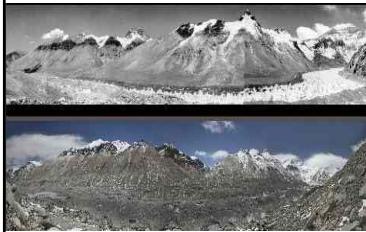


The road to ... HIGHNOON



Anastasios Kentarchos
Climate Change and Environmental Risks Unit
Environment Directorate, DG - Research
European Commission

Open Science Seminar, New Delhi, India 13-14 May 2009

- **'1st EU-India Strategic Science and Technology Workshop: 'Climate change research needs'** New Delhi, India (8-9 February 2007)
- **Objective:** Bring together leading scientists on climate change research from Europe and India in order to discuss current research activities, results and research needs in the following - commonly agreed - areas:
 - 1) *climate change and air quality*
 - 2) *climate change impacts and extreme events*
 - 3) *adaptation and mitigation strategies*

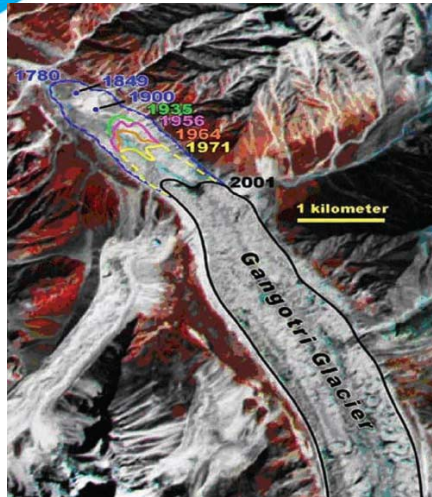
The workshop was organised by the **European Commission, DG-Research, Environment Directorate**, in close collaboration with:

- EC Delegation in India
- TERI
- WMO
- Department of Science and Technology, India
- Ministry of Earth Sciences, India

Key note speakers:

- **Mr. Janez Potočnik** (*European Commissioner for Research*)
- **Dr. P. S. Goel**, (*Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, India*)
- **Dr. R.K. Pachauri** (*Chair IPCC/DG TERI*)
- **Prof. P. Taalas** (*Director DCR, WMO*)
- **Dr. T. Ramasami** (*Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, India*)
- **Dr. E. Lipiatou** (*HoU, Climate Change and Environmental Risks Unit, EC*)

After careful consideration of the proposed areas for further research, it was decided to have a call for proposals in the area of **Himalayan glaciers retreat**.



Topic of high scientific and societal importance !

IPCC 4AR: 'Glaciers in the Himalaya are receding faster than in any other part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the Earth keeps warming at the current rate'
'as a consequence of climate change could likely affect the economies in the region'.

- **ENV.2008.1.1.6.1** Impacts of Himalayan glaciers retreat and monsoon pattern change on the water resources in Northern India, and adaptation strategies
(*Specific International Cooperation Action: new FP7 tool designed to facilitate international cooperation actions*)
- 9 proposals received !
- **HIGHNOON** received the highest score from the panel of independent experts

A year after the workshop...

Second visit in India:

- *Series of meetings with Indian officials, scientists and NGO representatives*
- Extensive discussions on current and planned initiatives on climate change research in India and the EU
- Aim: learn from each other, strengthen contacts and cooperation between India and EU.

Today: Open Science Seminar – join forces with WATCH

- **WATCH: Integrated Research Project on Water and Global Change**
- **Coordinated by the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, NERC, UK**
- **25 research institutes and universities**
- **funded under the EU's FP6 (~ 10 m €)**
- **Aim: Brings together the hydrological, water resources and climate communities to analyse, quantify and predict the components of the current and future global water cycles and related water resources states and clarify the overall vulnerability of global water resources.**
- **Importance of WATCH: Providing policy makers with a consistent and clear assessment of flows, floods and droughts for present and future scenario's.**
- **Logical partner for such collaboration**

The way forward

- **Link the efforts of HIGHNOON and WATCH with relevant Indian national efforts/programs:**
- Efficient use of resources, datasets and methodologies
- Transfer of knowledge
- Establish stronger links between the respective European and Indian research communities
- multiply the impact of the all these research activities (in order to provide –the very much needed- solid answers to policy makers).

wishes for a fruitful meeting !

