



# SACEP NEWS

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## SACEP Chairman visits SACEP

Deputy Minister for Environment, Government of Bhutan H. E. Dasho Nado Rinchen who is the current Chairman of SACEP Governing Council (GC) visited the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka during 14-15 December 2006. He was accompanied by Mr. Karma Tshering Programme Officer, National Environment Commission, Government of Bhutan. During his visit he discussed among other things the details of the forthcoming 10th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP in Kathmandu in January 2007, including the documentation and preparations undertaken by SACEP. The Director General also briefed the Chairman on the proposed Silver Jubilee Celebrations of SACEP which is being hosted by the Nepal Government.

The Director General also presented the Progress Report of SACEP from April 2005 to November 2006, under broad subject areas such as Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change, Data Management, Regional Seas Programme etc. The Director General brought to the notice of the Chairman the

new programme areas such as Urban Waste Management and Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste, Climate Change Conference of Parties (CoP) Decision on South Asia Regional Centre to be set up at SACEP, Collaborative Programme with Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), Asia – Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Clearing House Mechanism.

The status of the existing Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) with World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan were also discussed. The Chairman also met with the entire staff of SACEP to discuss programme and other administrative matters.

The Chairman of the GC-SACEP appreciated the work carried out by SACEP during the said period. He also recognised the initiatives taken by SACEP for proposed activities and the efforts made to establish liaison with different international donors and other

agencies.

The Chairman presented the SACEP Secretariat a traditional Bhutanese "Thanka" to mark the occasion of his visit to the SACEP Secretariat.

The Director General also hosted a formal dinner in honour of the Chairman at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel which was attended by the Members of the SACEP Consultative Committee and the officials of the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka



**The Hon. Chairman (3rd from Left) handing over the traditional "Thanka" to the Director General at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo.**

## 25th Anniversary of SACEP

SACEP will celebrate its Silver Jubilee. The celebration will be held on 24th January, 2007 at Kathmandu Nepal, prior to the 10th Governing Council Meeting that will be attended by all the Environmental Ministers of the member countries.

As a back drop, to the formation of SACEP, the Inter-governmental Expert Group which met at the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer (RCTT), Bangalore on 10-15<sup>th</sup> March 1980, unanimously resolved that the Secretariat of SACEP be established in Sri Lanka. It was also decided that the Regional Office of UNEP should convene a high level meeting of

Government officials to work out the Articles of Association, Programme Modalities and functions of each Focal Point and the Consultative Committee.

Later in February 1981, UNEP-ROAP convened a High Level Meeting of Officials and Ministers of South Asian Countries in Colombo. This meeting reaffirmed the spirit of mutual self help, collaboration and co-operation underlying the establishment of the inter governmental organization solely devoted to the protection and management of the South Asian Environment.

SACEP became a legal entity in

January 1982, when 3 member countries ratified the Articles of Association. Dr. Leslie Herath of Sri Lanka was appointed as the first Director of SACEP.



## International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction

International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction was held in Ho Minh City, Viet Nam on 03 - 06 October, 2006. The conference was focused on Capturing Opportunities in Forest Harvesting and Wood Processing for the Benefit of the Poor. H.E. Mr. Hua Duc Nhi, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam participated as the Chief Guest. The objectives of the conference were to:

Review technical, economic, social, institutional and policy aspects of small-scale and labor intensive forest management practices and wood processing with regard to their impacts on the poor and their potential for reducing poverty.

Identify constraints to, and opportunities for, managing forests and processing activities with poverty reduction as an explicit objective.

Establish a working group for the promotion of forest management for poverty reduction.

New trends with respect to markets, technologies and institutions offer ample opportunities to provide employment and generate income in rural areas. However, in many countries policies supporting the greater involvement of local people in forest harvesting and wood processing are poorly developed, and discriminate against small-scale producers and labor

intensive practices. The Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction brought together diverse stakeholders and international experts to share experiences related to small-scale forest operations, labor-intensive forest management practices and wood processing.

Dr. A.A. Boaz, the Director General represented the SACEP at the conference and made a presentation on Community based Sustainable labour Intense Management of Tendu Leaves For poverty reduction. The paper presented the highly successful initiatives of the State Government for poverty alleviation of the fringe forest area population.



Crop cultivation by the communities as Undergrowth of Pinus Plantations

*"Ocean: A body of water occupying two-thirds of a world made for man - who has no gills."  
~Ambrose Bierce*

## 8th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas

8th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans was held in Beijing, People's Republic of China during 13 and 14 October 2006. Dr. A.A. Boaz, the Director General represented SACEP at the meeting.

Following points were discussed at the Meeting in relation to the Regional Seas Programme.

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on Migratory

- Species
- Marine and Coastal Invasive Species
- Marine Litter
- Marine & Coastal Protected Areas

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

Regional Seas Programme aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustain-

able management and use of the marine and coastal environment, by engaging neighboring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their shared marine environment.

Today, more than 140 countries participate in 18 Regional Seas programmes established under the auspices of UNEP.



## Review of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment

Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA IGR -2) was held in Beijing, People's Republic of China during 16-20 October 2006. UNEP invited Governments and Stakeholders as key figures into the conference. The session was opened by H.E. Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration of the People's Republic of China. Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General represented the SACEP at the meeting.

Some 80% of the pollution load in

the oceans originates from land-based activities. This includes municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off, as well as atmospheric depositions. These contaminants affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters. The marine environment is also threatened by physical alterations of the coastal zone, including destruction of habitats of vital importance to maintain ecosystem health.

IGR-2 was dedicated to the

implementation of the GPA at the national level. Ministers, Vice - Ministers and high-level representatives actively discussed the value of the GPA as a flexible, non-binding, integrative and catalytic instrument for the sustainable development of coasts, oceans and islands and their associated watersheds in a round-table setting.



Participants at the Conference

The Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol provided an extremely timely and good basis for global action. Although over the past, some action has been taken in the implementation of these instruments, these are far from adequate. The commitment of the developed countries and their implementation leaves much to be desired. The developing countries on their part need to be facilitated by the developed ones, to comply with their commitments and contribute to the ultimate objectives of this convention. The South Asia region is one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change. It has five least developed countries with island state like the Maldives, whose very existence is threatened by Sea level rise and the Mountain state like Bhutan that is threatened by mountain glacier lakes. We also have one of the largest poor population of the world that are the worst affected by the vagaries of climate change that constantly strike this region. The livelihood of these poor people and their food security is directly dependent on

agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Their economies will suffer the most with the ever increasing frequencies of droughts, floods, cyclones, storms and sea surges generally associated with climate change.

We should agree that Climate Change is here and now. It is evident that its impact can be seen everywhere. It is now a question how the society reacts to these changes. The implementation of practical adaptation activities with secure funding should be the top priority of this region. We should view the adaptation activities as an opportunity to address the wider issue of sustainable development as climate change is threatening to frustrate poverty eradication efforts of the developing world. It is clear now that adaptation has direct and reinforcing relationship to sustainable development. All over the world, several advances have been made in this aspect. The 48 nations of the Least Developed Countries have started National Adaptation Plans of Action. Adaptation needs to be focused

on development. It should be done with sensitivity and respect for national circumstances and local communities.

The developing countries, though being the most affected by climate change, have the least capacity to respond to these changes. Adaptation, which refers to finding and implementing ways of adjusting to the adverse effects of climate change, is gradually becoming an urgent priority in the global response. The Adaptation fund was, therefore, established under the Kyoto Protocol to support adaptation activities in the developing countries. The fund is financed by a share of the proceeds generated by the CDM-one of the Protocols Market based instruments and by voluntary contributions. I sincerely hope that this fund will greatly benefit this region and pave way for real adaptation related action on the ground.

## Meetings with the Environment Ministers & Secretaries of the Member Countries

Dr. A.A. Boaz, the Director General of SACEP had meetings with Hon. Minister of State for Environment and Forests in India H.E. Namo Narayan Meena and Secretary of the Ministry Environment and Forest , Dr. Pradipto Ghosh during 20 - 23 Nov 2006. Dr. Boaz also met Dr. R. Pachauri ,

(Director General) and Dr. Bhojvaid of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) during his visit.

On 06th December, 2006 the Director General had a meeting with the Hon. Minister for Environment of Pakistan, H. E. Mr. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat and the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Pakistan, Mr. Sharif Ahmed at the

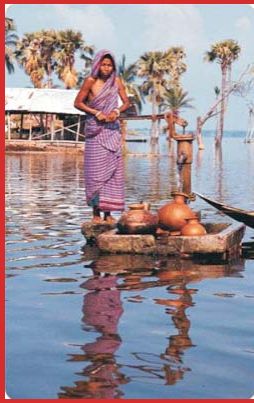
Ministry of Environment Islamabad, Pakistan .

During these visits the Director General briefed the Hon. Ministers and focal points officials about the preparation for the Governing Council (GC) meeting and Silver Jubilee celebration of SACEP scheduled on 23 -25 January 2007 in Katmandu, Nepal.

### Web sites of the Environmental Ministries / Government of SACEP Member Countries

Afghanistan	<a href="http://www.afghangovernment.com">www.afghangovernment.com</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="http://www.moef.gov.bd">www.moef.gov.bd</a>
Bhutan	<a href="http://www.bhutan.gov.bt/government/index.php">www.bhutan.gov.bt/government/index.php</a>
India	<a href="http://www.envfor.nic.in">www.envfor.nic.in</a>
Maldives	<a href="http://www.maldivesinfo.gov.mv">www.maldivesinfo.gov.mv</a>
Nepal	<a href="http://www.most.gov.np">www.most.gov.np</a>
Pakistan	<a href="http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/ministries/index.jsp?MinID=5&amp;cPath=42">www.pakistan.gov.pk/ministries/index.jsp?MinID=5&amp;cPath=42</a>
Sri Lanka	<a href="http://www.menr.lk">www.menr.lk</a>

## United Nations Climate Change Conference



Source: [www.rtcc.org](http://www.rtcc.org)



Kenya hosted the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 12), in Nairobi from 6 to 17 November 2006. Second meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 2), was held in conjunction with the COP 12.

Dr.A.A. Boaz, the Director General represented SACEP at the conference. SACEP represented the Climate Action Network-International (CANI) Side Event on Post 2012 .

The conference also included,

from 6 to 14 November, the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 25), and the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 2) including an in-session workshop.

Resources will be allocated to the climate change focal area of the Global Environment Facility and by bilateral and multilateral funding, particularly in the following priority areas:

Energy efficiency, energy savings, renewable energy

and less-greenhouse-gas-emitting advanced fossil-fuel technologies  
Innovation including through research and development relating to energy efficiency and savings in the transport and industry sectors  
Climate-friendly agricultural technologies and practices, including traditional agricultural methods  
Afforestation, reforestation and use of marginal land.  
Solid and liquid waste management for the recovery of methane gas.



## Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP8) on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was held during 29 Nov - 01 Dec 2006 at the Office of the United Nations at Nairobi, Kenya.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Basel Convention and is composed of all governments that have ratified or acceded to it.

The Basel Convention is the broadest and most significant

international treaty on hazardous and other wastes. It regulates the international trade in hazardous waste and aims to minimise their generation and transboundary movement.

The Basel Convention was opened for signature on March 22, 1989, and entered into force on May 5, 1992. In June 2006, 168 Parties have ratified the Basel Convention. Afghanistan, Haiti, and the United States have signed but have not yet ratified the Convention.

Being an intergovernmental organization of the South Asia

region, SACEP considering the unique problems faced by its member countries with regards to the management of hazardous waste.

With the full support of its member countries SACEP was able to get the decision (VIII/3) at the CoP8 of the Basel Convention to establish a separate Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SACEP with the help of its member countries, is now developing proposals for establish such a regional center at SACEP.



BASEL CONVENTION



SACEP



Dr.A.A. Boaz , (R) Director General of SACEP with delegates of Sri Lanka and Bhutan representatives at COP8 meeting.

## Plastic or Something Better ?

Recently, the Sri Lankan government issued a warning to merchants to limit the overuse of plastic bags. This was done to limit the common practice of wrapping each item in a plastic bag. This approach is a welcome step in the 3R strategy of "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle."

Plastic bags end up as litter that fouls the landscape, and kills thousands of marine mammals every year that mistake the floating bags for food. Plastic bags that get buried in landfills may take many years to break down. Furthermore, the production of plastic bags consume millions of gallons of oil that could be used for fuel and heating.

Paper bags, which many people

consider a better alternative to plastic bags, carry their own set of environmental problems. For example, according to the American Forest and Paper Association, in 1999 the U.S. alone used 10 billion paper grocery bags, which consumed 14 million trees.

**Reusable Bags, Better Option**  
Experts estimate that 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed and discarded annually worldwide, more than a million per minute. Plastic bags are not biodegradable. They actually go through a process called photodegradation; breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic particles that contaminate both soil and water; and end up entering the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them.

Apparently, hundreds of whales, dolphins, sea turtles and other marine mammals die every year after eating discarded plastic bags they mistake for food which demonstrate the value of reusable bags, to consumers and the environment. High quality reusable bags which are prepared of cloth or natural materials and may not be discarded after each use and serve as a good option.

### Quick Actions:

Strategic taxes can cut usage of Plastic Bags.

Governments can enforce acts to limit manufacturing and usage of Plastic Bags.

Strong awareness programmes for the public should be launched.



## 3R Conference

Asia 3R Conference was held on 30 Oct -1 Nov 2006 Tokyo, Japan . Dr.A.A. Boaz, Director General represented SACEP at the Conference.

The 3R concept can promote needed change in producer and consumer behaviors. It can encourage the development of technical and management measures to reduce society's overall resource use, minimize waste generation and properly dispose of those wastes which cannot be avoided.

The consumption of raw materials has declined as the recycling of glass, metals, papers and plastics while it reduces the need for land-

fill space. Taking into account such advantages, the global 3R Initiative to promote reduce, reuse and recycle was agreed at the G8 Summit in 2004.

The success of a '3R' initiative will largely depend on the right mix of policies and programmes implemented at the local level. Ultimately, the life cycle of a product in itself should guide the action necessary to development and implement a comprehensive 3R Initiative based on integrated waste management systems:

At the production stage, the target stakeholder of businesses should look at 3R oriented designs for resource -saving, long-life; reuse; recycling; and labeling materials used.

Orienting the consumption/ use stage of the life cycle a product can be focused on national and local authorities to take the lead in purchasing environmentally friendly products and services.

The collection/recycling stage is critical, asking of consumers to properly discharge the products they use, or participate in product buy-back programmes; and of businesses to promote product recycling.

At the final stage of disposal, businesses and municipalities have the responsibility to ensure that waste products are properly discharged and/or incinerated.



## Clean Development Mechanism

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the two project-based mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. These mechanisms are designed to make it easier and cheaper for industrialised countries to meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets that they agreed under the Protocol. The CDM is also mandated to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development.

The main objective of this mechanism is the greenhouse gas reduction at lower cost through projects aimed at developing countries. It was established in 1997 by the Kyoto protocol. The system is mainly applicable to developing countries and economies in transition. It is supervised by CDM Executive Board (CDM EB) and it is under the guidance of the conference of the parties on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCC).

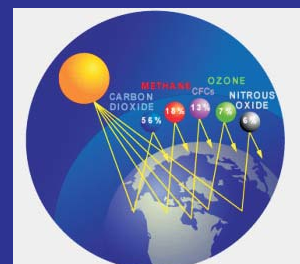
When CDM was first introduced it was viewed controversially and was opposed by many NGOs in the environmental field and also by the developing nations. They believed that the developed countries should reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions

before pointing fingers at the developing nations. They were also worried about the environmental integrity of the mechanism, whether it would be substantial. The US persisted in its effects to convince and eventually the developing countries accepted the measure and it finalized in the Kyoto protocol as article 12.

There are more than 450 projects registered under CDM till date. These projects reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 104,124,494 ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year. N<sub>2</sub>O reduction projects and HFC oxidation projects are responsible for more than 70% of the reduction in greenhouse gases. The remaining 30% reduction is due to landfill gas projects, hydropower and biomass projects. Most of the projects are set up in South American and South Asian countries; India has registered for almost 200 of them. The projects are mainly concentrated on hydropower plants, manufacturing industries and also waste heat recovery projects. In Sri Lanka the focus is seen in hydropower plants as a priority area. The CDM project process requires the interested party to submit a outline of the process ensuring that the proposed mechanism is better than the

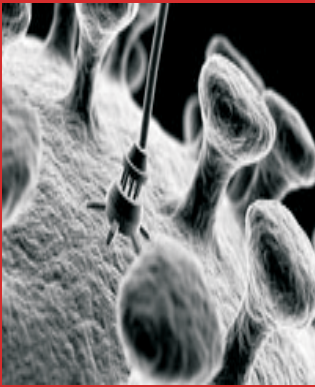
already existing measure that have been placed by the countries themselves.

In the future, CDM projects can be used in organic agriculture as it is an important contributor to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Organic agriculture also reduces the amount greenhouse gas emissions. Another area then can be developed in the future is to change from burnt clay bricks to fly ash bricks. It is especially useful in India as there are many thermal power plants where fly ash is a waste product. By using this fly ash and combining it with other chemicals it can be made into bricks, an effective way to reuse the waste.



Source: [www.koshland-science-museum.org/.../causes02.jsp](http://www.koshland-science-museum.org/.../causes02.jsp)

## Nanotechnology and Environment: should we be worried?



Source: [www.nanotechnologyinvesting.us/](http://www.nanotechnologyinvesting.us/)

**“Nanotechnology involves the making of materials from scratch, atom by atom, it reduces the amount of waste generated along the way of production”**

Nanotechnology is famously known as the next industrial revolution and depicts a promising future in the creation of many innovative applications. It deals with the branch of science and engineering that designs extremely small structures, electric circuits and materials. Products containing nonoparticles generate billions of dollars in profits in the industrial sector. Along with its many positive impacts we ought to be skeptical about its negative effects to the environment and threats to living organisms. These products need to satisfy the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) standards in order to expand their growth in the world market.

The link between environment and nanotechnology and its consequences are still under research and have not been entirely formed. Some recent, positive applications of the nanotechnology in the

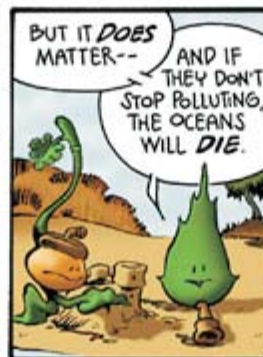
environment are noticed in the initiation of sensors with capabilities such as, detecting and monitoring pathogens and pollutants, to treat contaminated water, soil and air. It can also be perceived as green technology which decreases the emission of harmful wastes from industrial process by incorporating filters that contain nanomolecules which are expensive but more effective than the currently available options.

Other futuristic uses of nanotechnology in the environment can be experimented on waste reduction. Since nanotechnology involves the making of materials from scratch, atom by atom, it reduces the amount of waste generated along the way of production. This method is different in more environmentally friendly form the currently used drilling, sawing and other practices.

Although the nano boom brings along numerous commercial benefits, it could aggravate the pollution situation. Generic terms such as nanopollution and nanowaste are becoming commonly known and are under intensive research. They are usually waste that is generated by nanodevices or emitted during the manufacturing process of nanomaterials. Due the minute size of the waste particle it is a huge hazard to the living organisms as it can enter the cells easily causing much damage. Some researchers have found that the free radicals and oxidative stress produced from nanoparticles causes DNA damage and gene alteration thus increasing the risks of cancer.

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## World Challenge 2006 Winner-ELEPHANT PAPER, Sri Lanka

*Maximus*, is a papermaking firm that makes high-quality products from a variety of wastes, including paper from offices and from the bark of banana trees. It won the World Challenge 2006, after competing with the 12 finalists. The World Challenge competition was launched in January 2005.

*Maximus* set up a shop in Kegalle Sri Lanka, in 1997, not far from the elephant orphanage. In Sri Lanka there is conflict between elephants and the growing human population for land. The prox-

imity of elephants was a benefit for the papermakers; for as they soon discovered elephant dung is an ideal raw material for paper production they began a range of elephant-dung paper to draw attention to the plight of the Sri Lankan elephant. This unusual product has found buyers within Sri Lanka and throughout the world.

A proportion of the sales are donated to the elephant orphanage. However the elephants are not the only beneficiaries of this venture. *Maximus* provides an

income for 35 staff, and its recently established 'Peace Paper' scheme helps rural people earn money from collecting dung from wild elephants.

Source: [www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/index.php](http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/index.php)



BBC WORLD

Newsweek

## International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

In 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to maintain the observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October; (11th October) as a vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

The theme of the International Day for Disaster Reduction and campaign for 2006 "**Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School**" highlights the need to keep our children safe and to

involve them directly in our work to strengthen disaster preparedness. According to a recent study, Asia and the Pacific is the region most severely affected by natural disasters, especially by water-related disasters, including floods, which affected over 1,500 million people and caused a total damage of over US\$ 110 billion during the last decade.

Education, professional training, and the exchange of information are one of the most powerful forces to cut disaster risk. Knowledge management and education and the building of a culture of resilient communities is an efficient way

to learn how to live with the risk of natural disasters. Knowledge management can include the following topics:

- Education for sustainable development -disaster risk reduction in schools
- Disaster risk reduction at university and postgraduate levels
- Research agendas
- Training: formal and informal (community action)
- Media and disaster risk reduction public awareness raising tools
- The voice of the civil society in disaster risk reduction

Source: [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)



## International Mountain Day 2006

Mountains are storehouses of biodiversity - they host about half of the global biodiversity hot spots. Mountain biodiversity ensures soil stability on steep slopes and provides fresh water, food, timber, medicine and recreation for most of us. Mountain people have developed highly diverse cultures and land use systems with a great variety of locally adapted crops and livestock. The intensive use of resources by humans puts this unique biological and cultural heritage at risk of extinction. However, encouraging approaches for mountain biodiversity management exist,

such as the establishment of protected areas, conservation landscapes and Payment for Environmental Services (PES); these serve both biodiversity conservation and human needs.

UN General Assembly in year 2003 designated 11 December, as 'International Mountain Day'. The International Mountain Day 2006 with its theme of "**Managing Mountain Biodiversity for Better Lives**" promotes awareness and action for the sustainable management of mountain biodiversity for the benefit of all. International

Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands. FAO was the designated lead coordinating agency for International Year of Mountains and is mandated to lead observance of International Mountain Day.



Source: [www.fao.org/mnts/intl\\_mountain\\_day\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/mnts/intl_mountain_day_en.asp)



### Recent Publications

Workshop Report: South Asia Workshop for MEA Negotiators, October 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The report is the compilation of workshop proceedings and case studies presented during the workshop.

### Recent Newsletters



Reach us on the web!



[www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org)

[info@sacep.org](mailto:info@sacep.org)

Future editions of this Newsletter will highlight regional and national initiatives and emerging environmental issues. We would like to receive related articles or information to share with our readers. Any information published will be duly acknowledged.

We look forward to receive information that could be part of our database of experts and institutions in the region. We also request for information on case studies of best management practices and initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, sustainable resource management and community -based participatory resource management.

The SACEP Newsletter is published quarterly and can be downloaded from the website.

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## South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme Internship Programme at SACEP

The main objectives of the internship programme is to promote regional cooperation among member states in various environmental related fields e.g. Waste Management, Community Forestry, South Asian Seas Programme, etc. Among other areas, due priority is given to education and people-to-people contacts. Now it was felt necessary that time has come to initiate a professional Internship Programme at the Secretariat. Hence, a proposal will be put up to the Governing Council Meeting which will be held in Katmandu on January, 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Ms. Kanika Vyas, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Environment Engineering student of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore worked for the SACEP as a First Volunteer in this year.

For more information of the programme, visit the SACEP web.

Following objectives will be further achieved through the Internship Programme.

To expose the students to the SACEP and its policies and exchange information during and after the internship so as to appreciate cultural diversity amongst different peoples.

To provide current students with important practical experience which complements their field of study, which at the same time will be benefit to the SACEP Priority Areas to which the intern is assigned.

To encourage and facilitate research and studies concerning the various environmental issues in the Region and their activities.

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