

JACS SAS Bi-monthly info Letter-13

Year 3, Issue 4, August 2009

Here is the forth issue of JACS SAs information letter of year 3 for all our SAs members. Enjoy it.

If any of you need our previous issues please let us know.

1. Important Dates:

Call for PAMS proposal for Autumn Round: 15 September 2009 is deadline for submitting the proposal to RCO.

Change of Personnel:

Ms. Sulava Piya left RCO-EPD project from 15th August 2009. We wish all the best for her carrier. Mr. Safal Ghimire will take over in her place from 1st September 2009. We welcome him to the NCCR North-South network.

RCO signed an agreement for the project "Landscapes of Democracy" on 18th August 2009. The project is joint effort of RCO, Forest Action, University of Toronto and University of Edinburgh.

Book Launched

RCO published the book "Peace Process and Federalism in Nepal" with Nepali translation too:

Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, SDC Director General Mr. Martin Dahinden and other dignitaries jointly launched a book "Peace process and Federalism in Nepal" on 17th August 2009 at Kathmandu during a official inauguration of Swiss Embassy in Nepal.

HNRSC–KU announced a PhD fellowship for the project “Landscapes of Democracy”. Please contact HNRSC for more details.

Phase 3 of the NCCR North–South

We are very happy to inform you that the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) approved a third phase of the NCCR North–South. The program will largely maintain the general approach developed in Phase 2; it has its main focus on high–quality research on sustainable development, highly supports capacity development, and promotes societal empowerment in the South. The structural aspects of the program, however, change considerably. The structure of the Work Packages is abolished in favor of three so–called Thematic Nodes (TNs):

- TN 1: Institutions, livelihoods and conflicts
- TN 2: Health, services and planning
- TN 3: Natural resources, economy and governance

The JACS SAS has its main partners within TN1, which is affiliated to the two Swiss institutions DSGZ and swisspeace. Research concentrates on the dynamic and changing role of institutions in order to understand how to regulate social interactions, specifically regarding access to livelihood means, and peace and security. Each TN comprises about four to six Research Projects (RPs), jointly led by research teams from the North and the South. In JACS SAS, the following projects are involved:

- **Contested rural development** – How the rural poor access livelihood means between market pressures, state ambitions and the emergence of customary, religious and orthodox–political movements. Project leaders: Urs Geiser (DSGZ, Switzerland) and Ramakumar (TISS, India)
- **Livelihood futures in resource–scarce areas** – and the quest for the inclusion of marginal groups. Project leaders: Babar Shahbaz (SDF/SDPI, Pakistan) and Sagar Sharma (HNRSC, Nepal)
- **Migration and development revisited:** Potential of migrants as agents of development in the production and circulation of knowledge. Project leaders: Susan Thieme (DSGZ, Switzerland) and Anita Ghimire (HNRSC/RCO, Nepal)
- **The role of the private sector in peace promotion:** An assessment of the benefits, limitations and determinants of corporate engagement in peace. Project leaders: Bishnu Upreti (RCO, Nepal) and Andrea Iff (swisspeace, Switzerland)

For further information, please contact the respective project leaders or the RC SAS (bupreti_nccr@wlink.comnp). We are looking forward to a continuing pleasant and inspiring collaboration!

DSG/Z

PhD program on 'Global Change, Innovation and Sustainable Development'

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) approved an inter-university doctoral program on 'Global Change, Innovation and Sustainable Development' in Switzerland. The PhD program is designed to anchor and simultaneously expand the NCCR North-South in the long run by creating a permanent structure for graduate-level research that focuses on the needs of developing countries. Participating institutions are the Universities of Bern, Basel and Zurich, the Swiss Tropical Institute, and swisspeace. A total of eight PhD studies are funded over the coming three years, and two of them (both from the University of Zurich, DSGZ) are doing research in the JACS SAS.

- **Mathias Junginger:** PhD on 'Migration, multi-local livelihoods and societal change in Far West Nepal', supervised by Prof Ulrike Mueller Boeker
- **Bart Klem:** PhD on 'Politics, identity and violence in eastern Sri Lanka', supervised by Prof Benedikt Korf

Their research aims at examining the multiple changes that rural livelihoods are undergoing in South Asia's periphery and the role that multi-local networks of migrants and development agents play in shaping rural development, in particular in localities that have experienced limited state penetration, political violence and unequal development.

New SNSF project: Geographies of violence and rural livelihoods in Mid-Western Nepal

A new research project on 'Geographies of violence' is being launched in Nepal. Involved researchers are: Sara Bryne (PhD), Prof Benedikt Korf, Prof Ulrike Mueller-Boeker, Dr Bishnu Upreti and Prof Theo Rauch. This research seeks to investigate how geographies of violence - understood as spatially and temporally dynamic governable spaces of power, order and control - shape the vulnerabilities, but also capabilities of social groups to secure and improve sustainable livelihoods in Nepal's Mid Western hill and adjacent lowland regions of Nepal. There is reason to consider the current situation as the continuation of a complex entanglement of violence, fear and vulnerability that penetrate livelihoods, part of which preceded the Maoist insurgency in the form of structural violence. In providing a fine-grained analysis of local political dynamics, livelihood strategies and the broader political dynamics, this study will provide a socially and spatially differentiated analysis of the impact of the Maoist insurgency on rural livelihoods in Nepal.

Mathias Junginger will be visiting Nepal from 25th September 2009 to 6th November 2009. During this time he will be visiting his field study site in far-west Nepal.

Ephraim Poertner finished his field work in far west Nepal in Dhangadhi for his master thesis. He will be leaving Nepal on 9th September 2009.

Nepal Research Group:

Master thesis defense:

Surya Joshi (WP2) defended his Master thesis on "*Analyzing the Effect of Socio-economic Dynamics on Disaster Vulnerability in Parsauni and Pratapur VDCs of Nawalparasi District*" at Kathmandu University. The defense was held on 19 July 2009.

Nripal Adhikary (WP2) defended his Master thesis on "*Political Ecology of Vulnerability: Case Study of Syangja Nepal*" at Kathmandu University. The defense was held on 20 July 2009

Lisha Shrestha (WP2) defended her Master thesis on "*Inclusive Land Policy and Human Security in Post-Conflict Situation: A Study of Parsauni and Pratapur VDCs of Nawalparasi District*" at Kathmandu University. The defense was held on 20 July 2009.

Kiran Maharjan (WP2) defended his Master thesis on "*Climate Change and Floods: Vulnerability Analysis of People towards Disaster*" at Kathmandu University. The Defense was held on 22 July 2009.

Sulava Piya (WP2) defended her Master thesis on "*Livelihood Options of Internally Displaced Girls in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj: Analyzing Risks and Vulnerabilities*" at Kathmandu University. The defense was held on 27 July 2009

Sudeep Manandhar (WP1) defended his Master thesis on "*Ecotourism in the High Mountains of Nepal: A Bright Future or a Burden?: A study of Ghunsa in Kanchanjunga Conservation Area*" at Kathmandu University. The Defense was held on 27 July 2009.

Roshana Maharjan (WP2) defended her Master thesis on "*Climate Change and its Impacts on Agriculture: Farmers' Perception and Adaptation Measures: A Case Study of Jagatpur VDC of Chitwan District*" at Kathmandu University. The defense was held on 10 August 2009

Hem Raj Paneru (WP2) defended his Master thesis on “ Working in Brick Kilns Struggle for Living: in Tinthana and Harisiddhi VDC’s in Kathmandu Valley”.

Madan Raj Joshi (WP2) defended his Master thesis on “Female Sex Workers in Kathmandu: Livelihood Assets and their Vulnerability” on July 2009

India Research Group:

No news

Pakistan Research Group:

Policy dialogue and advocacy on forestry

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad has formally initiated ‘Forest Policy–Advocacy Campaign’. The focus of the proposed activities is **(a)** engaging stakeholders and practitioners with “research informed constructive dialogues” and trying to influence policy makers for improving existing practices of forest management in Pakistan, and **(b)** to disseminate the research finding and policy messages related to forest management emerged from the research conducted by NCCR–Pakistan Research Group in recent past. In this context the inception workshop was held on 27th July, 2009 in Islamabad. The panelists included Mr. Madsood Ahmad Jan (SDPI), Dr. Babar Shahbaz and Mr. Riaz Ahmad (Sungji Development Foundation).

Through such activities, SDPI and NCCR–Pakistan aims at involving relevant stakeholders and making their findings accessible for them in order to contribute to better policy–making and sustainable forest governance.

Book Launched

The book of Dr. Babar Shahbaz “Dilemmas in participatory forest management: the livelihoods perspective” was formally launched during the workshop on 27th July 2009 at SDPI (Islamabad).

M.Sc. Accomplished

Miss Sadia Kiran, M.Sc. student (TPP–Messerli), Department of Anthropology, Arid–Agricultural University, Rawalpindi, has successfully defended her thesis at the university level.

Training Session

Babar Shahbaz conducted training sessions on “Qualitative Research Methods” for young faculty members of different universities of Faisalabad during “Competency enhancement programme for faculty member” at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on August, 2009.

3. Reading Recommendations:

4. Publications:

※ *Upreti BR, Toepperwien N, Heiniger M. (2009): Peace Process and Federalism in Nepal, South Asia Regional Coordination Office of NCCR North–South.*

Please inform your new publication regularly to us:

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5. Events:

Conferences:

Trainings:

6. Others:

TPP news:

Participation of JACS SAs members in conference, seminar, workshop and meetings

Presentation:

Seminar:

PAMS news:

PAMS COLARP:

COLARP organized an Interaction Programme on "**Land Entitlement and Women Empowerment**" on the **27th of July 2009** at the NCCR South Asia Coordination Office, Ekantakuna, Jawalakhel. Its main objective was to explore further different dimensions of land entitlement in relation to women empowerment. COLARP invited some of the CA members from different major political parties, members of High Level Land Reform Commission (HLLRC), media persons and some researchers on land issues to participate in this interaction programme.

PAMS TAAN:

RCO together with TAAN Western Chapter, Nepal Tourism Board and ACAP organized one day Regional interaction program on 2nd July 2009. Code of Conduct of model trek route has been discussed during this program.

EPD news:

*Exploring Partnership Dynamics: North –South Research Partnerships in the Context of International Development:
A Comparative Study of Eight JACS Regions (EPD)*

Draft report of EPD project is ready and circulated to the CG and MC for further comments.