



EVK2CNR COMMITTEE AT RIO+20: THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA DEPENDS ON MOUNTAINS

Press Release

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Mountains research activities carried out by the EvK2CNR Committee are some of the topics of great interest and scientific importance included in the Rio+20 official events' agenda. Rio+20 is the conference on sustainable development promoted by United Nations and held in Rio de Janeiro from June, 20 to 22, 2012, twenty years later the historical Earth Summit hosted in the same Brazilian city.

The EvK2CNR Committee will take part in the conference as a member of Italian Government delegation and will introduce some of the high altitude advanced studies, which are increasingly crucial in the choice of inter-governmental strategies aimed at reducing the climate change impacts on the environment. In fact, mountains are important indicators of these effects with significant global consequences on socio-environmental stability.

The EvK2CNR Committee will be present at four different events included in the Rio+20 agenda.

Firstly, the Ev-K2-CNR Committee is a co-organizer of the side event "Mountain knowledgebase solutions for sustainable green economy and improved water, food, energy, and environment nexus" included in the Rio +20 UNCSA agenda and scheduled on Tuesday, June 18. This event is linked to the development of high altitude mountains areas and to the conservation of natural environmental resources in order to assure availability of water, food, energy and the preservation of biodiversity.

During this side event, organized in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Government of Nepal, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), Dr. Maria Teresa Melis from the University of Cagliari will present the SHARE GeoNetwork. The SHARE GeoNetwork is a portal containing information about high altitude climate and environmental data, which is designed to become a reference tool for the international scientific community and the government decision makers, in order to implement effective environmental and climatic policies at a global level. The value of the EvK2CNR Committee' s monitoring project is recognized through the validated and fully reliable SHARE (Stations at High Altitude for Research on Environment) data. The SHARE project is based on a network of weather and environmental stations and it is carried out in collaboration with UNEP, WMO and NASA.

The EvK2CNR Committee, thanks to the leading role assumed in the high-altitude scientific research and environmental and climate monitoring through the SHARE project, will also participate to three events scheduled in framework of the Mountain Pavilion, organized by the Mountain Partnership, Government of Peru and involving all public and private mountain stakeholders and the governments committed to sustainable development in mountain regions.

The first side event will be the "Role of Mountain Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in Implementing green growth strategies and creating sustainable Livelihoods", and it is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19. In this context, the EvK2CNR Committee will present a study on the construction of housing units in the

Khumbu Valley, in Nepal. This, in order to respond to the local population needs, in terms of ease of implementation, applicability in other contexts, use of local materials, environmental compatibility and renewable energy utilization. This study, conducted in the framework of the SHARE project by Stefania Proietti from the University of Perugia, starts from the analysis of the site and local construction techniques. It aims at promoting better insulation and ventilation of Nepalese lodges, increasing the use of alternative energies and high efficiency stoves. Such practices could contribute at reducing the high incidence of bronchial obstructions on local population caused by indoor air pollution. This is due to the local people's practice to burn wood, animal desiccate dung and cultivation residuals, in open fireplaces located indoor.

On the same day, Tuesday June, 19, the EvK2CNR Committee will join the Mountain Partnership in the third meeting of the Global Mountain Forum, which will focus on the fundamental contribution that mountains' research may give to the sustainable development agenda, according to a five-years term strategy.

The two side events organized at Mountain Pavilion, will be preceded, on Sunday June,17, by the viewing of the documentary film "Dhe must not die! The climate change on the roof of the world", by Stefano Ardito and produced by EvK2CNR. This documentary tells the story of a small village, called Dhe, located in the Mustang region at 3000m a.s.l, where many water springs started to dry up as a consequence of climate change. This condition induced the villagers to request to be considered "environmental refugees". This should induce people to reflect on climate changes' consequences and on the governments' decision makers responsibilities to take appropriate actions on the basis of scientific studies conducted at high altitude and in particular in the framework of the SHARE monitoring project.

For more information please visit the web session EvK2Cnr @Rio+20 at www.evk2cnr.org

ATTACHMENT:

[Rio+20 Flyer Mountain Knowledge Solutions](#)

[Rio+20 Flyer Role of Mountain in promoting green growth](#)

[Rio+20 Third Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership](#)

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