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Development Projects and Issues

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III. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ISSUES

***REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY AND TRAINING AT UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA**

The Overseas Development Group at the University of East Anglia is currently involved in a training programme for middle level government officers involved in regional development in Nepal. This programme is funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the ODG is working in collaboration with the Nepalese Agricultural Project Services Centre (APROSC).

The programme will develop training materials for regional, zonal and district level government personnel involved in rural and regional development. The training system will be based on existing training materials in Nepal held by APROSC, and on a development of the 'agriplan' system devised by ODG originally for Zambia under the auspices of the FAO. The programme will involve 9.5 man-months of outside consultancy input and a training cycle of about 2.5 months for approximately fifteen Nepalese personnel based on one selected area outside Kathmandu. APROSC trainers will be actively involved so that APROSC itself can later replicate the training cycle, using trainers who are to be involved in this project, as well as the training materials they have helped to develop.

Members of the Overseas Development Group involved include Dr. Piers Blaikie, Dr. Sholto Cross and Dr. John Harriss. Further details may be obtained by writing to either The Managing Director, ODG, or to The Publicity Director, ODG at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

***International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Being Established**

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (ICIMOD) is now in its establishment phase. ICIMOD is an autonomous international organization which will be officially inaugurated in Kathmandu (Nepal) in October 1983. It will be a focal point for multi-disciplinary documentation, training, and applied research, as well as a consultative service for resource management and development activities. ICIMOD will deal, on a national and international scale, with problems of environmental change, highland/lowland interaction and integrated hill development (forestry, agriculture, water management, tourism, energy, engineering, and social services).

The primary objective of the Centre is to promote economically and environmentally sound development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas and to improve the well-being of the local populations. This region includes, partially or totally, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

The impetus for the founding of ICIMOD came from two international meetings on mountain development. In December 1974, the German Foundation for International Development organized in Munich an international workshop on the development of the mountain environment. The workshop recommended establishing in Nepal an institution to promote the ecologically sound development of mountain environments. In 1975, UNESCO, within the framework of its Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), organized in Kathmandu a regional meeting on integrated ecological research and training needs in the Southern Asian mountain systems, particularly the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. The meeting, attended by delegations from most of the countries in the region, strongly recommended the establishment of a regional institution focusing on documentation, promotion of research and training and integrated mountain development and technical advisory services in this field. The meeting also welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Nepal to host the proposed institution in Kathmandu.

In 1979 four parties (His Majesty's Government of Nepal, UNESCO, and the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland) agreed to act as founding sponsors of ICIMOD. An agreement providing the legal basis for this international autonomous centre was signed in Paris in September 1981 by the Government of Nepal and UNESCO.

The Governments of the countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region endorsed the efforts of the four sponsors at several sessions of the UNESCO General Conference.

It is not intended that ICIMOD play a competitive or parallel role to any existing institution, but a supplementary one in furthering the effectiveness of the national, bilateral and international bodies already operating in the region. In pursuing its major objective -- to promote integrated mountain development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas -- the major functions of the Centre are as described in its Statutes as follows:

- clearing house for multi-disciplinary documentation and information dissemination
- focal point for training and applied research activities
- consultative services in scientific and technical matters related to development planning and action.

Documentation and information dissemination: The information received at the Centre (journals, reports, books, maps, etc.) will not only be classified and stored, but also processed to facilitate its use. Emphasis will be given to the efficient distribution and dissemination of the information.

Training: ICIMOD will promote relevant training activities in the region and host national, regional and international seminars and conferences concerned with integrated mountain development in general and rational use of mountain resources in particular.

Applied research: The Centre's research functions fall under the following objectives:

- Synthesizing, evaluating and translating research data in order to facilitate its application to integrated development. This task can only be accomplished by an inter-disciplinary team.
- Identifying gaps in knowledge of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.
- Stimulation, coordination (rather than execution) and possibly financing of research needed to fill the gaps in knowledge.

Evaluation and expertise: The Centre offers advice in matters related to resource management, environmental protection, regional planning, etc. Evaluation and feasibility studies of development projects in such fields as agriculture, forestry, water management, transport, communication, industry, trade and tourism might be of special interest.

For further information contact:

ICIMOD
International Center for
Integrated Mountain Development
c/o SATA
Ekanta Kuna
GPO Box 3226
Kathmandu, Nepal

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