MEET OF THE INDIAN MOUNTAIN STATES



Draft Summery Report

March, 2013

Organise by

Central Himalayan Envirionemnt Association (CHEA), Naini Tal, Uttarakhand

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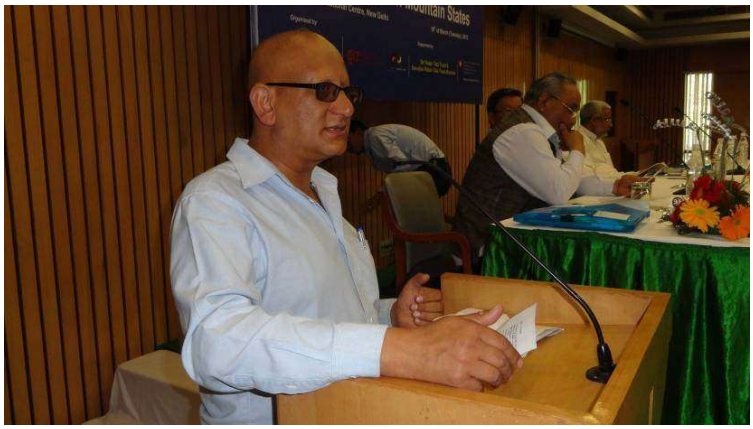
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The Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI) was conceived by CHEA in 2010 at Nainital. Two annual events to bring the stakeholders of the Indian Himalayan Region on a common platform and discuss issues relevant to mountain region and the mountain people are being organized under the IMI since its inception. The first event - Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) is organised in one of the 11 Himalayan States followed by the second annual event of Meet of the Mountain States in New Delhi to share the findings and recommendations of the Summit with the stakeholders.

The first SMDS was organised by CHEA at Nainital in 2011 followed by second SMDS in Gangtok (Sikkim) jointly organised by ECOSS and CHEA in 2012. The third SMDS is proposed at Kohima to be organised by the Sustainable Development Forum, Nagaland (SDFN). In addition to organising the aforesaid two annual events efforts are being made for institutionalisation of the IMI to ensure inclusive participation of the stakeholders. Through IMI it is aimed to achieve knowledge based analysis and solutions of problems in the mountains.

Session 1

Opening Remarks by Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal, Executive Director, CHEA:



At the outset Dr. Pushkin welcomed all the participants and the Chief Guest Mr. Harish C.S. Rawat, hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources, Government of India and Mr. Pradeep Tamta, hon'ble Member of Parliament, Almora-Pithoragarh. He stated that we are on a journey where Mountain states are coming together to learn, share and develop partnerships. This approach is based on capturing lessons from innovative grassroots interventions, which leads to informed policy making as well as ground testing of the mountain specific policies on the ground. He thanked all the supporting organisations who have extended financial support to

organise the event and participants from cross sectors to take out time to contribute in the proceedings.

The hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources was then invited to formally inaugurate the Meet by watering a plant for which he was accompanied by other dignitaries present on the daises.

Mr. Amba Jamir, the facilitator of the Meet and organising secretary of the third SMDS took over the mike to introduce Dr. R. S. Tolia, Chair, CHEA and invited him for his remarks on the progress made under IMI process.

Sustainable development and the Indian Himalayan Region: existing gaps to an ideal state with brief on summit 1: Dr. R. S. Tolia, Chair, CHEA



Dr. Tolia welcomed all present. He referred the Meet of the Mountain States as being the second event in the IMI proceedings and said we are in the process of creating a forum.

This is one initiative on the behest of the Prime Minister in 2010, a task force was set up by the Planning Commission, Government of India. One recommendation was that a forming a forum of the Indian mountain states, involving broad representation, will bring up innovative ideas. The first meeting was held in Nainital, followed by second meeting Gangtok; the IMI Summit in Sikkim in 2012 and third Summit planned in September 2013.

Dr. Tolia mentioned that as of now IMI is not a registered entity and it consists of people who care about mountain related issues.

He mentioned that the Planning commission report identifies institutional gaps in mountain states and create solutions to meet mountain issues.

The mountain states have a concern for meeting their developmental needs and a Green Tree Index to 'compensate mountain states for the hardships they face due to presence of trees' and inclusion of the remaining 3 Himalayan states (Jammu Kashmir, Himanchal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) into Department of North East region (DoNER) are two major aspects required for promoting the mountain agenda as well as fulfilling mountan people's aspirations.

Address by Chief Guest:

Hon Union Minister, Government of India Mr. Harish C. S. Rawat



Mr. HCS Rawat appreciated the process of mountain States from the Indain Himalayan regions coming together on a common platform, which are having some sever challenges to achieve integrated development. He cited example of Climate change issues and said it is a reality as well as is an opportunity for the mountain people. He added the planners and policy makers were not focusing the people of the mountains; however after the climate change has been accepted as an issue Himalayas have become a strong issue.

According to Mr. Rawat the mountain regions have two main assets, water and green cover. Climate solutions can begin with Himalayas, either with glacial melt, river flow from the mountains. He was opinion that to tackle the problem of climate change we need to treat the mountain regions as a core area and start planning with the mountain states as a first class citizen. We need to think about not just the green bonus but also the blue bonus for the water that is being delivered. Climate change is challenge before country, planners and governments. He offered suggestion that it is necessary to consider mountains as core area while looking for solutions to Climate Change impacts e.g. the world speaks of Himalayas as water 'reservoir'.



Mr. Rawat said there is a major challenge to work on human development index, as the HDI has not really improved despite the planning and policy interventions. Anecdotally villages are more dependent on external providers than they were 40 years ago.

He shared his concern on education status and said education is a casualty in the mountain states and has gone backwards. We need to focus on local skills as well as advanced skills training. The present setup of the education system is not focused on future needs, and we need to find solutions that enhance our strengths to improve the life of people. Focusing on Human development he made

points that how can this be focused on? So far, infrastructure devpt in the time of the 12th FYP has not influenced human growth as much as it should have. On the other hand, villages are losing their self-sufficiency. For livelihoods, both local traditional skills and industrial education need to be emphasised equally. HCS comments on the lack of quality polytechnic and other colleges in the state post-partition. Uttarakhand especially, as the youngest state needs to develop a focus. Primarily, it needs to ask itself who is this development for? This question is especially pertinent in the context of the ghost villages that are increasing in number. HP and Sikkim have followed this path of identifying their priorities and acting accordingly. The results of this can be seen today.

He pointed out the problem of migration and shared that people are leaving the mountains and villages are being abandoned. He gave example of Himanchal Pradesh which is better positioned as it had identified priorities before hand and focused on improving those target areas. The Central Himalayan states however did not do that, Sikkim on the other hand is doing better, he added.

Mr. Amba thanked the Chief Guest for thought provoking address and summarized the speech of the hon'ble Minister as "Needing a mountain specific agenda, that focuses on both forests and water and deliver something to improve life for the people of the Himalayas."

Mr PD Rai, ho'ble Member of Parliament, Sikkim, Convenor second SMDS and Chair IMI thanked the Minister for taking out time from his busy schedule. He added that we find that more and more people leaving villages and becoming more and more dependent. He spoke of the themes and crosscutting issues during the 2nd summit and shared that the proceeding has been shared in folder given to the participants. He said Water in mountains not hydropower, but ecosystem services. Hydro-power needs not to be politicised, but to be debated vigorously from all point of views. He again thanked the Chief Guest before the tea break was announced.

The first presentation after the tea break was focused on SMDS 2 sharing.

Summit 2 briefing on event and presentation of Recommendation: Mr PD Rai, MP (LS) Sikkim

Mr. Rai as convener of the second Summit briefly updated the house on the outcomes of the Sustainable Mountain Summit, held on 25/26 May 2012. He quoted UNESCO Director who had given statement that "Mountain regions need our help".



Sharing his views Mr. Rai said that this is a information dissemination meeting and reporting of SMDS is being shared accordingly. He said an overwhelming response was received for participating in the Summit and we had to turn some people away. In all 254 delegate from all mountain states participated in Sikkim event. Showcasing technology was successful, especially the Green technologies will hopefully come to the mountains.

The three themes that were discussed in the Summit were:

a. Water
b. Mountains and livelihoods
c. Forests and communities

Desired outcomes of the Summit were focused discussion on issues pertaining to the mountain region such as Human-wildlife conflicts were mentioned, as were the limitations of the terrain when compounded with poor human capital. He also mentioned the Gangtok declaration made during the second SMDS.

Hydro power policies, linking with the GLOBE (MPs form over 30 countries) forum and the Gantok Declaration, which has 10 items

He thanked Government of Sikkim, Nagaland, and others who contributed in the process of second SMDS .

Progress on institutionalisation: Mr Sushil Ramola



Mr. Ramola shard the institutionalisation process of IMI that would help to take the programme initiated by CHEA to all the mountain states and would provide opportunity for inclusive participation.

He mentioned as the IMI is evolving and gathering momentum - we need to institutionalise of this forum. The IMI is a holistic approach to mountains rather than specific issues.

The vision and mission of IMI has been developed and are as follows

Vision: making people of India proud of our mountains.

Mission: We are a collective initiative for recognising the value of mountain regions and enabling people to realise the potential by integrating knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders

Sharing the process envisaged for the common platform of the mountain states he said that IMI is a platform for different actions to occur - to bring people together to launch initiatives to yield the results we desire. IMI is an organisation to catalyse actions rather than lead the action, provides a framework for people to lead action, he added. It was further elaborated:

1. The cultural values for the IMI are as follows:
    a. Integrative
    b. Inclusive: focusing in particular on inclusive for women
    c. Collaborative
    d. Voluntary
    e. Passionate
    f. Democratic
    g. Open
2. The institution has to be:
    a. Member oriented (not dominated by one particular member)
    b. non-hierarchical:
    c. Decentralised: multiple event, coordinated; light foot print
    d. Constitution to be drawn upon these principles.

As IMI is evolving, it is necessary to institutionalise it, 'to establish DNA'. The first meeting on institutionalisation was during Gangtok, followed by a meeting in December to determine vision and mission of IMI. This talk touches upon progress made in last year.

This focuses on 11 mountain states and 2 hill districts. Also effort to look at mountains from several perspectives including strategic, environmental, human, cultural and topographical have been attempted.

The governance structure of IMI needs to be decentralised, hierarchical and member oriented. It was decided that chairmanship be with the person who organised the summit the previous year.

SMD Summit 3: Overview of proposed event in September 2013, by Mr. Menukhol John, Commissioner & Secretary, Land Resource Development, Govt. of Nagaland

In absence of Mr. Alemtemshi Jamir, Chair Sustainable Development Forum Nagaland and Chief Secretary to the Government of Nagaland Mr. Menukhol Johnpresented main themes, crosscutting themes, site visits, and satellite events planned for the SMDS 3.

Brief on the next Summit for IMI: Sep 2013 - Kohima

Pre-summit: youth summit

Themes for SMDS:

1. Forest
2. Water
3. Agriculture

The presentations on SMDS and IMI institutionalisation process followed by a panel on **India's Mountain states Crown Jewels or Distant Cousins?**

Session 2

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta

Panelists:

Dr. Sayida Hameed, Member of the Planning Commission, GoI
Mr. Hem Pande, Addl Secretary, MoEF, GoI
Dr. A. K. Shivakumar, Member, National Advisory Council
Dr. Phil Marker, Counsellor, Energy, Climate & Growth Unit, DFID

Following the deliberations by the Panelists the thought process was concluded as follows:

We cannot think of the future for the mountains while the Armed Forces Act is applied to the Mountain peoples.

1. We need to think things have created the situation:
   a. the border security issues
   b. challenges with governance with respect to the central government
2. Cross cutting issues that need to be addressed:
   a. state capacity
      i. to understand local conditions as a result of climate change (zero scientific capacity)

ii. Regulatory challenge that the environment is going to pose for us going forwards

iii. What is it that state capacity requires to support the various startegies, including health environment etc.

b. IMI - most of identity politics are destructive - this on the other hand is creating an ecological identity - the most exciting thing about the IMI is to create a constructive ecological identity - which will hopefully unify people by unlocking other barriers.

- Perhaps IMI can focus on look at how state capacity can be improved.
- Accountability of the litany of documents that are being produced and secondly accountability of institutions
- Measureable indicators, should be set for outcomes of the next summit.



Mountains are crown jewels in terms of ecology and gods, people are still distant cousins. The inherited 'distant frontiers' view must go..and this will not happen unless AFSPA is removed. It is a scandal that the NE is still othered, that it is still distant. Any attempts to redressing this is coming from the people, not from the state is a matter of concern. Tremendous energy in students and youth is there, which needs to be harnessed for development of the mountain region. We are at interesting moment where there is a dynamic bubbling up. This needs to be capitalised rather than throttled. The hurdles here are State capacity. The mountain regions are at juncture where very small changes can have huge impacts. The truth is that we have no forecasting or localised science to identify these impacts with any level of confidence. Environment will pose regulatory challenge to us. With all resources, we have not been able to save a single river, what will happen in future for the flow of ecosystem services is an area of thinking. These states need strategy and analytical understanding of

what state capacity involves and what is required. The panel urges states to set new paradigm to establish state capacity. IMI brings out the politics and identities of ecologies. The most exciting bit about IMI is that it will bring about a constructive idea of what ecological identity is, which will serve to undo the other deadlocks that we see today.

It was pointed out that the DONER not sustainable, since it works on the basis of externally developed vision and externally imposed help. Any development agency will not be sustainable unless there is some ownership from those being targeted for development.

Meet of the Mountain States

19th March, 2013, IIC, New Delhi

PROGRAMME

Time	Particular	Speakers/ Facilitator
1330-1400	Registration and gallery walk Himalayan Photo Exhibition and other displays	CHEA, ECOSS
Session 1		
1400- 1407	Welcome, overview of the event and about material in the kit (Summit 2 proceedings)	Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal, ED, CHEA
1407-1415	Sustainable Development and the Indian Himalayan Region: existing gaps to an ideal state with brief on Summit 1	Dr. R. S. Tolia, Chair CHEA, Convener Summit 1
1415-1423	Summit 2 briefing on event and presentation of Recommendation	Mr. P. D. Rai, Chair IMI, Convener Summit 2 & Hon'ble MP (LS), Sikkim
1423-1430	IMI Institutionalisation process	Mr. Sushil Ramola, President, LEAD India
1430-1438	SMD Summit 3 Overview of proposed event in September 2013	Mr. Alemtemshi Jamir, Chair SDFN, Convenor Summit 3 & Chief Secretary, Nagaland
1438-1448	Chief Guest address	Mr. Paban Singh Ghatowar, MoS (IC), DoNER, GoI
1448-1500	Chief Guest address	Mr. H.C.S. Rawat Hon'ble Union Minister, Water Resources, GoI
1500-1502	Vote of thanks	
1502-1510	Tea Break and the Chief Guests leave	
Session 2 1510-1615	Panel: **India's Mountain states Crown Jewels or Distant Cousins?** Moderator: Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta Panelists: Dr. Sayida Hameed, Member of the Planning Commission, GoI Mr. Hem Pande, Addl Secretary, MoEF, GoI Dr. A. K. Shivakumar, Member, National Advisory Council Dr. Phil Marker, Counsellor, Energy, Climate & Growth Unit, DFID (TBC)	Moderator and Panelists
1615-145	Open house for queries to the panellists and discussions	Open house for Panel
1645-1655	Concluding remarks	Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta Moderator, Panel
1655-1700	Vote of thanks	CHEA
1700	High Tea	

Meet of the Mountain States

19th March, 2013, IIC, New Delhi

Participants List

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