



## ICIMOD's New Director General visits IMHE, CAS

Dr. Andreas Schild, the new Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), visited the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMHE, CAS) on 22 May 2007. Dr. Schild held cordial discussions with Dr. Dengwei, Secretary General of CNICIMOD, and Dr. Cheng Genwei, Director and Vice Director of IMHE. Also present during the meeting were Dr. Xu Jianchu, former Programme Manager WHEM, ICIMOD (now Country Representative of the World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF-China Beijing office); Prof. Hu Pinghua, Head of the Office of the Secretariat of CNICIMOD; and Prof. Zhang Ning, Head of Foreign Affairs, IMHE.

Discussions focused on areas of further collaboration between ICIMOD and IMHE, as well as on the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD. Dr. Cheng Genwei discussed the status of the Committee and brought forward some suggestions for strengthening collaboration and communication between the two institutions. Prof. Hu Pinghua presented the work that CNICIMOD has done since it was established in October 2006. Broadly, the two partners touched upon many concerns and reached a common consensus on fostering exchange of scientists and experts and transboundary multilateral collaboration.

### Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal discusses ICIMOD's regional member country funding strategy

On the assignment of the Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and ICIMOD Board member from China, Dr. Li Jiayang, Prof. Hu Pinghua of the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD, attended the regional member country funding strategy meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 24-25 January 2007. Eleven participants attended the meeting, including board members (or their representatives) from the eight regional member countries, the Director General of ICIMOD, and the Deputy Director General-Programmes, Dr. Madhav Karki, and the Director, Administration & Finance of ICIMOD, Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar.

The meeting discussed regional commitments and 'ownership' by the regional member countries (RMCs) of ICIMOD initiatives and projects. The RMCs and donors expressed support for ICIMOD's new funding strategy, expressing this in the most concrete terms by agreeing to increase their contributions gradually.

The China representative read out a statement from Dr. Li Jiayang in which he stated that China considers ICIMOD as a valuable platform for increasing scientific exchange and regional cooperation among countries of the Himalaya. China has increased its annual contribution to US\$100,000 since 2006, and has established the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD using its own resources. China encouraged other regional member countries to also increase their contributions substantially so that all member countries can take greater responsibility for ICIMOD and develop an equal partnership with ICIMOD's global funding partners over the coming years.



New ICIMOD Director General, Dr. Andreas Schild (left), honours IMHE, CAS with a visit.

## ICIMOD plans for the next five years

The Head of the Secretariat Office of CNICIMOD, Prof. PingHuahu, attended a workshop to plan for the next five years of ICIMOD from 29-30 January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was attended by senior ICIMOD officials and representatives from the Pakistan and Afghanistan ICIMOD country offices. The workshop was presided over by the new Director-General of ICIMOD, Dr. Andreas Schild. It discussed strategies for knowledge and outreach, individual country presence, and core competencies of the Centre. The draft development strategy will be finalised and submitted to the ICIMOD Board of Governors during its meeting later this year (November) for final approval.

Afghanistan ICIMOD country offices. The workshop was presided over by the new Director-General of ICIMOD, Dr. Andreas Schild. It discussed strategies for knowledge and

outreach, individual country presence, and core competencies of the Centre. The draft development strategy will be finalised and submitted to the ICIMOD Board of Governors during its meeting later this year (November) for final approval.

After the workshop, ICIMOD's China representative had a special discussion with the IMCO-IKM division of ICIMOD on the CNICIMOD Newsletter. The IKM team will assist in editing the English version of the newsletter which will be printed by CNICIMOD. For easy communication with each other, ICIMOD provided the CNICIMOD Secretariat with an internal mailbox id.



One of many sessions of ICIMOD planning for 2008-2012

## A productive extraordinary meeting of the International Support Group of ICIMOD in Lucerne, Switzerland

The Extraordinary Meeting of the International Support Group (ISG) of ICIMOD was held in Lucerne, Switzerland from 27-29 June 2007. Altogether, 40 people participated in the meeting, including the new Director General of ICIMOD, representatives from regional member countries, members of the International Support Group, and Independent Board members. Dr. Zhang Linxun, Independent Board Member from China, and Dr. Dengwei, Secretary General of CNICIMOD, attended the meeting on China's behalf.

The meeting in Lucerne introduced ICIMOD's new strategic framework for the next five years, as well as issues regarding resource mobilisation. ICIMOD also organised a visit to a project on biosphere conservation carried out by UNESCO in Switzerland.

Based on the new strategic thrusts, ICIMOD sees itself working for 2008-2012 along three key areas: poverty alleviation, climate

change, and water to serve the basic and livelihood needs of around 150 million people of the region. As part of the new strategy's funding thrust, ICIMOD is encouraging member countries to increase their contributions.

The International Support Group expressed support for the new strategic framework and core strategies, including for funds and resource mobilisation, and gave positive suggestions on how they think ICIMOD could play a better role in HKH region. They also emphasised that regional member countries should strengthen the exchange and cooperation amongst each other, to bring out effective synergies for action and impact.



Lucerne meeting

## ICIMOD Strategic Framework Consultation in Beijing

As part of consulting member countries, ICIMOD, together with the Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS, and CNICIMOD jointly organised a consultation meeting in China on the new strategic framework. The China consultations took place on 26 July 2007 in Beijing. An ICIMOD delegation consisting of Drs. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General-Programmes; Xu Jianchu, Eklabya Sharma, and Michael Kollmair, ICIMOD Programme Managers, facilitated the consultation. Twenty-five representatives from China's government and non-government sectors attended. The participants were from the Bureau of International Cooperation, Bureau of Science and Technology for Resources and Environment, CAS, the ministries of Civil Affairs, Water Resources of China, National Natural Foundation of China, the Tibet Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences, the Bureau of Meteorology of Sichuan Province, Sichuan Grassland Science Academy, CNICIMOD, and institutes attached to CAS.

Dr. Xu Jianchu, ICIMOD's former focal point for China (the new ICIMOD country focal point for China is Dr. Yan Zhaoli), presided over the meeting. Dr. Lu Yonglong, Director of the Bureau of International Collaboration, CAS, welcomed the participants, while Dr. Madhav Karki introduced the objectives and purposes of the country consultation. Dr. Xu presented the new strategic development framework which focuses on water and disaster management, environmental change and ecosystem service, and sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction. Drs.

Michael Kollmair and Eklabya Sharma provided supplementary explanation on the strategic framework. The Chinese participants presented their respective institutions' work relevant to the thrusts of ICIMOD and expressed wholehearted support and willingness to strengthen collaboration with ICIMOD. They recognised the strategic framework as sound and meeting the needs of the current global situation. They proposed that the plan be fine-tuned to consider the unique conditions of China and other regional member countries.

Mr. Wang Zhenyu, Director of the International Organisation Division of the Bureau of International Collaboration, CAS, in his concluding speech, expressed satisfaction over the success of the consultation. The meeting not only brought out useful suggestions but also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences among local institutions. At the end of the



meeting, Dr. Madhav Karki thanked the participants in behalf of ICIMOD and expressed appreciation for the efforts of CNICIMOD, and the Bureau of International Collaboration, CAS, for organising this successful meeting.



Beijing consultation meeting

### A delegation from EGI, CAS visits ICIMOD, explores areas of collaboration

On the invitation of ICIMOD, a delegation from the XinJiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (EGI), Chinese Academy of Sciences headed by Dr. Chenxi, Director of the Institute, visited ICIMOD from 3-10 February 2007. The delegation toured all the programme divisions of ICIMOD, the library, and ICIMOD's Demonstration Centre in Godawari, and exchanged and discussed projects on GIS and remote sensing carried out by the two partners.

The delegation also briefed ICIMOD on the status of the Institute, as well as its achievements in water resources management, biological diversity conservation, and transboundary collaboration. ICIMOD values the work that the Institute is doing and, based on discussions, the two partners signed a collaborative memorandum on water resources management, transboundary biologic diversity conservation, and application of remote sensing and GIS, as well as information sharing and fostering student visits.



A delegation from EGI, CAS visits ICIMOD

### Six of eight RMCs participate in capacity building training of community-based organisations in Advocacy

Altogether 24 representatives from eight RMCs, among them two Chinese scientists, Dr. Zhang Yongmei from CIB, CAS, and Mr. Su Pengcheng from IMHE, CAS, attended a training course on 'Capacity Building of Community-Based Organisations in Advocacy in the Himalayas' conducted by ICIMOD from 13-19 March 2007. Showing by example that Advocacy is very much about interaction, representatives from the RMCs shared their experiences and successful cases of advocacy during the course. ICIMOD brought in the expertise of Ms Olga Gladkikh of St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, representing the

sponsor unit, for the course. Ms. Gladkikh introduced the concept of and approaches to advocacy, including how to take an advocacy strategy to different areas with the help of mass media, citing concrete cases and examples.

The training course was initiated by the Advocacy Forum for Revitalizing Equitable Societies in the Himalayas (AFRESH), the Minister from the Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal also attended the course.



Participants of a capacity building training of community-based organisations in six RMCs on Advocacy

### Regional training workshop on 'knowledge sharing methods using multimedia'

The regional training workshop on 'Diversification of Knowledge Sharing Methods using Multimedia' was held at ICIMOD from 21-25 May 2007. The objectives of the workshop were to: build the capacity of partner organisations to package the knowledge and information they have using multimedia tools, expand the partnership network, and test the

The regional training workshop on 'Diversification of Knowledge Sharing Methods using Multimedia' was held at ICIMOD from 21-25 May 2007. The objectives of the workshop were to: build the capacity of partner

organisations to package the knowledge and information they have using multimedia tools, expand the partnership network, and test the effectiveness of the multimedia products they developed for sharing knowledge and information across the region. The workshop participants came from six of the eight member countries of ICIMOD, namely, Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

This was a participatory workshop where participants shared through presentations their own experiences using multimedia tools for disseminating knowledge and information, monitoring and documenting projects, and for advocating a stand on particular grassroots issues. By the end of the workshop, participants were able to come up with interactive multimedia products on various topics, which were shared amongst each other through CDs. Participants expressed their commitments to carry forward the use of multimedia products for disseminating knowledge and information in their respective areas of work.

ICIMOD, along with participating partners, intends to develop a project proposal for scaling up this activity to build and use educational and informative multimedia products particularly in the local languages of the HKH member countries, and gradually establish a library of such products which would be accessible to a wider range of audiences at the local level through community centres and telecentres. Knowledge dissemination carried out through interactive multimedia can help build a knowledge base on various local issues related to agriculture, livestock, natural resource management, indigenous knowledge, which can be used to motivate communities to improve their socioeconomic conditions.

Mr. Huangjie from the Tibet Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences attended the workshop.



Participants of the multimedia training workshop

### Training workshop builds capacities in 'Flash Flood Risk Management in the Himalayas'

A training workshop on Flash Flood Risk Management in the Himalayas was held from 1-10 August 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal on the initiation of ICIMOD. Twenty-two participants from seven member countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan took part in the training, which aimed to improve the trainees' basic and practical knowledge on various methods and tools for flash flood risk management.

The Himalayas is one of the youngest mountains in the world with high altitude, deep slopes, complex geologic structure, and strong seasonal rainfall, which bring severe natural disasters, especially water-induced disasters every year. With the global climate changing and environmental services degenerating, disasters related to water have been occurring with greater frequency and more destructive impacts in recent years. The training course tackled the subjects of basic geologic and climate conditions that induce flash floods, type and kind of flash floods in Himalayan region, and flash flood risk management. During training, participants exchanged country experiences in tackling floods, and discussed future plans and directions in their respective countries. From China, Ms Wang Meng, Ms Ma Yuling, Mr Yangyong and Mr Luobujiancan took part in the training workshop.



Flash Flood training for ICIMOD member countries

### Land-use transition and human health in the Eastern Himalaya —An adaptive ecosystem approach

ICIMOD's Ecohealth project started in February 2006 with co-funding from IDRC and ICIMOD. The Project was initiated based on concerns raised over the interlinked issues of climate change, ecosystem services and their degradation, and land-use transition and their impacts on human health in the Himalayan context. Both natural or ecological and human or anthropogenic land-use transition factors are likely to affect human health

significantly through changing ecosystem goods and services such as habitat alteration. Some examples of these, which we are gradually witnessing in the region, include the changing distribution and altered life-cycles of diseases such as dengue and malaria.

Therefore, the vision of the Ecohealth project is to reduce the vulnerability of mountain communities to human health issues caused by land-use transition and its changing ecosystem services in the Himalayan region. The project is designed to be conducted in two stages: a preparatory phase (Phase I) of one year, and the project for three years (Phase II) in three project sites: Nepal, Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), and northwest Yunnan, China. The project is being implemented using an integrated ecosystem framework approach to human health, or the 'Ecohealth approach', which addresses the complexity of causes, processes, and links between ecosystem changes, socioeconomic factors, and human health. There are two project sites in China, one is Yuannou County, Yunnan Province, characterised as a dry-hot climatic zone; and another in Dingzi County, TAR.

Phase I has been completed and Phase II is at the proposal preparation stage. The objective of Phase I was to understand the links between land-use transition and human health in mountain habitats. In the two project sites in China, Phase I has yielded the following results:

- ★ Mapping and a better understanding of land use transitions in the two sites, with the Yuannou site dominated by agricultural intensification for vegetable cultivation; while the Tibetan site, is characterised by land use transition associated with sedentarisation of agricultural practices of the nomads.
- ★ Identified possible health problems that are associated with land use change. For example, in the Yunnan site, it is the linkage between human health and pesticide use, and the linkage between HIV/AIDS and migration; while in TAR, it is health problems linked with shortages in energy, and water and sanitation.
- ★ Planning for the next phase.

Phase II will be conducted in two sites and will focus mainly on further understanding the linkages between land use change and human health problems in a more quantitative manner, and testing some innovative approaches to better protect both ecosystems and human health through participatory action research with a strong gender perspective. The findings from this project will be delivered to policy makers and other audiences through a number of dissemination activities.



Participants of an inception workshop for the project on land-use transition and human health in eastern Himalaya

Secretariat of the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD  
Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS  
No. 9, Section 4, Renminnalu Road 610041, Chendu, Sichuan  
Tel: 86-28-85237507, Fax: 85222258  
Email: pinghuhu@imde.ac.cn