

9th INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU) CONFERENCE

ON

**LAND USE CHANGE, CLIMATE EXTREMES
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

First Circular

MARCH 18-20, 2016



**Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity
Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change
Commission on Hazards and Risk
Commission on Geopark**

Organized by



**Department of Geography
Shaheed Bhagat Singh College
University of Delhi, Delhi, India
www.igusbsc2016.org**

THE HOST ORGANIZATION

Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, named after the great martyr of India, Shaheed-e-Azam, Sardar Bhagat Singh, was established as a co-educational institution in 1967 as a constituent college of University of Delhi. The College takes pride in having accomplished faculties in eight departments including Geography. The college is fully equipped with digital library, computer labs and Geography lab with latest GIS and Remote Sensing equipments and impressive infrastructure. Over a period of forty eight years, the college has distinguished itself in diverse academic and professional fields by providing a vibrant and intellectually stimulating academic culture and promoting independence of thoughts and visions.

THE HOST DEPARTMENT

The Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College is well known for its academic pursuit and excellence in University of Delhi and all over India. The department was established in 1969 and since then it has been nurtured by renowned and pioneer Geographers. The founders of the Department laid a very strong foundation with their explicit knowledge and immense hard work. Presently, all the faculty members who are doctorates and technically sound are specialists in various branches of the discipline of Geography and carry on several projects associated to UGC and other research organizations. It is because of the continuous efforts and progressive outlook of all, that the Department has acquired lot of prestige amongst other departments in the university.

The Department of Geography has always committed for excellence. Along with the theoretical framework, the well-equipped laboratories facilitate the students to learn and enhance their skills through practical application in the fields of Cartography, Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. The field trips and excursions conducted by the department as part of academic curriculum enables the students to learn and acquire real knowledge about environment, society and culture thereby promoting the applied aspects and new age of learning in Geography that transcends the formal classroom sessions.

DELHI: THE HOST CITY

Historically, Delhi, the capital city of India has been developed and evolved over centuries. Delhi today is an incredible combination of the ancient and the contemporary structures. Delhi has been the magnet, which drew the Mongols, Turks, Persians, Afghans, Mughals and the British, all of whom contributed to its glorious past. Today, the city of Delhi attracts tourist from Indian and foreign alike as being the cultural, economic and political capital of the largest democracy in the world. The growth of Indian economy has provided Delhi with a new identity of global business city. Being capital city, Delhi has multi-cultural character due to waves of migration occurring from various backgrounds and parts of the country in different time periods of history. The physical growth of city has led to the development of many sub-urban centers around Delhi giving it a character of a living city with communication network acting as its arteries. Delhi has also got its identity due to presence of finest education institutes in all disciplines viz. University of Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Hamdard, Ambedkar University, Delhi Technical University and Indira Gandhi National Open University. Delhi is sprinkled with dazzling gems: captivating ancient monuments, fascinating museums and art galleries, architectural wonders, a

vivacious performing-art scenes, fabulous eating places and bustling markets. Delhi is well connected by Air, Rail and Road. The altitude of Delhi city is 293 m above sea level. It has total population of 16.78 million as per the Census of India, 2011. Delhi enjoys diversity in weather conditions ranging from chilling winters, hot summers and wet monsoon seasons. The city has temperature between 45°C (Max.) usually in May – June and 5°C (Min.) usually in December-January. The March (spring) is the best time to visit the city of Delhi.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU)

The IGU is an international non-governmental, professional organization engaged in the development of the discipline of Geography. IGU is devoted to promote Geography through initiating and coordinating geographical research and teaching throughout the world by network of its National Committees, Commissions and Task Forces. The first International Geographical congress met in 1871 in Antwerp, subsequently leading to establishment of IGU in 1922 in Brussels. The Union consists of three major components: a General Assembly of the delegates appointed by the member countries; an Executive Committee which consists of a President, eight Vice-Presidents and a Secretary-General and Treasurer; Commissions and Task forces, which continue their work between General Assembly meetings. The IGU hosts the International Geographical Congress every four years and also promotes regional conferences and other meetings. The IGU adheres to the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), which it recognizes as coordinating bodies for the international organization of science. IGU has 41 commissions working in various sub-disciplines of Geography ranging from physical aspects of the earth to socio-economic issues. The major commissions collaborating in the event are Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, Commission on Hazard and Risk, Commission on Land use and cover changes and Commission on Geopark.

The Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity works to explore and exploit the diversity of ecosystems as a discipline within Geography. Commission on Hazard and Risk is devoted to improve links with agencies working for hazard and risk management. The Commission has close links to the several international disaster prevention associations and work with IRDR commission. It is engaged to work on the role of Geography in disaster management. The Commission on Land use and cover changes has major aim to enhance research on land use and land cover change. Geographers make a variety of contributions in this field, from both natural science and socio-economic perspectives. The major objectives of the Commission are to stimulate the production and the use of land-use information bases and to coordinate the comparative and model study of land use and land cover changes. The commission on the Geopark is devoted to study Geopark network across the world. The commission also publishes International Journal of Geoheritage.

THRUST AREAS OF THE CONFERENCE

The global temperatures have risen unusually rapidly over the last century. There is strong evidence of increases in average global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising sea levels. The increasing frequency and magnitude of disasters in general and climate change induced disasters in particular are posing threat to lives and livelihood at both global and local level. The poor people residing in developing countries are the most vulnerable to such impending changes. In the recent past, the Indian sub-continent has experienced several disaster events viz. Tsunami and Earthquakes in Indian Ocean (2004), Nepal Earthquake (2015), Bhuj

Earthquake (2001), Srinagar Flash Flood (2014), Kedarnath Floods (2013), Leh Flood (2010), etc. These disasters have far reaching impacts on agriculture, water resources, urban areas, forest and biodiversity, ecosystem changes. The flora and fauna also have severe impacts due to changing climate and recurring disasters. The Himalayan mega geo-bio diversity ecosystems will be one of the most vulnerable areas of the world. In present scenario, the land use and land cover changes are the major contributor to the increasing concentration of GHGs through decreasing carbon sink due to deforestation, increasing carbon release due to extensive tillage, emissions from newly developed and growing urban settlements, increased methane emission from expanding paddy fields, etc.

Therefore, in Indian context, the conference will highlight the vulnerability of fragile ecosystems like Himalaya, Western Ghats, and Ganges-Brahmaputra River System and provides platform to academicians, scientific community and policy makers from various backgrounds and disciplines to interact on such similar critical issues faced by the global society. It will focus upon the use of traditional knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels. It is also very important to reduce the underlying risk factors and strengthen the pre-existing methodologies disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. In this context the conference aims to discuss the causes, impacts and mitigation strategy to reduce the losses caused due to land use and land cover changes, climate change and disasters.

FOCAL THEMES

Land Use Change, Climate Extremes and Disaster Risk Reduction

SUB THEMES

- Land use and climate change
- Land use change and biodiversity
- Environmental change and extreme events
- Himalayan environment
- Geopark potential in South Asia
- Disaster risk reduction
- Environmental sustainability and developmental concerns
- Human health and well being
- Governance and Policies: Land use, climate and disaster

SPECIAL SESSIONS

- South Asian Perspectives on the implementation of the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030
- Theory of Himalayan environment degradation- Journey from Messerli/Ives to UN Mountain Agenda
- Future Earth initiatives for South Asia
- Urban health and social wellbeing

CALL FOR PAPERS

The organizers invite research papers and posters from all interested academicians and researchers at the 9th IGU Conference on Land Use Change, Climate Extremes and Disaster Risk Reduction.

There shall be oral presentations as well as poster presentations in the conference. Interested author(s) are requested to submit the abstract (not exceeding 300 words) of their original research contribution through conference website (www.igusbsc2016.org) on or before December 31, 2015. The abstract of the paper should be typed in Times New Roman (12 Font Size) with 1.5 Space with title of the paper, name of the author(s), affiliation, e-mail address besides the content. Author(s) will be informed through e-mail about the acceptance of their abstracts by January 15, 2016. Thereafter, the contributors are requested to send their registration fee by January 31, 2016. Full paper in MS Word format should reach to the Convener by conference e-mail (igusbsc2016@sbs.du.ac.in) attachment before February 15, 2016. The accepted papers will be published as full text in the conference proceedings under Springer series Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Submission of Abstract: December 31, 2015

Intimation of Acceptance: January 15, 2016

Registration: January 31, 2016

Submission of Full Paper: February 15, 2016

Conference Dates: March 18 - 20, 2016

Field visit: Central Himalaya, (Visit sites/themes include Green Revolution area of Uttar Pradesh, Mountain forest and lakes, Water induced disaster and Landslide prone regions, Upper Catchment of Ganga basin, Urbanization in Himalaya) (Charges extra)

REGISTRATION FEE (without accommodation)

Conference Delegates	On or before 31 st January, 2016	After 31 st January, 2016
Indian Delegates	INR 2500	INR 3500
Research Scholars and University of Delhi Delegates	INR 1500	INR 2000
International Delegates	USD 200	USD 250
Institutional/Corporate Delegates	INR 4000	INR 5000

Registration fee includes conference materials, tea, lunch and conference dinner.

Registration is compulsory for all participants. *Registration form is available on website www.igusbsc2016.org.* Downloaded and filled registration form can be sent by e-mail along with scanned copy of fee transfer / DD in favor of “Principal, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Delhi”, payable at New Delhi. The registration fee can also be deposited / transferred online through RTGS/NEFT/Net Banking. Please update the payment details on the conference website. The details for online transfer are as follows:

Bank name: UNION BANK OF INDIA
 IFSC Code: UBIN0570397
 Swift Code: UBININBBNDL
 Account Number: 355701011012002

ACCOMMODATION

Participants should arrange their accommodation; however the organizers will extend all possible assistance towards the same. A list of hotels and guest houses (in all ranges) will be provided. Please visit the website for updates (www.igusbsc2016.org).

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Kazuo Tomozawa (Japan), Hiroshima University
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E. Milanova (Russia), Moscow State University
P. Prokop (Poland), Polish Academy of Sciences

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Patron

Dr. P.K. Khurana

Principal,

Shaheed Bhagat Singh College

Convener

Dr Suraj Mal

Department of Geography

E-mail: suraj.mal@sbs.du.ac.in

Co-Conveners

Dr VAV Raman

Department of Geography

E-mail: vav.raman@sbs.du.ac.in

Dr Poonam Sharma

Department of Geography

E-mail: poonam.sharma@sbs.du.ac.in

Treasurer

Dr VR Sharma

Department of Geography

Email: vrsharma2002@gmail.com

Members

Dr Kavita Arora

Dr Swati Rajput

Dr Anil Sardana

Dr Kulanand Sharma

Dr Arun Kumar Kaushal

Dr Sonika Sharma

Dr Pooja Ananad Gulati

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Dr Anupama M Hasija

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To,

From:

Dr. Suraj Mal (Convener)

Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College
Sheikh Sarai Phase I

New Delhi – 110017, INDIA

Email: igusbsc2016@sbs.du.ac.in

website: <http://www.igusbsc2016.org>

Phone: +91-9968166893, +91-9810478830, +91-9818104394