

# 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	<b>Opening session</b>  Moderator: <b>Pradyumna Rana</b> , ICIMOD  Dr <b>Pema Gyamtsho</b> , ICIMOD (5 min) Dr <b>Johanna Ikävalko</b> , Arctic Centre (5 min) Prof <b>Mitsutaku Makino</b> OPRI-SPF(5 min) Dr. <b>Maheshwar Dhakal</b> , Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal (5 min)
09:40 – 10:45	<b>First Plenary session: Knowledge to Actions</b>  Moderator: <b>Markku Heikkila</b> , Head of Science Communication, Arctic Centre Rapporteur: Albert van Wijngaarden, University of Lapland / Cambridge University  Keynote: <b>Dr. Anil Mishra</b> /UNESCO (10 min) Panellists: 1. Prof. <b>Gunnar Stefansson</b> , Vice-President, University of the Arctic (UArctic – a university without a wall) ONLINE 2. Dr <b>Kang Shichang</b> , Chair of Chinese National Committee for the Int'l Assoc of Cryospheric Sciences 3. Prof. <b>Bing Chen</b> , 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. <b>Deepak Aryal</b> , Vice Chancellor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (TBC) 5. Dr <b>Neera S Pradhan</b> , Lead – Cryosphere and Water, ICIMOD

10:45 – 11:15	Tea break & Group picture
11:15– 12:30	<p><b>Second plenary session <i>Community Resilience and Climate Actions</i></b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr <b>Mohd. Farooq Azam</b>, Senior Intervention Manager – Cryosphere, ICIMOD Rapporteur: Finu Shrestha and Sunwi Maskey, ICIMOD</p> <p>Keynote: <b>Professor Michael Bravo</b>, Cambridge University, UK Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aisha Khan</b>, Founder of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC) and CEO of the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO)</li> <li>• <b>Gianluca Frinchillucci</b> (Il Polo), Il polo, Italy (Cultural Heritage and Community Resilience between the Arctic and the Third Pole)/<b>Marco Volpe</b>, University of Lapland</li> <li>• <b>Yangji Doma Sherpa</b>, General Manager, Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Ranjan Datta</b>, Canada Chair, Mount Royal University (Indigenous Land Rights and Land-Based Education and Practices as Pathways to Arctic Climate Action)</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch

## Breakout session 1: 13:30 – 15:00

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

<b>Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part I</b>  Room: Kailash	<b>Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part I</b>  Room: Nanda Devi	<b>Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part I</b>  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
<b>Akanksha Mary Balmuchu</b>  Just Transition and Community- Based Adaptation Strategies in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region	<b>Manasi Debnath</b>  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	<b>Suprita Suman</b>  Cryosphere Governance: Studying the Role of Arctic Council and ICIMOD
<b>Dinesh Dahal</b>  Vegetation Dynamics under Climate Change in the Periglacial Ecosystem of Sagarmatha National Park	<b>Sabrina Hasan</b>  Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment in the Cryosphere: Lessons from the Arctic for the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region	<b>Chhaya Bhardwaj / Daniel Stein</b>  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

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

<b>Melting Cryosphere: Cascading Effects and Transitions - Part II</b> Room: Kailash	<b>Risk, Resilience, and Adaptation - Part II</b> Room: Nanda Devi	<b>Law, Governance, and Geopolitics - Part II</b> Room: Annapurna
Characterization and Morphological Analysis of Trio-Glacial Lakes (Sankha Lake, Lukur Lake and Thakur Jiu Lake) of Barekot Patan, Jajarkot, Nepal	VayuDrishhti: 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
<b>Swati Jha</b>  Study of Glacier Dynamics in Rikha Samba Glacier, Mustang, and Ponkar Glacier, Manang in Relation to Climate Change	<b>Namdu Lhamo</b>  Human-Wildlife Conflict in Pungthra Village: A Case Study	<b>Ahmed Nawaz</b>  Conservation Governance in the Karakoram Glacial Landscapes: Protected Areas Challenges of Central Karakoram National Park, Pakistan
<b>Rajesh Kumar</b>  Climatic Variability and Glacier Retreat in the Western Himalayas: A Multi-Basin Assessment from the Past Four Decades	<b>Vijaya Kumari Nunna</b>  Future Prospects of Sustainable Ecotourism: The Way Forward	<b>S.M.Monirul Hassan / Syed Musa Kajim Nuri</b>  Cooperation between Bangladesh and Third Pole Countries: A Strategy for survival
<b>Dhanendra K. Singh</b>  Quantifying the Surge and Calving Dynamics of Tunabreen Glacier in Svalbard Using Earth Observation Datasets		<b>Padmashree Anandhan</b>  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	<p><b>Third Plenary session:</b> Interpolar action: mainstreaming cryosphere risk in NDCs, NAPs, and the GGA</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Dr Santosh Kumar Rauniyar</b> (OPRI-SPF) Rapporteur: Amlan Mishra, Bistrantee Wagle</p> <p><b>Keynote: Dr. Franco Salerno</b> (Online): How do glaciers react to global warming in high mountain Asia? The Glacier cooling effect.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Pema Gyamtsho</b>, Director General, ICIMOD, Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Kenzo Hiroki</b>, Professor Emeritus, GRIPS, Japan</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Dr. Myrle Ballard</b>, Canada Research Chair, University of Calgary, Canada</li> <li>• <b>Markus J. Thonhaugen</b>, Senior Advisor, High North Center for Business and Governance, Nord University, Norway</li> <li>• <b>Dr Kamrul Hossain</b>, Research Professor, University of Lapland, Finland</li> </ul>

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
<b>Soko Aoki/ Sujan Koirala</b>	<b>Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi</b>	<b>Vivek Kumar</b>
Prototype of Water Flow Simulator Using 3D Digital Twin in Mountainous Area of Nepal	Modelling Potential GLOF Threat over Strategic Indo-China Transboundary Region	Melting Frontiers in Arctic and Himalayas: The Geopolitics of Thinning Glaciers and High Stakes

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

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

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

**15:00 – 15:30 Tea break**

## Breakout session 5: 15:30 – 17:00

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

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



# 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
<b>Afifa Nisar</b>  Assessing the Vulnerabilities of Mountainous Communities Exposed to Household Air Pollution (HAP) in relation to Climate Change in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan	<b>Stella Bickelmann</b>  Zaskar's Cultural Landscape through the Climate Change Lens: A Case Study of Himalayan Communities and their Heritage Impacted by Climate Change	<b>Jebunnessa Chapola</b>  Braiding Feminist Climate Ethics: Northern Indigenous Women's Perspectives on Climate and Water Justice
<b>Praveen Kumar Singh</b>  Tracing Black Carbon's Footprint on the Hindu Kush Himalaya: An Assessment of Emissions, Deposition, and Albedo Trends Using Multimodal, Gridded, and Satellite Detests	<b>Bhojan Dhakal/ Sabita Subedi</b>  When Ice and Identity Melts: Interdisciplinary Pathways for Sustainability of Herdmans' Heritage and Agro-Pastoral Value Chains in Vanishing Frontiers of the Himalayas	<b>Tatiana Petrova</b>  From Arctic Depopulation to Third Pole Overpopulation: Demographic Shifts, Student Mobility, and Integration Dynamics
<b>Datshan Sarode</b>  Technology-Enabled Artificial Glaciers for Climate-resilient Water Access at Everest Base Camp	<b>Pranay Sharma</b>  Climate Change and Livelihood Vulnerability of Primitive Tribal Groups: Insights from the Toto Community in the Sub-Himalayan Region of Eastern India	<b>Soumyajit Singha Roy/ Sayani Dey</b>  Mapping Socio-Biological Patterns and Resilience in North Eastern States: Insights from NFHS- 5 and Associated Public Health Patterns
		<b>Satyabrata Sahoo</b>  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
<b>11:00– 12:30</b>	Workshop 1, 2 and 3 (parallel sessions)
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	Lunch
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	Workshop 1, 2 & 3 (parallel sessions) continuation
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Reporting from the Workshops</b> Albert, Ramcharan and Ranjan
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	Tea break
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Closing Session</b> <b>Summary and way forward</b> <b>Kunzang, Lead – Global Engagements</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Qianggong Zhang</b>, Head of Climate and Environmental Risks</li> <li>• <b>Dr Kamrul Hossain</b>, University of Lapland</li> </ul>



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