

Indian Delegation participates in the China-India Joint Workshop on Mountain Eco-systems and Climate Change

Beijing, September 29th, 2010

India and China have signed an Agreement on Cooperation on Addressing Climate Change (a copy of the Agreement is at Annexe I). As a follow-up to the implementation of Article 5 of the said Agreement, the China-India Joint Workshop on Mountain Eco-systems and Climate Change was held in Beijing on 29th September 2010. An Eight Member Indian Delegation was led by Dr. Subodh Kumar Sharma, Adviser in MoEF. The names of the other participants can be seen at Annexe II. Prof. ZHAI Panmao led the Chinese delegation. The list of Chinese Experts participated in the Workshop is given at Annexure III.

The Workshop was opened by Ms. CHAO Qingchen, Deputy Director General, Climate Change Department, NDRC, chaired the inaugural Session and introduced the theme of the Workshop. Ms. SUN Cuihua, Deputy Director General, Climate Change Department, NDRC addressed the gathering and emphasised the implementation of the Agreement on Climate Change signed between India and China wherein she highlighted the need for future cooperation on scientific aspect of the climate change in Mountain Eco-systems. Dr. Subodh Kumar Sharma, Adviser, MoEF made an opening statement. A copy of the statement can be seen at Annexure IV. In his address he focussed on the efforts made to share experiences, technical know-how and best practices through the medium of this Joint Working Group to deal with the effects of climate change would add to the respective capabilities of the two countries in addressing this problem and in the process would also make an positive contribution to the global efforts at combating Climate Change.

The Technical Sessions were held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Subodh Kumar Sharma. In this Session the aspects covered are Climate Change in Mountains and Interactions between climate, cryosphere and water cycle. Indian Experts from IMD presented on Climate Change scenario over India and Evidence of Climate change in Western Himalayas. Chinese Experts under this theme area presented Climate Change and Warming over the Tibetan Plateau. In the second Session, Indian Experts from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology and M/o Water Resources presented on Climate Change and its impact on glaciers and higher mountain ecosystems. Besides, impact of climate change on availability of water resources in India was also presented. Chinese Expert on the same issue presented on glacier changes during the last 40 years and change of precipitation and atmospheric water vapour over the Tibetan Plateau.

The third and fourth Technical Sessions commenced after lunch and were chaired by Dr. ZHAI Panmao, Vice Chairman, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences which comprised of the theme area on Impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems and Effects of human disturbance on mountain ecosystem response and adaptation to climate change. The Experts from G.B. Pant Institute delivered lectures on Impacts of climate change on

mountain ecosystems, Black Carbon and tourism and livelihood. A presentation on Approach to adaptation and mitigation on mountain ecosystems was made by the Representative of MoEF. Chinese Experts had delivered lectures on Responses and recent changes in Tibetan Plateau Ecosystems.

The concluding Session of the Workshop was chaired by Ms. CHAO Qingchen. Dr. Subodh Kumar Sharma and Mr. XHAI Panmao summarised the presentations made during the last 4 Sessions. It was concluded with the remarks that this is a good beginning for implementation of the Agreement. It was also emphasised that cooperation and interaction among Scientists from China and India are important to strengthen the scientific studies on the mountain ecosystems. Further, it was emphasised that similar Workshop needs to be organised to discuss other issues relating to climate change listed in the Agreement.

The Workshop ended with Vote of Thanks and exchange of pleasantries from each side.

To sum up: China-India Workshop was successful and is visualised as a good and useful mechanism to exchange information and experience. The Chinese delegation was very enthusiastic about the future interaction. Exchange of information in Mountain Eco-Systems especially about Tibet was very useful. We should explore further possibilities of enhancing cooperation in other areas of climate change.
