The high mountains of Asia are estimated to contain one of the greatest concentrations of glacier ice outside the polar regions, and supply the headwaters of rivers that support agriculture and livelihoods of over one billion people. Changes in snow, ice and permafrost due to climatic change will impact water resources, ecosystems and hydroelectric power generation, and will aggravate natural hazards. To understand these impacts, the International Glaciological Society (IGS) Symposium on Glaciology in High Mountain Asia will provide a forum to discuss advances in measurements, modeling, and interpretation of glaciological and cryospheric changes in high mountain Asia.

As the field of glaciology intersects with both atmospheric and hydrologic sciences, the symposium will also focus on linkages between atmospheric processes and cryospheric change and the downstream impacts in the region. The meeting will bring together nearly 250 scientists from over 26 countries around the region and around the world to provide an overview of the state of science with respect to the glaciers, snowpack and permafrost of the Himalayan, Hindu-Kush, Karakoram, Tien Shan, Pamir, and Tibetan Plateau regions. To celebrate this, the IGS has decided to publish a special issue of the *Annals of Glaciology*, with Dr Graham Cogley as Chief Editor.

With the generous support of a large number of organizations, we have been able to assist over 60 students with their travel to the symposium. Students bring tremendous energy and enthusiasm to events such as these, and interactions with leading scientists and researchers from around the world will help glaciological science in the region grow and flourish.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development and the International Glaciological Society, we would like to welcome you to Kathmandu and the Symposium on Glaciology in High Mountain Asia. Kathmandu is a city rich in history, culture, and religion, and I hope you get the chance to do some exploring. During the symposium, we would encourage you to interact with as many people as possible, to share your knowledge, opinions, and ideas, and to help build a legacy for future glaciological research in this critical region.

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