

International Symposium “The Challenge of Mountains”

27 June 2007

U Thant Hall, UN House, Shibuya, Tokyo

(Draft Agenda as of 24 May 2007)

Background

Mountains are repositories of cultural and ecological diversity, and providers of services and resources vital for the survival of our planet. In the past mountain people, the guardians of mountain ecosystems, have been most often marginalized and left to cope alone with the challenges of life in the harsh mountain conditions. In 2002, the International Year of Mountains (IYM) and the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit organized on the occasion, raised concern and focused the attention of national and international policy makers, NGOs and the general public worldwide on the critical need for better understanding of the challenges to living in and with mountains and for empowering and supporting mountain communities in their quest for improving their security and well-being, without compromising the value of mountain ecosystems and the resource base they constitute for both present and future generations worldwide.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in September the same year highlighted the importance of mountains as well. The Mountain Partnership, an alliance dedicated to improving the well-being, livelihoods and opportunities of mountain people and the protection and stewardship of mountain environments around the world, was launched as a Type 2 outcome of the WSSD. The goal was to capture the momentum created during the International Year of Mountains and to promote sustainable mountain development in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation through partnership initiatives. The United Nations University and a consortium of research, NGO and government agencies in Japan led by Secretariat of the Japanese IYM committee have played a key role in driving forward the Mountain Partnership Agenda and in its implementation in Japan and Asia over the past five years.

Central Asia and the challenges to ensuring human security and environmental sustainability in its mountainous ranges have emerged as priority areas of concern in Asia as well as worldwide over the past five years. Japan has taken the leadership in fostering regional dialogue vital for ensuring the political climate for collaboration. At the same time, the United Nations University and its mountain partners in Japan and outside the country have undertaken targeted mountain research and development initiatives aimed at improving human livelihoods and supporting the sustainable development of the region. The Symposium will bring together leading Japanese and international scientists and policy makers working on mountain issues in Central Asia to discuss progress in fostering sustainable mountain development over the past five years in the region.

Objectives of the Symposium

- To review progress in the implementation of the 2002 Bishkek Global Mountain Summit commitments
- To identify the key challenges to sustainable mountain development particularly in the Central Asian region
- To share experiences and information on the best approaches to engaging people and institutions to contribute to the design of innovative and sustainable solutions of the challenges of live in and with mountains

Core Themes of the Symposium

1. Bishkek Global Mountain Summit + five: Commitments, progress in implementation and future actions
2. The Challenge: Mountain environments and people
3. Engaging the Challenge: Understanding local needs, capacities and potential solutions

4. Fostering Sustainable Mountain Development: The case of the Central Asian Mountains

Organizers: United Nations University, Steering Committee of “The Challenge of Mountains” Symposium

Co-organizers: The Ministry of the Environment, Faculty of Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University; College of Humanities and Sciences, Nihon University; Institute of Mountain Science, Shinshu University; YAM NET JAPAN

Support: Japan Society of Fujiology

Wednesday, 27 June 2007

- 09:30 - Registration
- 10:00 - 10:20 Opening Remarks
Representative from the Ministry of the Environment and Prof. Dr. Hans J.A. van Ginkel, Rector of UNU
- 10:20 – 10:50 Outcomes from Bishkek Global Mountain Summit 2002 and future actions
Dr. Teiji Watanabe, Hokkaido University
Prof. A.A. Aidaraliev, International University of Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyz Republic
- 10:50 - 12:15 Session 1: The Challenge (Coordinators: Prof. M. Ohsawa and Dr. T. Watanabe)
Prof. Dr. Masahiko Ohsawa, Univ. of Tokyo and Adjunct Prof. of UNU
Representative from National Institute for Environmental Studies
Dr. Libor Jansky, UNU
Mr. Luohui Liang, UNU
- Questions & Answers
- 12:15 - 13:15 Lunch Break
- 13:15 - 15:15 Session 2: Engaging the Challenge (Coordinators: Prof. K. Matsubayashi and Prof. K. Mizushima)
Prof. Kozo Matsubayashi, Kyoto University
Dr. Kiyohito Okumiya, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature
Prof. Nobuyuki Hori, Nara University
Prof. Shouji Sasamoto, Shinshu University
Prof. Kazuo Mizushima, Nihon University
- Questions & Answers
- 15:15 - 15:30 Break

15:30 - 17:45 Session 3: Challenge of the Central Asian Mountain Environments
(Coordinators: Dr. L. Jansky and Dr. Y. Ochiai)
Prof. Hermann Kreutzmann, Free University, Berlin, Germany
Dr. Chinara Sadykova, Focal Point of RCE Kyrgyzstan
Dr. Kokul Kasirov, State Directorate of Protected Areas, Tajikistan
Dr. Donald Alford, Geoscience Consultant, USA
Ms. Nevelina Pachova, UNU
Dr. Teiji Watanabe, Hokkaido University

Questions & Answers

17:45-17:55 Closing Remarks
Prof. Itaru Yasui, Vice-Rector, UNU

17:55-18:00 Announcement of the Kamikouchi & Mt Fuji Excursion
Prof. Keisuke Suzuki, Shinshu University

Field Excursion

Thursday, 28 June 2007

Field Excursion to Kamikouchi, Northern Japanese Alps, led by *Prof. Keisuke Suzuki, Shinshu University (max. 40 persons only)*

Departure 8:00 AM in front of the UN House by bus; field excursion in the afternoon to be led by professors of Shinshu University. Participants will be grouped into three: (1) flora and fauna group (Prof. T. Sato and Prof. K. Tojo), (2) Landform and geology (S. Harayama), and (3) “Yakedake” volcano and hazard group (Prof. Y. Miyake). Staying at Gosenjaku Lodge.

Friday, 29 June 2007

Continuation of Field Excursion to the foot of Mt. Fuji, organized by *Prof. Nobuyuki Hori, Japan Society of Fujiology/Nara University (max. 40 persons only)*

Departure from Kamikouchi by bus; field excursion from the noon at Five Lakes, Aokigahara, “Fifth-Station” if weather permits, Fujinomiya Shrine, and Sengen Shrine.

Arrival at Shibuya at around 19:00 PM

Excursion cost: 25,000yen including bus and 1 overnight.

Steering Committee:

Dr. Yasuhiro Ochiai (Nihon Univ.), Prof. Keisuke Suzuki (Shinshu Univ.), Prof. Nobuyuki Hori (Nara Univ.), Prof. Kozo Matsubayashi (Kyoto Univ.), Prof. Kazuo Mizushima (Nihon Univ.), Mr. Takashi Matsumura (UNU), Mr. Katsunori Suzuki (UNU-IAS), Mr. Yoshinori Natori (UNU-IAS), Prof. Masatoshi Yoshino (UNU), Dr. Libor Jansky (UNU), Dr. Teiji Watanabe (Hokkaido Univ.)