

## Messages from the First Inter-Polar Conference Connecting the Arctic and the Third Pole – Hindu Kush Himalaya

*Medy Deroovic,<sup>1</sup> Kamrul Hossain,<sup>2</sup> Deepshikha Sharma,<sup>3</sup> Albert van Wijngaarden,<sup>4</sup> Marco Volpe,<sup>5</sup> Arun Bhakta Shrestha,<sup>6</sup> Avash Pandey,<sup>7</sup> Pradyumna Rana,<sup>8</sup> Udayan Mishra<sup>9</sup> & Kirsi Latola<sup>10</sup>*

Imagining a connection between the Arctic and the Third Pole – Hindu Kush Himalaya regions may seem daunting at first. One might intuitively reduce the connection to their easily identifiable common denominator: the (nearly-) continuous presence of ice. Yet, the connection between these two poles vastly exceeds the mere presence of cryosphere components. This was demonstrated during the first iteration of the Inter-Polar Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on September 6-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This conference was co-organized by the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, Finland, and the International Centre for Integrated

Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, in collaboration with the UArctic's Chair in Arctic Legal Research and Education and its Thematic Network on Arctic Law.

The Conference marked a milestone in collaborative efforts between these two regions. The following objectives were identified while planning the conference:

- Discuss inter-polar perspectives from both the Arctic and Hindu Kush Himalaya regions, and scope out the possibilities of creating an inter-polar knowledge network bringing experts from both regions.

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#ArcticHKH

## The first Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya

6–9 September 2023

[www.icimod.org/arctichkh](http://www.icimod.org/arctichkh)



- Better understand climate change-driven impacts on the regions and help prepare scholars and stakeholders to develop an in-depth understanding of sustainability in both regions.

While most readers of the *Current Developments in Arctic Law* series have, to different extents, an understanding of the Arctic, the same cannot be assumed regarding the Third Pole Hindu Kush Himalaya region (HKH). Here, the HKH refers to the sovereign territory of the eight States connected to the Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and the Himalayan mountain ranges. These States are, in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. The snow and ice of the HKH mountains supply seasonal freshwater to

river basins that serve 2 billion people in Asia. ICIMOD’s latest report – *Water, Ice, Society, and Ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HI-WISE)* – examined the impact that the changing cryosphere has on water resources, ecosystems, and livelihoods. Glaciers in the HKH region shrank 65% faster in the 2010s than in the previous decade, and 80% of the current glacier volume will vanish by 2100 on current emissions trajectories. Vulnerable mountain communities are already suffering losses in lives, heritage, economy, and infrastructure. The impacts do and will cascade into countries downstream. This conference report will use the “HKH” acronym and “Third Pole” expression for legibility purposes.

Like many Arctic Centre projects, the idea to organize this conference emerged from a coffee-table discussion in autumn 2022 based on three realizations: 1) the Arctic and Third Pole are almost always considered separately in social and legal sciences, 2) the connections between these regions need to be deepened, and 3) the voices of Third Pole scholars do not always reach the Arctic. A series of informal brainstorming between Professor Kamrul Hossain and promising early career scholars interested in the Third Pole research at the Arctic Centre created a path to move ahead with the project. In March 2023, Professor Kamrul Hossain and Albert van Wijngaarden traveled to the Arctic Circle Japan Forum with a panel session highlighting the “legitimate” connection between the Arctic and the Third Pole. The Panel gave four academic presentations and was attended by an enthusiastic audience.

The idea of exploring this knowledge gap further materialized as they met, and discussed with Dr Pema Gyamtsho, ICIMOD’s Director General. Their discussions sparked a resounding enthusiasm that led the organizers to set up a conference in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region the very same year. This enthusiasm later became one of the predominant leitmotifs driving the Inter-Polar Conference. The University of Lapland and ICIMOD jointly named a steering group under the leadership of

Prof. Kamrul Hossain. The other organizing group members included Albert van Wijngaarden, Medy Dervovic, and Marco Volpe from the Arctic Centre; Deepshikha Sharma, Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Avash Pandey, Pradyumna Rana, and Udayan Mishra from ICIMOD; and Kirsi Latola from UArctic.

During the conceptualizing stage, the organizers wished to keep the call for abstracts as broad as possible. The call is annexed to this report. The rationale behind it was to grant scholars from the Arctic and HKH the greatest freedom in terms of topic selection rather than imposing clear-cut and restrictive views of what are the linkages between these two regions. Giving local scholars the opportunity to get their voices heard and emphasizing what aspects matter to them was always of paramount importance throughout the process. This approach has been well-received by the participants, as reflected in the high number and variety of submissions.

Diversity, inclusiveness, and interdisciplinarity were cornerstone elements that made this conference special and successful.

The event gathered close to one hundred speakers from the Arctic and Hindu Kush Himalaya regions, with a significant representation of early-career scholars, including indigenous and local

perspectives. The organizers were aware that it would have been difficult to gather such a diverse crowd had the conference been organized in the European or American Arctic due to financial and bureaucratic intricacies. Organizing the Inter-Polar Conference in the Third Pole appears, for now, as a necessary step in

bridging the social inequalities researchers may face and enhancing accessibility to academic conferences. As a result, the promotion of diversity and inclusiveness enriched the discussions held during the event beyond expectations.



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The program is annexed to this report. It contains one inaugural session, one keynote session, and six breakout sessions (each composed of three simultaneous panels). A wide array of disciplines was represented, mirroring the multifaceted

link connecting the Arctic and the Third Pole as framed by the participants.

Therefore, the main aspects of this link explored during the conference encompass legal, governance, societal, cultural, spiritual, environmental, scientific, technological, resource management, and

urbanization questions. Moreover, these categories include different sources of knowledge ranging from indigenous and local knowledge to traditional academic and scientific knowledge.

Interdisciplinarity embodies an essential tool for comprehensive, efficient, and impactful research. Nevertheless, it does not come without any challenges, the main one being communication between disciplines. There are several remedies available, including, *inter alia*, tailoring a presentation to accommodate laypersons (e.g., introducing key notions), using simple language, and employing easy-to-understand narratives. While these were not written rules of the Inter-Polar Conference, participants naturally strived to make their presentation as clear and accessible as possible. Such efforts paved the way for constructive, enthusiastic, and inspiring discussions across all disciplines, thereby facilitating the collaborative identification of the connections between the Arctic and the Third Pole.

Upon close observation of the program's structure, one may identify two priorities the organizers had in mind when they conceived it. First, implementing an interdisciplinary component had to go beyond having different disciplines in the program. The goal was twofold: expose everyone to most scheduled disciplines and have the audience and panelists engage in a fruitful, interdisciplinary

dialogue. Second, the conference was considered an opportunity to form connections and build networks rather than a mere knowledge-production event. It is visible from the numerous tea breaks, relatively extensive lunch breaks, networking time slots, and the excursion to ICIMOD's Living Mountain Lab mid-conference.

Symbiotic learning and cross-fertilization of knowledge are other underlying goals of the first Inter-Polar Conference. As mentioned above, the Arctic and HKH are often addressed separately in the humanities and social and legal sciences, highlighting knowledge gaps concerning the connection, commonalities, and differences between these regions. In this context, symbiotic learning is a reciprocal and foundational process that intervenes at the inter-polar level, *i.e.*, introducing the Arctic to scholars from the Third Pole, and vice-versa. Building on this, the cross-fertilization of knowledge refers to incorporating the acquired knowledge from one pole into the other, taking into account regional particularities.

During the three-day conference, multiple inter-regional connections emerged. As anticipated, the following trifecta dominated: cryosphere, people, and climate change. At the same time, the manner in which the participants addressed these three themes surpassed the organizer's (and participants')

expectations in many regards. For instance, some participants unveiled non-mainstream perspectives, shared personal experiences, and made connections with the other pole during their presentation. Also, the dynamism and curiosity of the participants bolstered the discussions: each time someone talked about one pole, the audience would ask for comparative perspectives from the other pole to understand the commonalities and differences better. In turn, it contributed to accomplishing the goals of the Inter-Polar Conference.

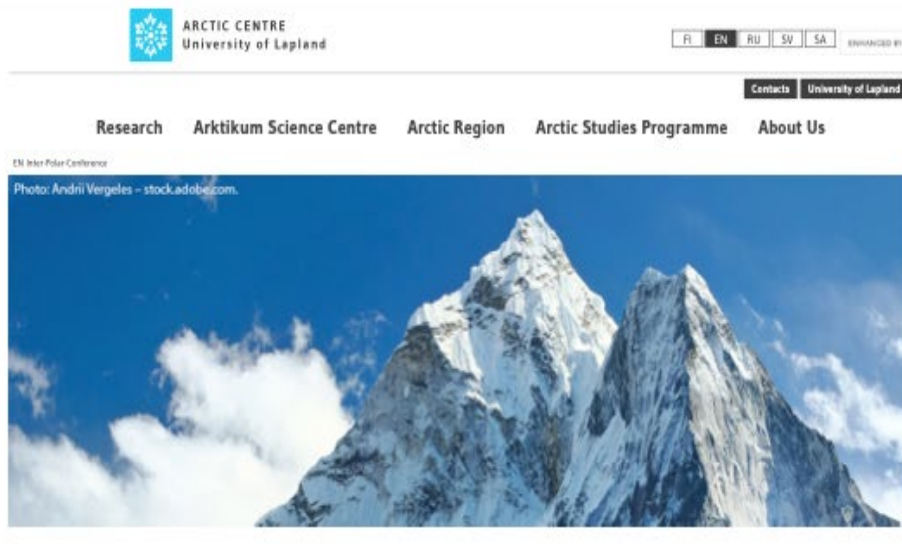
Some of the principal takeaways from the first Inter-Polar Conference, in no particular order:

1. There are clearly many connections that can be drawn between the Arctic and Third Pole. These connections extend beyond the continuous presence of cryosphere components. Nevertheless, cryosphere remains the focal point.
2. However, we should also be careful not to mistake similarity with identity and draw connections too easily, hence further research collaborations are required.
3. Cooperation between scientists from both regions can be very fruitful, and many participants requested further organizations to facilitate this in the future.
4. Due to the complexity in both regions, interdisciplinary approaches are most likely to provide a fuller picture.
5. Indigenous and local voices are paramount to understanding the Arctic and HKH, and should be a major focus point of future collaboration. One area for collaboration would be to form an inter-polar knowledge network and carry out joint activities in the two regions with an emphasis on the co-production of knowledge.
6. As both regions face the effects of a warming climate and a declining cryosphere, studies on communities and their relationship to their changing environment should be one of the points of priority for scholars.
7. In both regions water and the melting of ice play a crucial role, but the effects, narratives and issues in both regions are very different. The water issues also lead to major risks to human life in both regions, prompting many social concerns like those related to disaster management or food and livelihood provisions.
8. Politically, legally and governance-wise, there are many interesting topics to explore; Models of cooperation in the Arctic could be transplanted to the Third Pole.
9. Many different scientific and technological innovations facilitate the studying of climate change in the regions, and might help in mitigating the effects or associated risks of cryospheric melt in both regions.
10. The participation of underrepresented communities and early-career scholars in this conference contributes to their empowerment regarding the future of their region.

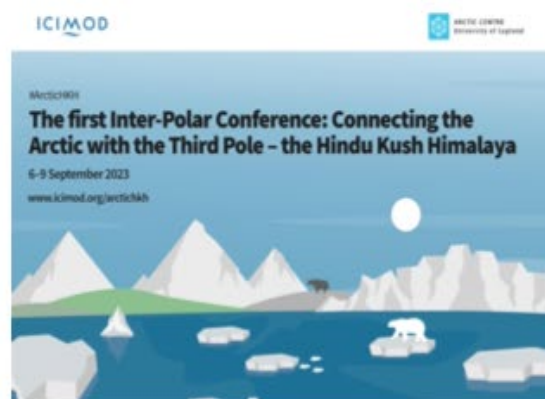
Finally, local and foreign media outlets reported on the holding of the first Inter-Polar Conference during and after the event ([The Economic Times](#), [News Drum](#), [Devdiscourse](#), [Nepal Live Today](#), [Nepali Times](#), [Dawn](#), [Nepal TV Plus](#), [Lapin Yliopisto](#)). This testifies to the heightened and genuine interests not only of scholars but also of the general population in the development of knowledge in this area of study. In turn, it encourages the organizers to prepare for the next steps. Future endeavors include conducting a workshop and organizing the second iteration of the Inter-Polar Conference. More details will be communicated in due course!

*Organizing the Inter-Polar Conference in the Third Pole appears, for now, as a necessary step in bridging the social inequalities researchers may face and enhancing accessibility to academic conferences.*





The first Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole, 06. - 09. September 2023



The Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland and collaborators invite abstract submissions for an **Inter-Polar Conference** in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 6-9 September 2023.

The Arctic and the Third Pole-Himalayan region both contain important elements of the cryosphere, the near-permanent presence of water in a frozen state. However, as temperatures in both regions are currently increasing rapidly, these areas are rapidly thawing, and several elements of the cryosphere are at the tipping points. Changes in the cryosphere will have major impacts on local communities and ecosystems, and also lead to larger-scale changes: the melting of the Himalayan glaciers and changes in the snowpack will have significant regional effects related to the provision of water to a quarter of humanity, and the melting of cryosphere in the Arctic will contribute significantly to global sea level rise, affecting the 10% of humanity living within 10 m above of sea level, as well as global trade as docks and other infrastructure at sea level are affected.

The interlinked aspect of cryosphere thaw and climate change is crucial in promoting polar science. However, the Arctic and Third Pole are almost always considered separately, demonstrating very little knowledge about the commonalities and links between both regions, especially concerning (geo-) political, socio-cultural, environmental and legal dynamics of effects of and responses to these changes.

To remedy this deficiency, the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM) of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the UArctic Chair in Arctic Legal Research and Education, and the UArctic Law Thematic Network, is organising an Inter-Polar Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 6-9 September 2023. This Conference is intended to be a starting point for a durable network that will bring together experts from both regions and explore Arctic and Third Pole topics from an inter-polar perspective. We hope that this shift can not only help understand the climate change-driven effects on the two Poles but also help prepare scholars and stakeholders in both regions to develop an in-depth understanding of sustainability in a changing climatic and geopolitical landscape. This Conference's focus will be inter- and cross-disciplinary, underlining broad areas of social and legal sciences. But there will also be ample room for scholars to bring knowledge from natural and life science disciplines.

**Call for abstracts**

We invite abstract submissions, not exceeding 300-words, by scholars from the Arctic and the Third Pole regions that look at the following or closely related topics, either from a focused, but preferably through a comparative or connecting lens:

- Climate change and environmental governance
- Cryosphere and the governance of the Polar regions
- International law and legal arrangement in a transnational setting
- Institutions and regional and global cooperation
- Geopolitics and security
- Science diplomacy and science communications
- Livelihood, culture and identity
- Indigenous and tribal peoples' studies
- Human Rights and Human Security
- Rights of Nature, and human-nature and human-environment relations
- Climate actions and sustainable development
- Regional and urban developments
- Education, social justice and equality
- Sustainable and responsible tourism
- Food and water security
- Storytelling, artistic representation and media studies
- Local and regional economic development
- Risk and disaster management

**Important dates:**

- April 15, 2023: Call for Abstracts open
- July 07, 2023: Deadline for Abstract submissions
- July 14, 2023: Notification of acceptance
- July 31, 2023: Confirmation of participation
- September 6-9, 2023: Conference

**Conference program:**

**PROGRAM** (Final, September, 5) [pdf]

**Practical information:**

- [Conference Venue and Practical Information](#) [pdf]
- [Instructions for Speakers](#) [pdf]
- Conference hashtag: #ArcticHKH

**Online participation**

If you are interested to attend the plenary session of the conference virtually, [please register at this link](#).

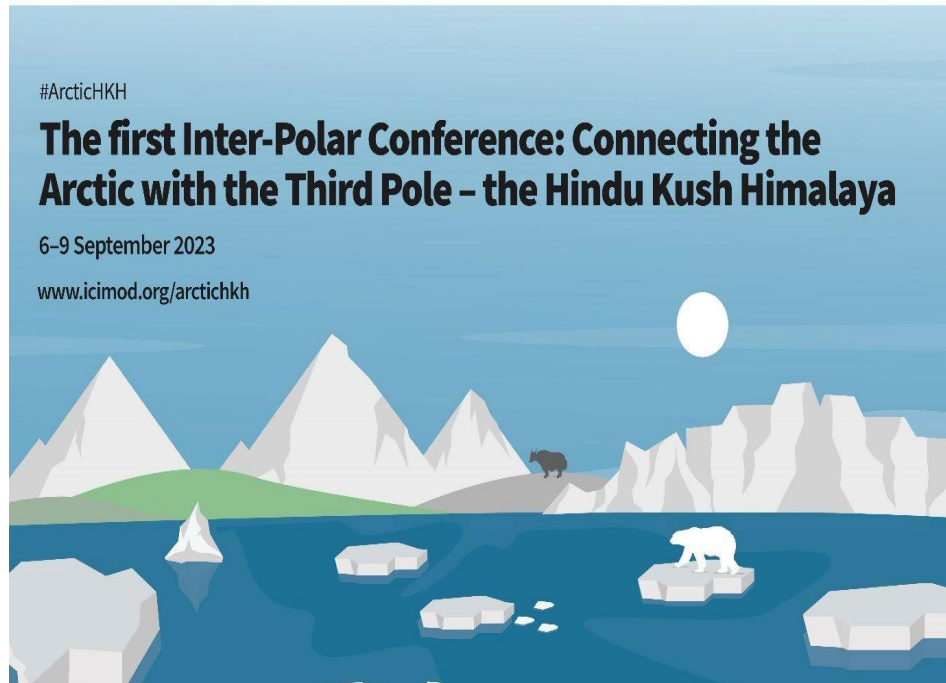
**Conference coordination group:**

- Prof. Kamrul Hossain (University of Lapland)
- Mr. Marco Volpe (University of Lapland)
- Mr. Albert van Wijngaarden (University of Lapland)
- Mr. Medy Denovic (University of Lapland)
- Dr. Kirsi Latola (University of the Arctic)
- Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Group Lead, (ICIMOD)
- Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Conference coordinator (ICIMOD)
- Mr. Udayan Mishra, Communications officer (ICIMOD)

**Conference Poster**

You can find a PDF of the conference poster with all important information [here](#).





#ArcticHKH

## The first Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya

6–9 September 2023

[www.icimod.org/arctichkh](http://www.icimod.org/arctichkh)

### About the conference

The Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland and ICIMOD are jointly organising the first Inter-Polar Conference in collaboration with the UArctic Chair in Arctic Legal Research and Education, and the Law Thematic Network.

The Arctic and the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, both contain important elements of the cryosphere, the near-permanent presence of water in a frozen state. However, as temperatures in both regions are currently increasing, these areas are rapidly thawing, and several elements of the cryosphere are possibly at tipping points.

Changes in the cryosphere will have major impacts on local communities and ecosystems, and also lead to larger-scale changes: the rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers and changes in snowpack will have significant regional effects related to the provision of water to a quarter of humanity, and the melting of cryosphere in the Arctic will contribute significantly to global sea level rise, affecting the 10% of humanity living within 10 m of sea level, as well as global trade as docks and other infrastructure at sea level are affected.

The interlinked aspect of the cryosphere thaw and climate change has been evidenced as crucial in promoting polar science. However, the Arctic and Third Pole are almost always considered separately, demonstrating very little knowledge about the commonalities, links, and differences between both regions, especially concerning geo-political, socio-cultural, environmental, and legal dynamics of effects of and responses to these changes.

### Objectives

- Discuss inter-polar perspectives from both Arctic and the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, and scope out the possibilities of creating an inter-polar knowledge network bringing experts from both regions
- Better understand climate change-driven impacts on the regions and help prepare scholars and stakeholders to develop an in-depth understanding of sustainability in both regions

## AGENDA

**DAY 01: 6 September, 2023**

Venue: Kailash hall, ICIMOD

Time (NPT)	Programme
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
<b>Inaugural plenary session</b>	
Moderator: <b>Pradyumna JB Rana</b> , Climate Change Adaptation and Governance Analyst, ICIMOD	
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Pema Gyamtsho</b>, Director General, ICIMOD</li> </ul> <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Arun Bhakta Shrestha</b>, Strategic Group Lead, Reducing climate and environmental risks</li> </ul> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Kamrul Hossain</b>, Director of NIEM at the Arctic Centre &amp; UArctic Chair (Law)</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to the Arctic: a holistic way of looking to the Arctic region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Markku Heikkilä</b>, Head of Science Communication, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland</li> </ul> <p>UArctic and its thematic networks and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Kirsi Latola</b>, Vice-President TN, University of the Arctic</li> </ul> <p>#SaveOurSnow: A science-communication campaign for a cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Annie Dare</b>, Head of Communications, ICIMOD</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30	Group photo, tea break, and networking
<b>Keynote session</b>	
Moderator: <b>Udayan Mishra</b> , Communications Officer, ICIMOD	
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Keynote 1: Arctic governance amidst geopolitical tensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Timo Koivurova</b>, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland</li> </ul> <p>Keynote 2: Science, technology, and resilience building in the face of climate change in the Himalayas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Akhilesh Gupta</b>, Senior Adviser, Department of Science and Technology Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board, Government of India (Virtual)</li> </ul> <p>Keynote: 3: Building climate resilience of vulnerable communities in the face of cryospheric change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Aisha Khan</b>, Chief Executive, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Pakistan</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30	<b>Breakout session 1</b> Cryosphere – Theory, Ideas and practice	
<b>Panel 1</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b>  Chair: Deepshikha Sharma	<b>Panel 2</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b>  Chair: Avash Pandey	<b>Panel 3</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b>  Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden
<b>Kamrul Hossain</b>  Cryosphere: Legitimising deconstruction of the normative structure of international law? Reference to the Arctic and the Third Pole	<b>Medy Dervovic</b>  Melting Boundaries in the Cryosphere: Connecting Arctic Baselines and Himalayan Land Borders	<b>Suman Chakrabarty</b>  People's Perception on Climate Variability in the Sub-Himalayan Regions: A Case Study among the Rabha Tribe in West Bengal State of India
<b>Ranjan Datta</b>  Climate change and disaster research from indigenous perspective - Lessons to be learned from the Arctic	<b>Shazzad Mohashin</b>  Inuit Jurisdiction in the Arctic: An Assemblage Encounters Sovereignty	<b>Marlene Payva Almonte</b>  Rethinking nature in a climate-changing world: An Inter-Polar perspective
<b>Ayushi Nirola</b>  How much can the hills hold? - Perspectives on transformation of a Tiny Sikkim Himalayan State	<b>Daniel Stein</b>  20th Century Polar Literature	<b>Tom Tshering Lepcha</b>  Effects of Climate Change, Resilience and Sustainability among Lepcha Indigenous Community in the Sikkim Himalayas: Challenges and Opportunities
<b>Margot Hurlbert</b>  Indigenous rights and time of the Anthropocene	<b>Deo Raj Gurung</b>  Assessment to inform adaptation actions in high mountains geographies of Central Asia – AKAH's pilot study	<b>Raushan Tara Jaswal</b>  Arctic Amplification and its Impacts on Indian Summer Monsoon: Navigating Climate Vulnerabilities and Collaborative Conservation
<b>15.30–16.00</b>	Tea Break	

16:00 – 17:30		Breakout session 2 Societal and Political issues			
<b>Panel 4</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b> Chair: Pradyumna Rana		<b>Panel 5</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b> Chair: Babar Khan		<b>Panel 6</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b> Chair: Medy Dervovic	
<b>Laura Junka-Aikio</b> Military use of Indigenous lands: on the colonial dimensions of militarization of the Arctic		<b>Marco Volpe</b> Comparative analysis of science diplomacy in the Arctic and in the third pole		<b>Asylbek Aidaraliev et al.</b> Consolidation of Institutional, Regional and Global Cooperation for Global Sustainable Mountain Development	
<b>Trym Eiterjord</b> Toward an Inter-Polar Epistemic Community: Navigating Science Diplomacy and Geopolitics		<b>Tapas Ranjan Chakraborty</b> Communicating Science with Mass Community in Rural Bangladesh		<b>Ahmed Nawaz</b> Linking conservation with socio-economic benefits of local communities: An analysis of resources regimes of Central Karakoram National Park, Pakistan	
<b>Shreya Sinni</b> Assessing the Social Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods in the HKH Region: The Role of Communication in Advancing the SDG13		<b>Avash Pandey</b> Institutionalizing regional cooperation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya		<b>Binita Verma</b> Challenges to Peace and Stability in the Arctic: Role of the Arctic Council	
<b>Eleni Kavvatha</b> Melting: Linkages, Similarities, and Best Practices on Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation from Indigenous Communities in the Arctic and the Himalayan Region				<b>Tanuja</b> The role of adaptation policy and governance in addressing climate change in himalayas	

=== End of Day 1 ===

**DAY 2: 7 September, 2023**

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Day 2 opening plenary, and tea</b>
<b>Venue: Kailash</b>	<b>Introductory presentation on Living Mountain Lab</b> - <b>Surendra Joshi</b> , Head, Living Mountain Lab, ICIMOD

09:15 – 10:45	<b>Breakout session 3</b> Melting glaciers and water	
<b>Panel 7</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b>  Chair: Pem Kandel	<b>Panel 8</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b>  Chair: Aisha Khan	<b>Panel 9</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b>  Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden
<b>Hasina</b> Spiritual ecology of Glaciers: A case study of Gilgit Baltistan	<b>Khusboo Sharma &amp; Pramod Kumar</b> Snowfall Shift and Precipitation Variability over Sikkim Himalaya Attributed to Elevation Dependent Warming.	<b>Suhail A. Lone</b> Basin-wise dependence of streamflow on meltwater in Upper Indus Basin, western Himalayas
<b>Sewa Bhattarai</b> Love for the mountains in songs of Himalayan communities	<b>Aman Kumar</b> Analysing the Spatiotemporal Evolution and Transitions of Dry and Wet Events in the Upper Indus Basin for Water Resource Management.	<b>Surbhi Vyas</b> Assessing climate-related risks at the district level: A profile of Sikkim, India
<b>Tanmay Dhar</b> Calibration of WRF-Hydro for Bhagirathi-Alaknanda basin	<b>Shristy Kayastha</b> Assessment of wastewater treatment Plant at Dhulikhel Hospital	<b>Kabiraj Rokaya</b> Estimating Glacier Velocity and Understanding Climate Change Impacts in the Nepalese Himalayas
<b>Mohd. Sayed Ul Hasan</b> Pixel Based Assessment of Future Trend and Directional Distribution of Precipitation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Under Changing Climatic Condition	<b>Shaheena Gulam</b> Assessing Cryosphere Contributions to Streamflow in the Upper Indus Basin: Insights from Stable Isotope Analysis	<b>Anna Maria and Roger Norum</b> Growing Glaciers – Validating Indigenous Expertise
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	Tea break	

11:00 – 12:30		Breakout session 4 Polar perspectives	
<b>Panel 10</b> Venue: Kailash Chair: Medy Dervovic		<b>Panel 11</b> Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Marco Volpe	
<b>Sara Fusco</b> Negating “ecological grief”: Reposition of Indigenous Environmental Rights in constitutional law: A reference to Arctic Constitutions.		<b>Balasubramanian C</b> Emerging Geopolitical and Environmental Challenges: China's Impact in the Arctic and Himalayas	
<b>Suprita Suman</b> Reflection of Interpolar Connectivity of the North Pole and the Third Pole: Envisioning through the Prism of Science, Law and Geopolitics		<b>Federico Prizzi</b> Italian Scientific Research between the Arctic and the Third Pole-Himalaya - A winning example of Cultural Diplomacy among the ice	
<b>Pratap Bikram Khand Thakuri</b> Preventing Transboundary Harm in the Third Pole: Prospects of Modelling the Arctic Practice for the Himalayas		<b>Yitong Chen</b> What Can We Learn from the Arctic Governance to Protect the Third Pole?	
<b>Tiina Seppälä</b> Entangling Global South/Arctic: Disaster Social Work for Sustainable Development in the Himalayan Region		<b>Kanagavalli Suryanarayanan</b> India's unique role as a ' Tripolar state' in connecting the Arctic and the Third Pole	
		<b>Panel 12</b> Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden	
		<b>Akriti Sharma</b> Security Perspectives from the Arctic and the Third Pole: A Case for Cooperation	
		<b>Sanna Kopra</b> The Role of China in Polar Geopolitics, especially in the Arctic	
		<b>Monila Limboo</b> Saving the Sacred Groves: A case study of Devithans in the Sikkim Himalayas	
		<b>Rajan Kotru</b> Indo German Development Cooperation Programme - GOPA Consultants Worldwide International CTA	

12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 17:00	<b>Excursion to ICIMOD’s Living Mountain Lab</b>
Prior registration required: <a href="https://hkh.pub/LMLVisit2023">https://hkh.pub/LMLVisit2023</a> Max capacity: 75-80	This excursion will include a guided tour of ICIMOD’s Living Mountain Lab, which is located at Godavari (30-minute drive from the ICIMOD headquarters premises). The tour will take around 1 hour of slow hiking through a hilly forest landscape, observing the demonstration of sustainable technologies for mountains. Please come prepared with comfortable outdoor clothing, and a pair of hiking shoes!

=== End of Day 2 ===

**DAY 3: 8 September, 2023**

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Day 3 opening plenary, and tea</b>
<b>Venue: Kailash</b>	

09:30 – 11:00	<b>Breakout session 5</b> The role of science and technology in changing polar landscapes	
<b>Panel 13</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b>  Chair: Marco Volpe	<b>Panel 14</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b>  Chair: Medy Dervovic	<b>Panel 15</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b>  Chair: Arun Bhakta Shrestha
<b>Sher Muhammad Malik</b>  Impact of Climate Change on Irrigation Water in the Hindu Kush-Karakorum-Himalayas: A Case Study of Irrigation Water Management in Village Kushum, Pakistan	<b>Michelle Blade</b>  Two-eyed seeing: pairing of permafrost science with Indigenous knowledge for enhanced characterization of Nunavut, Canada permafrost and changing permafrost landscape dynamics	<b>Bishnu Maya K.C.</b>  Bamboo based eco-rehabilitation technology in Siwalik (Churia) hills: A low cost climate change resilience technology to mitigate the cryosphere thawing
<b>Nitish Mondal</b>  Climate sustainability and its impact on health from the perspective of the Sikkim Himalaya	<b>Saeeda</b>  Estimation of above ground biomass of a forest area in buner-swat to evaluate their environmental significance in combating climate change	<b>Namdu Lhamo</b>  Thermal Performance of Different Building Typology in Thimphu
<b>Albert van Wijngaarden</b>  Desperate times require desperate measures?: Technoscientific interventions to mitigate cryospheric decline in the Arctic and the Third Pole	<b>Archana Bawari</b>  Assessment of Aerosol Characteristics and its Impact on Radiative Forcing Over the Central Himalayan Region	<b>Surjeet Singh Randhawa</b>  Multi-Sensor Capability to Map the Climate Induced Hazard Threat in parts of Upper Indus Basin from Himachal and Trans Himalayan Region of Tibetan Catchment, India
<b>Zhanna Anshukova</b>  Advancing Regional Sustainability: Exploring the Strength of Scientific and Educational Collaboration in Climate, Cryosphere, and Community Resilience through the Arctic Five		<b>Sidra Tul Muntaha</b>  Satellite-based Analysis of Drought and Heat Wave Events in Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Pakistan
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break	

11:30 – 13:00		<b>Breakout session 6</b> Life on Thawing Land	
<b>Panel 16</b> Venue: Kailash Chair: Mandira Shrestha		<b>Panel 17</b> Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Sonam Chuki	
		<b>Panel 18</b> Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Neera Shrestha Pradhan	
<b>Narayan Gautam</b> An overview of climate change and water resources: special case of Nepal		<b>Anna Sinisalo</b> Changing cryosphere- changing values – a case study from the Arctic to Himalaya	
<b>Gunjan Ghimire</b> Regional Cooperation Among Youths Towards Shaping Climate Resilience		<b>Laxman Khatri</b> Climate Change, Food Security, and Migration: Nepal's Interconnected Challenges	
<b>Sudarshan Prasad Regmi</b> Valuation of Common Property Resource – The Pastureland a Means of Livelihood Security in Nepal		<b>Gh Jeelani</b> Permafrost: An important component of the cryospheric system in the Upper Indus Basin	
<b>Jose Edgardo Gomez Jr</b> Urbanization and a Warmer Third Pole: Climate Change and Strategic Responses of Nepalese Cities		<b>Sangay Diki Bhutia</b> Climate Change and Religious Practices with Special reference to the Eastern Himalayas	
		<b>Yashika Subba</b> Tea gardens of Darjeeling Hills in changing climate	
		<b>Govinda Choudhury</b> Climate change, vulnerability and rural livelihood diversification in the Himalayan region of Eastern India	
		<b>Anusree Ghosh</b> Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods and Culture in the Meghalaya Foothill Wetlands located in Bangladesh	

13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
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14:00 – 14:30	<b>Closing session</b> Moderator: Udayan Mishra
	<b>Closing remarks</b> - <b>Albert van Wijngaarden</b> , Visiting Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland  <b>Vote of thanks</b> - <b>Pem Narayan Kandel</b> , Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD
14:30 – 16:00	Interactive networking, and Tea

=== End of the conference ===