

# Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) Bulletin

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## Coordinator's Note

The activities of APMN Phase II are progressing smoothly. Selection of proposals for the first round of the APMN Small Grants' Programme, for the APMN Fiscal Year May 1999 to April 2000, has been completed. Please see under 'Report' in this Bulletin for details.

Membership of the Mountain Forum Asia Pacific Mountain Network has been growing. To date, the membership stands at around 700. About 200 people have subscribed to the Mountain Forum-Asia List.

The Home Page ([www.apmn.mtnforum.org](http://www.apmn.mtnforum.org)) has been revised and contains more information on mountains of Asia and the Pacific. The most significant addition to the Home Page is the database on mountain ranges and peaks in Asia and the Pacific, which includes coloured maps depicting the mountain peaks and ranges. Also, an inventory of mountain peaks and ranges is now available on-line.

APMN/ICIMOD signed an agreement with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to implement a project entitled 'Capacity Building in Internet Technologies and Web Publishing for Sustainable Mountain Development, Information Management and Networking in Central Asia'. APMN will implement this project between now and June 2001 in close collaboration and partnership with mountain development institutions in Central Asia (see below for details).

After three years with APMN/ICIMOD, Kishor Pradhan decided to move. He left us in April to join the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok. We owe much to Kishore, for, without his interest, commitment, and dedication, APMN would not have come as far as it has today. We wish him well in his new endeavours. Now, perhaps, ADPC will have even more of a focus on mountain disasters. Mr. Ujol Sherchan joined APMN/ICIMOD on 28 March as the new APMN Information Analyst/Network Administrator. He replaces Kishor Pradhan. Mr. Ujol Sherchan has a degree in Economics and has experience working with development-related projects in Nepal. He can be reached at [ujol@icimod.org.np](mailto:ujol@icimod.org.np).

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## APMN Small Grants' Programme

During the first phase (1995-1998) of its implementation, APMN activities consisted mainly of awareness raising and identification of issues through the organization of regional and sub-regional workshops, publication of an APMN Bulletin, and establishment of a home page. While several phase one activities will continue in the second phase (1999-2002), more attention will be given to strengthening network partner institutions to promote sustainable mountain development at local and national levels. In order to facilitate this, a Small Grants' Programme has been introduced.

The Small Grants' programme of APMN provides grants ranging from US \$ 500-3,000 to institutions in Asia and the Pacific (as network partners) to help establish their capacities to promote sustainable mountain development. The programme will also support selected institutions in the region that either have unique information or other resources or that specialise in one or another dimension of mountain development and are prepared to share these region-wide. These institutions will be designated as either APMN Centres of Excellence or as APMN Resource Centres. In the first round of the APMN Small Grants' Programme, seven proposals (one from Central Asia and Russia; three from South Asia; three from South and North East Asia) were selected for APMN Small Grants. Altogether, 38 proposals were received from throughout Asia-Pacific. Most of the proposals received were interesting. However, due to limited funds, only seven could be supported.

The proposals first underwent technical review by a specialist in the subject dealt with by the proposal. A Selection Committee consisting of four people vetted the proposals and made the final selections based on established guidelines and criteria, as well as on the feedback/input provided by the technical reviewer. Out of the seven proposals selected by the Committee, three were related to Internet capacity building and networking, two were in support of seminars, and two concerned the mass media.

Abstracts of the proposals selected are given below.

### *Central Asia and Russia (CA)*

#### **CA1**

**Project Title:** *Internet Website for the Institute of Physiology and Experimental Pathology in High Mountains*

**Proposing Organization:** Institute of Physiology and Experimental Pathology in High Mountains (IPEP)

**City/Country:** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

**Overall Project Objectives:** To translate the research results of IPEP from Russian to English and make them available on the worldwide web

#### **Specific Objectives**

- Translate the research work of IPEP into English
- Prepare a digitised database of the IPEP work translated into English
- Develop a structure for a website to archive the translated information materials for the IPEP Home Page

#### **Intended Beneficiaries**

- Researchers worldwide who study physiology, sociology, and ecological adaptation of humans in mountainous environments
- Development planners in ecologically similar areas of Central Asia

#### **Expected Results/Outputs**

- Translation of the research results of IPEP into English
- An IPEP website archiving the research results

**Project Commencement Date:** 3 January 2000

**Completion Date:** 3 July 2000 (6 months)

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** PCs, d-base on human adaptation to high elevation, fax machines, scanner and Internet connectivity

### *South Asia (SA)*

#### **SA1**

**Project Title:** *Media on Mountain Issues*

**Proposing Organization:** Panos South Asia Institute

**City/Country:** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Overall Project Objectives:** To improve understanding and awareness about mountain issues among the public and policy-makers.

**Specific Objectives**

- To contribute to improved understanding and awareness about mountain issues among the public and policy-makers
- To produce a book on diverse sustainable mountain development subjects

**Intended Beneficiaries**

- Journalists
- Media training institutions
- Average non-technical readers

**Expected Results/Outputs:** A book compiling articles on mountain issues

**Project Commencement Date:** 01/09/1999

**Completion Date:** 01/11/1999

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** PCs, media expertise, and media network

**SA7**

**Project Title:** *Garhwal Net-2000 (GN-2000): Garhwal Knowledge Network*

**Proposing Organization:** Society for Environment, Wildlife Action, and Awareness (SEWAA)

**City/Country:** Dehradun, India

**Overall Project Objectives:** To set up a community-based electronic network to raise their voices directly to the global cyber community

**Specific Objectives**

- To set up a community-based electronic network
- Network to serve as resource centre
- To facilitate interaction between the local community and the global community
- To enable the local community to have access to information/knowledge

**Intended Beneficiaries**

- All mountain communities in Garhwal in general
- Mountain youths and women in particular

**Expected Results/Outputs**

- GN-2000, a single public source/ network for information for the local population
- Community information resource, informing the community and empowerment
- Stimulating debates
- Educating local and Government representatives
- Developing a regional hub
- Giving a platform to the non-resident Garhwali community to stay in touch
- Improving the quality of life
- Linking the community locally and globally
- Enhancing access to Garhwali art, culture, and tradition
- Giving the community outreach to the traditional news media, for whom their concerns are always a low priority

**Project Commencement Date:** 01/04/2000

**Completion Date:** 31/03/2001 (11 months)

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** PCs, Printers, Modem, UPS, Internet connectivity

**SA8**

**Project Title:** *Mountains Forever*

**Proposing Organization:** Spiny Babbler

**City/Country:** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Overall Project Objectives:** To sensitise educators and administrators on the importance of educating school children on

mountain issues

### **Specific Objectives**

- To sensitise teachers on mountain issue
- To sensitise students on mountain issues
- Publish articles written by students in school publications for further dissemination
- To create a network of schools in Asia and the Pacific through essay competitions

### **Intended Beneficiaries**

- Educators and administrators
- Students and parents

### **Expected Results/Outputs**

- Sensitisation of educators from 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific on mountains
- Educators (teachers) and students from 20 participating countries will be sensitised on mountain issues
- About 100 students (5 x 20) will be sensitised on mountain issues
- 500 copies of essays on mountain issues written by participating students
- On the launching of the essay competition mountain issues will be brought into the mainstream media

**Project Commencement Date:** 31/01/2000

**Completion Date:** 31/06/2000 (6 months)

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** PCs, artists, editors, NGO network

*South East and North East Asia (SE)*

### **SE3**

**Project Title:** *MountainNet Philippines*

**Proposing Organization:** Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME)

**City/Country:** Los Banos, the Philippines

**Overall Project Objectives:** To develop an electronic network in the Philippines on mountains

### **Specific Objectives**

- To provide a mechanism for easier access and faster exchange of information, ideas, and experiences about mountain issues at the local, national, and international levels
- To link actions for advocating and implementing policies and programmes that would promote ecologically sustainable mountain development

### **Intended Beneficiaries**

- Government agencies
- Academic institutions
- NGOs, CBOs
- Special interest groups

### **Expected Results/Outputs**

- An accessible Internet website, e-mail, and e-conference facility
- An operational on-line database of organizations, communities, and individuals who are committed to mountain ecosystems' conservation
- A maiden issue of the Mountain Net electronic newsletter

**Project Commencement Date: Completion Date:** 9 months (determined by grant approval date)

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** Technical manpower and IT

### **SE5**

**Project Title:** *Regional Workshop in Creating Synergy and Mutual Agreement Among Local Stakeholders for Mount Salak Conservation in West Java Province*

**Proposing Organization:** Biodiversity Conservation Indonesia

**City/Country:** West Java, Indonesia

**Overall Project Objectives:** Create a local network for Mount Salak conservation

### **Specific Objectives**

- Identifying key institutions that have a significant role as local stakeholders in Mount Salak conservation, including their perceptions, goals, and activities
- Creating synergy among local stakeholders in Mount Salak conservation through information exchange and a consensus-building process
- Commencing the initial stage for development of a collaborative management scheme in Mount Salak as an integrated part of the bio-regional management plan in Mount Salak, Mount Gede-Pangrango, and Mount Halimun

**Intended Beneficiaries:** All local institutions that have roles as local stakeholders

#### **Expected Results/Outputs**

- Map of local stakeholders, including their actual and potential role and activities, in Mount Salak conservation
- Working agenda or priority of action plans that reflect agreement/consensus among local stakeholders about their commitment and role in the development of a collaborative management scheme for Mount Salak conservation
- Publication and distribution of materials on the overall process, including printed workshop proceedings to local stakeholders, scientific community, and the public.

**Project Commencement Date:** 01/02/2000

**Completion Date:** 30/06/2000 (5 months)

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** Manpower, IT, and logistics

#### **SE8**

**Project Title:** *Supporting Local Peoples' Participation in a National Conference on Cordillera Research*

**Proposing Organization:** Cordillera Studies' Center, University of the Philippines, Baguio College

**City/Country:** Baguio City, The Philippines

**Overall Project Objectives:** Networking of academics, government agencies, non-government organizations, and members of local communities.

#### **Specific Objectives**

- To provide a forum through which representatives from the academic community, government agencies, non-government organizations, and members of local communities can exchange views regarding the research findings generated from 20 years of research activities undertaken by the Cordillera Studies' Center
- To bring together different perspectives and viewpoints to enable an assessment of the achievements and to provide directions for a research agenda on issues that confront the mountain peoples of the Cordillera
- To provide an occasion to celebrate the plurality and diversity of histories, traditions, and institutions of the peoples of the Cordillera region

#### **Intended Beneficiaries**

- Non-government organizations in the Cordillera region
- Members of local Cordillera communities

#### **Expected Results/Outputs**

- Grass roots' level participation from the five provinces of the Cordillera Region in a National Conference on Cordillera Research
- Local networking in the Cordillera mountains

**Project Commencement Date:** June 2000

**Completion Date:** November 2000

**Counterpart Contribution (cash/in-kind):** Manpower and logistics

*(The next round of APMN Small Grants' will be announced in September/October 2000. Please look for further information in the next bulletin.)*

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#### **Mountain Forum-Asia List**

Since it was launched in August 1999, there are to date about 200 members subscribing to the Mountain Forum-Asia list. On an average, 20 postings are made on the MF-Asia list in a month. Several lively discussions have taken place on the MF-Asia List. For example, the discussion about whether or not to build a road in the remote, Mustang region of Nepal was substantive and lively. The pros and cons of such a road were discussed at length by the participants. This discussion went on for about a month and was able to generate very useful information on the issue. This discussion has also been published in the recently launched APMN Series, 'Mountain Voices' which is an outreach mechanism for people on our network who do not have email access.

Mountain Forum Asia-Pacific members who are not online are still encouraged to participate in the MF-Asia List by contributing information on their programmes and activities; announcements concerning upcoming events and recent publications, reports of meetings, seminars, or conferences; reports highlighting research results or findings; or any other information related to sustainable mountain development. They can send these by e-mail, hard copy, or on diskettes to:

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Information Analyst/Network Administrator  
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### **Visitors from Kyrgyzstan to the APMN Secretariat/ICIMOD**

The Director of the National Centre for Developing the Mountain Regions of Kyrgyzstan (NCDMRK), Prof. Ryspek Usbamatov <[land@iuk.kg](mailto:land@iuk.kg)> and Mr. Adel Mirdjalilov, a staff member of NCDMRK, paid a visit to ICIMOD from 10-14 January, 2000.

The purpose of their visit was to learn about the overall mission, goals, programmes, activities, and functioning of ICIMOD. Specifically, the visitors wished to learn about networking and information management activities. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen ties between APMN/ICIMOD and the Central Asian mountain institutions.

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### **Posters on Mountain Issues**

APMN was involved in supporting ICIMOD in the preparation of ten posters in a series highlighting issues in mountain development, especially in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. These ten collages attempt to portray the strengths and diversity of mountain people with their rich variety of cultures and traditions, through the following 10 topics.

- Sustainable Livelihoods in Mountain Environments
- The Hindu Kush Himalayas
- Mountains and People
- The Strengths of Mountain People
- The Wealth of the Future
- Crops, Jobs, and Markets
- Heroines of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya
- Mountain Communities
- Mountains of Hope
- Partnership in Mountain Development

They can be viewed and ordered online at: <<http://www.icimod.org.sg/publications/posters/postbr.htm>>

The posters can be used by government and non-government organizations, libraries, educational institutions, and others to exhibit. They provide a colourful way of creating awareness about mountain issues and raising the mountain agenda at national, regional, and global levels. They also publicise the International Year of Mountains in 2002.

For further details, please contact

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### **Capacity Building in Internet Technologies and Web Publishing for Sustainable Mountain Development, Information Management and Networking in Central Asia**

All five Central Asian Republics (Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) are large mountainous countries; hence, development in Central Asia is synonymous with mountain development. In pursuing development, the capability of the Central Asian Republics to manage development information is critical. Yet, little is known about modern information techniques in Central Asia. Internet-based technologies and the World Wide Web (WWW) are virtually unknown.

The Asia Pacific Mountain Network, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is undertaking a project on Capacity Building in Internet Technologies and Web Publishing for Sustainable Mountain Development, Information Management, and Networking in Central Asia.

The primary objectives of this project are as follow.

- To build capacities in Internet technologies in all five Central Asian Republics
- To build capacities to manage development information by adopting Internet technologies
- To build capacities to publish on the World Wide Web
- To build capacities to access development information available worldwide on the Internet
- To transfer the necessary knowhow and skills to select institutions and individuals throughout Central Asia to be able to operate a sub-regional network to generate, share, and disseminate information for sustainable mountain development in Central Asia.

For further details, please contact

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### **Asia Pacific Electronic Conference**

APMN will soon be organizing its first Asia-Pacific Regional Electronic Conference. Details are currently being worked out.

The conference will most likely take place in July/August 2000. Further details concerning the e-conference and how to subscribe to it will be formally announced in the Mountain Forum discussion lists shortly.

For further details, please contact

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Asia-Pacific Mountain Profile

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