

## Fourth Annual National Workshop of Indian Himalayan States - NWHRS-2017

A two-day annual workshop of the Indian Himalayan States under the Government of India's National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) was held from 30-31 January 2017 in New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Andreas Baum, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan and Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.



© FDFA | Dr. Andreas Baum, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, speaking at the inauguration of the Fourth Annual National Workshop of IHR States (NWHRS-2017) under NMSHE

The workshop is the fourth edition of the annual consultation of the state governments of the Indian Himalayan Region. The aim of the annual workshop was to reflect on the progress and future plans of the States' Climate Change Cells and six thematic Task Forces under NMSHE. The workshop also deliberated on climate change impacts on sustainability of mountain springs in the Himalayan States. While inaugurating the workshop, the

Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, Dr. Andreas Baum, commended the collaboration for advancing the agenda of climate-resilient development in the Himalayan States. “The partnership between DST and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is indeed an example of fruitful collaboration between the two countries in areas of mutual interest and forging cooperation through scientific and knowledge exchange to understand the dynamics of climate change in the Indian Himalayan Region. This partnership is playing a critical role in the implementation of an important Mission of the Government of India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change – the NMSHE,” he added. The Secretary, DST, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, appreciated the quality of activities under IHCAP and added that “the emphasis should be on adopting the knowledge generated from global best practices to the local level by connecting with various stakeholders”.

About 77 participants including decision-makers, research scientists, academicians, government officials, and representatives from the civil society, multilateral and bilateral agencies attended the workshop. At the conclusion of the two day workshop the following areas were identified for priority action: training and capacity building of the State government institutions in areas of vulnerability and risk assessment and adaptation planning; institutionalization of the training programmes at the State level for building autonomous capacities within the State in a sustained manner; enhancing the quality of reporting on issues of climate change from the Indian Himalayan Region for creating awareness among the masses; developing a common framework for assessing climate risks for the Indian Himalayan Region; regional level knowledge and experience sharing within the Hindu Kush Himalayas on climate change adaptation related issues; and coordinated actions for adaptation with respect to spring shed management across the Indian Himalayan Region based on the various ongoing initiatives.

The workshop was organized by the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP), a project of SDC in partnership DST. Speaking at the concluding session Ms. Janine Kuriger, Director of Cooperation, Swiss Cooperation Office India, said that, “The workshop has enabled the delivery of concrete recommendations and agreements among the various stakeholders. The workshop by providing clarity on the priorities of the region, gives us a clear orientation regarding the way forward for facilitating adaptation in the Indian Himalayan Region.”

IHCAP is supporting the implementation of NMSHE as technical and knowledge partner. The overall goal of IHCAP is to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Himalayas and connect the knowledge and capacities of research institutions, communities and decision-makers. IHCAP is supporting development of a common risk and vulnerability assessment framework for Himalayan States, training and capacity building of state climate change cells and institutions on risk assessment, adaptation planning and implementation, Indo-Swiss collaborative research on climate science and adaptation to climate change, capacity building of media and media fellowship for enhanced reporting on climate change and facilitating exchange of lessons and knowledge through multi-stakeholder science-policy interface platform.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Mustafa Ali Khan, Team Leader, IHCAP PMU, Swiss Cooperation Office India, New Delhi, Phone: +91 11 4995 9500 Ext. 850023; Email: [mustafa@ihcap.in](mailto:mustafa@ihcap.in)