



Press Release

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The Ev-K2-CNR/NAST 'Everest Pyramid' atmospheric observatory: the highest Global Station of GAW network

On September 8, 2010 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has assigned to the Italian-Nepali atmospheric observatory 'Everest Pyramid' in Nepal, the recognition of Global Station within the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Program. The station has therefore become the 33rd global monitoring point of the atmospheric composition. 'Everest Pyramid' is located at 5,079 m asl nearby Mt. Everest Base Camp, close to the Ev-K2-CNR/NAST International Pyramid Laboratory Observatory and represents the highest observatory of Global Atmospheric Watch Global Network, as well as the first Italian and Nepali monitoring site obtaining this prestigious acknowledgment.

The Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), established in 1989 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), involves about eighty countries in order to carry out observations of the chemical composition and physical state of the atmosphere, their natural and anthropogenic variations at global and regional scales with the aim of providing reliable scientific information, and to improve the understanding of atmosphere, ocean and biosphere processes and to define the growing impacts of human activities on global climate. GAW also provides a comprehensive set of observations of atmospheric composition in support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) process, representing an important input for the preparation of IPCC documents that summarize the most recent knowledge on global atmospheric conditions and processes impacting the Earth climate. At present, the GAW network includes more than 600 Regional Stations and 33 Global Stations which are mostly located in remote areas, thus having a fundamental role in the evaluation of atmospheric medium and long term changes.

'This is a very important recognition for the Italian and Nepalese scientific cooperation, started more than 20 years ago with the installation of the Pyramid International Laboratory Observatory, and pursued carrying out technologically advanced research and monitoring activities that allowed the installation and the continuous operation of the Everest Pyramid station above 5,000 m asl. Since March 2006, this station is providing unique information on the Himalayan atmospheric composition' commented Dr. Giuseppe Cavarretta, Director of the Earth and Environment Department of the Italian National Research Council (DTA-CNR).

'This observatory, close to Mt. Everest, has been activated within Ev-K2-CNR/SHARE (Stations at High Altitude for Research on the Environment) Project, a climate monitoring and research program which manages a high altitude network of stations in Asia, Africa, Europe and South America' underlines Mr. Agostino Da Polenza, President of the Ev-K2-CNR Committee, 'and the Pyramid is now considered a relevant monitoring station at the international level, with a high

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scientific value, also considering that it is located at the border between the two more densely populated Countries of the world. ’

‘The Everest-Pyramid Station, also identified as Nepal Climate Observatory – Pyramid’ specifies Dr. Paolo Bonasoni (CNR-Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate), Coordinator of the SHARE Project ‘is operational since 2006 for monitoring of atmospheric chemical composition and physical state and for the study of climate change effects in South Asia, within the frame of the ‘Atmospheric Brown Clouds’ program led by UNEP, which includes other two observational sites in Nepal: Kathmandu and Godavari managed by ICIMOD’.

As ABC-UNEP highlighted, the Asia region can be strongly affected by the presence of the Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABCs), a wide polluted layers extending from the Indian Ocean until the Himalayas and due to both by long-range and regional transport phenomena of pollutants during winter and pre-monsoon season and influencing climate, air quality, monsoon system and agriculture. The Himalayan Region is particularly sensitive to atmospheric composition change and offers a unique opportunity to study the processes related to climate change. The measurements carried out at the Everest-Pyramid GAW station have shown that high concentration of black carbon particles, ozone and other pollutants can be transported over the Sagarmatha slopes, and deposit on the Himalayan glaciers, modifying the albedo and favouring the melting processes.

This international recognition given to the consolidated Italian and Nepali collaboration within the Ev-K2-CNR/NAST Joint Project has been possible thanks to the support of several important partners such as: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Italian National research Council (CNR), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Urbino University (Chemistry Department), representing an excellence of integrated research efforts applied to the protection of the environment.

GAW Country Contact of Nepal
 Sorry, the name of the GAW Country Contact is not available.

Stations registered for Nepal (total: 1)

STATION	GAWID	Station type	operating status	Coordinates	Elevation (m a.s.l.)
ASIA Nepal Climate Observatory - Pyramid	PNR	Global	full operation	27.95°N 85.81°E	5079

EMPA
Nepal Climate Observatory - Pyramid

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