



## HIMALAYAN CONSENSUS SUMMIT 2017

### ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Himalayan Consensus offers a fresh, holistic, and pragmatic approach to realize both inclusivity and sustainability. The Himalayan Consensus is built on three core principles:

- a. Protecting ethnic diversity and indigenous identity,
- b. Facilitating sustainable economic programs, innovative financial models and socially-responsible businesses,
- c. Prioritizing environmental protection and community development.

The agenda of Summit is to design and create sustainable alternative solutions based on grass root and alternative efforts in and for the Himalayan region.<sup>1</sup> Himalayan Consensus aims to implement innovative solutions of social entrepreneurs into globally relevant models for environmentally enhanced economic development that applies Himalayan traditions towards contemporary challenges and priorities, and harmonizes the concerns of human communities, commercial enterprises, and the natural environment.

The first Himalayan Consensus Summit themed - Resilience, Readiness and Response, was successfully held on March 17-18, 2016 in Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, showcasing the Himalayan character of resilience and explored the issue of readiness and response beyond natural and human induced disasters. The upcoming Summit is scheduled for 24-25 March 2017.

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*Himalayan Consensus is a holistic development paradigm that emphasizes the integrity of planetary eco-systems as an indispensable basis for socio-economic development.*

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### EVENT OVERVIEW

The Himalayan Consensus Summit is a two day event, with an opening speeches by respected dignitaries and luminaries followed by six panel discussions and closing speeches. The discussions will bring together global thought leaders that will contribute towards setting the tone of the summit by sharing their own experiences of working and observing different paradigm changes in the economic development of countries and regions. The panel discussions will focus on various issues, from renewable energy and transboundary water issues to empowering communities and financing alternative development models.

The panel discussions to be held during the two day event are outlined below:

#### 1. SESSION I – RENEWABLE ENERGY: MAINSTREAMING THE ALTERNATIVES

Renewable energy; so far, has been conceived as an alternative source of energy but looking at the current global trends, the alternative is gradually moving the mainstream with government, policy

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.



makers, private sector and development organizations around the world striving towards a sustainable economy through promotion and consumption of renewable energy. Meanwhile, national and international initiatives in the renewable energy are being accepted and supported at the local levels. This session will focus on showcasing innovations and grass root solutions; at the community as well as international level to support the promotion and consumption of renewable energy. Meanwhile; it will also provide these innovators with the opportunity to share their innovations and provide perspectives on some of the ways in which they can be scaled commercially or taken global.

## 2. **SESSION II - REIMAGINING WATER: FROM HOME TO TRANS BOUNDARY**

There are numerous water bodies crossing the political borders of two or more countries which create interdependencies between societies that rely on them for social and economic needs. As such there is a need for the respective communities and countries to realize the importance of managing and preserving these resources. The issues around transboundary water resources require unprecedented regional cooperation and the ability to address conflicting interests. This session will explore the various mechanisms to generate cooperation for transboundary water management and mitigate potential conflict.

## 3. **SESSION III – MONEY MATTERS: SCALING THE SOLUTIONS**

Renewable energy technology and water conservation solutions require innovations and huge investments. Local and social entrepreneurs understand the needs of the people and are working to design and provide services and technologies accordingly on a larger scale; either with national or international financial support. This session will explore how these initiatives and the financial contribution can be coordinated in order to scale up the solutions and spread the access to these resources.

## 4. **SESSION IV – EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CONSERVATION**

Affirmed identity requires community empowerment, just as a tree needs water on its roots. This session will focus on conservation as a business and how communities can be empowered in the process. Conservation of heritage helps in creating a sense of ownership among local communities and developing a shared identity. Moreover, restoration and maintenance of heritage also builds the knowledge of locals about their culture, enhancing their skills to engage in preservation, subsequently generating employment and income and promoting cultural tourism in the long run.

## 5. **SESSION V – COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND MICROFINANCE**

Community empowerment significantly depends on easier access to capital. Community innovation coupled with sufficient finances can be crucial in building the capacities of communities and empowering them. Facilities such as microfinance are proven poverty alleviation tools that facilitate access to financial services for poor and disadvantaged groups. This session will thereby focus on the process of empowering communities and upgrading their initiatives through access to finance as well as exploring new financial investment models.

## 6. **SESSION VI – MITIGATING FUTURE CONFLICTS AND MOVING TOWARDS SHARED COMMITMENTS**

Conflicts generally arise from economic disempowerment and identity marginalization. Resources such as, energy, water and community are core pillars in preventing future conflict. As such it is essential that resources are managed to ensure that no