

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT VI
AIZAWL : MIZORAM

Call for Papers

The 6th edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS), organised by Integrated Mountain Initiatives (IMI), will be hosted by the Mizoram Sustainable Development Foundation (MSDF) at Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram during the period 20th – 22nd September, 2017.

**To discuss the thematic issues mentioned herein,
the Summit Technical Committee is accepting abstracts on the thematic issues**

Please read the guidelines carefully before submitting the abstract:

- The Summit Technical Committee will review all abstracts that have been submitted on time and in the correct format
- The sessions are of the panel discussions format with one keynote presentation in a Plenary and four presentations in the Break-away Sessions. The keynote slots are reserved for contributions covering a wider scope which are of interest to audience and address the progress and novelties within the topic. All the accepted presenters are required to submit the presentation by certain deadline after acceptance of the abstract.
- Speakers will be notified of the outcome of their submission by email after 3 weeks of deadline.
- **Abstract Submission deadline is 31st July, 2017.**
- Please avoid double submissions. In case you would like to replace or adjust your previously submitted abstract, please send the new version through email.
- Applications are to be sent in MS Word format as well as in PDF Format and applications sent by other means will not be accepted.
- Commercial texts promoting particular products will not be accepted.
- All information is to be provided in English only
- Co-Presenters are not allowed
- Speakers must be aware that the Summit Technical Committee reserves the right to cancel their presentation if they do not comply with these guidelines that will be sent at the end of the selection procedure.
- Abstract may be submitted to the following:
sdf.mizoram@gmail.com, msdf.papers@gmail.com

The themes that are proposed for deliberations in the Summit are Climate Change and Sustainable Mountain Cities. Brief write-up on the thematic issues and the sub-themes under each of them is given as follows:

A. Climate Change

Climate change is one of the most important global challenges affecting mountain ecosystems. Mountains host the most visible and sensitive indicators of climate change – the melting of glaciers – and many scientists believe that the changes occurring in mountain ecosystems may provide an early glimpse of what could happen in lowland environments. Storms, heavy rainfall, heat waves and glacier melt will amplify hazards in mountain areas worldwide, while the melting of glaciers and the upward movement of permafrost will release loose rock and soil, aggravating the risks of rock falls, debris and mud flows, and glacial lake outburst floods. Warmer climates are already causing vegetation belts and the snow line to rise, which will have a serious impact on flora and fauna, increasing the number of species that can survive at higher altitudes. As a result, rare and fragile

species and those adapted to the cold may become extinct through competition and habitat loss. Extreme weather events, droughts, fires and the incidence of insect-borne diseases are all likely to increase, further threatening the habitats of mountain organisms.

Across the Indian Himalayan region, communities are experiencing myriad social, economic, and disaster-related impacts due to global and regional effects of climate change. Over millennia, the ancestors of these resilient communities, like their counterparts around the world, have adapted to environmental change through cultural responsiveness and individual creativity. What is new in the present era is that the pace of change outstrips many communities' capacity to successfully adapt. Larger societal responses are called for to inform effective adaptive and ameliorative responses to climate change. These include making the full breadth of our evolving knowledge – both scientific and cultural – more accessible to individuals and communities at every level. Further, the impact of climate change is likely to result in large-scale changes in the biodiversity of the North-east, wherein the change in temperature, quantum and intensity of rainfall coupled with extreme weather conditions would have a long-term impact, particularly on the structure and composition of forests in the region. The impact is likely to be more severe in areas where other pressures are deemed to be high, including stability of the natural systems affected due to socio-economic pressures such as encroachment on forest areas, over-grazing, felling of trees for jhum cultivation, etc. especially in a state like Mizoram.

In view of the above, the SMDS VI will focus to understand the sustainability issues faced by the IHR accounting to climate change -focusing on the research to policy gaps; devising adaptation and livelihood strategies; combining traditional/ indigenous knowledge with modern science to devise coping mechanisms also reflected through various partnerships.

This theme will have the following sub-themes, which is into various headings as under:

i) Research to Policy Gaps

1. Adaptation policy options and interventions for climate change induced displaced people.
2. Responses to climate change: knowledge gaps, capacity building and training needs.
3. Data pertaining to Climate Change
4. Formulation of policy based on research for the improvement of Traditional System of Agriculture with the ongoing changes in the climate.
5. Interventions on policies towards marketing of both agriculture and horticulture products.

ii) SAPCC Initiatives in States

1. Principles & features of a good adaption strategy
2. Review of strategies for adapting to climate change
3. Adopting to changing environment: mountain regions
4. Trends in anticipating, responding and recovering from impacts of climate change: Preparing vulnerability and risk assessment
5. Updating and monitoring the implementation of SAPCC

iii) Adaption Stories

1. Success stories in adaption / failures: Flexible adaption pathways
2. Adaption in the mountain indigenous agricultural sector and forest conservation
3. Confronting the impacts and consequences of climate change in mountain region.
4. Experiences sharing from the mountain states.
5. Improve Skills development and re-define policy on actualizing employment of certifiable students (rural youth, drop outs, woman empowerment etc.).

B. Sustainable Mountain Cities

Mountain systems are complex, so any activity in mountain areas will have a number of environmental and socio-economic consequences. Different subsystems are closely interlinked; hence, management tools that tackle only a single component or segment will not be effective. To respond to the challenges and threats, holistic, participatory and integrated approaches that address all aspects of sustainability are required. The specific needs and inter-linkages of different aspects of sustainable mountain development, such as water, biodiversity, waste management, disaster risk management, transport and infrastructure etc., must be taken into account. To achieve sustainable mountain development especially in the context of IHR, it is essential that all concerned stakeholders are involved and that awareness is raised about mountain ecosystems, their fragility and prevalent problems, and about ways of addressing them. To ensure that all relevant ideas, experiences and contributions are considered in the search for sustainable solutions, participation should extend from the international or national to the local level, and should involve all stakeholder groups, including government officers, scientists, technician, local communities, the private sector and NGOs.

Under this theme, the following sub-themes will be incorporated:

- i) Waste management in mountain states
 1. Composting organic waste
 2. Developing waste management & disposal strategy
 3. Waste management outlook for mountain regions
 4. Waste minimization & waste separation and the participation of the locals.
 5. System adopted for waste management.

- ii) Infrastructure development in mountain states
 1. Urban transport policies and developmental problems in the mountain region.
 2. Urbanization: Issues and Challenges
 3. Promoting human settlements planning and management in disaster-prone area.
 4. Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management.
 5. Promoting sustainable land use planning and management.

- iii) Disaster risk reduction & management
 1. Ways to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 2. DRRM – facilitating a rapid recovery.
 3. Laws, Acts, Rules and Regulations concerning the mountain states.
 4. “Risk management: how to identify, assess, and manage risks abroad over disaster”.
 5. Community based disaster risk reduction & management and coping strategies.

For any enquiry or additional information, contact:

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