

JACS SAs Bi-monthly Info Letter-22

Year 5, Issue 1, February 2011

We have crossed four years with spreading news to our members of South Asia and beyond. Here is now the first issue of the fifth year of JACS SAs information letter. Enjoy it.

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

The NCCR North-South Regional Coordination Office of South Asia organized, together with the DSGZ and the Tata Institute of Social Science, a three-day workshop from 24th to 26th of January 2011 in Lonavala (Maharashtra) India. The 34 participants were PhD students from India, Nepal and Switzerland, leaders of the five research projects working in South Asia, the regional coordinators of South Asia, South East Asia and West Africa and two members of the Review Panel (Prof. N. Reddy, India and Prof. R. Jefferies U.K.). Unfortunately, our partners from Pakistan were not allowed to travel to India (with the exception of Dr. A. Suleri). The workshop was devoted in particular to mutual learning and exchange of ideas between the participants and the discussion of core research challenges (conceptual, theoretical, and methodological). The group went also to the 'field' and was warmly received by the village elites, but also experienced the hierarchies and exclusion processes of an Indian village.

On 24th January 2011, a successful meeting of RAB was held in Lonavala, India.

Prof. Ulrike Müller-Böker, Head of TN 1, member of BoD of NCCR North-South and International Graduate School (IGS) North-South has visited South Asia Coordination Office from 29 January to 2 February 2011. During her visit she was involved on discussing various issues of research and partnership with in the area.

Dr. Thomas Brue, Coordinator of NCCR North-South, Managing Director of International Graduate School (IGS) North-South, Co-director of Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of University of Bern has visited South Asia Coordination Office from

30 January to 2 February 2011. During his visit he discussed on research partnership and NCCR North–South beyond Third Phase.

In a national seminar on “Role of Tourism in Sustainable Peace and prosperity” jointly organized by TAAN Western Regional Chapter, RCO and HNRSC–KU and Nepal Tourism Board on 20 Feb 2011 in Pokhara, 3 Policy Briefs from South Asia were launched by the member of National Planning Commission, Dr. Ganesh Gurung, who is also a member of Nepal Research Group.

DSG/Z:

Warm welcome to Silva Lieberherr:

In February 2011, the BoD of the NCCR N–S endorsed the PhD outline submitted by Silva Lieberherr. Her study is entitled „Living on farming in a globalizing world: The role of social movements in Maharashtra, India.” Silva is based at the University of Zurich and supervised by Urs Geiser. Her work is integrated into the Research Project “Contested Rural Development”. We wish Silva all the best for her PhD study.

Nepal Research Group:

RCO together with TAAN Western Regional Chapter, Pokhara, HNRSC –KU and Nepal Tourism Board organized a national seminar on “Role of Tourism in Sustainable Peace and prosperity” on 20th February 2011. During the time, governmental officer, security personals, tourism entrepreneurs, civil society leaders, and local communities place their views on this regards.

India Research Group:

No News

Pakistan Research Group:

An international symposium “Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security” was held at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on January 15, 2011. The NCCR Pakistan Research Group (Babar, Abid, Urs and Afshan) participated in the symposium and presented their papers on the issues of rural development, social exclusion and human/food security. The details of the event can be seen at http://uaf.edu.pk/golden_jubilee/events/110115.html

Dr. Urs Gieser visited University of Agriculture Faisalabad on 15 and 16 January 2011. During his stay he held meetings with the Ph.D. and M.Sc. students of NCCR (N-S) as well as with the faculty members of the Department of Agri. Extension.

Mr. Waqar-ul-Hassan Tareen (M.Sc. students, PR2) presented his research proposal at faculty level in the Department of Agri. Extension, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. The title of his M.Sc. synopsis is “An exploratory study of Social Safety Nets (SSN) in Battagram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province: Implications for food security of small farmers”.

SDPI organized a seminar on “Legal & Institutional Reforms in Forest Laws for accepting Forest Carbon as Commodity” on February 15, 2011. Senior forestry official including (Inspector General of Forests, Chief Conservators) and some international dignitaries participated in the event.

Another Ph.D. student Mr. Muhammad Luqman from the Department of Agri. Extension, University of Agriculture Faisalabad submitted his outlines to the M.C. His proposal is within the framework of RPI (Contested Rural Development)

Publications:

Second issue of “Pakistan Forest Digest” has been published and distributed widely among concerned stakeholders. This bilingual digest contains news published in major national as well as local daily newspapers. A brief analysis of the news is also given in the digest. For copy of the digest pl. e.mail to afsheen@sdpi.org

Dr. Abid Sulrei published article *Challenges ahead* in a weekly newspaper. Please visit the link: <http://jang.com.pk/thenews/feb2011-weekly/nos-06-02-2011/pol1.htm#6>

Upreti BR (2011). Nepal's peace process and challenges ahead. Evidences for Policy Series, Regional edition South Asia, No. 1, Nepal: NCCR north-South. Please visit the link: <http://www.north-south.unibe.ch/content.php/page/id/305>

Upreti BR, Shahbaz B. (2011). Mediated policy dialogues to address conflict over natural resource governance. Evidences for Policy Series, Regional edition South Asia, No. 2, ed. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Kathmandu: NCCR north-South. Please visit the link: <http://www.north-south.unibe.ch/content.php/page/id/305>

Sharma SR, Upreti BR, Upadhyaya PK. (2011). Community-based and peace-sensitive tourism: fulfilling Nepal's potential. Evidences for Policy Series, Regional edition South Asia, No. 3, ed. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Kathmandu: NCCR north-South. Please visit the link: <http://www.north-south.unibe.ch/content.php/page/id/305>

COLARP (2011) Land, Agriculture and Agrarian Transformation, Heidel Press, Kathmandu.

Please inform about your new publications regularly to us:

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Events:

Conferences:

Conference in Lisboa

The 22nd European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) is scheduled for 25–28 July 2012 at the ISCTE– Lisbon University Institute. The conference organiser is Professor Rosa Maria Perez, of the Department of Anthropology, supported by a local scientific steering committee. The venue of the conference will be on the university's main campus. For more details of the Lisbon University Institute, see <http://iscte.pt/>

They are planning to open a website on the details of the conference as part of the ISCTE–LUI website as soon as possible. Details will also be available on the EASAS website, <http://www.easas.org/>

If you would like to convene a panel at this conference, please send your panel title, together with a short description of the panel (100 words maximum) and a tentative list of participants in a doc– or rtf–format to the following email–address: ecsas22@ed.ac.uk

The file should be structured as follows:

1. Panel name (tentative)
2. Panel description (100 words maximum)
3. Your name, postal and email address
4. Your professional affiliation
5. List of participants (tentative)

Please use (as subject line): "ECSAS panel suggestion".

The closing date for panel suggestions will be 15 April 2011. The steering committee will meet in May to decide on the panels to be accepted, and the selected panels will be listed on both the EASAS and the ECSAS conference websites soon after the decisions have been made, most probably towards the end of May 2011.

Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference 2011

Sarah Byrne and Pia Hollenbach, two PhD students associated to the NCCR North–South and the Development Study Group, University of Zurich, are organising a panel on “The Production and Performance of Professional Identities: Shifting from Development Practitioner to Development Academic” for the Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference to be held from 31 August to 2 September 2011 in London. For more information, please refer to www.rgs.org/AC2011.

Training Courses:

Others:

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS: 2 DFID–Supported Research Programs in South Asia. DFID has released calls for proposals for 2 DFID–supported research programs in South Asia: one on climate change and agriculture; the other on agriculture and nutrition linkages. Deadline: March 14, 2011.

<http://news.capri.cgiar.org/2011/02/calls-for-proposals-2-dfid-supported.html>

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

Presentation:

Seminar:

PAMS news:

Mr. Basant Dawadi, ex. president of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal, Western Regional Chapter who was also the coordinator of our PAMS tourism project in western Nepal, has received the Excellent Tourism Development award of Kaski district in Western Nepal. It is rewarded to him jointly by Prime Minister of Nepal and District Local Development Officer of Kaski in a recognition for his contribution to the development of community based rural tourism in Kaski in which PAMS tourism project titled 'Developing a community based tourism model in Kaski district in Western Nepal ' located in Machhpuchhre Model Trek area occupy as a core tourism development work on the partnership approach between practitioners and researchers of NCCR North-South.

On 19th January, 2011 COLARP organized a book launching and Press Release programme, where representatives of UN, universities, political parties, civil society, media, researchers, students, activists were present. Book titled "Land, Agriculture and Agrarian Transformation" published by COLARP under PAMS Project was launched by the then Finance Minister Mr Surendra Pandey. On the same programme Press Release of the PAMS Project was also conducted.