

The Global Initiative Workshops: Impacts of Climate Change on California and Himalayan Asia

4 – 6 May 2009

UC San Diego's Sustainability Solutions Institute, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, convened a workshop at the UCSD campus where experts from Himalayan Asian regional centres based in India, Nepal and China compared their observed trends, long-range predictions and policies for regional climate and water resources with those of California were discussed in great detail.

The three-day workshop, funded by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, brought together these experts in order to identify key scientific questions, technological questions and possibilities. Data related to water availability from mountain snows and glaciers in Himalayan Asia and California.

The first two days of the workshop were devoted to an assessment of the present and future impacts of climate change and air pollution on water availability in California, the Himalayas, and similar regions. A particular emphasis was put on data adequacy, integration, and availability, and the reliability of predictive models for decision-making. The five plenary panels and two breakout groups were devoted to discussions on how to promote science-based decision-making and the creation of an international framework for regional water availability assessments in conditions of climate change.

The workshop resulted in a conference declaration issued on May 6, 2009, which states that melting glaciers, weakening monsoon rains, less mountain snowpack and other effects of a warmer climate will lead to significant disruptions in the supply of water to highly populated regions of the world, especially near the Himalayas in Asia and the Sierra Nevada Mountains of the western United States.

- **Cambridge Workshop Materials:**
http://esi.ucsd.edu/gwi/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=26
- Cambridge Workshop Report:
<http://ssi.ucsd.edu/esiportal/images/gwi/cambridgeworkshop/african%20water%20report.pdf>