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**Editors**

**Suman Kumar Regmi  
Saraju Kumar Baidya  
Rijan Bhakta Kayastha**

**Society of Hydrologists and Meteorologists-Nepal  
(SOHAM-Nepal)  
G.P.O Box 11444**

**ACTIVITIES**

**World Meteorological Day (WMD)**

The theme of World Meteorological Day (WMO) of 2007 is "Polar meteorology: understanding global impacts". March 23 on every year is celebrated as World Meteorological Day in memory of the entry into force of its convention on that day.

On this occasion, SOHAM in association with Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) organized a half day seminar on March 23, 2007. Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise was the chief guest of the programme. Three scientific papers were presented on topics related to the theme.

The presented papers were - "Snow, Glacier, Glacier Lakes and GLOFs of Nepal Himalaya" by Mr. Om Ratna Bajracharya; "Use of Climatic Extreme Indices for Climate Change study in Nepal" by Mr. Saraju Kumar Baidya and "RegCM3 projection of mean climate change over South Asia for mid 21<sup>st</sup> century" by Mr. Jagadishwor Karmacharya.



**World Meteorological Day celebration, 23 March 2007**

**Talk Programs**

Dr. Krishna Kumar, a renowned scientist on monsoon from Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, India delivered a talk program on "Indian Monsoon Variability and Climate Change" on April 25, 2007. He highlighted the linkage of monsoon circulation to various factors such as El Nino and La Nina. He further explained the changes in monsoon circulation due to climate change.

Dr. B. R. Neupane from UNESCO, Delhi delivered a lecture on "Where does Hydrology stand?" on Friday, March 30, 2007. He focused on the importance of hydrology and its challenging role for the future generation.

**Support towards Journal publication**

Dr. B. K. Neupane, Regional Programme Specialist, UNESCO, New Delhi during his talk programme on March 30, 2007 announced the willingness of UNESCO support to the publication of Journal of Hydrology and Meteorology. Dr. M. L. Shrestha, chairman IHP-Nepal has already forwarded a formal application to UNESCO.

**FEATURE – NEWS**

**Snowfall in Kathmandu**



Kathmandu valley witnessed snowfall mixed with rainfall on Feb 14, 2007. The sight of soft flakes of snow was observed at Tribhuvan International Airport as well for about 45 minutes in the afternoon. The light

snowfall was also observed in most of the areas of Kathmandu valley including Balaju, New Road, Baneshwor, Teenkune, Bhaktapur, Godavari, Jawalakhel, Lagankhel. Eastern sector of

the valley i.e. Bhaktapur area received most of the snowfall. In the central Kathmandu, it was just a soft snowfall, which just melted before reaching the ground. The ground temperature at the time of snowfall was in between 3-4 degree centigrade. During 24 hours, meteorological observatory at Tribhuvan International Airport recorded 45.0 mm of rainfall. Similarly, the rainfall along with snowfall accompanied by the western disturbance was also observed in various part of the country. Several parts of the country also witnessed unprecedented heavy snowfall, crippling life across the country.

• **International workshop on Climate Change Adaptation**

Second International Workshop on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change was held from February 24 to 28, 2007 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The programme was organized by Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS). About 150 participants among scientists, researchers, development planners, funding and intermediating agencies, climate change witnesses from various countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and America were gathered. The workshop received well coverage in the prominent national and international media including of Nepal and Bangladesh. Nagmindra Dahal, life member of SOHAM and Energy and Climate Change Coordinator at National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) participated in the programme.

• **Hydro/Meteorological Trainings**

Altogether three hydro/meteorological trainings were organized by DHM for its staffs. The National training on Table Driven Code Form (TDCF) was organised by Meteorological Forecasting Division (MFD) of DHM from Feb. 25- March 2, 2007 as a part of national code migration programme recommended by WMO (World Meteorological Organization). Two refresher training courses one on meteorological instruments and the other for hydrological technicians were held from 4-6 March and May 20- June 1, 2007 respectively.

• **Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress**

Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress was held in Geneva, Switzerland (7-25 May 2007). World Meteorological Congress is the supreme body of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) which gathers its all members once every four years to elect the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization and members of the Executive Council and to appoint the Secretary-General and to approve long term plans and budget as well as its financial and technical programmes. Dr. Madan Lall Shreshtha, Permanent representative of WMO with Nepal, Director General of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and life member of SOHAM-Nepal attended the programme.

• **Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Climate Change**

The National Capacity Needs Self Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environment Management project aims to analyze Nepal's capacity strengths, constraints and needs, identify cross-cutting capacity issues and foster synergies among the three Ri-Conventions on biodiversity, land degradation and climate change and other Multilateral Agreements (MEAs) that Nepal is party. In order to achieve this goal, three thematic working groups (TWGs) on the respective fields have been constituted under the chairmanship of respective focal points. Department of Hydrology and Meteorology is one of the members of TWG on climate change.

Mr. Saraju Kumar Baidya, executive member, SOHAM-Nepal has been assigned the prestigious job of coordinator for TWGs on Climate Change from Nepal.

• **IPCC Fourth Assessment Report**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is currently finalizing its Fourth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007", also referred to as AR4. The reports by the three Working Groups providing a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the current state of knowledge on climate change are available in the IPCC website ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)). The Synthesis Report integrating all the information around six topic areas will be finalized in November 2007. Dr. Madan L. Shrestha, Director General, Mr. Bijaya Kumar Vaidya and Dr. Keshav Prasad Sharma, Deputy Director Generals of DHM participated in the Working Groups I, II and III respectively.

• **Earth is warming faster**

IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) updated the 100-year linear trend (1906-2005) of 0.74 [0.56 to 0.92]°C which is larger than the corresponding trend for 1901-2000 given in the Third Assessment Report (TAR) of 0.6 [0.4 to 0.8]°C. The linear warming trend over the last 50 years (0.13[0.10 to 0.16]°C per decade) is nearly twice that for the last 100 years.

**CONGRATULATION**

SOHAM congratulates Dr. Laxmi Prasad Devkota, executive member, SOHAM for being appointed as the chairman of Nepal Water Supply Corporation (NWSC).

SOHAM also congratulates Mr. Saraju Kumar Baidya, executive member, SOHAM-Nepal has been assigned the prestigious job of coordinator for TWGs on Climate Change from Nepal.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Journal of Hydrology and Meteorology, Vol. IV, Number 1, 2007 an annual Journal of SOHAM-Nepal was published in March 23, 2007. Seven research papers have been included in the Journal.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Call for papers:**

• The editorial board of SOHAM – Nepal has announced the call for paper for the next issue of Journal of Hydrology and Meteorology focusing on "Sediments and floods".

• "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

**Some Important Dead Lines**

Second Announcement / call for papers	: Aug. 15, 2007
Abstracts	: Nov. 30, 2007
Notification of acceptance	: Jan 15, 2007
Second announcement	: Feb 29, 2008
Submission of full paper	: April.15, 2008
Notification of paper acceptance	: July. 31, 2008

Contact: SOHAM- Nepal, G.P.O Box 11444  
 Tel: 977-1-4251921 Fax: 977-1-44241372  
[www.soham-org.np](http://www.soham-org.np); Email: [soham@info.com.np](mailto:soham@info.com.np)

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