



**India Meteorological Department
Ministry of Earth Sciences**

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PRESS RELEASE

**Regional Stakeholder Consultation on Climate Services for the Third Pole Region
Jaipur, India, 9-11 March 2016**

The third pole region or The Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region spans over Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and covering an area of more than 4.3 million square kilometers is associated with fragile ecosystems. The consultation being discussed through 8 Technical Sessions having presentations, Breakout Group Discussions on GFCS priority sectors and panel discussion is participated by 50 experts from countries of 3rd Pole region, WMO Geneva, RIMES Thailand, USA, Australia, Germany and other global and Indian institutions. The major objectives of the Consultation are:

- review the current status of climate services in the Third Pole & other high mountain regions;
- assess specific needs in the five GFCS priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; disaster risk reduction and renewable energy) at the regional, national and local levels;
- review and characterize the current status of interfacing mechanisms and interactions between climate services providers and users, identify major areas for improvement and recommend effective mechanisms and practices;
- articulate the capacity building needs for the region in order to address all five GFCS components (that is, a specification of the requisite institutional mandates as well as infrastructure and human resources requirements);
- identify enhancements that can be made to the management of national observation networks; and research and analysis of national and local climate issues & impact indicators; and recommend how to improve access to and the utility of climate data and predictions;
- identify concrete follow-up actions to enable the provision of climate services in the Third Pole and other high mountain regions; and
- identify partnerships among relevant stakeholders.

It will serve a milestone in achieving aim of strengthening the interaction between the climate community, developing climate services for the Third Pole and other high mountain regions and operationalizing the GFCS at the regional and national level with definition of institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes.

Regional Stakeholder Consultation on Climate Services for the Third Pole Region being jointly organized by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India during 9-11 March 2016 was inaugurated by Dr M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Chairman, Earth System Science Organization and Earth Commission as Chief Guest on 9th March, 2016. He emphasised on observations, development of models with usable skills and partnership in 3rd Pole region. He also deliberated on programmes, on Ministry of Earth Sciences in the region and assured India's support in developing road map, setting priorities and sharing expertise in climate change and climate services.

Dr Laxman Singh Rathore, Director General of Meteorology, PR of India with WMO and Co Vice-chair of Inter Governmental Board for Climate Services of WMO mentioned that climate change is the major challenge faced by the world today. He emphasised on identification of current status of capacity in the region, data generation, dissemination to users, information requirement, institutional mechanisms and probable impacts on different sectors. He also focussed on capacity building needs and developing national and regional plans to develop and operationalise climate services.

Dr R K. Kolli, Chief of World Climate Applications and Services Division, WMO gave a holistic view of climate services in the world and over 3rd Pole in particular. He also presented WMO priorities and capacity building needs to make effective climate services.

Dr V Grasso, GFCS Office, WMO gave detailed insight of climate service requirements and challenges in 3rd Pole region.

The Consultation started with Welcome Address by Dr S D Attri, DDGM (O-International), IMD New Delhi who presented a holistic view of 3rd Pole region, its complexities, session details and expected outcomes.

Vote of Thanks was presented by Mr Anand Kumar Sharma, DDGM, RMC, IMD New Delhi and assured all support from local organisers led by Dr Arvind Srivastava, Director and Dr. O P. Sreejith, Scientist D, Meteorological Centre, Jaipur.

