

HIMALAYAN CONSENSUS SUMMIT 2018

Program Outline

Day 1: 23 March, 2018 (Friday)

Commitments in Action

8.00	Registration
8.50	Everyone is seated
9.00-10.00	Inaugural Session
	<p>How can the Himalayan Consensus process contribute to addressing contemporary global challenges? Speakers will provide perspectives on this topic and provide insights on key themes of the Summit such as the importance of connectivity in the Himalayan region for fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.</p> <p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elisabeth von Capeller, Her Excellency Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal• Mashfee Binte Shams, Her Excellency Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal• Yu Hong, Her Excellency Ambassador of China to Nepal. <p>Key Note Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David J. Molden, Director General, ICIMOD Nepal
10.00-10.30	Tea Break
10.30-11.10	Session I: The World of Himalayan Heritage
	<p>Conserving regional heritage is an important pillar of the Himalayan Consensus process. The session will discuss the developments of the Himalayan Heritage Hospitality (3H) Fund, an announcement made in HCS 2017. This discussion will look into how business can harness the collective potential of Himalayan cultural heritage and history.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laxmi Gurung, Social Scientist• Mahima Shrestha, Representative, Himalayan Heritage Hospitality (3H) Fund Communications• Yeshey Tshogay, Director, Bhutan Hotels Pvt. Ltd. <p><i>Moderator:</i> Sumnima Udas, Founder, Museum of Buddhism and Sacred Spaces</p>

11.10-11.20	Break – Stage Set Up
11.20-12.00	Session II: Financing the Alternatives
	<p>Renewable energy firms in the Himalayan region need investments to flourish. In HCS 2017, Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB) announced the launch of Himalayan Consensus Renewable Energy and Water Conservation Fund, which aims to facilitate and invest in local renewable energy firms to foster growth and innovation in the sector. This session will explore the potential to leverage financial instruments to increase investments in efficient energy systems.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Regional Program Manager, River Basins and Cryosphere, ICIMOD Nepal • Matthew R. Norley, Renewable Energy Analyst, Dolma Foundation • Passang Dorji, Former Director, Department of Investment, Druk Holding and Investments • Sunil KC, Chief Executive Officer, NMB Bank <p><i>Moderator:</i> Christopher Flensburg, Head of Climate and Sustainable Financial Solutions, SEB</p>
12.00-12.10	Break – Stage Set
12.10-12.45	Session III: Insurance Against Future Disasters
	<p>Can insurance provide protection against natural disasters? In HCS 2017, Peak Reinsurance Company (Peak Re) Hong Kong announced plans to establish an insurance program for earthquake-prone regions of the Himalayas, focusing primarily of emergency relief and reconstruction. This session will explore how Peak Re’s insurance program can be successfully designed and reliably replicated in other earthquake-prone regions of the world.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basanta Shrestha, Director of Strategic Cooperation, ICIMOD Nepal • Iain Reynolds, Head of Analytics, Peak Re • Sushil Bajracharya, CEO, Himalayan General Insurance <p><i>Moderator:</i> Eckart Roth, Chief Risk Officer, Peak Re</p>
12.45-1.45	Lunch
1.45-2.30	Session IV: Crisis and Conflict Mitigation Initiative
	<p>Achieving sustainable peace requires a holistic, multi-disciplinary and community-based approach. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nepal and Himalayan Consensus Institute have entered a partnership to collaborate in the areas of crisis prevention and conflict mitigation. The partnership focuses on developing systematic early warning systems, building local mediation capacity and conducting second-track dialogue to aid governments and communities in their response to environmental crisis. This session will delve into the pilot program, which will likely serve as a model for conflict prevention and mitigation in countries affected by climate change and underdevelopment.</p>

	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mandira Singh Shrestha, Program Coordinator, Hi-Risk, ICIMOD Nepal ● Nicholas Rosellini, Resident Coordinator, United Nations China ● Renaud Meyer, Country Director, UNDP Nepal <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mahendra P. Lama, Senior Expert, Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University; Founding Vice Chancellor, Central University of Sikkim</p>
2.30-2.40	Break – Stage Set Up
2.40-3.15	Session V: Cardamom Campaign for Peace
	<p>Community empowerment is key to mitigating crisis and conflict in vulnerable ecologies. The Cardamom Campaign for Peace arose from the Crisis and Conflict Mitigation Initiative undertaken by UNDP Nepal and Himalayan Consensus Institute and aims to use cardamom farming as a model for generating sustainable employment while protecting fragile ecosystems in the Himalayan region. The panel will discuss challenges for the campaign as well as deliberate on a way forward.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chhali Maya Thami, Social Worker and Community Leader ● Deepak KC, Senior Project Officer, Integrated Climate Risk Management, UNDP Nepal ● Surendra Raj Joshi, Program Coordinator, Resilient Livelihood, ICIMOD Nepal <p><i>Moderator:</i> Gregory K. Tanaka, Founder, Sierra Consensus Institute</p>
3.15-3.45	Tea Break
3.45-4.40	Session VI: Together We Can - Himalayan Consensus Think Tank Consortium
	<p>Communication failures between think tanks working on conservation of culture and the environment undermine conservation efforts. How can this be mitigated? This session represents a step towards establishing a consortium of think tanks working on the preservation of environment and culture, and promotion of sustainable development in the Himalayan region. Acknowledging the importance of sub-regional efforts, this session will focus on the need to continue the conservation discourse and disseminate information to the public in the Himalayan region.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International, Jaipur ● Philippus Wester, Regional Program Manager, Mountain Knowledge and Action Networks, ICIMOD Nepal ● Long Xingchun, Secretary General, Center of Himalayan Regional Studies, The Charhar Institute ● Pramod Jaiswal, Senior Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies <p><i>Moderator:</i> Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation</p>

4.40-4.50	Break – Stage Set Up
4.50-5.30	Closing Session
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huang Youyi, Member, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and China Economic and Social Council • Nirupama Rao, Former Indian Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to US and China • Laurence J. Brahm, Founder, Himalayan Consensus Institute

Day 2: 24 March, 2018 (Saturday)

Connected Businesses, Connected World

9.00-9.45	Opening Session
	<p>In today's ever-changing world, it is increasingly important for businesses to keep abreast of trends in connectivity. Speakers will expound on the role of communities and businesses in enhancing national, regional and global connectivity. This session will also set the stage for subsequent sessions under the connectivity mandala of air, earth, fire, space and water.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaina B. Teplitz, Her Excellency Ambassador of United States to Nepal • Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD Nepal • Kul Chandra Gautam, Advisory Board Member, Nepal Economic Forum • Rurik Marsden, Head, DFID Nepal • Veronica Cody, Her Excellency Ambassador, European Union Nepal
9.45-10.00	Break – Stage Set Up
10.00-11.00	Session I: Towards Air Connectivity
	<p>Air connectivity is key to unlocking a region's growth potential as it enables the region to attract investments. To enhance air connectivity in the Himalayan region, it is important to expand on existing air travel networks and improve related infrastructure. Speakers will discuss the role of smart infrastructure, efficient airports and enhanced clean technology in expanding air connectivity in the region.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdullah Tuncer Kececi, General Manager, Turkish Airlines • Arnico Panday, Regional Program Manager (Ad interim), Atmosphere Program, ICIMOD Nepal • Sugat Ratna Kansakar, Managing Director, Nepal Airlines Corporations • Umesh Chandra Rai, CEO, Yeti Airlines/Tara Air <p><i>Moderator:</i> Christopher Thomas, Managing Director, Aviation Talent</p>

11.00-11.30	Tea Break
11.30-12.30	Session II: Mainstreaming Clean Energy
	<p>Adopter, convertible or skeptic, who are you when it comes to clean energy? Our choice of energy has an immense impact on our health and the environment. This session will highlight several forms of clean energy, underlining their benefits and underscoring how each can be mainstreamed into our lives so that we can move towards a clean and sustainable future.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Govind Raj Pokharel, Former Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Center • Kulman Ghising, Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority • Ramesh Anand Vaidya, Senior Advisor, Water and Air, ICIMOD Nepal • Sujit Acharya, Chairperson, IDS Energy Pvt Ltd; Founder Chairperson, Energy Development Council <p><i>Moderator:</i> Claudia Hiepe, Deputy Chief of Mission and Head, German Development Cooperation Nepal</p>
12.30 -1.30	LUNCH
1.30-2.30	Session III: Exploring Water Solutions
	<p>Water is at the core of sustainable development and human survival itself, yet managing water resources is a complex and challenging task. In recent years, many approaches, strategies and technologies have evolved to tackle water resource management in the Himalayan region. Speakers will discuss upon such water management methods and see how it can be replicated and escalated to solve the pressing water related issues and problems in the region.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anustha Shrestha, Research Officer, ISET-Nepal • Madhukar Upadhyaya, Senior Watershed Expert • Philip Yiin, LivingFood Specialist • Sabyasachi Dutta, Founder Director, Asian Confluence <p><i>Moderator:</i> Anil Pokhrel, Sr. Risk and Adaptation Specialist, Plan8 Risk Consulting</p>
2.30-2.40	Break – Stage Set Up
2.40-3.40	Session IV: Quest for Sustainable Earth
	<p>Landlocked states in the Himalayan region need specialized solutions to unleash connectivity in trade and commerce. This session will deliberate on the benefits of organic farming for people, communities and the environment as well as on the need for smart infrastructure to promote exports and connectivity in the Himalayan region.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khemraj Upadhyaya, Country Representative, BRAC International Nepal • Randall A. Bluffstone, Director of Institute for Economics and the Environment, Portland State University • Wang Yushui, General Manager, China Overseas Engineering Co. Ltd. <p><i>Moderator:</i> Arnico Panday, Senior Atmospheric Scientist and Program Manager</p>
3.40-4.00	Tea Break
4.00-5.00	Session V: Connecting Spaces for Connected World
	<p>Asian cellular technology is revolutionizing banking and allowing payment and financial systems to reach even the remotest of villages. The Asian Silicon Valley stretches from Bangalore, India to Shenzhen, China. These new tech hubs are not just revolutionizing rural banking, finance and medical care but pioneering Artificial Intelligence. This session will throw light on how the region with some of the brightest minds is using technology to create Shangri-La.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amuda Mishra, Founder and Executive Director, Ujyalo Foundation • Giuseppe Savino, Founder, Migration Protocol • Robin Gravesteijn, Data Management Specialist (Analytics and Research), UNCDF Bangkok <p><i>Moderator:</i> Monika Schaffner, Integrative Geographer, connecting spaces</p>
5.00-5.15	Break – Stage Set Up
5.15-6.00	<p><i>Closing Speeches</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol A. Wolfson, Founding Board Member, Himalayan Consensus Institute • Nicholas Rosellini, Resident Coordinator, United Nations China • Peter Budd, His Excellency Ambassador of Australia to Nepal • Valerie Julliand, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Nepal <p>Thank You Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sujeev Shakya, Secretary General, Himalayan Consensus Institute