



सिक्किम विश्वविद्यालय
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Editor's Note

Dear All,

It's been eleven years since the University was established on 2nd July in the year 2007 by an Act of Parliament.

Over these eleven years we have grown in terms of the number of departments, schools, centres, faculty strength and the number of student enrolment. The University has achieved several milestones and we can definitely boast of having the best faculty members and dedicated non-teaching staff.

The University aims to be one of the significant academic and research centres in the country and also to develop the human resources to be well absorbed throughout the world. The eleventh Foundation Day celebrations were marked by the presence of Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Sharma delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on Climate+ Change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions for Complex Challenges at the Intersection of Environment and Development.

May we continue to strive towards excellence and promote the growth of the University

Mrs. Kunjini Prakash Darnal

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

11th Foundation Day 2018

The 11th Foundation Day of the University was observed on 2nd July 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang hoisted the University flag at the Kanchendzonga Management Block on the occasion.

The Registrar Sh. T.K. Kaul addressed the gathering on the day followed by a short address by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang. Faculty members, staff and students were present to mark the occasion.



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Nobel Laureates Meet in Germany

Dr. Mangesh Vasant Suryavanshi, Research Associate (DBT) in the Bio informatics Centre under Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, and also a Guest Faculty in the Department of Microbiology had participated in the 68th Nobel Laureates Meet at Lindau, Germany which was held during 24- 29th July 2018. The 68th Nobel Laureates Meet has an annual gathering dedicated to Physiology and Medicine. 39 Nobel Laureates met exceptional young scientists from all over the world. Dr. Suryavanshi was among the 600 young scientists from 84 different countries selected from more than 50000 applicants. The visit was totally sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, India and DFG, Germany. He met several Nobel Laureates and interacted with them. The University congratulates Dr. Mangesh for representing Sikkim University in such a prestigious meet with eminent Nobel Laureates.



In the pic above; Dr. Mangesh with Prof. J. Robin Warren of Australia, the 2005 Nobel Prize winner in Medicine for discovering *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastric and peptic ulcer.

ONE DAY AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHILD RIGHTS

Organised by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, one day Awareness Programme on Human Rights and Child Rights was held at the Cauveri Hall on 31st July 2018. Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang and Retd. Justice Shri A.P. Subba were present as the Guests of Honour. Justice Subba gave a brief introduction on the concept of human rights in the form of natural rights in ancient times. He also mentioned about the development of the concept of human rights after the Second World War and that it has different names- Magna Carta, Bill of Rights, French Declaration etc. Prof. Tamang in his address rightly mentioned that it is the duty of every parent to provide for the basic necessities to the child. Dr. Sonam Yangchen Bhutia spoke on the Protection on Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Dr. Sonam spoke on the objectives of POCSO, meaning of sexual offences under the POCSO Act, offences and punishment., reporting of offences, relief available to child victims of sexual offences and the key authority to protect the child. This was followed by a question answer session where the participants had a lot of doubts cleared. Dr. Gadde Om Prasad discussed the issue of child labour in India and he began the discussion by drawing attention to the fact that the term child is dependant on the term age. He also spoke on the difference in the ages of children who work or those who drop out of schools in different countries. He also talked about the constitutional and legislative provisions in India for a child, various policies framed by the Government for children, its goals and objectives, magnitude of child labour in India, its causes and effects. The awareness programme was an informative one in which a lot of sharing of knowledge took place.

11th Foundation Day Lecture

Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal- Dr. Sharma is an eminent ecologist with over 35 years of experience on sustainable mountain development working in eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. Dr. Sharma has developed a strong Centre in Sikkim, India for the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development. He has also made significant achievements towards community- based enterprise development approaches for the conservation of Sikkim's unique biological diversity in major tourist destinations. After joining ICIMOD he has expanded his research contribution in the eight countries of the HKH focusing on natural resources management including biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and resilience building.



Climate+ Change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions for Complex Challenges at the Intersection of Environment and Development

Mountains occupy 22% of the world's land surface area and 915 million people live in mountains. Half of the humanity directly depends on mountain resources, particularly for water and biodiversity. The huge water storage capacity of mountains provides a lifeline for million, in the form of snow, glaciers, permafrost, snow- packs, soil, or groundwater, wetlands, and rivers as well as through watershed functions increasing groundwater recharge. This attribution often refers mountains as “water towers” specifically for contributions that they provide for densely populated downstream. Ethnic diversity is higher in mountains than other regions of the world. Poverty and vulnerability remain with roughly 39% of mountain populations in developing countries who are also considered vulnerable to food insecurity.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is well known for its cultural, biological, aesthetic and geo- hydrological value. Its vast complex of hills, valleys, plateaus and mountains contain some of the world's tallest peaks and more than 60000 km² of glaciers and 760000km² of snow cover. These snow and ice reserves represent a massive store of freshwater that provides resources for energy, tourism, sanitation and food production among many other regional needs. The region's ten major river basins the Amu Darya, Brahmaputra, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy, Mekong, Salween, Tarim, Yangtze and Yellow connect upstream and downstream areas in terms of trade, culture, commerce, communication and resource management and provides goods and services to 1.9 billion people in Asia, including 240million who live in the HKH region.

Four of the 36 global biodiversity hotspot sit in the HKH region. 39% of the region is covered with protected areas that harbor a wide range of ecosystems and provide numerous services in terms of food, water and climate regulation. Most ecosystems in the region are subject to climatic and non- climatic changes impacting their function and substantially, thereby affecting livelihoods and community resilience in the region as well as downstream.

Eight countries- Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan share the HKH. We know that better development outcomes could be achieved with shared management of HKH resources. For example, improved cooperation could enable better cross- border flood preparation, ecosystem management and water and energy sharing to optimize resource use in the region. However, shared management of the resources remains a challenge. Four out of eight countries in the HKH are categorized as 'Least Developed Countries' in the Human Development Index; five to eight countries are rated in “alert status” in the 'Fragile States Index; and the “Peace Index” shows four countries of the HKH ranging from low to very low. Therefore the region's fragility, vulnerability and poverty have become most critical issues.

Climate change plus a range of social changes such as rapid population growth, urbanization, migration, feminization of rural labor and economic development are major drivers of rapid transformation in the HKH region. Mountain people and ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate change. Temperature rise amplifies with elevation with predictions that temperatures could increase 3 to four degrees at high elevation in a 2°C world. The ecological stability of the region faces multiple threats with vast ice reserves and glaciers melting, putting at risk the role of this mountain region as a water reservoir. The frequency of floods and droughts has increased. Degradation of forests, wetlands, rangelands and decline of biodiversity imperil livelihoods.

To address complex climate plus change challenges in mountains and downstream, ICIMOD develops solutions at the intersection of environment and development of the HKH by facilitating knowledge generation and exchange, trans- boundary cooperation and science- policy dialogues on water resources and river basin management, biodiversity conservation and use, landscape management and resilience building. ICIMOD engages in community to regional solutions through its regional programmes on adaptation and resilience building, trans- boundary landscape management, river basin and cryosphere, atmosphere, regional information system and mountain knowledge and action networks.

The mountain such as the HKH region provide enormous good and services, however they have not received enough attention in global, regional and national policies for more investment in research and development. This paradigm has to change if impacts of climate change are to be reduced for people both in mountains and those living in downstream regions and also in achieving sustainable development goals by 2030. The increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change on mountains, mountain ecosystems, mountain communities and the consequences these pose for the rest of the world, mountains need to be at the center of international debate on good science, policies and sustainable development.

The 11th Foundation Day Celebrations

The 11th Foundation Day celebrations of the University was held on 20th July 2018 at the Sikkim Manipal University Auditorium. Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Dy. Director General was the Chief- Guest. The programme began with an invocation song of the University. The Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang delivered the welcome address in which he also highlighted the achievements of the University. The representatives of Sikkim University Teachers' Association (SUTA), Sikkim University Non- teaching Staff Association (SUNSA) and Sikkim University Students' Association (SUSA) also delivered their address. The Foundation Day lecture was delivered by Dr. Eklabya Sharma, an eminent ecologist with over 35 years of experience on sustainable mountain development working in eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. Dr. Sharma has received many national and international awards and has had outstanding professional assignments both in India and abroad. Dr. Sharma has around 200 publications with majority of them being published in international journals 18 books. Every year in its Foundation Day the University recognizes the contributions of the faculty members, non- teaching staff and students in the form of various awards. This year too faculty members, staff and students were felicitated on the occasion of Foundation Day. A very vibrant and lively cultural programme was organized by the students of different departments of the University.

