

groups: local farmers, the ICIMOD/MRM & UBC teams and a number of graduate students. Farmers became an integral part of the field monitoring programme. Typically up to 40 farmers are employed on a part-time basis to carry out a number of tasks such as measuring daily rainfall, collecting daily sediment samples, making discharge measurements, monitoring erosion plots and assisting in reclamation work. Many of them allowed us to use their fields as a research laboratory, and all participated in the socio-economic surveys.

The MRM team was made up of a core group consisting of a soil scientist, geologist, geographer, and hydrologist. Additional members, participating on a contract basis, included an agronomist, land use specialist, engineer and several assistants with various backgrounds. The UBC team provided expertise in GIS training, hydrology, soil, land use and socio-economic analysis. Finally, many graduate students participated in the project and they came from many different areas and had experience in forestry, agronomy, soil, hydrology, economics and geography.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL HINDUKUSH CULTURAL CONFERENCE, CHITRAL (PAKISTAN), 26-30 AUGUST 1995

Conference report by Hermann Kreutzmann

The 3rd International Hindukush Conference was held at the centennial of the Chitral Siege of 1895 in the heart of the eastern Hindukush. This auspicious date commemorates the event which led to British colonial domination of this mountainous district. About two decades after the decolonization took place, Chitral was fully integrated into Pakistan in 1969. Nevertheless, this former principality remains a remote valley society since communication is interrupted in winter and a project to link it with down country Pakistan through a tunnel road still awaits implementation.

Chitral, the administrative centre of Pakistan's northernmost district in the North-West Frontier Province (N.W.F.P) for the second time hosted an international conference. Due to the activities of the local cultural association, Anjuman-e-Taraqqi Khovar, it had become feasible to repeat the organisation of a conference with more than 100 scholars in attendance.

Following the First Hindukush Conference¹ held in Moesgård (Denmark) in 1970, it took twenty years to organise the follow-up meeting. One of the most encouraging experiences of this meeting was that more than half of the 54 presentations were made by

¹ The proceedings of this meeting were published by Karl Jettmar in collaboration with Lennart Edelberg (1974): *Cultures of the Hindukush*. Selected papers from the Hindukush Cultural Conference held at Moesgard 1970 (*Beiträge zur Südasiensforschung 1*). Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner.

scholars of the N.W.F.P. A majority were Chitral-based researchers. Topics included environmental issues, economic and cultural geography, cultural anthropology, development and socio-economic issues, languages and literature and economic and political history. The majority of the presentations were made in English, while Urdu and Khowar were introduced in the paper sessions as well as during the *mushaira*, the poets' evening.

The broad range of topics addressed reflected the wish articulated by Peter Parkes at the previous conference to more extensively cover all areas --spatial and topical-- of Hindukush research in Pakistan.³ While previous meetings were dominated by foreign-based anthropological and folkloristic Kalasha research, the spectrum had been widened and recent problems of Chitral environment, health and nutrition situation, history, economy and society were addressed. Delegates from North American, European, Japanese and Pakistani research and academic institutions attended the meeting. Practitioners in the fields of health and rural development and activists from environmental groups and development agencies were represented as well as missionaries from the Summer School of Linguistics. The exploitation of natural resources such as timber, and attempts for control and preservation were discussed within the perspective of local versus external interests and development versus self-determination or incorporating it. Saifullah Jan advocated more

³ See Peter Parkes (1990): Hindu Kush Cultural Conference. In: *BASAS Bulletin. The Newsletter of the British Association for South Asian Studies*. N° 13, November 1990, pp. 6-8.

active participation of local residents in decision-making processes concerning their immediate environment and basic needs. The detrimental effects of outsiders as self-appointed local representatives were highlighted and triggered a controversial discussion. Special emphasis was put on socio-economic problems such as agricultural potential, utilisation of high pastures and future possibilities of land use in high mountain regions as perceived by development agents. Gender relations and the position of women in the rural economy were discussed as indicators for change. Broad attention was given to local history. Evidence from personal records, archival sources and oral tradition was introduced in order to enhance the scattered knowledge of Chitral history. Different viewpoints and subjective selections from source materials stimulated a discussion on former social hierarchies, the role of hereditary rulers and of important personalities for the regional development of Chitral and its external relations. Because the host association derives its name and its major field of activities from a concern for the oral and written preservation of the Khowar language, a number of contributions was devoted to the study of linguistics and folk traditions. The range covered varied topics of toponymic relevance, modern poetry, language and culture including neighbouring languages such as Kalasha, Dameli, Palulo, Shina, Kohistani, Balti and Burushaski. In addition to papers concerned with Chitral, results from comparative mountain research were presented covering topics of the neighbouring regions of the Afghan Hindukush in the west and the Karakoram-Himalaya in the east.

The final resolutions of the meeting addressed the pressing problems of research and institutional backing which are needed for the establishment of a Hindukush Research Institute. The idea was born five years ago during the previous meeting. The text is presented here in order to draw the attention of a wider audience towards the discussion of concerned scholars in the Hindukush.

Resolutions of the Third International Hindukush Cultural Conference

The resolutions of this conference are in continuation and amplification or modification of the resolutions of the Second International Hindukush Conference held five years ago.

The current conference deliberated on many facets of two interrelated issues of crucial concern to the people of the area: (1) environment in the larger sense, which includes both the natural/physical environment, and the cultural environment; and (2) development, again in a broad sense. The conference also retains and reaffirms decisions of the previous conference related to improving the educational, intellectual, and research-related resources of the area.

The natural and cultural environment are intimately related, every culture develops in a specific natural environment. Just as when the natural habitat of an animal or plant species is damaged or destroyed, the species itself is endangered, when the physical environment which has nurtured a particular culture is degraded, the culture itself is endangered. Thus, anyone concerned with the preservation of a culture or cultures, **must** address oneself to both types of issues simultaneously.

Physical/Natural Environment

Several issues of immediate concern to the people of the area have been discussed. They include the growing problem of pollution (air, water, and urban environment), which has reached even previously relatively pristine Chitral. Air pollution from faulty vehicles and diesel generators is increasing; the Chitral Gol and River are increasingly polluted, since there is no means for solid waste disposal other than dumping in the river. Deforestation continues to increase, with the result that the forests of Chitral are in danger of vanishing completely.

Given this situation, the conference urges the Government at all levels, as well as private individuals and concerned groups, to take steps to:

- * work toward a co-ordinated program of environmental education in the schools of the area.
- * increase efforts to develop environmental awareness in the adult population, through radio presentations in the Khowar-language program, public meetings, and in the creative work of local poets and writers.
- * give urgent priority to developing environment-friendly, renewable energy sources, particularly:

a. both small and large-scale hydroelectric power plants. Chitral has enough potential hydroelectric power to produce power far in excess of its own needs and to supply power to the rest of the country.

b. low-cost, simple solar technology (e. g. water heaters or cookers), which can save the country's fossil fuel and forest resources, as well as improve the standard of living of the people.

* identify on an emergency basis, species of plants, trees, animals, and birds that are in immediate danger of depletion or extinction. The juniper tree is one such species. Not only birds that are hunted for food, but many species of smaller birds have had their numbers severely diminished within the last fifteen years. Work toward specific legislative measures is needed to protect these species.

Toward these ends, it is suggested:

* that a locally-based "Environment Protection Council", consisting of concerned citizens of Chitral, be established, with the role of initiating, facilitating, and co-ordinating efforts of both Government and private initiatives for environmental protection.

Cultural Environment

The cultural heritage of Chitral and the larger Hindukush/Karakoram region is immensely rich. The conference recommends:

* that the intrinsic value of regional and minority cultures be respected. This implies taking steps to ensure that indigenous expressions of cultural values not be degraded, distorted, or commercialised in the interest of tourism or sensationalism. In particular:

The present conference reaffirms the convictions expressed in the previous conference that:

* historically, valuable artefacts and archival resources existing in Chitral must be preserved, maintained, and catalogued. Such work

could be one of the initial tasks undertaken by the Hindukush Research Centre being proposed in these Resolutions.

* historical buildings and sites (including forts, palaces, mosques, and ancient house styles) should be preserved. Selected sites should be designated as protected "National Heritage Sites", or "National Historical Buildings", under the protection of the appropriate agency.

* archaeological sites in Chitral should be protected in the same way as archaeological sites in other parts of the country. Such sites should be identified, and responsibility assigned for their protection until such time as carefully planned research programmes for their study can be planned and implemented.

Development

Development projects must be sensitive to their impact on the physical, natural and cultural environment. The conference urges initiators of development efforts, both governmental and non-governmental, to incorporate an environmental and cultural sensitivity component into their planning. Local participation in the planning stages of development projects is essential.

Hindukush Research Institute. The previous conference urged that a multi-disciplinary research institute be established in Chitral, having the following objectives

(1) to provide an interdisciplinary base for scholars, both from Pakistan and abroad.

(2) to provide a centre of attraction for young Chitrali researchers, thus enabling them to develop their interest in research and acquire research experience and skills.

(3) to identify promising young Chitrali scholars, whose educational career could be furthered with advanced training in the appropriate disciplines, both in Pakistan and abroad.

(4) to house a research library, which will house research publications and local archival materials relevant to the region.

(5) to establish a depository and preservation facilities for artefacts of material culture, eventually developing this into a museum with both preservation and educational components.

The present conference reaffirms this goal and resolves that to take the initial steps in bringing such an institute into being the following will be undertaken:

* An **International Association for Hindukush Studies** will be established. Membership of this association will be drawn from Pakistan and abroad. Overseas members will pay a yearly membership fee of \$50 U.S., Pakistani members outside Chitral will pay Rs. 500 per year, and members from Chitral will pay Rs. 200 per year. A bank account will be established in the name of the Hindukush Research Association and part of the subscription money used for recurring overhead expenditures of the Hindukush Research Centre being proposed in this document. Members will, in turn, be entitled to receive an annual newsletter. Conference participants interested in joining the association are requested to indicate their interest to the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee.

* A **Hindukush Research Centre** will be established in Chitral. The Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Khowar, Chitral will appoint a Strategic Planning Committee of five members under the chairmanship of Professor Israr-ud-Din, Chair, Dept. of Geography, Peshawar

University, to develop a constitution including by-laws for the Hindukush Research Centre. The committee will also formulate a Strategic Action Plan, specifying the long-term objectives of the centre, as well as year-by-year steps through which these goals will be achieved. The Strategic Planning Committee will appoint a Consultative Committee of international scholars to collaborate with the local committee and provide requested assistance. The first task of the Strategic Planning Committee will be to develop a PC-I for the centre.

* Resolved that scholars participating in the present conference be requested to send copies, preferably offprints, of their relevant publications to the library of the Hindukush Research Centre.

* Resolved that scholars making research applications indicate the Hindukush research Centre as the local institute with which they will be affiliated. Further, that they budget an amount equal to 2% of the gross amount of their grant for local logistical support from the research centre (e. g., secretarial assistance, local telephone, and local orientation). This financial support will be used to supplement the operating budget of the centre.

* Resolved that the proceedings of the present conference be published as quickly as possible.

* Resolved that the 4th International Hindukush Cultural Conference be held in the year 2000 in Chitral. The theme of this conference will be "Culture, Environment and Development in the Greater Hindukush Region".