The Statesman

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MoU on climate change adaptation measures inked

ISLAMABAD: Italian organisation EvK2CNR signed yet another Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Climate Change on the Climate Change Adaptation Measures to tackle the impact of fast changing climate on the mountain ecosystems.

The MoU was signed Thursday at the ministry by its director-general Jawaid Ali Khan and EvK2CNR president Agostino Da Polenza, to establish general understanding to facilitate implementation and coordination of research activities in Pakistan and to strengthen the collaboration in carrying out studies on climate change and identification of appropriate adaptation measures.

During the next five years, the EvK2CNR would extend technical and financial support to the Global Change Impact Studies Centre – Pakistan (GCISC), a subordinate department of the Federal Climate Change ministry for research on the climate change impact, defining and implementation of the necessary measure on climate change adaptation.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Climate Change Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan said Pakistan's mountain ecosystems are vulnerable to unfolding climate change impacts, which has expedited the pace of glacial melt, disturbed rainfall pattern and affected the livelihood of millions of those living in mountain areas and down the stream.

"Effective mitigation of negative impacts and adapting to them is not possible, if the impacts are not analysed and their causes studied in depth. The new cooperation mechanism between Italy and Pakistan would help intensively study and understand the effects of climate change," he said.

The federal minister Rana Farooq said that in Pakistan, 22 per cent of the GNP is contributed by agriculture. The Indus basin irrigation system in Pakistan is the world's largest and it is estimated that snow and glacier melt contribute over 50 per cent of the total flow to this system.

"Climate change is already impacting the glacial regime in the basin. There is a general condition of glacial retreat. Although some cases of glacial advance have been reported in the high Karakorum, it is not known if these are the result of accumulation of ice mass or simply reorientation of glacial structure under a changed thermal regime.

There is a great need to fill the gap in this basic understanding.

Further, it is of utmost importance to assess the impacts of glacial dynamics on water availability in the region. - DNA