

Press Conference: Eco Everest Expedition 2008

12-Feb-2008

A press conference on the Eco Everest Expedition 2008 that is being conducted in partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Asian Trekking and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was organised at Hotel Radisson, Kathmandu on 11th February 2008. Mr. Madhav Karki, deputy director of ICIMOD, Dawa Steven Sherpa, marketing director of Asian Trekking and Mr. Pradeep Mool, remote sensing specialist from ICIMOD spoke to the media about the expedition during this conference.



This expedition is being organised on the occasion of Silver jubilee of ICIMOD with an aim of attracting the global attention to the problems of melting glaciers due to climate change and threat posed to local community and infrastructure due to Glacier Lakes Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and raising the awareness of environment conservation of fragile mountain ecosystem. The expedition is being led by Dawa Steven Sherpa of Nepal who climbed Everest in the spring of 2007. Ken Noguchi, the famous Japanese climber and Alpinist, and other renowned Everest summiteers are also joining this expedition. However, Mr. Noguchi himself will not be scaling the summit. He will transverse from the northern slope of Everest and will join the base camp in the Nepal side.

This initiative aims to raise awareness on the impact of climate change in the Himalayas and in particular the Everest region of Nepal and sensitise the local community in building their capacity for reducing the risks from potential GLOFs. The expedition will climb Mount Everest, the highest peak of the world in the spring of 2008 and in parallel; a scientific research team will conduct a detailed field investigations to study the climate change impacts on glaciers, glacial lakes and risk posed by the potential dangerous glacier lakes due to GLOFs.

The Everest region was identified as one of the hotspots of glacial activity in Nepal Himalaya due to climate change. Out of 20 potential dangerous lakes, 12 lakes lie in this region and the recent study released by UNEP and ICIMOD on the occasion of world environment 2007 reported that Imja glacier is the fastest retreating glaciers in the entire Himalaya. The region had already faced the devastating consequences of Dig Tsho GLOF in 1985.

Special efforts will be made to involve local organisations and community including the private sector for contributions to form a broader coalition in the partnership. The expedition also intends to raise funds to build the capacity of local community for monitoring and early warning systems of potential GLOFs.

More than 70 people from different media houses were present at this Eco Everest Expedition 2008 conference. The official website- <http://www.ecoeverest.net.np> of the Eco Everest Expedition 2008 was also launched at this press conference.

Read more about Eco Everest Expedition 2008 at:

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7240235.stm
- http://www.theuiaa.org/news_detail.php?ID=39
- http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Everest_expedition_in_Hillarys_memory/articleshow/2774829.cms
- <http://www.nepalmountainnews.com/news.php>
- <http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=36106>
- <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/archive/2008/feb/feb12/news04.php>
- <http://www.ekantipur.com>
- <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com>

[Source: <http://menris.icimod.net>]