



Preface

The Great Himalayan conference is a part of the continuing efforts of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society (AEHMS) to organize and convene symposia on world habitats of importance focusing on topics and issues of environmental nature. This is not the first time that the AEHMS got involved with the enchanting Himalayas. During 1998 a monograph entitled “*Top of the world Environmental Research: Mount Everest-Himalayan Ecosystem*” (Baudo, Tartari and Munawar, Eds.) was published under the Ecovision World Monograph Series. In fact since the publication of this book the Society has been planning to convene a conference on the Great Himalayas about which very little is known. Finally after considerable effort the dream was realized when all of us assembled in Katmandu during January, 2004. A large number of papers were presented from delegates originating from 10 countries on various aspects of Himalayan ecosystem and other environments which were arranged under the following categories:

Physical, chemical and geological regime
Biodiversity
Ecosystem health
Watershed conservation
Socio-economics, tourism, management

The AEHMS does not publish proceedings of its conferences. The book of program and abstracts serves as a record of presentations. Traditionally and regularly the AEHMS publishes peer reviewed papers from its meetings either in its journal: *Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management* or in its book series: *Ecovision World Monograph Series*. This is the first time that the Society has agreed to develop an electronic Proceedings due to the requests of the conference participants and the host organization Katmandu University as per the recommendations of conference panel discussion. It was decided during the panel discussion that full papers will be submitted to the journal whereas the Proceedings will be restricted only to 4 pages. As promised guidelines and instructions to authors were developed and supplied to authors by the AEHMS. Approximately 20 papers have been received for the Proceedings which underwent time consuming technical and linguistic editing conducted by the Society in Canada. The Proceedings is not peer reviewed and authors are totally responsible for its contents. The main objective of the electronic proceedings is to establish a data base on the Great Himalayas, to inform and involve all those interested in Himalayan conservation who could not attend the Katmandu conference, and to promote the activities of the newly established AEHMS Working Group on the Great Himalayas.

We hope that the book of program/abstracts posted on the AEHMS website together with the electronic Proceedings will provide initial insights in to the unknown world of the Himalayan ecosystems containing a great variety of remotely located habitats ranging from ultra-oligotrophic conditions to those threatened by recently imposed human stressors, commercialism, exploitation, and tourism. We hope that the Proceedings will be followed by peer reviewed publications in our journal to generate a long lasting record of environmental research dealing with the Himalayan ecosystem health for the future. The AEHMS has decided to post the Proceeding for a period of 6 months on its web site during which period the papers should be cited when referred in the following fashion:

Author...

2004

title of the paper

In: Great Himalayan Ecosystem Health, AEHMS Web Proceedings #1, www.aehms.org

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Baudo, R., Tartari, G., Munawar, M., (Eds.), 1998. *Top of the World Environmental Research: Mount Everest-Himalayan Ecosystem* The Great Ecovision World Monograph Series, Backhuys Publishers, The Netherlands, 293 pp.

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