

*[First announcement]*

International Conference  
on  
Hydrology and Climate  
Change in the Mountainous  
Areas

15-17 November 2008

Kathmandu

SOHAM-Nepal invites collaboration and *support from potential organizations,*

*Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD, Kathmandu and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Delhi have expressed interest to support this conference*



## **I**ntroduction

Water is indispensable for lives, for human health and well-being. Water resources planning, management and operations requires sound understanding of hydrological systems. The most important advances to be made in water resources development and management is to find ways of optimizing floods, droughts, water scarcity and water contamination. These are prominent problems in the mountainous regions due to poor understanding of the complex physical processes. Hydrological models often suffer from poor predictability, as they are not often sufficiently calibrated to predict the processes typical to mountainous catchments. Further, human intervention to the natural system has increased the complexity and uncertainties in the hydrological processes. Changes in climates have profound impacts on hydrological regimes especially to glaciers and ice-covered areas, thereby adding another dimension to the uncertainties. Sediment loads and concentrations in river channels, reservoirs, canals and related hydraulic structures have been matters of great concern worldwide. There are emerging needs to understand on how to tackle difficulties in managing water systems that are linked with sediment transport.

Characterizing uncertainties in data at all spatial scales, from small headwater catchments to large basins, is of increasing concern. Understanding of the impact of climate dynamics on mountainous watershed and glaciers reduces uncertainties in hydrological predictions enabling sustainability of water resources projects and environmental conservations. The proposed conference is scheduled in November 2008.

## **T**he objective

To emphasize this reality that water is critical for sustainable development, environmental integrity and the eradication of poverty and hunger, UN General Assembly the Fifty-eighth session, agenda item 95 targeted year 2005-2015 as "International Decade for Action-Water for Life". Changes in the environment have been worrying issues to the scientific communities and planners. In order to open forum in these pertinent topics, SOHAM-Nepal is organizing an international conference on "Hydrology and Climate Change in the Mountainous Areas".

The main objective of the conference is to involve scientists, engineers, development workers and planners as well as experts on related fields and create an opportunity for discussion and sharing information on observations, researches, best practices, lessons learnt etc.

- Review the available technology in the field related to climate change and its impact on snow, glaciers and hydro-meteorological processes.

- Review assessment of the impact of sediment on water resources, environment, and socio-economy
- Look for a mechanism for research and capacity building on understanding of hydrological system of mountainous areas.

## Themes

The main topics of the conference are:

- Climate change impacts and adaptations
- Snow and glacier hydrology
- Sedimentation and Mass wasting
- Hydrological modeling
- Flood forecasting and early warning systems
- Water induced disaster management
- Droughts and low flows

## Keynotes speeches will be delivered on pertinent topics like:

Water for Life Decade, 2005 – 2015

Water resources development in the changing context of global warming

Permafrost in snow and ice studies.

## Invitation for collaboration

The proposed conference is the first endeavor of SOHAM-Nepal that aims to invite international scientists from abroad and professionals working in Nepal. SOHAM-NEPAL welcomes supports and cooperation from local and international agencies, scientific communities and individuals.

## Details of the Conference

Language : The working language of the conference will be English.

Location : The conference will be held in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal. Draped along the greatest heights of the Himalaya, Nepal is a land of sublime scenery, timeworn temples, and some of the best walking trails on earth. Kathmandu is really reeks of history.

Special sessions : Special sessions will be organized for international organizations, sponsors and co-sponsors. Detailed

Information about the special sessions will be given in the second announcement.

Poster exhibition : Poster and exhibition are welcome and will be facilitated. Interested persons are requested to contact the organization committee. Final programs will be announced in third circular.

Social program : A social program of events will be organized for participants and their accompanying persons, which will include tours and entertainment evening with Nepalese folk songs.

### **Dead Lines**

|                                       |   |                              |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Second Announcement/ calls for papers | : | August 1, 2007               |
| Abstracts                             | : | November 30, 2007            |
| Notification of acceptance            | : | December 31, 2007            |
| Second announcement                   | : | January 31, 2008             |
| Submission of full paper              | : | February 29, 2008            |
| Notification of paper acceptance      | : | June 30, 2008                |
| <br>                                  |   |                              |
| Conference date                       | : | <b>November 15 -17, 2008</b> |

### **Organizing Committee**

Chairman: **Prof. Dr. Bidur Prasad Upadhyay**  
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### **Scientific committee**

Chairman: **Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise**  
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srchalise2002@yahoo.com

### **Advisory Committee**

### **Conference secretariat:**

Contact: Mrs. Sarojani Pradhan, Tresurer, SOHAM  
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or

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