

EvK2CNR accelerates climate change research in Pakistan

Syed Naveed Jamal



ISLAMABAD: EvK2CNR, in collaboration with the Italian Government, has intensified its efforts to study climate change in Pakistan through a Glacial Lakes Inventory and the establishment of scientific laboratories.

The organization has recently developed a comprehensive Supra-Glacial Lakes Inventory of Pakistan, identifying 2,772 lakes that appear and disappear seasonally. These lakes serve as critical indicators of climate change. Monitoring their seasonal and annual patterns is essential to understanding the emerging climate impacts in the region.

Mr. Agostino Da Polenza (Tamgha-e-Pakistan), President of EvK2CNR, along with glacier expert Dr. Titi Melis and Mr. Arif Hussain from EvK2CNR, briefed the media, stating that Pakistan is home to some of the world's largest concentrations of glaciers and supra-glacial lakes. Simultaneously, the country is among the most climate-vulnerable nations. Therefore, immediate scientific research is essential for assessing the impacts of climate change and formulating suitable mitigation and adaptation strategies.

In response, EvK2CNR,

with the support of the Italian Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is establishing state-of-the-art scientific laboratories in Gilgit-Baltistan. These include a Water Quality Lab, Glaciology Lab, Zoology Lab, and a Plant Pathology Lab. These facilities are being set up at Karakoram International University and University of Baltistan to support current and future research in the region.

Earlier, EvK2CNR had developed a Glaciers Inventory of Pakistan, identifying 13,032 glaciers – an extraordinary natural resource. This document was officially presented by Romina Khurshid Alam, Prime Minister's Coordinator on

Climate Change, at the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, to draw international attention to Pakistan's glacier reserves.

Gilgit-Baltistan and the broader Himalaya-Karakoram region are recognized as the Third Pole, housing one of the world's largest repositories of freshwater.

These glaciers act as vital "water towers," sustaining Pakistan's agriculture and water supply.

In addition, the Spantik Open Laboratory, a major scientific initiative launched in Arandu Valley, Shigar (Baltistan), is promoting field-based glaciological research. This facility includes the installation of Automatic Weather Stations, Hydrometric Stations, and

survey operations across Chogolungma Glacier and Spantik Peak. The lab's primary goal is to provide insights into the health and dynamics of glaciers, particularly whether they are stable or retreating due to climate change.

These initiatives aim to foster a culture of scientific inquiry and evidence-based research in Pakistan. Through its continued efforts, EvK2CNR is contributing to a deeper understanding of climate change impacts and supporting the development of adaptive strategies for long-term sustainability.

Furthermore, EvK2CNR has also formulated management and operational plans for Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) and Deosai National Park (DNP).