

# Himalayan University Consortium Steering Committee meeting

18-19 April 2024 | ICIMOD, Kathmandu

## Background

The Steering Committee is the Himalayan University Consortium's (HUC) highest governing body. The committee's meetings set the course of action for the consortium for the calendar year and track the progress of the implementation of HUC Strategy 2018–2025.

The 2024 meeting is critical for the committee to discuss the Evaluation Report of the HUC by an independent reviewing team, commissioned by ICIMOD and the draft of the Position Paper on the HUC Governance prepared by the HUC Task Force on Sustainability and Resource Mobilization. Apart from members' business agenda items and welcoming a new Member representing China, the Committee will discuss HUC-specific queries raised by the ICIMOD Programme Advisory Committee at the network-focused session during its meeting in Kathmandu on 19 January 2024.

## Objectives

- HUC Steering Committee members will provide updates on the state of higher education for sustainability and the HUC Country Chapter formation process in their home country.
- The HUC Secretariat will provide updates on the consortium's collaborative capacity building, research, and publication, as well as the budget and staffing of the Secretariat and member-led resource mobilization in 2023.
- The SC will discuss the independent Evaluation Report of the HUC commissioned by ICIMOD.
- The SC will discuss the draft of the Position Paper on HUC Governance prepared by the HUC Task Force on Sustainability and Resource Mobilization.

## About HUC

HUC is a thriving network of 107 universities in the eight Hindu Kush Himalayan countries and other regions in the world, with over 600 portal users and fellows. Its mandates are to enable regional academic cooperation and nurture a generation of scholar-leaders for sustainable mountain futures. The consortium works to strengthen connections between knowledge-generating and decision-making institutions, creating new opportunities for transdisciplinary and transboundary research collaboration and enhancing mountain-specific research. The HUC core values are mountain focus, inter- and trans-disciplinarity, diversity, and shared leadership.

## Proposed agenda

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Time	Programme
	Arrival in Kathmandu

Thursday 18 April 2024

Chair: Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD

All timings are in Nepal Standard Time (NST).

Time	Programme
<b>08:15 sharp</b>	Bus departing for ICIMOD Headquarters
<b>08:45–09:00</b>	Registration
<b>09:00–10:30</b>	<b>Member business session A – Reports and updates</b> Session Chair: Yasmin Tahira, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of the proposed agenda</li><li>• Approval of summary and key decisions of the hybrid Steering Committee meeting in Lanzhou, 26 April 2023</li><li>• Introduction of Steering Committee members and welcome Professor LIU Peng, Yunnan University, SC member representing China</li><li>• Report on HUC activities between April 2023 and April 2024 – Chi H Truong (Shachi), Secretariat Lead</li><li>• Discussion on the independent Evaluation Report of the HUC, commissioned by ICIMOD</li></ul>
<b>10:30–11:00</b>	Tea break & Group picture
<b>11:00–12:30</b>	<b>Open-to-public Session I (hybrid): The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Climate Decision-Making in the Hindu Kush Himalayas</b> Facilitator: Mandira Shrestha, Enabling Regional and Global Mechanisms for Sustainable Action, ICIMOD <b>Welcome Remark</b> , Pema Gyamtsho, ICIMOD <b>Keynote Address</b> : Arnico Kumar Panday, Honourable Member of National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCM and invited panellists exchange knowledge and share experience on the role of HEIs in climate decision-making in their respective countries (5 minutes each).</li> </ul> <p><b>Abdul Raqib</b> (Afghanistan), School of Engineering, Kathmandu University  <b>Md Rezaur Rahman</b>, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology  <b>Nidup Dorji</b>, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan  <b>Peng Liu</b>, Yunnan University, China  <b>Padmini Pani</b>, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India  <b>Tri Ratna Bajracharya</b>, Tribhuvan University, Nepal  <b>Nang Hseng Hom</b>, Yezin Agriculture University, Myanmar (virtual, pre-recorded video)  <b>Syed Habib Ali Bokhari</b>, University Kohsar Muree, Pakistan (virtual, pre-recorded video)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open discussion</li> </ul>
<b>12:30–13:30</b>	Lunch break
<b>13:30–15:00</b>	<p><b>Member business session B – Position Paper on HUC Governance</b></p> <p>Session Chair: Md Rezaur Rahman, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on Position Paper on HUC Governance and Resource Mobilization, Nichole Georgeou (Western Sydney University, virtual) &amp; Tri Ratna Bajracharya (Tribhuvan University)</li> <li>• SCMs discuss in detail the content of the Position Paper on HUC Governance</li> <li>• Refine the Draft of the Position Paper</li> </ul>
<b>15:00–15:30</b>	Tea break
<b>15:30-16:30</b>	<p><b>Open-to-public Session II (hybrid): The HUC Thematic and Cross-Cutting Workgroups in collaboration with ICIMOD’s units</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Amina Maharjan, Resilience Mountain Economies and Landscapes, ICIMOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-leads of Thematic Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Workgroups debrief about their group’s activities</li> <li>• ICIMOD staff members whose units are collaborating with HUC TWGs/CCWs provide an update.</li> </ul> <p>Chubbamenla Jamir (India, virtual) &amp; Kamal Aryal (GRAPE, ICIMOD), <i>Mountain Agriculture</i>  Adnan Dogar (Pakistan, virtual) &amp; Anu Kumari Lama (SG2, ICIMOD), <i>Mountain Heritage and Tourism</i>  Shafique Muhammad (Pakistan, virtual) &amp; Miriam Jackson (SG1, ICIMOD), <i>Cryosphere and Society</i>  Harshit Losan Lakra (India, virtual) &amp; Kabir Uddin (SG2, ICIMOD), <i>Open Geospatial and Community-based Mapping</i></p> <p>Ganga Gautam (Nepal), <i>Education for Sustainable Mountain Futures</i>  Jelle J P Wouters (Bhutan, virtual), <i>Himalayan Environmental Humanities</i>  Binaya R Shivakoti (Japan, virtual), <i>Local Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Locally-led Adaptation</i></p>

	<p>Jakob F Steiner (Austria, virtual), <i>High Mountain Data</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open discussion</li> </ul>
<b>16:30–17:30</b>	<p><b>Member business session C – Review Membership, Consolidate SC and Secretariat Staffing, and Closing</b>  Session Chair: Nang Hseng Hom, Rector, Yezin Agricultural University</p> <p><b>Summary and Key Decisions</b>  Nidup Dorji, Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan</p> <p><b>Votes of thanks</b> Tri Ratna Bajracharya, Tribhuvan University</p> <p><b>Closing of the Formal Meeting of the SCM</b> Pema Gyamtsho, ICIMOD</p> <p>Depart from ICIMOD premises</p>
<b>18:30-20:00</b>	<b>Reception Dinner</b>

Friday 19 April 2024

<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>08:30 sharp</b>	Bus departing for ICIMOD Headquarters
<b>09:30–11:00</b>	<p><b>Open-to-public Session III: From policy translation and science-policy dialogue to evidence-informed policy formulation for climate change mitigation and adaptation</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Babar Khan, Enabling Regional and Global Mechanisms for Sustainable Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy pathway in ICIMOD’s Strategy 2030 and Medium-Term Action Plan V 2023-2026 – Izabella Koziell, ICIMOD</li> <li>Rosalind Cornforth, the Walker Institute, University of Reading (pre-recorded video)</li> <li>Christopher A Scott, Pennsylvania State University, ICIMOD Mountain Chair 2020-2022 (pre-recorded video)</li> <li>Guy Howard, Cabot Institute of Environment, Bristol University (pre-recorded video)</li> </ul> <p>Panellists  <b>Ramesh Chandra Paudel</b>, Honourable Member of National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal  <b>Peng Liu</b>, Yunnan University, China  <b>Brij Mohan Rathore</b>, Interim Strategic Group 3 Lead, Enabling Regional and Global Mechanisms for Sustainable Action, ICIMOD  <b>Iq Mohammed Mead</b>, Imperial College London, UK</p>
<b>11:00–11:30</b>	Tea break

<b>11:30–12:30</b>	<p><b>Open-to-public Session IV: Meet New and Potential Members</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Shachi Truong, Secretariat Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representatives from HUC new and potential members will present about their institution and the collaborative research in the Hindu Kush Himalaya</li> </ul> <p><b>Anita Pandey</b>, Graphic Era University, India (virtual)  <b>Deepak Mishra</b>, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University  <b>Patton E Burchett</b>, The College of William &amp; Marry, Virginia  <b>Alok Bohara</b>, Nepal Study Center, University of New Mexico (virtual)  <b>Iq Mohammed Mead</b>, Imperial College London, UK</p>
<b>12:00–13:00</b>	Lunch break
<b>13:00–16:00</b>	<b>Field Visit to Godavari Living Lab</b> (optional)
<b>17:00</b>	<p><i>Return to hotel.</i></p> <p><i>End of the Meetings</i></p>