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## Conferences and Seminars

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## I. CONFERENCES and SEMINARS

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: THE HERITAGE OF THE KATHMANDU VALLEY

The following is a partial list of papers made available for circulation at the International Conference, Lubeck, June 1985. This list does not include all papers presented. A volume comprised of papers presented at the conference, edited by Niels Gutschow, is expected to be available later this year.

- Shaphalya Amatya (Kathmandu): "Nepal's Strategy on Heritage Conservation."  
R.O.A. Becker (Ritterspach): "Some Design Aspects on the Nepalese Daga with Ambulatory."  
David Gellner (Oxford University): "The Newar Buddhist Monastery--An Anthropological and Historical Typology."  
Reinhard Herdick: "Totenritus in Kirtipur in Beziehung zum Urbanen Raum."  
Linda L. Iltis (Seattle): "The Jala Pyakham of Harisiddhi."  
Hiroshi Ishii: "Social Change in a Newar Village."  
Bernhard Kolver (Kiel): "On the Evolution of a Complex Ritual."  
Robert I. Levy (University of California at San Diego): "How the Navadurga Protect Bhaktapur, The Effective Meanings of a Symbolic Enactment."  
Kamal P. Malla: "The Gopalarajavamsavali."  
Axel Michaels: "The Trisulyatra in Deopatan and its Legends."  
Ulrike Muller: "Man, Religion and Agriculture in the Kathmandu Valley."  
Gopal Singh Nepali (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi): "Changes in Rigidity and Flexibility of Caste in Kathmandu Valley."  
Eduard F. Sekler (Harvard University): "Urban Design at Patan Durbar Square, a Preliminary Inquiry."  
Mary Shepard Slusser: "The Cultural Aspects of Newar Painting."  
Gerard Toffin: "Funerals, Caste System and Priests in the Kathmandu Valley."  
Dhanavajra Vajracarya: "The Development of Settlements in the Kathmandu Valley."  
Anne Vergati: "The King as Rainmaker. A New Version of the Legend of the Red Avalokitesvara in Nepal."  
Gert-Matthias Wegner (Lubeck): "Navadapha of Bhaktapur: Repertoire and Performance of the Ten Drums."

### TRADITION AND CHANGE IN THE HIMALAYAS

The First Annual South Asia Studies Conference entitled "Tradition and Change in the Himalayas," sponsored by the Center for South and Southeast Asia Studies, was held at the University of California, Berkeley on April 5-6, 1986. The following is a list of papers presented:

- Robert Levy (University of California at San Diego): "The Use of the Hindu Pantheon in the Traditional Civil Integration of a Newar City."  
Bruce Owens (Columbia University): "Blood and Bodhisattvas: Sacrifice among the Vajrayana Buddhists of Nepal."  
Heidi Larson (University of California at Berkeley): "Mother Cow as Metaphor."  
Ernestine McHugh (University of California at San Diego): "Ritual as Cultural Ideology Among the Gurungs of Nepal."  
Dipak Gyawali (University of California at Berkeley): "Development Karma and the Crusade Against Tradition."

- M.T. Cooke (University of California at Berkeley): "Social Organization of Forest Resources in the Manang Valley."
- Barbara Brower (University of California at Berkeley): "Pastoral Land Use in Khumbu."
- Marcus Moench (University of California at Berkeley): "Deforestation and the Structure of Biomass Utilization Patterns in a Garwhal Village."
- Gerald Berreman (University of California at Berkeley): "Resource Management as an Issue in the Chipko Movement."
- Stan Stevens (University of California at Berkeley): "Sherpa Protected Forests in the Mount Everest Region of Nepal."
- Steve Parish (University of California at San Diego): "Conformity Reconsidered: A Note on Newar Values."
- Yasuko Wachi (University of California at San Diego): "Law and Politics: Tradition and Change in a Nepalese Society."
- Todd Lewis (Columbia University): "Newars and Tibetans in the Kathmandu Valley."
- Elizabeth Caspari: "Changing Crafts: The Example of Garwhal Woodcarving."
- Linda Iltis (University of Washington): "Newar Women and the Concept of Place."

## THE MOHONK MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

The international conference on "The Himalaya-Ganges Problem" was held at Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, New York, 6-11 April 1986. It was sponsored by the United Nations University, the East-West Center, Mohonk Preserve, and the International Mountain Society, and was attended by scientists, administrators, and conservation activists from fifteen different countries. Several international and bilateral agencies sent representatives, including the Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Development Research Cooperation (Canada), the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, and the Aga Khan Rural Development Programme. Various news agencies were also represented, including the BBC TV, the BBC Radio World Service, and a French television unit.

The main emphasis of the meeting was a forthright discussion of the many conflicting viewpoints that have been expressed concerning the problems affecting the Himalaya-Ganges region in an effort to lay a stronger foundation of relevant data and applied research strategy. It is believed that much progress was made in reducing and attempting to contain the central issue of "uncertainty on a Himalayan scale." It is hoped that this will assist development agencies in avoiding the pitfalls of attempting to apply over-generalized policies and broadly conceived panacea in a region characterized by the conference participants as one of the most complex in the world.

Several background papers have already appeared in Mountain Research and Development and the conference proceedings and many other articles and reports will be published here and in other publications. This preliminary note is to let readers know of the resolutions and conclusions that were passed unanimously during the closing session of the conference:

### Resolution 1

The Mohonk Mountain Conference recognizes the special role of the Himalaya as a unique part of the world cultural heritage and wishes to draw international attention to the critical importance of its spiritual contribution to the well-being of the world community.

### Resolution 2

The Mohonk Mountain Conference reaffirms that a serious situation has been developing in the Himalayan Region for several decades. This relates to progressive environmental deterioration and a

pronounced decline in the standard of living of many of the peoples affected, particularly the mountain peoples. One aspect is the rapid increase in total population in relation to available agricultural and forest land. Taking this into consideration, it is resolved that an international conference be convened as soon as possible to further examine the issues and to recommend an urgent course of action.

It is also resolved that a small working group be formed to develop an action research design and to lay the groundwork for the proposed conference. The working group should be formed by the International Mountain Society in co-operation with the United Nations University, the East-West Center, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and other organizations.

### **Resolution 3**

Realizing the nature recognizes no international boundaries and that many of the issues and challenges facing development and conservation cannot be dealt with adequately without co-operation between the countries of the Himalayan Region, the Mohonk Mountain Conference strongly urges the governments of the Himalayan Region to take steps to establish international parks in border areas (Parks for Peace) to promote peace, friendship, and co-operation in research and management, for the optimal sustainable use of the natural and human resources, and to improve the quality of life of all the peoples of the region.

### **Resolution 4**

The Mohonk Mountain Conference endorses efforts by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to develop a documentation center and to improve the dissemination of vital information on the region, particularly relating to hydrology and sediment transfer. It is recommended that these efforts be accelerated and that links be established with other appropriate institutions.

### **Resolution 5**

The Mohonk Mountain Conference welcomes the recent initiative of the World Resources Institute, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme in establishing a tropical forest action plan which should facilitate efforts to deal with the comprehensive land-use aspects of the problem facing the Himalayan Region, and calls upon donors to provide the appropriate support.

### **Conclusion 1**

The Mohonk Mountain Conference concludes that the Himalayan Region is best characterized as one of great complexity, not amenable to generalized development policies and panaceas. In view of this, the extensive current research on many aspects of the region should be accelerated and emphasis should be placed on specific and inter-related issues. These include, amongst others:

- the status and role of women in rural areas
- organized and spontaneous migration of peoples
- population growth patterns
- indigenous production strategies
- land ownership and taxation patterns
- the development and effectiveness of indigenous self-help movements
- co-ordinated research on selected trans-mountain watersheds

### **Conclusion 2**

Taking into account the accumulating knowledge and expertise of its world-wide membership and publication system, the International Mountain Society resolves to make itself available, in conjunction

with other organizations, to undertake research and to advise upon project proposals developed for application to the Himalayan Region.

### Detailed Agenda

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1. Brief address of welcome
2. The purpose of the Conference

Jack D. Ives (International Mountain Society): "The Himalaya-Ganges Problem in the Context of Peace and Global Transformation."

#### SESSION 1: UNCERTAINTY ON A HIMALAYAN SCALE

Chairman: Dr. V. V. Dhruva Narayana, INDIA

Bruno Messerli (Geographisches Institut): "Definition of the region and its physical base."

P. P. Karan (Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa): "Population characteristics of the Himalayan Region."

K. G. Tejwani (ICIMOD): "Sedimentation of Reservoirs in the Himalayan Region-India."

Michael Thompson: "Uncertainty - Reliability of Existing Data."

#### SESSION 2: WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

Chairman: Professor Sun Honglie (Peoples' Republic of China)

Jaños Hrabovszky: "Population growth and land use in Nepal."

Richard Tucker (Clark University): "Deforestation."

David Pitt (L'Avant Poste): "Poverty, the Role of Women, and the Subsistence Farmer."

V. V. Dhruva Narayana (Dehradun, India): "Downstream Impacts of Soil Conservation."

Bruno Messerli (Geographisches Institut): "Soil Erosion and Landscape Instability."

D. M. Griffin (The Australian National University): "Implementation Failure Caused by Institutional Problems."

#### SESSION 3: WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

Chairman: Shri C. K. Sharma and Shri Hementa R. Mishra, (Nepal).

Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna (India): "Local self-help movements -- The Chipko Philosophy."

J. Bandyopadhyay (Indian Institute of Management): "History and Development of the Chipko Movement."

N. D. Jayal (Natural Heritage Group): "Natural Resource Management in the Indian Himalaya."

D. M. Griffin (The Australian National University): "Intensified Forestry in Mountain Regions."

Shri C. K. Sharma (Nepal): "Hydro-Electricity Potential: The Karnali Project."

Inger-Marie Bjønness (University of Oslo): "Ecological and Social Impacts of Hydro Development (Kulekhani Project)."

H. Schreier (The University of British Columbia): "Land Resource Mapping Project (CIDA-HMG Nepal)."

R. C. Kattelmann (Central Sierra Snow Laboratory): "Uncertainties in Assessing Himalayan Water Resources."

Monique Fort (Université Paris-Nord): "The Slope Instability and Geomorphic Processes in the Kali Gandaki Region of Nepal."

Deepak Bajracharya (ICIMOD): "Deforestation in Nepal: Beyond the Fuelwood Syndrome."

Nigel Allan (Louisiana University): "Afghan Refugees and Environmental Degradation in the Pakistan Hindu Kush."

#### SESSION 4: SELECTED CASE STUDIES

Chairmen: Ijaz Malik (Pakistan) and Colin Rosser (ICIMOD)

Ijaz Hussain Malik (Pakistan): "Aga Khan Rural Support Programme."

J. Bandyopadhyay (India): "Doon Valley Ecosystems Project."

John F. Richards (Duke University): "Environmental Changes in Dehra Dun Valley, 1880-1980."

D.N.S.Dhakal (University of Colorado): "Twenty-Five Years of Development Process: A Conspectus of Bhutanese experience."

Hementa R. Mishra (Nepal): "Conservation and Development in Nepal."

Gordon Young (Canada): "Water Supply from High Mountain Catchments (Karakoram and Hindu Kush)."

Alton Byers (University of Colorado): "Soil Erosion in the Khumbu--Fact or Myth?"

Sandhya Chatterji (India): "Development Problems in Zaskar and Ladakh."

P. P. Karan (Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa): "Development Issues in Sikkim."

#### OTHER PRESENTATIONS:

Larry Hamilton (East-West Center): "What are the impacts of deforestation in the Himalaya on the Ganges-Brahmaputra lowlands and delta? Relation between assumptions and facts."

Robert Jackson (UNO): "The Himalaya and cooperation for development."

Michael Thompson: "Uncertainty revisited: What are the critical gaps in knowledge. Development of research strategy."

David Pitt: "Policy recommendations for carrying out research strategy: Implications for Resource Development."

Nicholas A. Robinson: "International environmental laws applicable to Himalayan-Ganges resource management and environmental protection."

#### SEMINAR ON HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

A national seminar on Himalayan Environment and Culture: Analysis and Prospect, organized by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, held from November 3-8, 1986. In the week long seminar scholars from several nations presented papers on aspects of Himalayan environment and culture such as; man and nature, nature and environment, settlement and cultural resources, the historical legacy, folk tradition and religion and culture of the Himalayan countries. Among the noted foreign and native experts on the Himalayan region those that presented papers in the week long deliberation were Professor C. von Furcr-Haimendorf, Dr. Michael Aris and Dr. Charles Ramble from England; Professor B.K.Roy Burman, Mr. N.K. Rustamji, Professor Margaret Chatterjee, Dr. M.S. Gill, Mrs. Sonali Majumdar, Mr. Justice S.A. Masud, Mr. Tashi Rabgias, Gelong Thupstan Paldan, Mr. Nawang Tsering Shakspo and Mr. B.G. Vergese, all from India; Dr. Claus Peter Zoller from West Germany and Ms. Sonam Wangmo from Bhutan. The participant scholars discussed the various problems of the Himalayan region and passed the following Statement.

## STATEMENT

This Seminar on "Himalayan Environment and Culture: Analysis and Prospect," held at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, on 3-8 November 1986, brought together scholars, environmentalists and creative artists from the entire length of the Himalayan region and from parts of the subcontinent and abroad.

The proceedings of the Seminar served to highlight the exceptional richness and diversity of the Himalayas, which have acted in history both as a divide and as a bridge, and which today presents many challenges as well as great opportunities.

All those who participated in the Seminar believe that:

--There is insufficient awareness in the subcontinent of the importance of the Himalayan region, its peoples and cultures. In particular the significance of the Himalayas for the ecology and development of both hills and plains must be seen as an interactive whole.

--The complexity and diversity of the Himalayan region therefore needs far greater research than has so far been achieved. The existing institutions created for the pursuit of Himalayan studies urgently require an infusion of new blood and enthusiasm. The resource material already available needs analysing both for its inherent value to scholarship and as an aid to the formulation of development policy. The access of scholars to Himalayan areas must be facilitated.

--It is desirable to focus on human communities in the Himalayas rather than merely on administrative territories in all matters affecting man and the environment.

--There may be no single, monolithic answer or panacea for the environmental crisis now affecting the whole Himalayan range. Research strategies have to be pursued on both the macro and micro levels. In particular it is essential to look for answers that are in harmony with the cultural heritage of each region. Much can be learnt from the attitudes to the natural world held by people of these areas themselves.

--A sensitive policy of conservation must be adopted not only towards the unique and fragile environment of the Himalayas, but also towards the region's tangible cultural treasures.

--Further interdisciplinary contacts on Himalayan issues should be arranged between scholars, activists, scientists, creative workers, and governmental and developmental agencies. The views expressed and the findings so obtained should be widely disseminated.

disciplines having to do with the nations & peoples of South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, & Sri Lanka). Panel/workshops for elementary & secondary teachers are scheduled along with the academic panels so that those attending the Conference will have a variety of choices. The conference will continue its tradition of also offering cultural events & exhibits, featured speakers, displays of books & educational materials, & other special presentations.

The 1987 Conference Program Committee will be chaired by Professor Usha S. Nilsson of the Department of South Asian Studies, UW-Madison. The Committee invites proposals for panels and/ or single papers on South Asian topics. New Guidelines will be in effect this year. Proposals with abstracts should be submitted on official Proposal Forms to the Conference Coordinator by May 1, 1987. For Proposal Forms, Guidelines for proposers, and additional details, contact:

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR  
South Asian Area Center  
1236 Van Hise Hall  
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(or (608) 262-3012 for messages).