

IMI BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE

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From the Editor's Desk

Greetings from IMI!

A lot of IMI's activity this month has been centered around water. Indeed, water is globally emerging as one of the key issues of the 21st century. In this issue, we cover the Water Future Conference in which IMI chaired a special session. The legislators' dialogue which happened in the sidelines of the conference was also very successful with tangible action points emerging out of the discussion.

IMI held a state level legislators' dialogue in Mizoram. We have also been engaged with IMI's visioning exercise for the period of 2020-23.

Do write to us with your comments, views and critique at progcoordinator@inmi.in.

IMI Secretariat

Mizoram Legislators' Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation

14 September / Aizawl, Mizoram

A Legislator's Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation was organized at the Assembly Annex Conference Hall in Aizawl on 14th September. Members of the State's Legislative Assembly as well as councillors from AMC and commissioners and secretaries from different departments took part in the discussion. Chief Minister Zoramthanga who was invited as chief guest spoke on the occasion.

The urgency of climate change adaptation in Mizoram is highlighted by the fact that Mizoram is one of the most vulnerable states in all of IHR to global warming. Records have shown erratic rainfall pattern and volume, instances of violent winds, a sharp decrease in forest cover area, increase in vector borne diseases which were previously not recorded, and changes in flora and fauna pattern and so on.

Lalrinliana Sailo, Speaker of the House who hosted the dialogue spoke of the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) made by the State in line with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to adapt to climate change and how these are integrated with the state's flagship programme - SEDP.

Minister of Environment Forest & Climate Change T J Lalnuntluanga further discussed about the multi-pronged approach under the SAPCC which touches upon agriculture, sustainable Himalayan mission, green mission, sustainable habitat, health, solar mission and renewable energy sector, energy efficiency, water, and strategic knowledge mission to efficiently adapt to climate change.

The dialogue brought out the urgent need for coordination of policies for effective climate change adaptation.

**“Development policies can actually go hand in hand with environmental protection and climate change adaptation,” Zoramthanga
Hon'ble CM, Mizoram**

IMI represented in UNCCD COP14

15 September / New Delhi

IMI was invited by Mountain Partnership of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to share the country's experience in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)'s COP14 side event - 'Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in Mountain Regions: Land Degradation and Other Stressors'. IMI was represented by Krishan Singh Rautela.

He spoke on the connection of Food Security and the importance of mountain agriculture and key issues from IMI's FAO supported study on State of Mountain Agriculture were shared during the session.

He also highlighted that in taking this agenda forward, IMI has now adopted agenda of agriculture technology, agri-business, food processing and entrepreneurship for the upcoming Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) to be held later this year in Shillong from November 4-6.

IMI also offered to work on refining the national and sub-national data to strengthen the framework developed by Mountain Partnership and the Global Mechanism of UNCCD. Members from Papua New Guinea, Columbia, Uganda and Bhutan also shared their experiences from their respective countries.



*Picture credits: Jigmat Lundup
Location: Ladakh*



24-27th September / Bengaluru

A special session on 'Water Solutions for the 21st century in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)' was chaired by IMI in the International Conference of Future of Water Earth, "Towards Sustainable Water Future" in Bangalore.

With the initiative of IMI Secretariat, the conference gave way to scope for future collaboration with Global Water Futures to work towards the creation of a Water Solutions Lab for the IHR.

RESEARCH PAPERS PRESENTED DURING THE CONFERENCE:

- *Partik Kumar*; 'Shivering Lifeline: The drying (dying) springs in the Indian Himalayan Region Ecological and Political Economy of drying springs'.
- *Soukhin Tarafdar and Subhashis Dutta*; 'Vulnerable Smaller Water Resources: evidence of diminishing discharge of spring-flow, declining trends of monsoon rainfall and recent land use changes in Mid-Himalayan Mountain, India'.
- *Vinod Kothari, S.T.S Lepcha & Sunesh Sharma*; 'Decentralized Water Governance Model in the Central Himalayan Region of India'.
- *Dr Lakpa Tamang*; 'A need for Integrated Urban Water Security in the hill towns of Darjeeling Himalayas, India'.
- *Michelle Irengbam, Shivani Barthwal, Niladri Dasgupta, Ruchi Badola & Syed Ainul Hussain*; 'Conservation planning in human dominated riverscapes: case study of Ganga'.
- *P. D. Rai and Rajendra P. Gurung*; 'Climate change vulnerabilities of rapidly growing cities in the Himalaya and policy interventions for mitigation with special reference to Gangtok and the Teesta river basin'.





Legislators' Dialogue on Water Policy in the IHR

25 September / Bengaluru

Key discussion points:

A High Panel Parliamentarians/ Legislators' Dialogue was held on 25th September in Bengaluru during the Water Future Conference to discuss water issues in the IHR. The conference was attended by about a dozen MPs, MLAs and representatives from Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and members of IMI, World Bank, Divecha Centre for Climate Change, United Nations University (UNU) and officials from national and international institutes of excellence including Future Earth and Global Water Futures.

It was organized by Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) and supported by Divecha Centre for Climate Change at the Indian Institute of Science and Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP).

- Two critical areas of melting of glaciers and reviving springs were discussed at length as is the impact of tourism sector in increasing water stress in the region.
- Need for a comprehensive water policy for the states of IHR.
- More exploration in areas of strengthening research, action and policy directions.
- Need for establishment of a Mountain Solutions Programme which will include a Water Solutions Lab for the region for sustained and integrated effort to address key issues.
- Scope of more interactive platforms between the scientific community, policymakers and communities to arrive at better solutions in building towards a water secure future.

IMI's vision for 2020-23

2 October / Kalimpong, West Bengal

IMI's journey began with a visioning exercise on December 11, 2013 at Nagaland House which led to the vision of 'Making India proud of our Mountains' and the underlying values of being integrative, collaborative, voluntary, inclusive, open and democratic.

Ever since then, IMI has built a robust civil society platform to bring together all the stakeholders of IHR for collaborative action. Every 3 years, IMI revisits its vision and goals with an exercise in Strategic Planning with our members and state chapters.

To get the discussion started for 2020-23, a meeting was held in Kalimpong with experts to help IMI recognise its the best suited areas to work on keeping in mind IMI's strengths, goals and vision. Through this meeting and interviews with our members and state chapters, the following areas were recognized as most important. The final version of the Strategic Vision for 2020-23 is expected to be finalised by March 2020 after a process of consultation with the State Chapters.

Agriculture

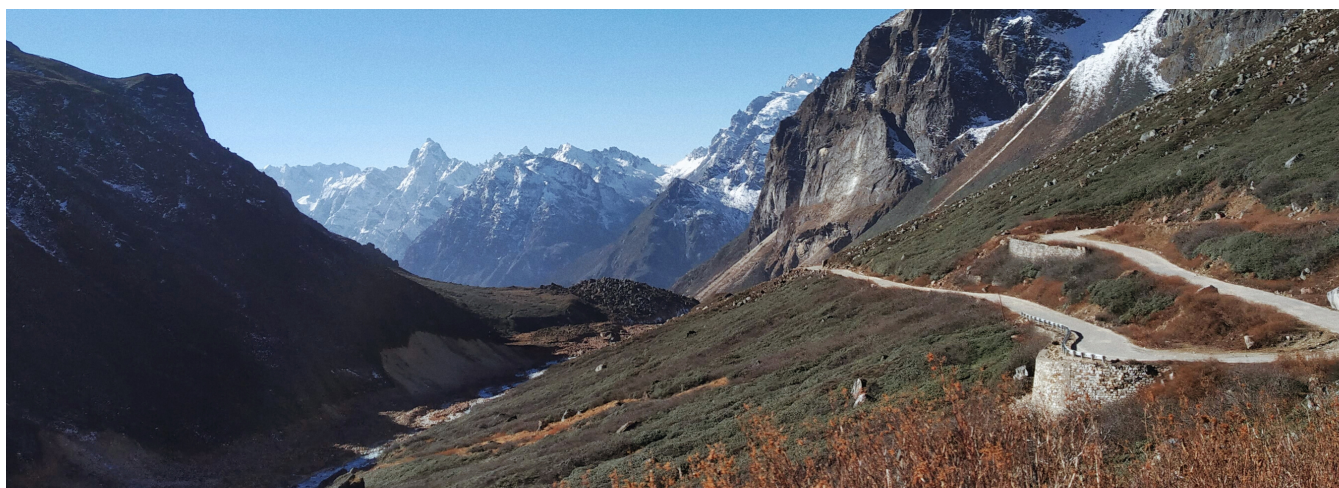
Sustainable habitats

Water

DRR

**Youth engagement
& entrepreneurship**

Tourism



Upcoming events



SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT -VIII

“ Sustainable Mountain Initiatives for Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship for Youth ”

Shillong, Meghalaya | 4th - 6th November, 2019

Venue: North-Eastern Council Auditorium, Nongrim Hills, Shillong

Organized By: Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)

Hosted By: Meghalaya Integrated Mountain Development Initiative (MIMDI)

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT –VIII

MOUNTAIN LEGISLATORS' MEET

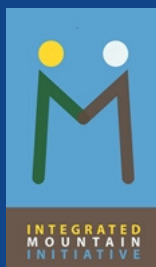
“ Towards building secure livelihood opportunities for mountain youth ”

Organized By: Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)

Hosted By: Meghalaya Integrated Mountain Development Initiative (MIMDI)

Date: 6th November, 2019

Venue: NEC Conference Hall, Shillong



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