



an occasional publication of the CBNRM  
program initiative  
No. 3, February, 2001

# NRM ResearchLinks

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## Special Issue!

This special issue of **NRM ResearchLinks** focuses on a recent exciting workshop supported by the CBNRM program of IDRC in China: the **Second International Workshop on Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Asia, October 16 - 20, 2000, in Guiyang, China**. IDRC wishes to extend a particular and heartfelt thank you to the extraordinary team of people at the Guizhou Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) who hosted the workshop and are responsible in large part for its success. As one participant has said: "I am certain that, like me, all of your guests will long retain memories of this workshop, and that happy memories will come back to them whenever they have occasion to say, proudly, "I was at Guiyang!". (Prof. Rodolphe de Koninck, Université Laval, in a letter to Stephen Tyler of the IDRC-CBNRM team, Nov. 2000.)

This newsletter is for YOU! We welcome announcements of academic awards and accomplishments of the team or your institutions, short descriptions of novel methods used in your project, new publications, references and research tools. If you have an idea or a draft of some brief research results, news item or other content suggestions, please contact [Claire Thompson](#) at IDRC Ottawa.

## Special Report

*Strengthening the Foundation of CBNRM in Asia*

by Lisa Waldick

In the chilly, wet countryside of Southwestern China, the second international Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) workshop was hosted by IDRC in collaboration with the Guizhou Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS). The workshop, held October 16 to 20, 2000, brought together 75 researchers from 14 countries — Australia, Canada, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States, and Viet Nam.



All the researchers who came to the workshop are working to prevent the destruction of natural resources by involving local people in resource management — an innovative approach that is not yet well known in their home countries. The vast majority were from countries in Asia. And yet, most of them had never met before. When they gathered together in the Jin Yang hotel — a large multi-tiered building surrounded by farmers' fields on one side and an aluminum factory on the other — they were all relative strangers to one another.

By the end of the week-long session this changed. A sense of camaraderie developed among the participants and they began to feel like members of one large team. This team spirit was reinforced when the team from Koh Kong, Cambodia gave each participant a gift — a traditional Cambodian scarf known as a krama. It developed as participants interacted: working and eating together, sharing stories and experiences. The workshop was a rare opportunity for most researchers to be able to speak with so many others involved in similar work.

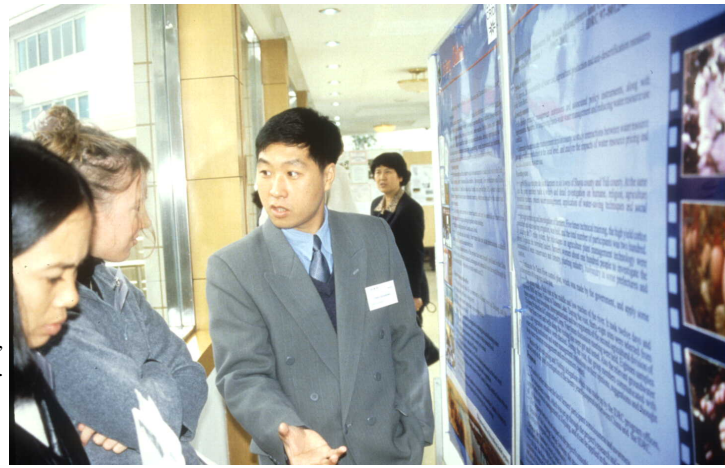
Researchers who were just starting projects were able to gather tips on methodologies from others addressing similar challenges. Those who were more established learned from each others strengths on subjects such as how to influence policy makers with research results, incorporate gender considerations into projects, as well as the use of multi-media.

### ***Facilitating Exchange***

The conference began with a “market day” in which participants were able to familiarize themselves with each others' work. One

long windowed hallway of the hotel was filled with posters. Created ahead of time by each team, these posters highlighted key points about projects represented at the workshop. Participants moved from one display to the next, speaking to representatives about their work. In fact, this display became a permanent fixture for the duration of the conference. As they walked to their rooms or to the dining hall, participants invariably made their way through the “CBNRM hallway.”

Dr Zhao Xiusheng, a member of the Tarim Basin project research team, chats with Melissa Marschke and Hoang Thi Sen.



Formal presentations of projects were made on the conference's second day, with opportunities for questions and feedback. Yet, while many conferences would have taken a structured formal approach to each day of the conference, in the tradition of community-based activities, the workshop focused on participation. So, on the conference's third day, the pace changed, and researchers piled into small buses and vans to drive several hours into the Highlands of Guizhou province to see a CBNRM project in action.

### *Learning from Villagers*

Participants were greeted with waves and smiles from villagers, who were waiting for group's arrival. Together, researchers and villagers toured the IDRC supported project. The gains were impressive. Villagers had turned wasteland into a peach orchard, undertaken reforestation efforts, and developed rules and regulations to make sure the effort was sustained. They had solved a problem that had existed for more than 200 years by implementing a tap water system. Villagers explained the project to the group by means of a GAAS translator, and participants were able to ask questions. What do you do if someone violates the community rules? How can you fine someone if they have no money — do you use in-kind goods? How far did you have to walk to get water before the tap water system?

After the tour, villagers offered participants tea and served locally grown walnuts. They sang songs of appreciation and, upon parting, heaped sunflower seeds into the bags and pockets of their visitors. Many participants remarked on how touched they were by the villagers' generosity.



### *Setting New Directions*

By the fourth day, participants were ready to hunker down and discuss the nitty gritty of research issues. Divided into small working groups, researchers discussed subjects such as participatory monitoring and evaluation, gender analysis and natural resource management, ecosystem analysis, and micro-macro interactions and policy alternatives. A flurry of ideas for future action was generated. On the final day of the workshop, participants also came up with concrete suggestions about how they could work together, pool their expertise, and support each other in their work. Ideas were written on cards and posted on the a “networking wall.”

In all, the team spirit of CBNRM researchers helped lead to an extremely productive workshop. Everybody found some new concepts which they could “take home” to their own projects. In addition, by working together in small groups, participants clarified a handful of key areas that they wanted to devote more attention to. The discussions at the workshop will form the basis of a series of initiatives for individual projects and for the CBNRM program over coming months (see related article in this newsletter: Since Guiyang). There is also more opportunity for direct project-to-project interaction, based on the contacts established at the workshop and the specific “offers” and “requests” introduced on the networking wall.

Comments? Contact the author:  
lwaldick@idrc.ca

## Have something to *CONTRIBUTE* to this section?

Send us your short (2-4 pages) formal summary of results from your research project including citations, tables and diagrams (these may be extracted from your final or interim reports to IDRC).

Contact [Claire Thompson](#) at IDRC Ottawa.

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## Since Guiyang: notes and next steps

by Stephen Tyler

The regional CBNRM workshop in Guiyang October 16 - 20 was a great event for sharing project experience, building connections between research teams around the region, and sharing ideas to help all of us improve the quality of the research work we are doing. But after the workshop, everybody returned to their own very busy jobs and it is hard to stay in touch.

**Listserv:** To help us stay in touch, we have set up a simple email listserv for all workshop participants. For those who are already on the list, you can send a message to everybody who was in Guiyang by sending it to: [cbnrmnet-cl@lyris.idrc.ca](mailto:cbnrmnet-cl@lyris.idrc.ca). For those who would like to join this list, or if you want to add the email addresses of other research team members, contact: [cthompson@idrc.ca](mailto:cthompson@idrc.ca). We have already used the listserv to notify everybody about the reports coming out of the workshop.

**Reports:** The workshop attracted quite a bit of attention within IDRC, despite its remote location, thanks to the pictures and summaries produced by Ronnie Vernooy and Guy Bessette immediately on their return to Ottawa. Workshop participants should know that their efforts have attracted much positive feedback from IDRC management! We have documented the various Working Group discussions, and reported on their recommendations. In addition, Ronnie has drafted a narrative summary of the workshop and included some guidelines on how the workshop sessions were organized, including tips for how you can run your own “market day”, field trip, or “network wall” at your organization's next workshop (see newsletter item: [Connected](#)).

**Web site:** All the reports are available for downloading at the workshop web site, located at: [www.PanAsiaNetworking.org.sg/cbnrm](http://www.PanAsiaNetworking.org.sg/cbnrm) (Username: CBNRM. - Password: cbnrmwk). If you have difficulty retrieving the files from the internet, contact Elaine at [etang@idrc.org.sg](mailto:etang@idrc.org.sg) or Claire at [cthompson@idrc.ca](mailto:cthompson@idrc.ca) and they can arrange to email copies of the document you want. Once you have looked at some of the documents, you might want to join a Working Group discussion list.

**Discussion groups:** We are gradually setting up discussion groups based on topics of shared interest. If you want to comment on some parts of the Working Group reports, or to share some examples of follow-up work in that area which your own team is doing, or to ask questions about some specific plans for follow-up in this article, please identify the topic of interest and send an email to Claire at [cthompson@idrc.ca](mailto:cthompson@idrc.ca). When the groups get going, members will be able to share documents and comments through email, or retrieve previous messages and documents on a web archive so they can follow the discussion. If you sign up for a group but do not hear anything from a “facilitator”, it means we are waiting for a critical mass of people to join. In some cases, a facilitator may approach you directly to join a particular group.

**Multi-media training:** Prof Hans Schreier of the University of British Columbia has already arranged for a regional workshop on multi-media and hypermedia document preparation using the latest version of the Toolbox software. This workshop will be held in April at Can Tho University in Viet Nam, for the benefit of SouthEast Asian project teams who have expressed interest in participating. The latest version of this software is not difficult for computer users who have some familiarity with computer documents, graphics and internet applications, and it will provide utility programs to help translate the CD-Rom versions of hypermedia documents into materials which can be used on a web site. This means that once you all convert your pictures, maps, charts and reports into an interactive CD-Rom format, you will soon be able to load them on our Virtual Resource Centre to share with other teams!

**Virtual Resource Centre:** The first simple steps in better electronic interaction and document sharing have already been taken through the creation of the new email listservs. But there is much more to come! We have started development of a CBNRM resource centre in accordance with the priorities you expressed in Guiyang: a directory of individuals, institutes and projects, together with reference documents and web site links to support research work. The VRC will shortly support working group discussions, and technical advice to those research teams who are trying to build their own hypermedia products and web sites. We will be introducing interactive training programs to respond to some of the requests we received at the workshop. Then we will look at ways to improve the content, and develop a self-publishing facility, so that any of the research teams can load and share material on the site (like this newsletter!). More info coming soon.

**Policy Linkages:** Many teams at Guiyang wanted some support in strengthening the connections between their research projects and government policy makers. We are developing plans for regional workshops later this year to provide focused training on this topic, and follow-up support for projects to test some of the tools and methods they learn at the workshop. We will circulate a notice inviting participants to this workshop later in the year.

**Development Communications:** In participatory research, improving our skills in communicating with local villages is essential to good research work. Many of the workshop participants met our Development Communications specialist, Guy Bessette, at the workshop, and asked for support in improving communications skills. We are preparing a training program which will rely on both face-to-face and internet-based interaction. Pilot training activities involving 2 of the projects in SE Asia will get started in a couple of months, and by this time next year, we hope to have a functional curriculum available for other teams.

**Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation:** Several project teams are involved in testing and improving PM&E tools which can then be taught to other projects. A workshop will be held in Yunnan in late May, and later in the year some publications will be available for others to use.

**Stakeholder Analysis Tools:** Stakeholder analysis can be a useful tool for participatory NRM research. Together with another IDRC research program, we are developing new tools which help researchers to use this method more effectively in their work.

As you can see, there are already a lot of activities underway to build on our experience in Guiyang. But there is more: new projects are tackling issues raised in the workshop such as gender in NRM, or how to scale up the impact of research from individual sites. We still have lots more to learn from our project teams too! Keep in touch, and send us your questions, comments, reports and criticisms.

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## Connected: Insights into the Workshop

*Forthcoming (March 2001):*

*CONNECTED. Insights from the 2nd international Community Based Natural Resource Management workshop*

by Ronnie Vernooy

IDRC's Asian program in community-based natural resource management (better known as CBNRM) organized its 2nd international CBNRM workshop in the city of Guiyang, China in October of 2000.

In this document we present details of the workshop preparations, the logic and logistics of the workshop methodology and a synthesis of the main results. As such, the document is partly workshop proceedings and partly a manual or guide that allows others interested in trying out one or more of the dynamics -adopting or adapting the ideas and methodology- can make use of the insights and experiences that we gained in Guiyang.

The core of the document consists of six chapters which describe the expected outcomes, preparations, required resources and the main results of the five different, but interrelated workshop dynamics. Additional chapters present thoughts and suggestions about general workshop preparations and (group) facilitation. Annexes include the reports of the eight working groups, the list of participants and further readings and resources.

All workshop participants will automatically be receiving a copy of this document. Any others who are interested should contact Brenda Lalonde at: [blalonde@idrc.ca](mailto:blalonde@idrc.ca). She will be happy to distribute a limited number of copies.

For more information, please contact [Ronnie Vernooy](#)

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## News from around the world

### *Ford Foundation Announces Fellowship Program*

\$330 Million in Ford Grants Will Aid Foreign Students By TAMAR LEWIN

In its largest grant ever, the Ford Foundation has announced a 10- year \$330 million fellowship program to support graduate education for hundreds of disadvantaged college graduates in 20 countries. Ford's International Fellowship Program, which will pay for up to three years of graduate study anywhere in the world, will begin with about 100 students from Chile, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Senegal and Vietnam next year, and then gradually expand to about 350 fellows in 20 countries where the Ford Foundation has a presence [including China, India, the Philippines, and Indonesia]. "The goal is to help these countries develop a diverse group of people prepared to lead, people who wouldn't normally be at the table," said Susan Berresford, president of the foundation. "In one country, that might be people from rural areas," Ms. Berresford said. "In others it might be women, or ethnic minorities, or people from families where no one has ever attended graduate school. It's a global program, but the selection will be completely local."

Please go to the Ford Foundation's web site for more details: <http://www.fordfound.org>.

For Vietnam, contact:

Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam (CEEVN)  
Suite #602 Sao Bac Building  
5 Pho Da Tuong  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
[edex@netnam.org.vn](mailto:edex@netnam.org.vn)

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## *WOTRO Announces PhD Fellowships - 2001*

The Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO) has announced a number of PhD fellowships to be awarded in 2001. Applications must be made through the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and signed by a) the employer and/or the local promotor/supervisor and b) a Dutch promotor/supervisor. For further information, contact: the Education Officer at ILRI: [r.eley@cgiar.org](mailto:r.eley@cgiar.org) or WOTRO at: [WOTRO@nwo.nl](mailto:WOTRO@nwo.nl).

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## *Two Projects to Hold Final Workshops*

Both the Tarim Basin Desertification and Water Management project (Urumqi, China) and the Management of Biological Resources in Tam Giang (Hue, Vietnam) will be holding their final workshops around the month of May, 2001. We look forward to their final products. Good luck and thank you!

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## *Multimedia Workshop*

Dr. Hans Schreier will lead a regional workshop on multi-media and hypermedia document preparation for a number of Southeast Asia-based CBNRM project team members. The workshop will be held in April at Can Tho University in Viet Nam.

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Have something to *CONTRIBUTE* to this section?

Contact [Claire Thompson](#) at IDRC Ottawa.

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## **Donors Supporting CBNRM Projects**

by Minori Goto

The Ford Foundation was founded in 1936 as a local philanthropy in the state of Michigan and expanded its programs internationally in 1950. Throughout its history, the Foundation has provided more than USD 10 billion in grants and loans. Over the last three years, the Foundations total grants have amounted to more than USD 500 million per year. The Ford has a mandate to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation and advance human achievements, and is one of the like-minded donors of IDRC and IDRC's partners. CBNRM and the Foundation have had a number of collaborative activities; for example, CBNRM and The Ford's Hanoi office together supported the Community-based Upland Resource Management Project in Vietnam. Most recently, the Foundation co-financed projects with IDRC's EchoHealth Program and the Medicinal and Aromatic Program in Asia.

The Ford Foundation's web site can be found at: <http://www.fordfound.org>.

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## Publication Announcements...

***Managing Small-scale Fisheries: Alternative Directions and Methods*** by F. Berkes, et.al., Ottawa: IDRC, 2001.

Human dependence on marine and coastal resources is increasing. Today, small-scale fisheries employ 50 of the world's 51 million fishers, practically all of whom are from developing countries. And together, they produce more than half of the world's annual marine fish catch of 98 million tonnes, supplying most of the fish consumed in the developing world.

At the same time, increased fishery overexploitation and habitat degradation are threatening the Earth's coastal and marine resources. Most small-scale fisheries have not been well managed, if they have been managed at all. Existing approaches have failed to constrain fishing capacity or to manage conflict. They have not kept pace with technology or with the driving forces of economics, population growth, demand for food, and poverty. Worldwide, the management and governance of small-scale fisheries is in urgent need of reform.

*Managing Small-scale Fisheries* looks beyond the scope of conventional fishery management to alternative concepts, tools, methods, and conservation strategies. There is, for example, broader emphasis on ecosystem management and participatory decision-making. Interested readers will include fishery managers, both governmental and nongovernmental; instructors and students in fishery management; development organizations and practitioners working on small-scale fisheries; and fishers and fishing communities that wish to take responsibility for managing their own resources.

To order: [http://www.idrc.ca/booktique/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.idrc.ca/booktique/index_e.cfm)

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***Stakeholder approaches to planning participatory research by multi-institution groups*** by Anna Lawrence, et.al., London: ODI, January 1999, £3.00 ISBN 0 85003 422 9pp.

This paper draws on recent developments in participatory research to design and test an approach to planning farmer participatory research, which explicitly involves a range of institutional actors in the process. The methodology as emerged from experience in a range of countries. It was explored during a project planning workshop in India and further insights are provided from work in Bangladesh and Bolivia. This experience suggests that the method may be particularly useful in participatory research planning, where a range of different institutions are involved and where partnerships are being built between non-government, government and/or academic institutions. The method provides tools and a process for effectively demonstrating differences in the expectations and contributions of different stakeholders and a means for negotiating acceptance of these. The paper emphasises the value of deconstructing the "outsider" perspective as projects work towards institutional collaboration. (taken from CAB Abstract)

To order: <http://www.odi.org.uk/agren/publist.html>

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***Co-management of Natural Resources: Organising, Negotiating and Learning-by-doing*** by G. Borrini-Feyerabend, et.al., Heidelberg: GTZ and IUCN, 2000.

The book is now available on-line at <http://nrm.massey.ac.nz/changelinks/cmnr.html>.

This volume was produced for the GTZ and the IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa, and is designed to assist conservation and development professionals involved in multistakeholder management of natural resources.



It provides guidelines for a co-management process and describes in detail relevant concepts, methods, tools and ideas. The emphasis is on practical approaches and advice, following the direct experience gained in co-management initiatives assisted by IUCN and GTZ. The text is accompanied by definition boxes, example boxes, annexes illustrating participatory methods of particular relevance for the co-management process. Lessons learned, tips for action and a list of references and suggested readings are also included.

The authors say that comments and suggestions for improvement will be very much appreciated, and acknowledged in future documents dealing with guidelines and lessons learnt. Contact details for the authors are provided at the address mentioned above.

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- RELATED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS!

Many of our research partners and interns have been busy publishing academic papers and books arising from their work. SEND US a list of YOUR OWN RECENT RESEARCH PAPERS of interest to IDRC project partners!!

- **Community Forestry Policies in Southeast Asian Countries**, By Rita Lindayati for the CBNRM Program, IDRC, Ottawa, 2000.

This paper has three main objectives: 1) to examine community-based forest management (CBFM) policy trends in South East Asia, with specific reference to the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia, 2) to analyse the patterns and important variables which affect CBFM policy development in this region, and 3) to investigate the implications of these CBFM policy trends on future policy research agendas. Lindayati concludes that: "Most policy relevant lessons can be grouped into two categories: the nature of policy theory and the process in which it is formulated. Three decades of community forestry evolution has brought about significant changes in how policy theory is understood and approached. Early simplistic theorizing of local people - forest relations is being questioned as insights on paper have been found to rarely work in practice. Faulty policy theory is as much rooted in our deficient knowledge and limited understanding of how social and ecological systems work, as it is based on the way the theory is formulated. Studies for community forestry policy (i.e., to assist policy makers to reach better policy decisions by providing policy relevant information and sound policy theory) have made relatively significant progress, but studies of policy (i.e., policy process) are under-developed. A handful of authors have addressed policy content and evaluation, but knowledge about other policy aspects (especially policy making and implementation processes, policy outputs and advocacy) is relatively non-existent."

All Guiyang workshop participants will automatically receive a copy of this paper. The paper can also be found, in WP and in Word formats, on the CBNRM web site at: [http://www.idrc.ca/cbnrm/documents/doc\\_index\\_e.cfm](http://www.idrc.ca/cbnrm/documents/doc_index_e.cfm)

For those wishing to receive hard copies, please contact Brenda Lalonde at: [blalonde@idrc.ca](mailto:blalonde@idrc.ca) She will be happy to send out a limited number of copies.

- ***Lessons From the Lagoon: Research towards Community Based Coastal Resources Management in Tam Giang Lagoon, Viet Nam***, Eds. V.J. Brzeski and G.F. Newkirk, Halifax: CoRR, 2000.

This book describes the efforts of a team of researchers in applying community based coastal resources management (CBCRM) in communities living around the Tam Giang Lagoon in Viet Nam. It includes descriptions of management changes developed by the researchers, fishers and farmers; the challenges facing CBCRM efforts; livelihood issues of the people relying on lagoon resources; reviews of the history of resource management; problems with rapid aquaculture development; marketing studies; and much more. The collection of papers describes the results of 2 years of participatory research conducted by an interdisciplinary team of researchers from the Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University of Science and the Provincial Department of Fisheries. The research was funded in 1995 by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre

(IDRC), through a joint national project called Viet Nam Sustainable Economic Development (VISED).

To order: <http://www.dal.ca/~corr/Publications.htm>

- o ***Deepening the Basis of Rural Resource Management*** (Proceedings of a Workshop: Feb. 2000, ISNAR, The Hague). ISNAR and RIMISP, 2000.

This workshop brought together researchers working in diverse situations and with resources of different types - natural, human and economic - to bring about a more literate and equitable management that better meets people's goals. Over three days, participants discussed their experiences in depth and explored a number of cross-cutting methodological, practical and institutional issues. These are the proceedings of that workshop. The book includes an overview and five sections: two articles dealing with "learning and decision support for rural resource management"; six articles about "learning at the farm level"; four articles about "learning at the catchment level"; and two articles each about "learning for collective action" and "learning and institutions".

For copies, please contact Michael Loevinsohn at: [m.loevinsohn@cgiar.org](mailto:m.loevinsohn@cgiar.org)

- o ***The People and Resource Dynamics Project: The First Three Years (1996-1999)*** (Proceedings of a Workshop held in China, March 1999). Kathmandu: ICIMOD, 2000.

This book is an extremely thorough examination of all aspects of Phase I of this IDRC and SDC-supported project (in all four participating countries: Nepal, Pakistan, India and China). The project is now in its second phase and their web site can be visited at: <http://www.icimod.org.sg/projects/pardyp.htm>

For copies of the book, contact: [distri@icimod.org.np](mailto:distri@icimod.org.np)

### Have something to *CONTRIBUTE* to this section?

Send us your notices of new publications, books, journal articles etc published by your team in any language, along with the contact information for getting a copy. Please include a translation of the title into English for formal citation and indicate the original language of publication.

Contact [Claire Thompson](#) at IDRC Ottawa.

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## Upcoming Events

The Intervention of Technology in Mountain Areas: Strategies for Developing Fresh Approaches and Mainstreaming of Local Innovations in the Asia Pacific Region [ITMA]

An electronic conference of the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)/International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) February 5 - March 6, 2001

This conference via e-mail aims to bring together knowledge and experiences from mountain areas, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, serving as a forum for international discussion by diverse stakeholders on the key issues related to technology interventions in the diverse but fragile mountain ecosystems and discussing strategies for how modern technologies and local innovations can be used to improve livelihoods.

To join in the discussion, you may register :

\* online at <<http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/e-register.htm>>, or

\* via email - for e-copy of the email registration form, please write to  
<[apmn@mtforum.org](mailto:apmn@mtforum.org)> or <[ujol@icimod.org.np](mailto:ujol@icimod.org.np)>

Have something to *CONTRIBUTE* to this section?

Send us notices of public or open conferences and meetings of relevance to other CBNRM researchers.

Contact [Claire Thompson](#) at IDRC Ottawa.

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## Quotes and More Images from Guiyang

If you would like to read a sample of what some of the workshop participants said about the workshop and what they learned, click [here](#).

If you would like to see more images from Guiyang, click [here](#).

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