

Report of the Second Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole – Hindu Kush Himalaya

Aishwarya Sanas¹

On 3-5 September 2025, the second *Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic and the Third Pole – Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)*, was held at the premises of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was jointly organised by the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland (Finland) ICIMOD and the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (Japan), in collaboration with the UArctic Chair in Arctic Legal Research and the UArctic Law Thematic Network.

The theme of the Conference was *Cryosphere, Climate Change, and People*. Over three days of deliberations, experts, young researchers, representatives of industry, civil society actors, and indigenous community members, explored the three components of the theme cryosphere, climate change, and people, covering multiple dimensions.

Under the leadership of Professor Kamrul Hossain, the idea for the Inter-Polar Conference was first conceptualised by a group of scholars at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland in early 2023. They realised that the two regions, the Arctic and the Hindu Kush Himalaya, share many similarities in terms of their geophysical characteristics, which are threatened by the impacts of climate change. This poses similar climate impacts with an effect on people and larger societies across borders; therefore, studying the two regions offers much to learn from each other despite their far distance. This idea was later crystallised at the Arctic Circle Tokyo Forum in Japan in March 2023, following a meeting with Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General of ICIMOD. After accepting the proposal to organise the event at ICIMOD premises, with young and dedicated scholars from both regions joining, Dr. Gyamtsho committed to providing both resources and logistics, ensuring the event's success.

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The first Inter-Polar Conference focused on highlighting the diverse inter-polar perspectives between the Arctic and Hindu Kush Himalayan regions, and exploring the possibility of establishing an inter-polar knowledge and action network. It aimed to identify similarities, differences, and the geophysical interconnections between the two regions, while also establishing pathways for linking decision makers, academic communities, civil society organisations, and Indigenous and local people to facilitate symbiotic learning and cross-fertilization of knowledge and action.

it from an interdisciplinary perspective. With a particular focus on *people*, the Conference fostered critical discussions on Indigenous communities, dialogue between different knowledge systems, the sharing of local and Indigenous experiences, and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.



Following the success of the first conference, which laid the foundation for inter-polar dialogue and legitimised the concept, the second Inter-Polar Conference advanced the conversation by broadening the scope of the theme, the format of discussion, and the diversity of stakeholders. It not only emphasised the sharing of the latest scientific knowledge on cryosphere changes in both the Arctic and the HKH, but also encouraged doing

The ongoing International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers in 2025 and the start of the UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences 2025-2035 further strengthened the mandate and relevance of the Conference, highlighting the importance of translating knowledge into concrete actions and long-term strategies.

Objectives of the conference ([Refer to the program brochure](#) in Annexe II)

- Explore the impacts of climate change on the cryosphere and ecosystems, resulting in multiple hazards for human communities and ecosystems in the Arctic and the HKH regions
- Identify key challenges and response mechanisms, research gaps and needs, potential regulatory and policy tools, and realistic and practicable solutions that can be promoted through IYGP and scaled through the UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences 2025–2035.
- Facilitate inter-polar knowledge sharing and collaborative solutions for sustainability and resilience by involving early-career scholars, knowledge holders, relevant stakeholders, and experts.
- Continue efforts to create a global knowledge network on Arctic-Third Pole connections

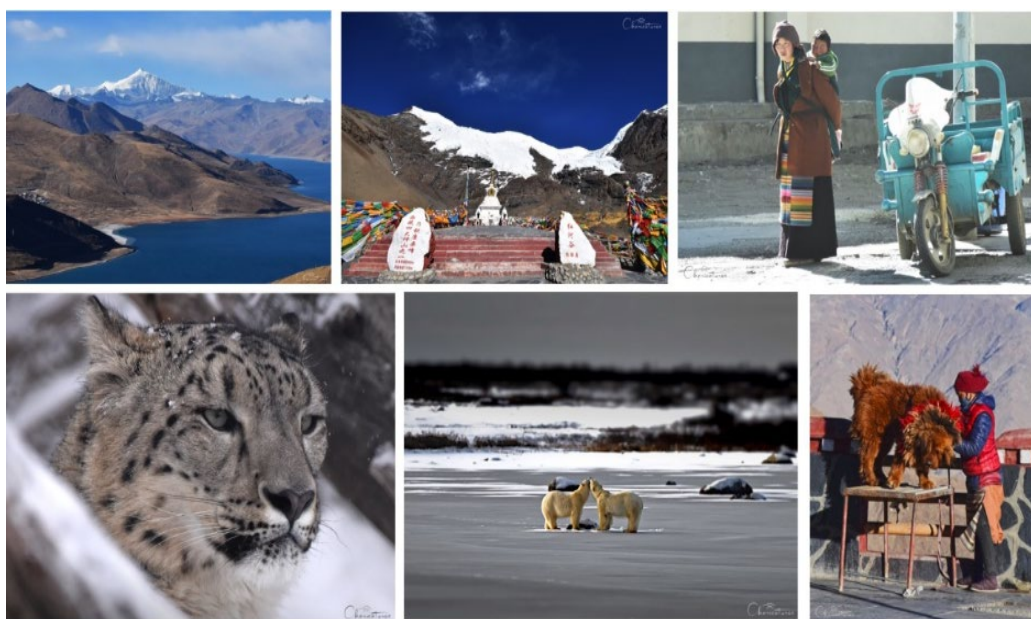


Photo by Jitendra Raj Bajracharya/ICIMOD

The program, along with the call for abstracts, is annexed to this report. The first day of the Conference (September 3, 2025) began with an opening session moderated by Mr. Pradyumna Rana with welcome words given by Dr. Pema Gyamtsho (ICIMOD), Dr. Johanna Ikävalko (Arctic Centre), Prof Mitsutaku Makino (OPRI-SPF), and Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal).

Two plenary sessions titled *Knowledge to Actions*, and *Community Resilience and Climate Actions* were held on the first day. They featured several key experts from the organising institutions, academics, government officials, and civil society representatives.

Later in the day, six breakout sessions (each consisting of three simultaneous panels) were conducted. The themes for the breakout sessions were (1) Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions, (2) Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation, and (3) Law, Governance, and Geopolitics.



A compilation of a few photos from the exhibition (Source: [LinkedIn/Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan](#))

As part of the Conference, a photo exhibition was curated by Mr. Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan (Polar Educators International), to highlight the intersections of human life, nature, and climate change in the cryosphere. The exhibition was on the HKH region (Ladakh, Himachal, Nepal, and Tibet) and the Arctic (Mainland Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, and Canada), where the effects of climate change are

increasingly visible through retreating glaciers, altered landscapes, and shifting livelihoods. As a new addition to the Conference, the photo exhibition brought a refreshingly evocative perspective to the themes that were being discussed in the rooms.

The second day of the program (September 4, 2025) commenced with the third plenary session titled *Interpolar Action: Mainstreaming Cryosphere Risk in NDCs, NAPs, and the GGA*. This was followed by eight breakout sessions (each composed of

three, two, and three panels held simultaneously). In addition to the previous themes, three new themes were introduced in these sessions: (4) Multilayered Considerations: Specific Climate Impacts on Indigenous and Local Communities, (5) Knowledge Kaleidoscope: Narratives, Beliefs, and Education, and (6) Climate and Technologies.

Finally, on the concluding day of the conference (September 5, 2025), three breakout sessions were held in parallel, covering themes (4), (5), and (6). A total of

59 presentations were made over the three days. They covered diverse disciplinary and methodological perspectives ranging from glaciology to anthropology, ecology to international relations, and engineering sciences to sustainability science. The presentations were followed by rich discussions and active engagement from the audience.

“... three parallel workshops ... to provide a space for critical discussions and to develop the conference theme on what connects the HKH and the Arctic regions. ... discussing post-conference strategies and designing practical, actionable policy and community-level outcomes. Workshop 1: Connecting the Arctic to the Third Pole HKH: Thinking through Connections and Differences, Workshop 2: People and Community Impacts of Climate and Cryosphere Changes: Thinking of Solutions and Stories, Workshop 3: Designing Policy Relevant Inter-polar Messages was led by Dr. Ranjan Datta.”

Later, three parallel workshops were conducted. Like the photo exhibition, the workshop idea was a new addition to the program. The idea behind

the workshops was to provide a space for critical discussions and to develop the conference theme on what connects the HKH and the Arctic regions. This included discussing post-conference strategies and designing practical, actionable policy and community-level outcomes. Workshop 1: *Connecting the Arctic to the Third Pole HKH: Thinking through Connections and Differences* was led by Mr. Albert van Wijngaarden, Workshop 2: *People and Community Impacts of Climate and Cryosphere Changes: Thinking of Solutions and Stories* was led by Mr. Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan, and Workshop 3: *Designing Policy Relevant Inter-polar Messages* was led by Dr. Ranjan Datta. Reports of the workshop discussions were presented later on. As there was no pre-given format to the workshop, the convenors were free to improvise the structure and guide the discussions.

A summary of the discussions that occurred in each of the workshops is outlined below:

Workshop 1: Connecting the Arctic to the Third Pole HKH: Thinking through Connections and Differences

The workshop aimed to discuss what connects and differentiates the Arctic and the HKH, and why it makes sense to connect them institutionally, politically, socially, and research-wise. The participants were split into three groups to

reflect on connecting themes, cryosphere, climate change, and the people. All the groups identified the centrality of climate change and its impact on the cryosphere.

Additionally, they emphasised the need for connections on various other fronts such as governance, diplomacy, geopolitics, sustainability, development, and rights.



Photo by Mr. Albert van Wijngaarden/UArctic

Key recommendations of the workshop include:

- a. Institutional pathways for collecting and disseminating knowledge between the two regions
- b. Educational programs at all levels, in both regions, through training courses, summer and winter schools, etc.
- c. Youth participation and early-career research development
- d. Research collaborations in the form of writing shared proposals, creating networks, and establishing long-term working groups.

Workshop 2: People and Community Impacts of Climate and Cryosphere Changes: Thinking of Solutions and Stories

This workshop aimed at creating a participatory space to explore how climate and cryosphere changes are affecting Arctic and HKH communities. Participants were divided into two groups, and they shared their lived experiences, identifying common challenges. The interaction also included story circles, sketching, prototyping tools, and commitment pledges, among other elements.

Key recommendations of the workshop include:

- a. Recognising that water insecurity, disrupted agriculture, loss of traditional knowledge, changing youth aspirations, and gendered vulnerabilities were common across the Arctic and HKH.
- b. Storytelling, Indigenous knowledge, and youth leadership are core resilience-building factors.
- c. There is a need for localised education policies, accessible climate information, and cross-regional collaboration mechanisms.



*Photos by Mr. Ramcharan
Vijayaraghavan/Polar Educators
International*

Workshop 3: Designing Policy-Relevant Inter-Polar Messages

This workshop aimed to construct key ideas pertaining to the theme and the discussions of the Conference that could serve as valuable suggestions for decision-makers across the two regions. All the participants sat together and reflected on questions such as ‘what does the inter-polar mean and represent’, ‘who is it for’, ‘what should we do and why’, and ‘how can we achieve that’. While the first two workshops deliberated on the nature of the interdependencies between the two regions and the urgency in addressing the global cryosphere crises, this workshop worked towards designing policy messages that could possibly inspire future action, and leadership.

Key recommendations of the workshop include:

- a. Create a reference document/white paper for policymakers, academics, and civil society outlining the inter-polar agenda, in line with the IYGP and Decade of Action for Cryosphere Sciences, and share with a wide range of stakeholders
- b. Promoting a ‘glacier-to-delta’, and ‘ice-sheet-to-ocean’ approach to governance and decision-making.
- c. A joint platform to share best practices, funding opportunities, and data.
- d. Create a global repository of adaptation and community practices from the cryosphere regions.



Photo by Dr. Ranjan Dutta/Mount Royal University

Key takeaways from the Second Inter-Polar Conference, in no particular order:

Research and education:

1. Arctic and the HKH research communities, who have been isolated all this while, need to be integrated into a unified scientific mission.
2. Developing a clear inter-polar research agenda for addressing common policy challenges such as water security, glacier policy analysis, community based adaptation, and vegetation dynamics in periglacial ecosystems, and encouraging research institutes to adopt the agenda.
3. Creating shared policy instruments for integrated climate forecasting, community-driven environmental monitoring, sustainable ecotourism prospects, GLOF vulnerability assessments, possibly a *Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment* along

the lines of existing instruments such as *Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme* and *Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Report*.

4. Spreading the inter-polar research agenda through adequate structural mechanisms such as formal collaborations, institutional relationships, Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), and joint partnerships.
5. Disseminating research findings to policymakers and to the civil society through an efficient science-policy interface

Indigenous communities and climate adaptation:

1. Moving away from colonial educational and policy frameworks that undermine generational knowledge towards bottom-up governance, protection of land rights, and community-led adaptation.
2. Creating cross-regional indigenous networks across the Arctic and the HKH, integrating successful adaptation strategies into a common knowledge repository, documenting biocultural heritage, and linking Arctic-HKH classrooms.
3. Integrating scientific representation of cryosphere change and the lived experiences of the people using storytelling, art, and music, etc.

Global frameworks and policy:

1. Acknowledging that the triple planetary crisis does not recognise national borders, thus for protecting the cryosphere, global cooperation is essential.
2. Building global trust in the inter-polar agenda.
3. Co-production of science-policy between the two regions by enabling joint policymaking grounded in scientific inputs.
4. Leveraging geostrategic framings such as Third Pole in constructing key policy messages and general awareness of cryosphere changes in the world.
5. Formulating common principles for addressing cryosphere changes in both the Arctic and HKH, informed by case-studies like the Arctic Council
6. Building South Asia-Nordic partnerships, strengthening scientific and environmental cooperation in transboundary planning.

To conclude, the next steps include the publication of a White Paper that puts forth the inter-polar agenda and the learnings from the Conference. Several participants and stakeholders had shared their key messages for the upcoming UNFCCC COP 30 in Belem, Brazil, before the start of the Conference through a form that was circulated to them. These

messages would also be considered for the intended White Paper.

The second Inter-Polar Conference marked an important step towards joint and collaborative action between the Arctic and the HKH regions. The fact that the conference has been well received by both regional and global audiences testifies a growing acceptance that the relationship with the cryosphere is undergoing a profound change. Although the term 'inter-polar' might seem unusual at first, its growing recognition by the wide range of stakeholders gathered at the conference and beyond affirms its relevance in today's times. What happens in polar regions is going to have consequences far beyond them. In a way, the entire world is implicated in the impacts of cryosphere change unfolding in these regions. With the changing climate and the sheer scale of human actions, the inter-polar is possibly the only hope.

As part of the Conference, a photo exhibition was curated by Mr. Ramcharan Vijayraghavan (Polar Educators International), to highlight the intersections of human life, nature, and climate change in the cryosphere.

Annex I: Call for Abstracts



ICIMOD

 2025 International Year of
Glaciers' Preservation

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Share your work on the cryosphere in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region

 **Second Inter-Polar Conference:
Connecting the Arctic with the
Third Pole HKH – Cryosphere, People,
and Climate Change (2025)**

Annex II: Program



The Second Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole HKH *Cryosphere, People, and Climate Change*

ICIMOD Headquarters
Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal,
3- 5 September 2025

DAY I: 3 September 2025

Inaugural session

Venue: Kailash Hall

Time	Activity
09:00-09:15	Registration
09:15-09:40	Opening session Moderator: Pradyumna Rana , ICIMOD Dr Pema Gyamtsho , ICIMOD (5 min) Dr Johanna Ikävalko , Arctic Centre (5 min) Prof Mitsutaku Makino OPRI-SPF(5 min) Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal , Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal (5 min)
09:40 – 10:45	First Plenary session: Knowledge to Actions Moderator: Markku Heikkilä , Head of Science Communication, Arctic Centre Rapporteur: Albert van Wijngaarden, University of Lapland / Cambridge University Keynote: Dr. Anil Mishra /UNESCO (10 min) Panellists: 1. Prof. Gunnar Stefansson, Vice-President, University of the Arctic (UArctic – a university without a wall) ONLINE 2. Dr Kang Shichang, Chair of Chinese National Committee for the Int'l Assoc of Cryospheric Sciences 3. Prof. Bing Chen, UArctic Chair, Memorial University, Canada (Emerging Environmental Challenges for Sustainable Communities in the Cold Regions: Research Progress in the Arctic and Opportunities for the Third Pole) 4. Prof. Deepak Aryal, Vice Chancellor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (TBC) 5. Dr Neera S Pradhan, Lead – Cryosphere and Water, ICIMOD



10:45 – 11:15	Tea break & Group picture
11:15– 12:30	Second plenary session <i>Community Resilience and Climate Actions</i> Moderator: Dr Mohd. Farooq Azam, Senior Intervention Manager – Cryosphere, ICIMOD Rapporteur: Finu Shrestha and Sunwi Maskey, ICIMOD Keynote: Professor Michael Bravo, Cambridge University, UK Panellists: • Aisha Khan, Founder of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC) and CEO of the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO) • Gianluca Frinchillucci (Il Polo), Il polo, Italy (Cultural Heritage and Community Resilience between the Arctic and the Third Pole)/Marco Volpe, University of Lapland • Yangji Doma Sherpa, General Manager, Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), Nepal • Ranjan Datta, Canada Chair, Mount Royal University (Indigenous Land Rights and Land-Based Education and Practices as Pathways to Arctic Climate Action)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch

Breakout session 1: 13:30 – 15:00

Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part I Room: Kailash	Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part I Room: Nanda Devi	Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part I Room: Annapurna
Chair: Finu Shrestha Rapporteur: Sangya Mishra	Chair: Sher Muhammad Rapporteur: Tenzing Sherpa	Chair: Marco Volpe Rapporteur: Chandani Thapa
Tiina Seppälä Learning Across Poles: Nepal and the Arctic Addressing Cryosphere, Water Security and Hydropower Challenges	Ayushi Nirola / K.R.Rama Mohan Between Nature and Neglect: Cloudburst Floods, the Anthropocene, and Resilience in the Sikkim Himalayas	Medy Dervovic Cryosphere Changes and International Law: Common Concern, Different Responsibilities?
Aishwarya Sanas	Monila Limboo/ Upasana Lohar	Sara Fusco



Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part I Room: Kailash	Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part I Room: Nanda Devi	Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part I Room: Annapurna
The Cryosphere Problematique: An Analysis of Glacier Melting as a Policy Problem in India	Perceptions and Practices of Environmental Sustainability and Resilience among Ethnic Communities of the Sikkim Himalayas	Beyond Inclusion: Indigenous Sovereignty and Future of Environment Governance in the Arctic
Akanksha Mary Balmuchu Just Transition and Community-Based Adaptation Strategies in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region	Manasi Debnath Rising Lakes, Rising Risks: GLOF Vulnerability in the Lachung Basin, Sikkim Himalaya, India Evaluating Glacial Lake Changes and GLOF Risk in Sikkim Himalaya Using AHP-Based Multi-Criteria Decision Modeling	Suprita Suman Cryosphere Governance: Studying the Role of Arctic Council and ICIMOD
Dinesh Dahal Vegetation Dynamics under Climate Change in the Periglacial Ecosystem of Sagarmatha National Park	Sabrina Hasan Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment in the Cryosphere: Lessons from the Arctic for the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region	Chhaya Bhardwaj / Daniel Stein Envisioning Polar Approaches to Climate Obligations through the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change

15:00 – 15:30 Tea break

Breakout session 2: 15:30 – 17:00

Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part II Room: Kailash	Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part II Room: Nanda Devi	Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part II Room: Annapurna
Chair: Finu Shrestha Tenzing Sherpa	Chair: Sonam Wangchuk Rapporteur: Prashant Baral	Chair: Babar Khan, Rapporteur: Amlan Mishra
Ganesh Rawat	Shakriya Pandey	Shah Fahad Ali Khan

Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part II Room: Kailash	Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part II Room: Nanda Devi	Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part II Room: Annapurna
Characterization and Morphological Analysis of Trio-Glacial Lakes (Sankha Lake, Lukur Lake and Thakur Jiu Lake) of Barekot Patan, Jajarkot, Nepal	VayuDrishti: A Community-Driven Environmental Monitoring Approach for Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Third Pole	Policy Implications for High-Alpine Mammal Conservation in a Changing Cryosphere: A Case Study of Markhor and Snow Leopard in Northern Pakistan
Swati Jha Study of Glacier Dynamics in Rikha Samba Glacier, Mustang, and Ponkar Glacier, Manang in Relation to Climate Change	Namdu Lhamo Human-Wildlife Conflict in Pungthra Village: A Case Study	Ahmed Nawaz Conservation Governance in the Karakoram Glacial Landscapes: Protected Areas Challenges of Central Karakoram National Park, Pakistan
Rajesh Kumar Climatic Variability and Glacier Retreat in the Western Himalayas: A Multi-Basin Assessment from the Past Four Decades	Vijaya Kumari Nunna Future Prospects of Sustainable Ecotourism: The Way Forward	S.M.Monirul Hassan / Syed Musa Kajim Nuri Cooperation between Bangladesh and Third Pole Countries: A Strategy for survival
Dhanendra K. Singh Quantifying the Surge and Calving Dynamics of Tunabreen Glacier in Svalbard Using Earth Observation Datasets		Padmashree Anandhan India's Governance of the Hindu Kush Himalaya: Lessons for the Arctic



Day II, 4 September 2025

Venue: Kailash Hall

Time	Activity
09:15 –10:30	Third Plenary session: Interpolar action: mainstreaming cryosphere risk in NDCs, NAPs, and the GGA Moderator: Dr Santosh Kumar Rauniyar (OPRI-SPF) Rapporteur: Amlan Mishra, Bisanthe Wagle Keynote: Dr. Franco Salerno (Online): How do glaciers react to global warming in high mountain Asia? The Glacier cooling effect. Panelists: • Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD, Nepal • Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor Emeritus, GRIPS, Japan • Prof. Dr. Myrle Ballard, Canada Research Chair, University of Calgary, Canada • Markus J. Thonhaugen, Senior Advisor, High North Center for Business and Governance, Nord University, Norway • Dr Kamrul Hossain, Research Professor, University of Lapland, Finland

10:30 – 11:00 Tea break

Breakout session 3: 11:00– 12:30

Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part III	Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part III	Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part III
Room: Kailash	Room: Gangkhar Puensum	Room: Annapurna
Chair: Finu Shrestha Tenzing Sherpa	Chair: Sunwi Maskey, Rapporteur: Sadikshya Adhikari	Chair: Medy Dervovic Rapporteur: Chandani Thapa
Soko Aoki/ Sujan Koirala Prototype of Water Flow Simulator Using 3D Digital Twin in Mountainous Area of Nepal	Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi Modelling Potential GLOF Threat over Strategic Indo-China Transboundary Region	Vivek Kumar Melting Frontiers in Arctic and Himalayas: The Geopolitics of Thinning Glaciers and High Stakes



Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part III	Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part III	Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part III
Room: Kailash Prasanna Dhakal	Room: Gangkhar Puensum Padma Yangchan	Room: Annapurna Marco Volpe
Impact of Black Carbon in Langshisha Glacier Melting Using a Glacio Hydrological Model	Transboundary Challenges and Collaborative Governance for Mitigating Glacial Lake Vulnerability in Ladakh	The Central Arctic Ocean as the corner stone of Arctic Science-diplomacy in turbulent times
Sidra Tul Muntaha	Palakunnath Jacob Rohan George	Akriti Sharma
Spatiotemporal Analysis of Drought and Heatwave Events in the HKH Region of Pakistan: Implications for Glacial Melt and Water Resources	Quantifying Direct Economic Damage from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, and the Effect of Artificial Lake Lowering: A Simulation Based Case Study from North India	Science Diplomacy in the Cryosphere: Insights from the Arctic and the Third Pole
	Earina Sthapit	
	Decadal Permafrost Distribution and Associated Geo-Hazard Susceptibility in the Kali Gandaki Valley	

Lunch break: 12:30 – 13:30

Breakout session 4: 13:30 – 15:00

Multilayered Considerations: Specific Climate Impacts on Indigenous and Local Communities - Part I	Knowledge Kaleidoscope: Narratives, Beliefs, and Education - Part I
Room: Kailash	Room: Annapurna
Chair: Sonam Chuki Rapporteur, Nusrat Hossain	Chair: Ranjan Datta Rapporteur, Abinash Mauriya
Muhammad Ismail	Yashika Subba
The Twin Sentries of the Chati Boi Glacier: Conserving Life on the Frozen Border of Hindukush Karakorum Pamir Landscape (HKPL)	The One with No Name: Climate knowledge and Local Perceptions in Darjeeling Himalaya



Multilayered Considerations: Specific Climate Impacts on Indigenous and Local Communities - Part I Room: Kailash	Knowledge Kaleidoscope: Narratives, Beliefs, and Education - Part I Room: Annapurna
Mahpara Alam/ Fahad Bin Siddique Climate Justice in Practice: Integrating Dalit Needs into Bangladesh's Climate and Disaster Management Framework	Fatema Tuz Johora Nature, Culture and Crisis: Artistic Narratives of Climate Change and Advocacy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh
Tapas Pal/ Md. Masud-All-Kamal Climate Crisis and Adopted Alternative Livelihood of Endangered Raji Tribes in Kumaon Himalayas, India: Light on the Abstract and Non-Abstract Challenges	Kumari Vibhuti Nayak Interweaving Faith and Ecology: Climate Crises, Ritual Adaptation, and the Oraon Community's Sarhul Festival in Jharkhand, India
Prof. Dr. Myrle Ballard , Indigenous Science, Three Eyes Seeing, and Climate Change	

15:00 – 15:30 Tea break

Breakout session 5: 15:30 – 17:00

Climate and Technologies - Part II Room: Kailash	Multilayered Considerations: Specific Climate Impacts on Indigenous and Local Communities - Part II Room: Gangkhar Puensum	Knowledge Kaleidoscope: Narratives, Beliefs, and Education - Part II Room: Annapurna
Chair: Rajesh Thapa, Rapporteur: Sarthak Shrestha	Chair: Sonam Chuki Rapporteur: Chhaya Namchu	Chair: Annie Dare, ICIMOD Rapporteur: Bisanteree Wagle
Bishnu Maya KC Unveiling Eco-Friendly Bamboo Based Fiber from Dendrocalamus hamiltonii Nees and Arn.ex Munro: A Sustainable Solution for the	Khabir Uddin Climate Change and Livelihood Crises of Indigenous Communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh	Aras Kumar Gurung / Temsutola Pongen Changing Climate, Vanishing Glaciers, and Solastalgia Among Two Indigenous Himalayan Communities



Mitigation of Climate Change through the Replacement of Plastic		
Albert van Wijngaarden A Polar Plan B? How to think about proposals to artificially preserve the cryosphere?	Suman Chakravarty Local People's Perception on Climate Variability in the Eastern Himalayan Regions: A Micro-Level Study among the Yolmo Indigenous Group in West Bengal State of India	Anusree Ghosh Tapas Ranjan Chakraborty Impact of Climatic and Environmental Changes on Religious or Spiritual Beliefs in the Hills of Sylhet, Bangladesh
Zahir Ahmad/ Farhana Altaf Geospatial Assessment and Monitoring of Glaciers of the Eastern Hindu Kush: Implication of Climate Change and Human-induced Stressors of Glacier Recession, Chitral, Pakistan	Arifatul Kibria Land-Based Adaptation and Community Climate Action: A Case Study on Indigenous Community in Bangladesh	Hasina Female Shamans and Sacred Glacier Rituals: Their Role in the Cultural Practices of Gilgit-Baltistan
		Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan / Kunzes Dolma Learning from Ice: Inter-Polar Educational Pathways for Community Resilience in Ladakh and Beyond



DAY III: 5 September 2025

Breakout session 6: 9:00 – 10:30

Climate and Technologies - Part III	Multilayered Considerations: Specific Climate Impacts on Indigenous and Local Communities - Part III	Knowledge Kaleidoscope: Narratives, Beliefs, and Education - Part III
Room: Kailash	Room: Nanda Devi	Room: Annapurna
Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden Rapporteur: Chandani Thapa	Chair: Pradyumna Rana Rapporteur: Chhaya Namchu	Chair: Marco Volpe Rapporteur: Abinash Mauriya
Afifa Nisar Assessing the Vulnerabilities of Mountainous Communities Exposed to Household Air Pollution (HAP) in relation to Climate Change in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan	Stella Bickelmann Zaskar's Cultural Landscape through the Climate Change Lens: A Case Study of Himalayan Communities and their Heritage Impacted by Climate Change	Jebunnessa Chapola Braiding Feminist Climate Ethics: Northern Indigenous Women's Perspectives on Climate and Water Justice
Praveen Kumar Singh Tracing Black Carbon's Footprint on the Hindu Kush Himalaya: An Assessment of Emissions, Deposition, and Albedo Trends Using Multimodal, Gridded, and Satellite Detests	Bhojan Dhakal/ Sabita Subedi When Ice and Identity Melts: Interdisciplinary Pathways for Sustainability of Herdmans' Heritage and Agro-Pastoral Value Chains in Vanishing Frontiers of the Himalayas	Tatiana Petrova From Arctic Depopulation to Third Pole Overpopulation: Demographic Shifts, Student Mobility, and Integration Dynamics
Datshan Sarode Technology-Enabled Artificial Glaciers for Climate-resilient Water Access at Everest Base Camp	Pranay Sharma Climate Change and Livelihood Vulnerability of Primitive Tribal Groups: Insights from the Toto Community in the Sub-Himalayan Region of Eastern India	Soumyajit Singha Roy/ Sayani Dey Mapping Socio-Biological Patterns and Resilience in North Eastern States: Insights from NFHS- 5 and Associated Public Health Patterns
		Satyabrata Sahoo Climate Change, Disaster, and Disability: Analyzing Inclusivity in the Sikkim and Uttarakhand Himalayas



10:30 – 11:00 Tea break

PARALELL WORKSHOPS

11:00 – 15:00

The goal of the workshops will be to provide a space to critically develop the key conference theme – what connects the HKH-region and the Arctic – and to design practical outcomes on both a policy and community level. There will be three parallel workshops. Participants are free to choose which workshop they want to participate in, although there will be limits based on room capacity and balance concerns. Parallel workshops are organized in two consecutive sessions. Participants are invited to remain in the same group in both sessions.

WORKSHOP 1 *led by Albert van Wijngaarden*

Connecting the Arctic to the Third Pole HKH: Thinking through Connections and Differences

WORKSHOP 2 *led by Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan*

People and Community Impacts of Climate and Cryosphere Changes: Thinking of Solutions and Stories

WORKSHOP 3 *led by Ranjan Datta*

Designing policy relevant inter-polar messages

Agenda

Time	Activity
11:00– 12:30	Workshop 1, 2 and 3 (parallel sessions)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Workshop 1, 2 & 3 (parallel sessions) continuation
15:00 – 15:30	Reporting from the Workshops Albert, Ramcharan and Ranjan
15:30 – 16:00	Tea break
16:00 – 16:30	Closing Session Summary and way forward Kunzang, Lead – Global Engagements Remarks: • Dr Qianggong Zhang, Head of Climate and Environmental Risks • Dr Kamrul Hossain, University of Lapland