

Press release

International conference to discuss on state of cryosphere begins

Dated: 19th .Feb 2018

The two day international conferences to discuss on the state of cryosphere in the Himalayas kicked off at Chintan Bhawan here today. State forest Minister T.W. Lepcha was present as the chief guest of the Inaugural function of the conference organised in the collaboration of State Science and technology Department (DST), Integrated Mountain Initiative and Sikkim University.

The conference had the presence of eminent personalities working in the field of cryosphere from across the globe, along with Scientist and researchers from within the country.

The conference has been organised with the objective of bringing together scientists, researchers, students and policy makers to understand latest scientific developments in glaciology and to develop future road map for the research needs.

The inaugural session was address by J. Srinivasan and Anil kulkarni from the Indian institute of Science, Akhilesh Gupta from DST and Mustafa Ali Khan from Swiss Agency and development cooperation. The chairperson of the organising committee Lok Sabha MP P.D Rai addresses the gathering via Video message.

Addressing the function Minister Lepcha lauded the efforts of the organiser of the conference and appreciated the work undertaking by the DST and land Revenue and Disaster management Department for mitigation measure for south Lohnak Lake and further suggested that the mentioning of the intervention needed to continue. He mentioned that the glacier commission that had been set up in the state needed to be received to strengthen the ongoing research work on Sikkim's glaciers and wetlands, further, he stressed that every individual must also strive to contribute for environment conservation and practising eco friendly habits.

DST Principal Secretary Dr. K Jayakumar mentioned that the conference was made possible by cooperation of various agencies and the vision of MP P.D Rai. He also presented on the activities on the activities of the department with special focus on the work undertaken by the Glacier and Climate change Commission.

Akhilesh Gupta presented on the climate change programme of the centre DST mentioning that there has been significant growth in the higher education and research sector in the field of climate Science in India , with more than 3,000 scientist working in this field .

Kulkarni from the Divecha Centre for climate Change presented on the work undertaken by their centre in the country including Sikkim, he also spoke on the societal impact of shrinking glacier on the mountain communitis who are entirely dependent on the glacier fed streams.

Representing SDC's Indian Himalayan climate Adaptation programme (IHCAP), Mustafa Ali Khan presented the overall objective of the IHCAP programme being undertaken in the Himalayan region, and offered to support the government in developing glacier related curriculum in the state.

Inaugural Session

