

Remembering, Honouring and Celebrating the Life and Achievements of Conservation Heroes

NEPAL: Training a new generation of conservation leaders

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Seminar hosted by OIRED on June 20, 2008

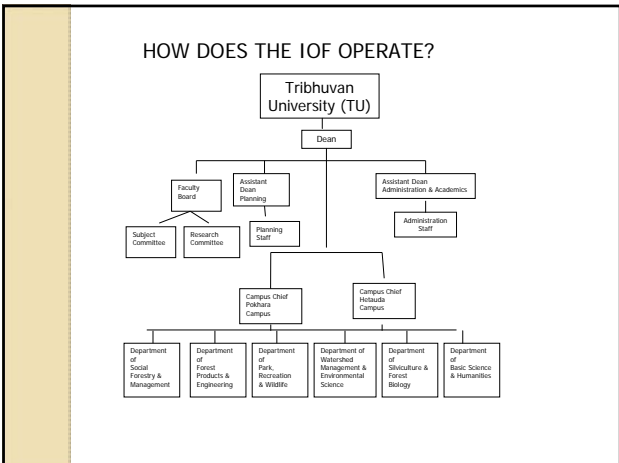


History of The Institute of Forestry (IOF):

- Started as Nepal Forestry Institute in Kathmandu in 1947 under Dept. of Forest HMG/N
- Shifted to Hetauda in 1965 for better physical facilities developed by the Indian Co-operation Mission (ICM)).
- Merged into the Tribhuvan University in July 1972 with a new name "Institute of Forestry".
- Offered a two-year Certificate Level course until 1981
- Expanded its academic programs to Pokhara, with the technical and financial assistance from the World Bank, International Development Agency (IDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

MISSION OF THE IOF

- To design & implement educational programs that can address the current needs & interest the country in the area of forestry
- To develop competent and practically oriented professional foresters and efficient managers in the area of Natural Resource Management
- To develop academic environment and encourage faculty members and students to develop their professional career
- To encourage research activities that can address the practical problems of farmers ad communities at large
- To develop itself as *Center of Excellence* in the area of forestry education





IOF campus in Hetauda

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT IOF

- Technical Certificate in Forestry (TCF): two-year program
- Bachelor's of Science in Forestry (B. Sc. Forestry): four-year Program
- Master's of Science in Forestry: two-year program in
 - General Forestry
 - Natural Resource Management & Rural Development
 - Watershed Management
 - Wildlife Management
- Doctoral Program

Focused courses:

- Silviculture, Forest Management, Community Forestry & Forestry Extension, Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Wildlife & Protected Area Management, Environmental Science, Agroforestry, Research Methodology, Non-Timber Forests Products, Bio-metrics, Geographic Information System (GIS), Genetics & Tree Improvements, Ecotourism & Bufferzone Mgt., Forest Extension, Surveying & Engineering, Forest Mensuration, Forest Products Utilization, Forest Ecology, Forest Engineering, Remote Sensing & Photo Interpretation, Forest Protection,

Scholarships and study grants:

- **Merit scholarship:** Awarded to 25% of students
- **Female student scholarship:** Awarded to both B ScF and TCF Level students by different NGO's, INGO's and other funding agencies.
- **Remote Area Student Scholarship:** Awarded to 5% of the students from remote districts of Nepal for a 10-month academic year.
- **Tharu Community Scholarship:** Awarded to 4 TCF Tharu students
- **Free Studentship:** 25% of the students exempted from tuition fees.

Reservation Policy

1. Regular seats (50):
 - a. 10 % of the total regular seats reserved for female students.
 - b. 5 % of the total regular seats reserved for remote area students.
 - c. 2 seats reserved for Tharu students
 - d. 1 seat reserved for a candidate recommended by the King of Mustang
2. Project seats (25): reserved for students sponsored by different projects, NGOs, and INGOs

Museum and Library cum Documentation Complex

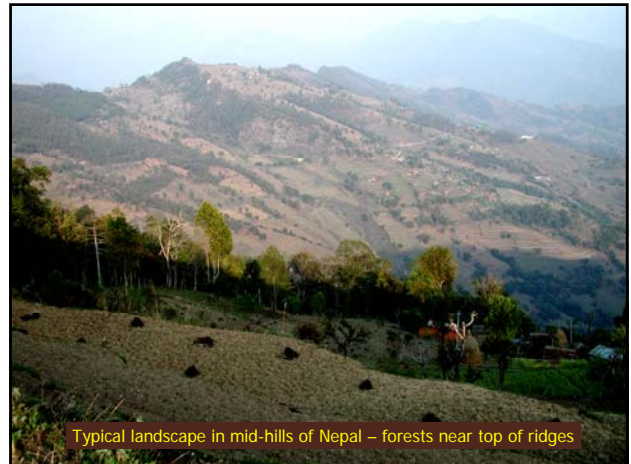
- established under a HMG/Nepal-Govt. of India Project to serve as a teaching aid as well as a tool in extension information services.
- has sections for library, documentation, energy, pathology, herbarium, gene bank and fossil corner, seed museum, harvesting operation and logging, forest management, minor forest produce, utilization, social forestry, entomology, fish and birds of Nepal, wildlife and national park, audio-visuals, and so forth.



Pine forest around the Forest Department Guesthouse at Daman

The Memorial Center of Excellence, IOF

A project supported by
Higher Education for Development
(HED) USAID
and Virginia Tech



Typical landscape in mid-hills of Nepal – forests near top of ridges



Road through rejuvenated forest near Pokhara



Forest recovering as a result of protection by villagers

"The Center, which will be named in honor of those who lost their lives in the September 23, 2006 helicopter crash will **provide quality training in conservation and prepare future generation of environmental leaders in Nepal**, USAID-Nepal stated in a press release Tuesday. USAID-Nepal envisions that the center **will strengthen the capacity of the IOF to educate leading researchers, faculty and professionals in forestry and natural resource conservation**"

From Kantipur; September 25, 2007

24 Victims of the crash

1. Mr. Gopal Rai, Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation
2. Mrs. Gopal Rai
3. Dr. Harka Gurung, Advisor, WWF Nepal
4. Mr. Pauli Mustonnen, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Finland
5. Dr. Damodar Parajuli, Acting Secretary, Forestry and Soil Cons.
6. Mr. Narayan Poudel, Dir. Gen. of Natl. Parks and Wildlife Cons.
7. Mr. Sharad Rai, Director General of Department of Forests
8. Ms. Margaret Alexander, Deputy Director, USAID
9. Dr. Bijnan Acharya, Program Development Specialist, USAID
10. Dr. Jill Bowling, Conservation Director, WWF UK
11. Ms. Jennifer Headley, Coordinator, WWF UK
12. Mr. Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Managing Director, EHEC, WWF US

24 Victims of the crash

13. Mr. Matthew Preece, Program Officer, WWF US
14. Dr. Chandra Gurung, Country Rep., WWF Nepal
15. Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey, Co-Chair, AsRSG
16. Mrs. Yeshi Lama, WWF Nepal
17. Mr. Vijaya Shrestha, Central Committee Member, FNCCI
18. Mr. Hem Raj Bhandari, Journalist with Nepal Television
19. Mr. Sunil Singh, Cameraman, Nepal Television
20. Mr. Dawa Tshering, Chairperson, KCAMC
21. Captain Klim Kim, crew/pilot
22. Mr. Saffron Vallery crew
23. Mr. Mingma Sherpa, Captain
24. Ms. Tandu Shrestha, crew/pilot

Timeline

- Tragic accident in Sept. 2006
- Steering group meets to design project in Nepal
- Request for Applications (RFA) drafted and announced by HED
- RFA proposals deadline June 30th
- Award announced in early August
- Meetings and email began immediately!
- Contract with VT signed in late September 2007

What are HED's goals?

The American Council on Education (ACE) office of Higher Education for Development (HED), herein after referred to as ACE/HED, awards Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech) support for an **Institutional Partnership in Higher Education** under HED's **Collaborative Partnership Program** titled, "Establishment of a Memorial Center of Excellence at IOF."

Initial educational partners

- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
- Institute of Forestry
- Yale University
- Principia College



Partnership

"will involve academics, professionals, private sector representatives, NGO and foundation personnel, government representatives, and local leaders throughout the region."

Objectives of the partnership are to:

1. Establish a Center of Excellence at IOF;
2. Strengthen the professional skills, knowledge, and teaching effectiveness of IOF faculty and staff;
3. Improve the student mentoring skills of IOF faculty;
4. Increase the participation of women; and
5. Ensure the sustainability of the Center of Excellence.

Objective 1: Establish the Memorial Center of Excellence at IOF

Proposed activities:

- Build IOF consensus and support for the mission, goals and objectives of the Center
- Validate Center implementation plan to establish a basic functioning center and monitoring and evaluation indicators to be used to measure progress toward excellence
- Establish a Center office to provide a physical presence and an IOF and project focal point that will be sustainable after project support has ended

Objective 2: Strengthen the professional skills, knowledge and teaching effectiveness of IOF faculty and staff

Proposed activities:

- Review and improve course content in targeted areas
- Promote improved teaching methods of faculty
- Strengthen faculty research skills, knowledge and collaborative networks for teaching in the targeted areas

Objective 3: Improve faculty mentoring skills of IOF students

Proposed activities:

- Develop a structured mentoring program for IOF faculty
- Target especially WWF scholarship students
- Integrate advising into overall project mentoring program

Objective 4: Increase the Participation of Women and Minorities (Social Inclusion)

Proposed activities:

- Improve integration of women students into IOF learning culture
- Expose IOF faculty and students to gender diversity
- Establish a long-term diversity plan

Objective 5: Center of Excellence Sustainability

Proposed activities:

- Review and improve administrative and financial procedures and capabilities for transparent accountability necessary to handle externally-funded grants at the Center of Excellence
- Improve grant-writing capabilities

Scoping mission - November 2007

- Inform the key stakeholders about the project and solicit their involvement and input
- Determine the key needs of the IOF and its students and faculty
- Define the mission and focus of the center
- Plan for the first year of operation

Scoping visit activities

- Preparatory meetings with stakeholders
- Scoping meetings with key stakeholders (today's focus group)
- Focus meetings with faculty and students at Pokhara Campus
- Focus meetings with faculty and students at Hetauda Campus
- Meet to draft mission statement and work plan for year #1

Early activities:

- Established an office; named a director - December 2007
- Official Opening - March 14, 2008
- Symposium on social inclusion
- Visits by US faculty to IOF
- On-campus workshops for faculty
- Directory of alumni (data base)



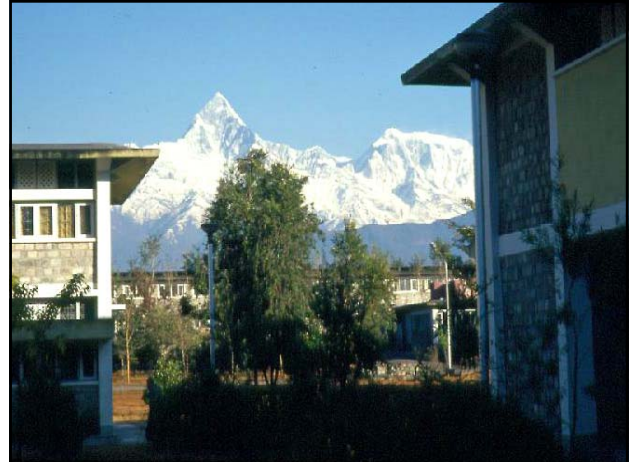
The US Ambassador inaugurates the Center; March 14, 2008



Bill Burch leads a workshop on writing research proposals with IOF faculty; March 2008

Current activities:

- Research grants to faculty in support of teaching and learning
- Faculty exchange (IOF to the US)
- On-line grant writing courses
- Social inclusion programs
- Mentoring of faculty and students
- Library assistance
- Course revisions



Goals:

- Involve more faculty at the IOF
- Find more resources for the IOF
- Link IOF to institutions in the US
- Link IOF to faculty at VT

