

# JACS SAS Bi-monthly info Letter-14

Year 3, Issue 5, October 2009

Here is the fifth 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.

Coordinator of the NCCR North-South, Dr. Thomas Breu and Dominique Simone Rychen, responsible for NCCR North-South project from SDC visited RCO from 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009. During the visit various meetings with different partners were organized.

RP2 "Livelihood futures in resource-scarce areas" organized three days inception workshop at RCO from 29-31<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

RCO organized reception dinner in honor of NCCR delegates visit on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal, Vice Chancellor, Rector of Kathmandu University, institutional partners and SAs members were presented during this event.

DSG/Z

## **Visit of Julia Gruenenfelder at ISS**

Julia Grünenfelder, PhD Student at DSGZ, visited the International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Den Haag, Netherlands from 31 August to 10 September 2009 to present and discuss findings of her PhD research. She met with staff from ISS, incl. Dr. Karin Siegmann (TPP Obrist, DSGZ), and held a presentation on "'Doing gender' - Women working as Social Organisers in rural North-West Pakistan".

## **Welcome to Pia Hollenbach**

In October 2009, the BoD of the NCCR N-S endorsed the PhD outline submitted by Pia Hollenbach. Pia's study is entitled „Experiences from the field – How does humanitarian aid work? Ethnographic reflections from an “Aid Broker” on the tsunami rehabilitation in Sri Lanka“. Her project addresses the exchanges and encounters that have taken place between Asia and Europe after the tsunami and how they have become materialised in the aid chain that was developing. Pia's study is supervised by Prof Benedikt Korf of the Unit of Political Geography, Department of Geography, University of Zurich and financed by the University Priority Research Programme Asia and Europe.

## **Nepal Research Group:**

NCCR delegates, Dr. Thomas Breu and Dominique Simone Rychen had series of meetings with Institutional partners: HNRSC-KU, CDG-TU, NIDS, CSRC, COLARP and TAAN Western Chapter during their visit from 25–31 October 2009.

## **India Research Group:**

No news

## **Pakistan Research Group:**

### **Policy dialogue and advocacy on forestry**

As part of ongoing SDPI/NCCR Forestry-Advocacy, Dr. Babar shahbaz delivered a lecture during the meeting of "Sub-Group on Forestry and Natural Resources for preparation of next five year plan (2010–2015)" held in the Ministry of Environment Islamabad on October 20, 2009. The meeting was chaired by Inspector General of Forests and attended by high-profile foresters from all provinces of Pakistan. Dr. Shahbaz presented policy messages emerged from the research on forestry, which were discussed in detail during the meeting. It is expected that some of their recommendations might be considered for inclusion in the next five year plan.

**3. Reading Recommendations:**

**4. Publications:**

※ *Pradhan, P. editor (2009): Geographic Research Methods Handbook*, CDG-TU and NCCR North-South, Kathmandu.

※ *Nepal Migration Year Book 2008 (2009):* NIDS and NCCR North-South, Kathmandu.

**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 TAAN:**

A four member team consisting of Dr Bishnu Raj Upreti – RC JACS SAs, Dr Thomas Michael Breu – Programme Coordinator of NCCR North South, Ms Dominique Simone Rychen – Research Advisor of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Mr Pranil Upadhyaya – PhD researcher of Kathmandu University/NCCR NS visited Pokhara, Lahachok, Ghachok, Lalka, and Lwang ghalel villages from October 27 – 29, 2009 under the PAMS site visit inspection programme.

The programme covered a meeting cum interaction at Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) western regional chapter on 27 October 2009 after a short presentation on PAMS project performance made by Mr. Basant Dawadi, President of TAAN western regional chapter, which is also the executive agency of PAMS. This event was attended by various stakeholders like Pokhara Tourism Council, Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Machhpuchhre Tourism Development Committee (MTDC), and representatives of various trekking agencies.

The inspection team also consisting of some members of TAAN WRC, Ms. Shradhha Shrestha – NTB Pokhara, ACAP representative, and some photo journalists of Nepal trekked and reached Lalka, one of the five porters' campsites with supporters' shelters on 28 October 2009 which is completed under ongoing PAMS project.

On return trip from the campsite, there was an interactive meeting at Khoramukh village under Lwang ghalel VDC on 29 October 2009 among PAMS inspection team members, executive members of MTDC, local people, local mother groups, youth groups, representatives of political parties, head of local ACAP office, and TAAN members. Views were expressed on the updates of PAMS project, its challenges, project handover mechanism, and the opportunities & challenges for the sustainability aspects of the project beyond its period.

## **EPD news:**

*Exploring Partnership Dynamics: North –South Research Partnerships in the Context of International Development:*

*A Comparative Study of Eight JACS Regions (EPD)*

EPD Coordinator Prof. Kailash N. Pyakuryal had a meeting with NCCR delegates Dr. Thomas Breu and Dominique Simone Rychen during their visit at RCO. Outcomes of the EPD study and way forward were discussed during the meeting. Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Regional Coordinator and Safal Ghimire, Research Officer were also present during the meeting.