

How much do we know about the glaciers of the Himalayas?

An International symposium on the state of Himalayan Glaciers



The Himalayas are often referred to as the earth's "third pole" as it houses thousands of glaciers. Water from these glaciers feed some of the world's most important rivers, including the Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Indus. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) fourth assessment report, the Gangetic basin alone is home to 10% of the total human population in the region. Thus, as these glaciers melt, they will pose significant threats to those depending on these important rivers. As of now, the glaciers of the Himalayas are not well known. The IPCC for instance notes the Himalayas as a "white spot", an area with 'little or no data'. The United Nations Environment Program's global environmental alert services in 2012 stated that 'a serious lack of reliable and consistent data severely hampers scientific knowledge about the state of the Himalayan glaciers'. Satellite imagery based studies show varying results with some results indicating huge glacial retreats while others show minimal retreat.

Objectives:

1. Bring together experts who have been working on Himalayan glaciers from across the globe
2. Take stock of how much we know about Himalayan glaciers
3. Determine the next key question and define strategies to provide required answers





Themes:

1. Understanding Glacial retreat
2. Social impacts of the glacier retreat
3. What should we assess next?

Important Dates

Please note all the important dates (last dates) and plan your abstract submission and travel plans accordingly:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>
Submission of abstract	03/02/2015
Submission of visa application	02/03/2015
Issuance of Visa	12/03/2015
Arrival in Paro-Bhutan	14/04/2015
Arrival in Bumthang-Bhutan	15/04/2015
International Symposium	16/04/2015 to 18/04/2015
Travel from Bumthang to Paro	19/04/2015
Participants departs	20/04/2015

Note:

Logistics: We shall appreciate if air travel can be borne by individual participants. We shall cover your logistics while in Bhutan, including land travel, hotel and meals.

Visa Fee: Participants other than from India shall be required to pay nominal visa fee upon their arrival in Bhutan.

Field Trips: Those participants wishing to spend some time in Bhutan after the symposium should contact the organizers well in advance with their plans to ensure proper organization.



Contact:

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