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SOHAM-Nepal: a milestone

The Society of Hydrologist and Meteorologist-Nepal (SOHAM-Nepal) is solely an autonomous professional organization of Hydrologist and Meteorologist in Nepal. It is registered at the district administration office, Kathmandu on 3rd Magh 2059 BS (16th January, 2002). SOHAM-Nepal has been serving the nations since its establishment through its member's expertise, ideas and efforts in various relevant issues like climate change, global warming, snow/glacier, water resources etc. At present, more than 145 professionals have been associated with SOHAM-Nepal.

The general assembly is the highest body of the society for preparing its rules and regulation. Apart from this, an executive committee is also formed to run the society through general election. Initially, the period of executive committee was for two years but it was changed to three years since fourth executive committee.

SOHAM-Nepal came into existence on 23rd March 2001 on the auspicious occasion of the World Meteorological Day under the name of "Nepal Association of Hydrologist and Meteorologist" (NAHAM). An ad-hoc committee (ADHOC) under the chairmanship of Prof Suresh Raj Chalise was formed. On 13th December, 2001, NAHAM was renamed as SOHAM-Nepal by a meeting including several distinguished Hydrologists and Meteorologists from various organizations of the country. The first general assembly of the society was held on 5th Shrawan 2059 BS (21st July, 2002) which also elected new executive committee unanimously.

The lists of executive committees of SOHAM-Nepal since its establishment are as follows.

Executive Committee (ADHOC) (23rd March, 2001 - 27th January, 2002)

Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise	Chairman
Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha	Secretary
Mr. Purna Bahadur Shrestha	Treasurer
Prof. Khadga Bahadur Thapa	Member
Dr. Janak Lal Nayava	Member
Mr. Bhairab Jhha	Member
Mr. Sunil Kansakar	Member
Mr. Rupak Rajbhandary	Member

Executive Committee (ADHOC) (28th January, 2002 - 21st July, 2002)

Mr. Adarsha Prasad Pokhrel	Chairman
Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha	Secretary
Mr. Purna Bahadur Shrestha	Treasurer
Dr. Janak Lal Nayava	Member
Prof. Khadga Bahadur Thapa	Member
Mr. Bhairab Jha	Member
Mr. Rupak Rajbhandary	Member
Mr. Sunil Kansakar	Member

First Executive Committee (21st July, 2002 - 23rd August, 2004)

Mr. Adarsha Prasad Pokhrel	Chairman
Dr. Janak Lal Nayava	Vice-Chairman
Dr. Arun B. Shrestha	General Secretary
Mr. Suresh Marahatha	Secretary
Mr. Rupak Rajbhandary	Treasurer
Dr. Madan Lal Shrestha	Member
Mrs. Mandira Shrestha	Member
Mr. Lochan Devkota	Member
Mr. Om Raut	Member
Mr. Ghanshyam Gautam	Member
Mr. Mani Ratna Shaky	Member

Second Executive Committee (23rd August, 2004 - 1st August, 2006)

Dr. Janak Lal Nayava	Chairman
Prof. Khadga Bahadur Thapa	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal	General Secretary
Mr. Suresh Marahatta	Secretary
Mr. Dhiraj Pradhananga	Treasurer
Mr. Rupak Rajbhandary	Member
Dr. Laxmi Prasad Devkota	Member
Mr. Damodar Bhakta Shrestha	Member
Ms. Archana Shrestha	Member
Mr. Adarsha Prasad Pokhrel	Ex-Officio Member
Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha	Ex-Officio Member

Third Executive Committee (1st August, 2006 - 22nd September, 2008)

Prof. Dr. Bidur P. Upadhyay	Chairman
Dr. Keshav Prasad Sharma	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal	General Secretary
Mr. Suresh Marahatta	Secretary
Ms. Sarojani Pradhan	Treasurer
Dr. Laxmi Prasad Devkota	Member
Dr. Prem Chandra Jha	Member
Mr. Saraju Kumar Vaidya	Member
Mr. Suman Kumar Regmi	Member
Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha	Member
Dr. Janak Lal Nayava	Ex-Officio Member

Fourth Executive Committee (22nd September, 2008 - 19th August, 2011)

Mr. Kiran Shankar Yogacharya	Chairman
Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Dhiraj Pradhananga	General Secretary
Mr. Dharmendra Rajbhandari	Secretary
Ms. Sarojani Pradhan	Treasurer
Mr. Shiva Prasad Nepal	Member
Mr. Deepak Paudel	Member
Mr. Tek Bahadur Chhetri	Member
Mr. Ngamindra Dahal	Member
Mr. Suresh Marahatha	Member
Prof. Dr. Bidur P. Upadhyay	Ex-Officio Member

Fifth Executive Committee
(19th August, 2011 - 2014)

Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal	Chairman
Mr. Gautam Raj Karnikar	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Deepak Paudel	General Secretary
Ms. Indira Kadel	Secretary
Mr. Santosh Regmi	Treasurer
Dr. Harikrishna Shrestha	Member
Mr. Damodar Bagale	Member
Dr. Madan Sigdel	Member
Mr. Sunil Acharya	Member
Mr. Barun Paudel	Member
Mr. Kiran Shankar Yogacharya	Ex-Officio member

Tenth Annual General Assembly

The tenth Annual General Assembly of SOHAM-Nepal was successfully held on 02nd Bhadra, 2068 BS (19th August, 2011) in Kathmandu. Mr. Kiran Shankar Yogacharya, Chairman SOHAM-Nepal, chaired the Programme.

The assembly began with the warm welcome address by Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal, Vice-Chairman SOHAM-Nepal. Mr. Dhiraj Pradhananga, General Secretary SOHAM-Nepal presented the annual progress report for the fiscal year 2067/2068. Mrs. Sarojani Pradhan, Treasurer also presented financial report for the fiscal year 2067/068. Mr. Kiran Shankar Yogacharya, Chairperson delivered a vote of thanks.

Mr. Kamal Prasad Budhathoki, Election Committee Chair presented the election report and distributed certificate to the newly elected executive committee members.

Mr. Kiran Shankar Yogacharya, Chairman SOHAM-Nepal handed over the responsibilities to the elected executive committee chairman Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal. Mr. Deepak Paudel, General Secretary presented proposed activities and overall strategy of new committee for the coming year 2068/069. Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal, Chairperson of the newly elected executive committee thanked the outgoing executive committee for the successful completion of its responsibilities in the last three years and expressed some closing remark. A dinner programme followed the general assembly.



Fig.1 Tenth Annual General Assembly

Executive Committee for 2011-2013

According to BIDHAN of SOHAM-Nepal, an election was held on 25th Shrawan, 2068 BS to form the fifth executive committee for 2011-2013. A newly elected executive committee has been thus formed under the chairmanship of Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal. The three member election committee headed by Mr. Kamal Prakash Budathoki, Senior Divisional Meteorologist, DHM was formed for the purpose. Mr. Tirtha Adhikari, Lecturer, TU and Mr. Suresh Marahatta, Assistant Lecturer, TU were also the members of the election committee.

Talk Programme

With a view to communicate the present development in the field of Hydrology and Meteorology, SOHAM-Nepal has been organizing talk programme from the national and international personalities working in the related fields since its establishment. In this context, a talk programme was organized on 4th November, 2011 at Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP), Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Dr. Mandira Shrestha, Senior Research Scientist, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) delivered her presentation on “*Satellite-based Rainfall Estimates for flood prediction*”. Distinguished Scientists from various Government and Nongovernmental sectors attended the programme.

FEATURES-NEWS

Winter Snowfall

During 15-16 January, 2011, snowfall occurred in some parts of the hilly regions of Nepal with the passage of western disturbances. Traces of snowfall also observed in the hills surrounding the Kathmandu valley such as Chandragiri, Nagarjun and Nagarkot. Some parts of the Kathmandu valley such as Chabahil, Thali, Mulpani and Changunarayan also received light and brief snowflakes along with some amount of rainfall. Snowfall is rarely observed in the capital Kathmandu. Last time, Kathmandu experienced snowfall on 14th February, 2007 and 6th January, 1945.



Fig.2 Snowflakes in the field of Kathmandu valley
(Source: Kantipur daily)

Monsoon 2011

Monsoon this year arrived in the Eastern Nepal on 15th June which was delayed by 5 days from the normal onset date. Initially, monsoon onset was weak. It advanced gradually towards western Nepal and covered the entire country by the end of the third week of June. Similarly, monsoon withdrew completely from Nepal on 5th October. The normal monsoon onset date and retreat date for Kathmandu is 12th June and 23rd September respectively.

This year country experienced good monsoon rainfall throughout the country. According to the rainfall record of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, most part of the country recorded normal to above normal rainfall from June to September. Some

parts also received heavy rainfall triggering several flash floods and landslides across the country.

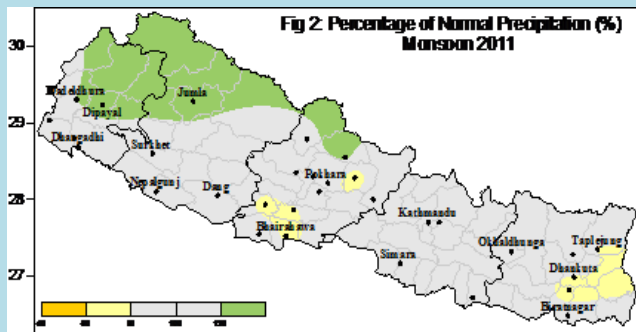


Fig. 3 Monsoon rain distribution (June-September)
(Source: DHM)

Unusual Rainfall in Mustang

The mustang district in the central Nepal normally receives low rainfall. On the last week of July, 2011, flood and landslide was reported in upper mustang causing damage to many houses and infrastructures. It is noteworthy that houses are built in these areas with flat roof using mud. A meteorological station, Chossor in the upper mustang recorded rainfall 23.2 and 33 mm on 22nd and 23rd July, 2011 respectively.

Flooding in Bangkok

Severe flooding occurred during the 2011 monsoon season in Thailand. Beginning at the end of July, flooding was triggered by the landfall of Tropical Storm Nock-ten, and soon spread through the provinces of Northern, Northeastern and Central Thailand along the Mekong and Chao Phraya river basins. In October floodwaters reached the mouth of the Chao Phraya and inundated parts of the capital city of Bangkok.

Flooding persisted in some areas until mid-January 2012, and resulted in a total of 815 deaths and 13.6 million people affected. The World Bank has estimated US\$ 45.7 billion in economic damages and losses due to flooding, as of 1 December 2011. The flooding inundated about six million hectares of land, over 300,000 hectares of which is farmland. The disaster has been described as the worst flooding yet in terms of the amount of water and people affected.



Fig.4 Rescue during flooding in Bangkok
(Source: <http://www.thaitravelsnews.net>)

Growth in nitrous oxide

The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new high in 2010 since pre-industrial time and the rate of increase has accelerated, according to the World Meteorological Organization's Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. It

focused special attention on rising nitrous oxide concentrations. Between 1990 and 2010, according to the report, there was a 29% increase in radiative forcing - the warming effect on our climate system - from greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide accounted for 80% of this increase. (Source: <http://www.wmo.int>)

CONGRATULATION

SOHAM-Nepal Congratulates former Vice-Chairman of SOHAM-Nepal, Dr. Keshav Prasad Sharma for being the Director General of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) this June. He has been working in DHM since more than thirty years.

Mr. Madan Sigdel, life member and executive committee member of SOHAM-Nepal received the award *Gorkha Dakhchhin Bahu Ka* for the successful completion of Ph.d degree on "Hydroclimatology of Nepal in relation to atmospheric circulations and indices" from Hokkaido University, Japan. SOHAM-Nepal extends heartfelt congratulation to Mr. Sigdel.

SOHAM-Nepal Congratulates Mr. Binod Parajuli, life member and Newsletter editor of SOHAM-Nepal for receiving the award *Gorkha Dakhchhin Bahu Kha* for achieving highest rank in the examination of M.Sc in Meteorology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

CONDOLENCE

SOHAM-Nepal expresses heartfelt condolence in the demise of Dr. Sarad Prasad Adhikari on 5th November, 2011 at the age of 71. He was the first Director General of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (1988-1994). He was also associated with several international organizations including World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SOHAM-Nepal is thankful to the Director General of DHM for providing office space for SOHAM-Nepal next to DHM main building (backside) since August, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SOHAM-Nepal is going to organize an International Conference on "Climate Change, Water and Disaster in Mountainous Areas" to be held on 27-29 November, 2013.

CALL FOR PAPERS

SOHAM-Nepal kindly request all members and non members for their contribution to publish paper in JOURNAL OF HYDROLOGY AND METEOROLOGY-VOL VIII, 2012. The interested individual can send full paper by the end of May, 2012 at chiefeditor.jhm@gmail.com. or nms.ioe@gmail.com or sunirus2003@yahoo.com.

SOHAM-Nepal kindly request for your active contribution of relevant news/information for SOHAM-Nepal Newsletter