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FEATURE – NEWS

• **FY2D satellite Reception system**

FY-2D satellite data receiving and processing system was installed in Kathmandu, Nepal on December, 2007 with the assistance from the Government of People’s Republic of China. FY-2D Satellite was successfully launched by China on December 8, 2006 and became operational in June 2007. It is located at 86.5° E over the Indian Ocean. Currently, it provides real time satellite images in four bands (Infrared 1 and 2, Visible and water vapour). Normally, satellite images from FY-2D satellite is received at an interval of one hour, however half hourly images is also received on key months (June to September). Meteorological Forecasting Division of DHM has been utilizing the images received from FY-2D satellite for the purpose of aviation as well as public weather forecasting.

• **SAARC Workshop**

A workshop on “variability of southwest monsoon and its hydrological and preparedness aspect over the SAARC region” was held from March 27-28, 2008 in Kathmandu. The programme was organized by SAARC Meteorological Research Center (SMRC), Dhaka, Bangladesh and local host, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal. Several scientists from the SAARC member states Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Pakistan, Shree Lanka and Nepal took part in the programme.

ACTIVITIES

• **World Meteorological Day (WMD), 2008**

Each year, on 23 March, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its 188 Members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day. This Day commemorates the entry into force, on that date in 1950, of the WMO Convention creating the Organization. The theme of World Meteorological Day of 2008 was "Observing Our Planet for a Better Future".

On this occasion, a workshop was organized by SOHAM in association with Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM). Mr. Adarsha P. Pokhrel was the chief guest of the programme. Four scientific papers were presented on topics related to the theme. The presented papers were - "Observing the earth from space" by Mr. Rishi R. Sharma; "Field visit report on Mera Glacier and Noulak Glacier" by Mr. Narayan K.Bista, "Introduction to SADIS and FY2 satellite receiver" by Mr. Shiva P. Nepal/Mr. Suman K. Regmi and “Variations of rice yield and rainfall in Nepal” by Dr. Janak L. Nayava.



• **Cyclone Nargis**

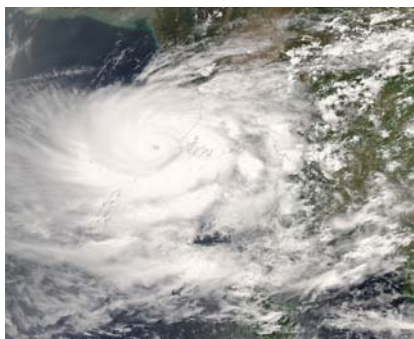


Figure 2: Satellite Images of cyclone Nargis before landfall (Source: <http://www.pakmet.com.pk>)

Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on May 2, 2008 causing the deadliest natural disaster in the country's history. No one knows how many people died in the event, however media source reported that more than 1,00,000 people dead and 80,000 fatalities along with a further 56,000 people missing. Cyclone Nargis made landfall

with sustained winds of 130 mph and gusts of 150-160 mph, which is the equivalent of a strong Category 3 or minimal Category 4 hurricane. The last tropical cyclone to make coastal landfall was 40 years ago.



Figure 3: Track of cyclone Nargis (Source: <http://www.pakmet.com.pk>)

Tropical storm Nargis developed on April 27 in the central Bay of Bengal. Initially it tracked slowly northwestward and, encountering favorable conditions, it quickly

strengthened. However, dry air weakened the cyclone on April 29. But after beginning a steady

eastward motion, Nargis rapidly intensified to attain peak winds of at least 165 km/h (105 mph) on May 2; the tropical storm warning centres estimated peak winds of 215 km/h (135 mph). The cyclone moved ashore in the Ayeyarwady Division of Burma near peak intensity and, after passing near the major city of Yangon (Rangoon), the storm gradually weakened until dissipating near the border of Burma and Thailand.

• **Dry winter 2007-2008**

2007-2008 winter remained one of the driest on record. The entire country recorded below normal rainfall. The Central, Far-western and south of Western Regions even recorded below 20% of the normal winter rainfall.

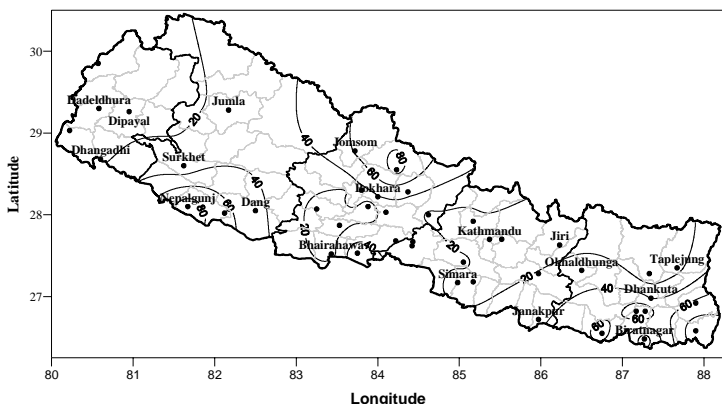


Figure 4: Percentage of normal rainfall, Winter 2007-2008

• **MOU between DHM and EV-K2 CNR**

On 28th January 2008, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Government of Nepal and EV-K2-CNR committee, Italy regarding research based on meteorological data collected at high altitude in the Himalayas of Nepal. The MOU will strengthen the scientific base for studying climate change impacts by facilitating scientific collaboration and data exchange between the 3 partners, both of whom manage and maintain Automatic Weather Station (AWS) or other analogous climate monitoring stations at high altitude Himalayan location in Nepal.

• **New IHP committee Nepal formed**

A new 7 Member International Hydrological Programme (IHP) committee Nepal was formed. The committee comprises of Mr. Adarsha Prasad Pokhrel (chairman), Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal (member secretary) and other members Mr. Mahendra Gurung, Dr. Prem Chandra Jha, Dr. Rijan Bhakta Kayastha, Dr. Laxmi Prasad Devkota, Mrs. Sarojani Pradhan.

• **Deadline**

Deadline for the "International Conference on Hydrology and Climate Change in the Mountainous Areas on Water Resources Development and Climate Change in Nepalese Himalayas " to be held from November 15 -17, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal is as follows.

Submission of full paper	: August 31, 2008
Third announcement	: September 30, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Hydrology and Meteorology, Vol. V, Number 1, 2008 an annual Journal of SOHAM-Nepal was published in March 23, 2008. Ten research papers have been included in the Journal.

Do You Know?

- The decade of 1998-2007 is the warmest on record, according to data obtained by WMO. The global mean surface temperature for 2007 is currently estimated at 0.41°C/0.74°F above the 1961-1990 annual average of 14.00°C/57.20°F.
- Globally averaged carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere reached their highest levels ever recorded in 2006. At 381.2 parts per million (ppm), they were up 0.53 per cent from 379.2 ppm in 2005.

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