

18 December 2020

Dear ICIMOD Partners,

On behalf of ICIMOD, I would like to convey my warmest greetings and would like to inform you that I have formally assumed the role of the Director General of ICIMOD on 15 October 2020, the day on which the first ever (virtual) Ministerial Mountain Summit was held. I have moved to Kathmandu and since November 2020, I am physically attending office after observing the mandatory quarantine.

I believe that the signing of the [Ministerial Declaration on the Hindu Kush Himalayas \(HKH\) Call to Action](#) by the honourable ministers of our regional member countries is not only a historic milestone for ICIMOD but a manifestation of the commitment to increased regional cooperation. Given this very encouraging backdrop, I am confident that ICIMOD will be able to rapidly move towards implementing the [HKH Call to Action](#) to support our mountain areas of the region in their efforts to build a more resilient, secure and prosperous future.

ICIMOD brings together a partnership of eight regional member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan, for serving the mountain and people of the HKH region. Being from the region and having an innate passion for the mountains and people, I fully embrace and appreciate the vision of our founding members and realise that the mission of ICIMOD is more important now than ever before.

Partnership has been the hallmark of ICIMOD to bring about transformative change and in achieving ICIMOD's mission. ICIMOD works diversified network of local, national, regional, and international partner organizations. ICIMOD will continue to adopt 'innovative partnering approach' based on the principles of transparency, equity, synergy and diversity as we proactively strengthen on-going partnerships with our network of partners and welcome new partners.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciations to you for your partnership with ICIMOD and extending your generosity and continuing cooperation. With the support from partner organizations like yours, we have been able to contribute to strengthen regional cooperation; to promote mountain agenda in regional and global stages; enhance human and institutional capacity; encourage mountain-friendly policy and practices; integrate gender and inclusive development; adoption of innovations; and enhanced use of data and knowledge generated at ICIMOD.

I hope that I will be able to visit and see you soon. Please be assured of our sincere efforts in serving the mountain and people of the HKH region.

Thank you and looking forward to a fruitful partnership.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pema Gyamtsho', with a small horizontal line above the 'h'.

Pema Gyamtsho, Ph.D
Director General