

HI-AWARE bi-monthly bulletin is brought to you by ICIMOD.
Please direct your query or feedback, if any, to the HI-AWARE E-
Bulletin Editor at: Ujol.Sherchan@icimod.org



BI-MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

[Sep–Oct, 2015 Issue]



Share



Tweet



Forward



+1

HI-AWARE NEWS AND NOTES OF INTEREST

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has signed agreements with five strategic partners – Megh Pyne Abhiyan (MPA), The Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR), The Mountain Institute (TMI)-India, Practical Action-South Asia Office and LEAD Pakistan– for collaboration under the HI-AWARE project.

[Profiles of the partners.](#)

Toward that end, Mr Eklavya Prasad, Managing Trustee, MPA; Dr Vishal Singh, Fellow & Coordinator, CEDAR; Dr Ghanashyam Sharma, Programme Manager, TMI India; Dr Gehendra Gurung, Head of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Programme, Practical Action South Asia Office; Mr Basharat Ahmad Saeed, Coordinator for the Climate Change Programme, LEAD Pakistan, have been identified as the focal points for their respective organisations for collaboration with HI-AWARE

[Profiles of the focal points.](#)

HI-AWARE, along with Megh Pyne Abhiyan (MPA) and the Central University of South Bihar (CUSB), organised a roundtable dialogue on “The Agony of Rivers; Floods in Bihar” on 3 September 2015 in Patna, India, to discuss flood-related issues facing the people living in the Gangetic plains. [Read More.](#) Download the full report [here.](#)

The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) jointly organised a DECCMA and HI-AWARE Joint Stakeholders Workshop on 7 September 2015 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to familiarise key stakeholders about HI-AWARE and DECCMA, as well as to discuss how they could engage with CARIAA in Bangladesh or the region. [Read More.](#)

As part of its commitment under Work Package 3 to strengthen the expertise of young researchers from

MESSAGE FROM KS MURALI Senior Programme Officer, IDRC

HI-AWARE is a pioneering programme built to enhance the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of the people living in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region.



Initiated in early 2014, the programme has made significant strides in adaptation research and in communicating them to the people who matter. I am very pleased to write this message for the e-bulletin, which communicates the success of HI-AWARE across the HKH region quite well.

HI-AWARE aims to understand the climate vulnerabilities faced by the people of the HKH region and undertake problem-solving research to circumvent them. Toward this end, HI-AWARE has published articles based on their research on glaciers dynamics in Nepal; it is engaged with scientists at the South Asia level, and it takes into account the factors influencing the water-energy-food nexus; it has explored social learning behaviour in disaster-related management options; it is aiding participatory management through geographical information systems; and it seeks to incorporate local knowledge and innovations on floods. Interesting pieces pertaining to these issues are available in the ‘Publications’ section of the e-bulletin.

HI-AWARE emphasises engagement with policymakers and practitioners to refine the research agenda to make it more useful and meaningful to the people. A novel engagement strategy, for example, was employed in Bihar to understand the agony of the state’s flood-affected people, their knowledge and innovations. On the other end of the spectrum, in Bangladesh, HI-AWARE, along with DECCMA, engaged with

the region, HI-AWARE is currently supporting the research work of the following six PhD students:

- **Bhuvan Thapa**, a Nepali national, affiliated with the University of Arizona;
- **Divya Sharma** and **Sudeshna Maya Sen**, both Indian nationals, affiliated with TERI University;
- **Qurat Ul Ain Ahmad**, a Pakistani national, affiliated with Free University Amsterdam;
- **Hassnain Shah**, a Pakistani national, affiliated with Wageningen University; and
- **Sumit Vij**, an Indian national, affiliated with Wageningen University.

[Read their profiles](#)

Participants affiliated with HI-AWARE attended a training on the installation and operation of various hydro-meteorological equipment from 3-6 November 2015 in the Netherlands. The equipment will be installed in the upper reaches of the HI-AWARE study basins for high-altitude monitoring to gain a better understanding of meteorological and hydrological processes in different parts of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, including how they are affected by climate change. [Read More](#)

PAST ISSUES OF THE E-BULLETIN

[First Issue of the HI-AWARE BI-Monthly E-Bulletin \(As of August 2015\)](#)

NOTES FROM THE FIELD



During her field visit to the Upper Gandaki River basin in the mountainous district of Rasuwa, Nepal, from 28 Sept- 1 Oct, 2015, **Sangita Dandekhya** from ICIMOD interacted with the locals in three Village Development Committees to learn about their perceptions of climate change and climate variability and their impacts on their lives and livelihoods. [Read More.](#)



Alterra, in collaboration with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and the Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF), rolled out a trial phase of their indoor and outdoor heat measurement campaign in Faisalabad, Pakistan, over a six-day period in July 2015. The aim of the campaign is to explore what kinds of low-cost interventions can offer the best protection against heat to city dwellers in the region. Read **Tanya Singh's** [photo story on the trial phase of the campaign](#).

Ankita Shrestha from ICIMOD writes about flood-related water governance in Chitwan, Nepal, based on her several visits to the area,

policymakers, researchers and adopters of climate change adaptation measures to understand their areas of concern – in order to address them in the Common CARIIA research agenda. HI-AWARE is also widening its reach by engaging with various strategic partners such as Practical Action in Nepal; Megh Pyne Abhiyan in Bihar, India and Centre for Ecology Development and Research in Dehradun, India and The Mountain Institute-India in Gangtok, India to enhance its presence locally. Well-described snippets about these efforts can be found in the "HI-AWARE News" section of this e-bulletin.

The success of HI-AWARE depends largely on the people's experiences at the local level. "Notes from the Field" carries such voices from the field as described by Tanya from The Netherlands; Sangita and Ankita from Nepal; and Naznin and Abu Syed from Bangladesh. Tanya presents a photo story on her team's heat measurement campaign in an urban scale; Sangita describes the climate change impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the people in Rasuwa; Ankita explains existing "gaps" in flood-related water governance in Chitwan, Nepal; and Naznin and Abu Syed narrate the story of a Teesta River embankment resident, Sabina Begum, on the insecurities, poverty and hopelessness in Kounia, Bangladesh.

The e-bulletin provides sufficient information to readers who want to learn about HI-AWARE's work or understand its progress being made on various fronts. I congratulate the team for bringing out a timely and informative bulletin that provides such information succinctly.



highlighting a disconnect between the government and those living along river banks, including the marginalised Chepangs and Dalits. [Read More](#).



Zakia Naznin and Md Abu Syed from BCAS write about livelihood challenges in the Teesta River basin based on their interview with Sabina Begum, aged 65, who is from Balapara union of Kounia Upazila in Rangpur district of Bangladesh but lives on the Pinjorvanga embankment of the Teesta River amidst [in her own words] "insecurities, poverty and hopelessness." [Read More](#)

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

A peer-reviewed research paper entitled "[High-Resolution Modelling Of Atmospheric Dynamics In The Nepalese Himalaya](#)" has been published in the Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres. The study used the Weather Research and Forecasting model configured with high spatial resolution to understand seasonal patterns of near-surface meteorological fields and precipitation processes in the Langtang catchment in the central Himalaya.

Another peer-reviewed paper "[Impact of Debris Cover on Glacier Ablation and Atmosphere–Glacier Feedbacks in the Karakoram](#)" was published in the Cryosphere journal. In this study, supraglacial debris was included in a high-resolution, interactively coupled atmosphere–glacier modeling system to investigate glaciological and meteorological changes that arise due to the presence of the debris.

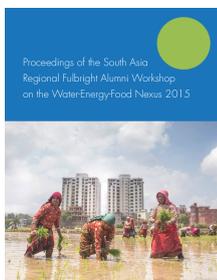
Navarun Varma from TERI presented a paper entitled "Blurring boundaries for seeking desirable and feasible solutions - Use of social learning process in a context of Brahmaputra basin in India" at the 6th Conference of the International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM 2015) in New Delhi on 28-30 October 2015. [Read the abstract](#) of the paper.

Md Arfanuzzaman's op-ed piece focused on the Teesta Agreement entitled "[Facts, Disputes and Bangladesh's Game Plan](#)" was carried by the Daily Star.

[Workshop Proceedings of the Roundtable on "The Agony Of Rivers: Floods in Bihar"](#) is an output of the roundtable of the same name organised by HI-AWARE, in collaboration with MPA and the Centre for Environmental Sciences of the Central University of South Bihar (CUSB), in Patna, India, on 3 September 2015.



The paper "[Synergies Of Remote Sensing With Social Science Tools For Participatory Management Of Natural Resources](#)" is based on a study undertaken in the Himachari National Park (HNP) in Bangladesh that demonstrated the potentials and importance of iterative and interactive use of geospatial and social science techniques and tools in synergistic approaches for sustainable development and adaptation.



["Proceedings of the South Asia Regional Fulbright Alumni Workshop on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus 2015"](#) is based on the workshop convened in Kathmandu from 10–12 February 2015, which assembled 60 South Asian alumni of the Fulbright, Humphrey, and International Visitors Leadership programmes, along with 40 regional and international experts, to promote a shared understanding of water, energy and food issues in the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TERI-HI-AWARE is organising a workshop on "[Water Availability and Access in Mountain Areas of the Teesta Basin](#)" on 26 November 2015 in Gangtok, Sikkim, India.

TERI-HI-AWARE, in collaboration with The Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR), is planning a similar workshop on "[Water Availability and Access in Mountain Areas of the Upper Ganga Basin](#)" in Tehri, Uttarakhand, India, on 4 December 2015.

As a part of HI-AWARE's stakeholder engagement strategy, ICIMOD, together with Practical Action, is organizing a one-day workshop on "[Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts in the Gandaki River Basin: Influencing Policy & Practice](#)" on 27 November 2015 in Chitwan, Nepal.

HI-AWARE is planning to organise a Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Science (CCAPS) Conference in New Delhi on 24-25 February 2016, to be followed by a HI-AWARE Steering Committee Meeting on 26 February 2016. The aim of the conference is to initiate dialogue on 'climate resilience and adaptation in the context of HKH river basins'. HI-AWARE is also organising a HI-AWARE Academy in New Delhi from 27-29 February and in Dehradun from 1-6 March 2016, the main aim of which is to strengthen the expertise of HI-AWARE-supported student researchers to conduct and use research on climate vulnerabilities, resilience and adaptation.

ABOUT HI-AWARE

The **Himalayan Adaptation, Water and Resilience (HI-AWARE)** Research Consortium conducts research and pilot interventions, capacity building, and policy engagement on climate resilience and adaptation in the mountains, hills, and plains of the Indus, Upper Ganga, Gandaki and Teesta river basins. The Consortium comprises the **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**, the **Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)**, **Pakistan Agricultural Research Centre (PARC)**, **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)-India**, and **Alterra-Wageningen University and Research Centre (Alterra-WUR)**.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to HI-AWARE Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC) Focal Points – particularly **Prasoon Singh**, TERI-India; **Zakia Naznin**, BCAS-Bangladesh; **Bilal Iqbal**, PARC-Pakistan; and **Hester Biemans**, Alterra-Netherlands – for helping put this edition of the HI-AWARE Bulletin together. Thanks also to **Anja Rasmussen**, KMC Lead for HI-AWARE, for her advice and guidance. - Ed

HI-AWARE is supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAS).