**Sustainable Natural Resource Use in Arctic and High Mountainous Areas [SUNRAISE]**

**International Stakeholders’ Workshop**

**[21 May 2018]**

**Department of Geography, Kumaun University, Nainital**

**Recommendations of the Workshop**

The Department of Geography, Kumaun University, Nainital organized one-day Stakeholders' Workshop in Nainital on 21 May 2018. The main objective of the Workshop was to obtain the feedback and suggestions from a wide range of stakeholders including academic institutions, government organizations, training institutes, research and development organizations, Non Governmental Organizations and private sectors; and incorporate the highly relevant proposals in the mountain specific multi-disciplinary curriculum development process in higher education system of the Himalayan Universities. More than 40 participants from Kumaun University and its affiliated colleges, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, University of Salzburg, Austria; Uttarakhand Academy of Administration, Nainital; Central Himalayan Environment Association, Nainital participated in the workshop and interacted with the resource persons. The workshop panellists included Professor Juergen Breuste, University of Salzburg, Austria; Professor P. K. Joshi, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaherlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Dr. Pankaj Tewari, Executive Director, Central Himalayan Environment Association, Nainital. The recommendations of the Workshop are as follows:

1. The process of urban growth is not only rapid but also unplanned and unsystematic in the Himalayan Region, and this has not only emerged as one of the major drivers of land use change and depletion of natural resources. In view of this, Sustainable Mountain Urban Development should be included in the higher education curriculum across the Himalayan Universities.
2. It was suggested by almost all the participants that in order to conserve natural resources and ensure the well being of local communities the knowledge on 'Integrated Mountain Development' should be created and incorporated in Master's Programme in Geography, Environmental Sciences and Social Sciences in the higher education institutions in the Himalayan Region.
3. It was deliberated and agreed upon that improvement of rural livelihood is now being considered as basis of rural development in the mountain region where due to constraints of terrain and climate subsistence farming constitutes the main source of rural livelihood. Hence, the livelihood opportunities in non-traditional sectors, specifically ecological tourism, value addition and marketing need to be explored through their induction in higher education curriculum.
4. It was recommended that climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programme should be integrated into the overall process of development planning at watershed level in the Himalayan mountains, and this should find important place in the higher education system.
5. Most of the stakeholders strongly recommended that documentation and preservation of mountain traditional knowledge need to included in higher education programmes as this is being urgently required not only for the sustainable natural resources governance; but also for evolving effective strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in mountain regions.
6. Forest, Water and Biodiversity Conservation emerged as one of the important components for higher education system in Himalaya.
7. Besides, both panellists and participants observed that specific training modules should be developed on key identified mountain specific issues such as, sustainable mountain urban development; climate change adaptation, improving rural livelihood; disaster risk reduction, documentation and preservation of traditional knowledge; and incorporated in training programmes organized for university faculty and policy planners in different Training Institutes located in the Himalayan Region.