

Nepalmountainnews Report | 10 May 2009

Ev-K2-CNR Committee, the Italy based research organization that has been conducting various research studies in Nepal for more than a decade, in collaboration with UNEP and with the technical cooperation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is organizing a international Conference "Mountains: energy, water and food for life" in Milan, Italy from May 27.



According to the Committee the two day-long meet which is the part of its project "SHARE: understanding the impacts of climate change", is expected bringing together experts, decision-makers and representatives of the main intergovernmental organizations involved in research in mountain areas from different parts of the world to discuss the role of mountains as early indicators of climate change, and the impact of global warming on mountain ecosystem services.

"We aim to bring together the world's top experts on themes such as atmosphere, climate, water, glaciers, agriculture and biodiversity, while taking stock of policies on development, health, energy and food security. With this opportunity, we will also showcase phase II of our SHARE (Stations at High Altitude for Research on the Environment) Project and its contributions to management-oriented research on climate change and mountain environments," stated a release issued by the Ev-K2-CNR Committee.

The mountains constitute an extraordinary platform for monitoring climate change and its effects, being representative of vast spatial areas and influencing local and global climates in ways that are only partially understood, states the release, adding, "we feel that concerned scientists not only have a responsibility to perform high altitude research and environmental monitoring to improve our knowledge of these issues, but also to raise public and government-level awareness on the implications of climate change in mountain areas, so as to help define mitigation and adaptation policies. The ultimate aim of these efforts should be to promote sustainable development of mountain ecosystems, which are crucial to ensuring wellbeing on the planet".

The Conference, has received a patronage of the Italian President, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Regional Affairs, Education, University and Research as well as of Lombardy Region.