eYwBCo>

27. ICIMOD Books Online
URL: <http://bit.ly/gZL8UN>