



International Symposium on Changing Cryosphere, Water Availability and Sustainable Development in Central Asia

First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

First Circular

Urumqi, China

October 10–12, 2011

Sponsored by

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
National Nature Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
The Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST)
International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)
International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
Climate and Cryosphere (CliC)
Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Co-sponsored by

State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences, CAREERI, CAS
Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI), CAS
Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), CAS
Technische Universität Dresden (TUD)
Central Asian Institute for Applied Geophysics
International Glaciological Society (IGS)
The Third Pole Environment (TPE)
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



Background

Central Asia is an extremely arid region and contains several larger plateaus and deserts. The river drainages in Central Asia are unique, the ecosystems are complex and diverse, but also extremely fragile. These harsh conditions lead to the poor developments of local economies. But Central Asia exhibits the most vast cryospheric system at its latitude of northern hemisphere, and stores enormous water resources. However, global climate change during the last decades of the 20th century has led to significant changes in the cryosphere of Central Asia, with diminished water resources, altered hydrological cycles, and growing environmental problems. Hence, water availability and quality are the most pressing issues for sustainable development in Central Asia

Currently, a number of joint projects and individual initiatives in different regions and countries are being carried out to study the changing climate and cryosphere, which can exert a significant influence on water resources and sustainable development, especially in Central Asia. However, there is a lack of coordination and cooperation between projects, resulting in lost synergies. As for the cryosphere, it's time for us to integrate all the results about its changes, obtained by the various methodological approaches including field studies, numerical modeling and space based technologies, and to assess its impacts.

Objectives

This international symposium aims to -to strengthen cooperation especially amongst experts working in the Central Asian countries;

- to establish a baseline for the condition and trend of Central Asia's cryosphere;
- to quantify the influences of cryospheric changes on water resources, environment, and sustainable development;
- to outline measure to adaptive to cryospheric changes;
- to provide a platform to discuss methodological approaches;
- to define research needs and priorities.

Main Topics

The suggested topics include:

1. The climate and climate change in Central Asia
2. The condition and trend of cryosphere in Central Asia
3. The role of changing cryosphere in the hydrological cycle and water resources
4. The response of ecosystems to cryospheric and consequent hydrologic change
5. The impact of changing cryosphere on development trajectories.
6. Integrated management of water resources under a changing cryosphere/climate
7. Networked monitoring and data management
8. Research needs and priorities

Abstract Submission Form and Address

Submission address:

Please submit your abstract to xieaih@lzb.ac.cn and tobias.bolch@geo.uzh.ch at the same time. The online submission address will be informed after the conference website is opened.

Submission form:

<input type="checkbox"/> Oral presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster presentation (A0 size)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Scientific topic		
Title of presentation		
Author (s) and their affiliations (mailing address, telephone, fax, e-mail)		
Abstract (400 words)		

