नेपाली राजदूतावास
EMBASSY OF NEPAL
Bangkok, Thailand

प्रेस विज्ञप्तिः थाईल्याण्डमा "सगरमाथादेखि समुद्रसम्म" विषयक उच्चस्तरीय क्षेत्रीय सम्बाद सम्पन्न ।

नेपाल सरकार, नेपाली राजदूतावास, बैंकक र संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघीय एशिया तथा प्रशान्त क्षेत्रका लागि आर्थिक तथा सामाजिक आयोग (UN ESCAP) को संयुक्त आयोजनामा आज बैंककस्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ सम्मेलन केन्द्रमा "सगरमाथादेखि समुद्रसम्मः एशिया तथा प्रशान्त क्षेत्रमा शृङ्खलाबद्ध विपद्प्रतिको उत्थानशीलता सुदृढ गर्न नेपालको भोटेकोशी - त्रिशूली विपद्‌बाट सिकिएका पाठ" विषयक उच्चस्तरीय क्षेत्रीय संवाद सम्पन्न भयो। दिगो विकासका लागि अन्तरिक्ष प्रविधिको उपयोगसम्बन्धी पाँचौं मन्त्रीस्तरीय सम्मेलनको अवसरमा आयोजित उक्त कार्यक्रममा विभिन्न देशका मन्त्रीहरू, उच्च सरकारी अधिकारीहरू, कूटनीतिक प्रतिनिधिहरू, संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ तथा क्षेत्रीय संस्थाका प्रतिनिधिहरू, वैज्ञानिक, अनुसन्धानकर्ता लगायतका ३०० जना भन्दा बढी व्यक्तिहरूको सहभागिता थियो।

कार्यक्रममा अध्यक्षता गर्नुभएका माननीय ऊर्जा, जलस्रोत तथा सिँचाइमन्त्री श्री विराज भक्त श्रेष्ठले भोटेकोशी - त्रिशूली तथा बूढीगण्डकी विपद्‌बाट नेपालले भोगेको मानवीय तथा भौतिक क्षति र पुनर्स्थापना एवं पुनर्निर्माणका चुनौतीबारे जानकारी गराउनुभयो। उहाँले विपद्‌को समयमा नेपाललाई सहयोग र ऐक्यबद्धता प्रदान गर्ने मित्रराष्ट्र, संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघीय निकाय तथा विकास साझेदारहरूप्रति आभार व्यक्त गर्नुभयो। हिमालमा उत्पन्न हुने जोखिम नदी प्रणाली हुँदै सीमापार र समुद्रसम्म फैलिन सक्ने उल्लेख गर्दै उहाँले यस्ता जोखिमको सामना गर्न साझा वैज्ञानिक बुझाइ र समन्वित क्षेत्रीय सहकार्य आवश्यक रहेको बताउनुभयो।

माननीय मन्त्रीले भूउपग्रह अवलोकन, स्थलगत मापन र स्थानीय ज्ञानलाई जोडेर हिमनदी, हिमताल तथा अस्थिर पहाडी भूभागको संयुक्त अनुगमन गर्न, समयमै जोखिमसम्बन्धी सूचना आदानप्रदान गर्न र कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्तासहित आधुनिक प्रविधिमा आधारित बहुप्रकोपी पूर्वसूचना प्रणाली विकास गर्न आह्वान गर्नुभयो। उहाँले नेपालका प्रधानमन्त्रीद्वारा प्रस्तावित हिमालय जलवायु उत्थानशीलता संयन्त्रलाई संयुक्त अनुसन्धान, तथ्याङ्क आदानप्रदान र समन्वित पूर्वसूचनामार्फत अघि बढाउन जोड दिनुभयो। साथै, अनुगमन, पूर्वतयारी, अनुकूलन तथा हानि-नोक्सानीको सम्बोधनका लागि समयमै उपलब्ध हुने, पूर्वानुमानयोग्य, सहज पहुँचयुक्त र अनुदानमा आधारित वित्तीय सहयोगको आवश्यकता औंल्याउनुभयो।

वन, जलाधार तथा हिमाली पारिस्थितिक प्रणालीको संरक्षण गर्ने समुदायले आफ्नो योगदानको न्यायोचित प्रतिफल पाउनुपर्नेमा जोड दिँदै माननीय मन्त्रीले स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, दिगो कृषि, जडीबुटी, वन पैदावार तथा जिम्मेवार पर्यटनमा लगानी बढाउन आह्वान गर्नुभयो। उहाँले स्थानीय प्रशोधन, उपयुक्त

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प्रविधि हस्तान्तरण, अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गुणस्तर मापदण्ड पूरा गर्ने क्षमता तथा क्षेत्रीय र विश्व बजारमा सहुलियतपूर्ण पहुँचमार्फत हिमाली समुदायको हरित अर्थतन्त्र सुदृढ गर्नुपर्ने बताउनुभयो।

संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघका उपमहासचिव तथा ESCAP का कार्यकारी सचिव सुश्री आर्मिडा साल्सियाह अलिस्याहबानाले नयाँ प्रकृतिका शृङ्खलाबद्ध विपद्ले नयाँ तहको क्षेत्रीय सहकार्य आवश्यक बनाएको उल्लेख गर्नुभयो। उहाँले वैज्ञानिक तथा विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता, जोखिममा आधारित योजना र लगानी तथा प्रविधिमा पहुँच विस्तार गर्दै राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धतालाई ठोस क्षेत्रीय कार्यमा रूपान्तरण गर्नुपर्नेमा जोड दिनुभयो। संवादबाट पहिचान भएका प्राथमिकताहरूलाई ESCAP को आगामी ८३औं अधिवेशन तथा विपद् जोखिम न्यूनीकरण समितिको १०औं सत्रमार्फत अघि बढाउन सकिने उहाँले बताउनुभयो।

थाइल्याण्डका उपप्रधानमन्त्री तथा उच्च शिक्षा, विज्ञान, अनुसन्धान तथा नवप्रवर्तनमन्त्री महामहिम श्री योड्चनन वोङ्सावातले स्थानीय ज्ञान, वैज्ञानिक अनुसन्धान र प्रविधिलाई जोडेर साझा समाधान विकास गर्नुपर्ने बताउनुभयो। भुटानका परराष्ट्रमन्त्री महामहिम श्री दिना नाथ ढुङ्ग्याल र श्रीलंकाका स्वास्थ्य तथा आमसञ्चारमन्त्री माननीय डा. नलिन्दा जयतिस्साले नेपालप्रति समवेदना र ऐक्यबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दै सीमापार सूचना आदानप्रदान, समुदायकेन्द्रित पूर्वसूचना, प्राविधिक क्षमता विकास र जोखिमअनुकूल लगानीमा सहकार्यको आवश्यकता औंल्याउनुभयो। सामोआ, किर्गिस्तान तथा फिजीका उच्चस्तरीय प्रतिनिधिहरूले समेत हिमाली, तटीय तथा साना टापु राष्ट्रका जोखिम अन्तरसम्बन्धित रहेको उल्लेख गर्दै साझा प्रयासमा जोड दिनुभयो।

स्वागत मन्तव्य राख्नुहुँदै थाइल्याण्डका लागि नेपालका राजदूत तथा ESCAP का लागि स्थायी प्रतिनिधि महामहिम श्री धनबहादुर ओलीले हिमालदेखि समुद्रसम्मका समुदायको सुरक्षा र समृद्धि एकअर्कासँग जोडिएको बताउनुभयो। उहाँले साझा अनुभवलाई सामूहिक समाधानमा र क्षेत्रीय सहकार्यलाई ठोस कार्यमा रूपान्तरण गर्नु संवादको उद्देश्य रहेको उल्लेख गर्नुभयो।

कार्यक्रममा दुईवटा विषयगत सत्र सञ्चालन गरिएका थिए। "हिमालदेखि समुद्रसम्मका शृङ्खलाबद्ध जोखिमको बुझाइ तथा व्यवस्थापन" विषयक पहिलो सत्र ESCAP का साझेदारी तथा समन्वयसम्बन्धी उपकार्यकारी सचिव श्री शोम्बी शार्पले सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको थियो। उक्त सत्रमा राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोगका सदस्य श्री सञ्जय आचार्यले मन्तव्य तथा राष्ट्रिय विपद् जोखिम न्यूनीकरण तथा व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरणका कार्यकारी प्रमुख डा. धर्मराज उप्रेतीले नेपालको विपद्बाट सिकिएका पाठ र हिमाली क्षेत्रमा विपद् जोखिम व्यवस्थापन तथा पूर्वतयारीमा तिनको उपयोगबारे प्रमुख प्रस्तुति दिनुभएको थियो। राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोगका सदस्य माननीय श्री सञ्जय आचार्यले वैज्ञानिक निष्कर्षलाई राष्ट्रिय

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विकास योजना, बजेट तथा क्षेत्रगत लगानीमा समावेश गर्नुपर्नेमा जोड दिनुभयो भने राष्ट्रिय विपद् जोखिम न्यूनीकरण तथा व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरणका कार्यकारी प्रमुख डा. धर्मराज उप्रेतीले नेपालको अनुभव, विद्यमान प्रणालीका उपलब्धि र सीमितता तथा आगामी प्राथमिकताबारे प्रस्तुति दिनुभयो। सत्रमा चीनको आपत्कालीन व्यवस्थापन मन्त्रालयअन्तर्गत राष्ट्रिय विपद् न्यूनीकरण केन्द्रकी निर्देशक सुश्री वेई वाङ, भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष अनुसन्धान संगठन (ISRO) का निर्देशक श्री जे.भी. थोमस, विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन (WMO) को एशिया तथा दक्षिण—पश्चिम प्रशान्त क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयका निर्देशक श्री बेन चर्चिल, अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय एकीकृत पर्वतीय विकास केन्द्र (ICIMOD) का जलवायु तथा वातावरणीय जोखिम प्रमुख श्री छियाङगोङ झाङ र क्षेत्रीय एकीकृत बहुप्रकोपी पूर्वसूचना प्रणाली (RIMES) का महानिर्देशक श्री ए.आर. सुब्बियाह वक्ताका रूपमा सहभागी हुनुहुन्थ्यो। उहाँहरूले हिमाली जोखिमको अनुगमन, भूउपग्रह तथा दूरसंवेदन प्रविधिको उपयोग, क्षेत्रीय सूचना आदानप्रदान र समुदायकेन्द्रित पूर्वसूचना प्रणाली सुदृढ गर्ने उपायबारे धारणा राख्नुभयो।

"उत्थानशील विकास तथा लगानीका लागि विज्ञान, नवप्रवर्तन र जोखिमसम्बन्धी सूचनाको उपयोग" विषयक दोस्रो सत्र नेपाल सरकार, परराष्ट्र मन्त्रालयका सहसचिव तथा संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ तथा विशिष्टीकृत निकाय महाशाखाका प्रमुख श्री कृष्णप्रसाद ढकालले सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको थियो। उक्त सत्रमा इन्डोनेसियाको राष्ट्रिय अनुसन्धान तथा नवप्रवर्तन निकाय (BRIN) का उपाध्यक्ष श्री अमारुल्ला अक्टाभियनले मन्तव्य तथा जल तथा मौसम विज्ञान विभागकी महानिर्देशक डा. अर्चना श्रेष्ठले प्रमुख प्रस्तुति दिनुभएको थियो। सत्रमा एशियन इन्स्टिच्युट अफ टेक्नोलोजी (AIT) का प्राध्यापक तथा विश्व जल तथा सरसफाइ केन्द्रका सहनिर्देशक डा. सङ्गम श्रेष्ठ, किङ मोङ्कुट्स युनिभर्सिटी अफ टेक्नोलोजी नर्थ बैंककका सहायक प्राध्यापक श्री नुम्पोन महायोत्सानु, गणतन्त्र कोरियाको अन्तरिक्ष प्रशासन (KASA) का वरिष्ठ सल्लाहकार श्री सुङ-चुल याङ, एशियाली विपद् पूर्वतयारी केन्द्र (ADPC) की जलविज्ञ तथा जल र विपद् विषयगत प्रमुख सुश्री चिनापोर्न मिचैया र एशियाली विकास बैंक (ADB) का प्रमुख जलवायु परिवर्तन विशेषज्ञ श्री अलेसियो जियार्दिनो वक्ताका रूपमा सहभागी हुनुहुन्थ्यो। उहाँहरूले वैज्ञानिक तथा जोखिमसम्बन्धी सूचनालाई विकास योजना र लगानीमा समावेश गर्ने, प्रविधि तथा नवप्रवर्तनको व्यावहारिक उपयोग विस्तार गर्ने र उत्थानशील पुनर्निर्माणका लागि वित्तीय स्रोत परिचालन गर्ने विषयमा धारणा राख्नुभयो।

समापन सम्बोधनमा माननीय मन्त्री श्री श्रेष्ठले संवादको उपलब्धि छलफलमा मात्र नभई सुरक्षित गरिएका जीवन, सुदृढ बनाइएका समुदाय र साझा उत्थानशीलताबाट मापन हुनुपर्ने

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Bangkok, Thailand

बताउनुभयो। उहाँले विज्ञान, ऐक्यबद्धता र जलवायु न्यायमा आधारित साझेदारीमार्फत संवादका निष्कर्षलाई व्यावहारिक सहकार्य र ठोस कार्यमा रूपान्तरण गर्न आह्वान गर्नुभयो।

आजै दिउँसो नेपाल सरकार, नेपाली राजदूतावास, बैंकक तथा थाइल्याण्डस्थित एशियन इन्स्टिच्युट अफ टेक्नोलोजी (AIT) को संयुक्त आयोजनामा नेपालको उत्थानशील पुनर्स्थापना तथा पुनर्निर्माणमा केन्द्रित "अनुसन्धान, नवप्रवर्तन र साझेदारीमार्फत एशियामा विपद् उत्थानशीलता अभिवृद्धि" विषयक संगोष्ठी सम्पन्न भयो। कार्यक्रममा माननीय ऊर्जा, जलस्रोत तथा सिँचाइमन्त्री श्री विराज भक्त श्रेष्ठले प्रमुख वक्ताका रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्नुभयो भने राष्ट्रिय विपद् जोखिम न्यूनीकरण तथा व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरणका कार्यकारी प्रमुख डा. धर्मराज उप्रेतीले वक्ताका रूपमा भाग लिनुभयो। थाइल्याण्डका लागि नेपालका राजदूत महामहिम श्री धनबहादुर ओलीले आयोजकको रुपमा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन गर्नुभयो।

प्रमुख वक्ताका रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्दै माननीय मन्त्री श्री श्रेष्ठले भोटेकोशी-त्रिशूली क्षेत्रको पुनर्निर्माणलाई सुरक्षित बस्ती, उत्थानशील पूर्वाधार, संरक्षित जलविद्युत् आयोजना र दिगो जीविकोपार्जनसहितको नमुना हिमाली विकासका रूपमा अघि बढाउनुपर्नेमा जोड दिनुभयो। उहाँले हिमालदेखि नदीसम्मको एकीकृत अनुगमन, समुदायले तत्काल कार्य गर्न सक्ने पूर्वसूचना प्रणाली तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन र शृङ्खलाबद्ध विपद्को जोखिमलाई सम्बोधन गर्ने पूर्वाधार निर्माणको आवश्यकता औंल्याउनुभयो। जलवायु न्यायका लागि नेपालले प्रदान गर्दै आएको पारिस्थितिक सेवाको सम्मानसहित न्यायोचित प्रतिफल, हानि-नोक्सानीको सम्बोधन तथा विपद् व्यवस्थापनका सबै चरणमा क्षमता अभिवृद्धिका लागि सहज र पूर्वानुमानयोग्य वित्तीय तथा प्राविधिक सहयोग उपलब्ध गराउन उहाँले आह्वान गर्नुभयो। साथै, संयुक्त अनुसन्धान, स्थानीय संस्थाले सञ्चालन गर्न सक्ने प्रविधि, दक्ष जनशक्ति विकास, कार्यान्वयनयोग्य परियोजना तयारी र दिगो हरित अर्थतन्त्रको प्रवर्द्धनमा AIT सँग साझेदारी विस्तार गर्न प्रस्ताव गर्दै स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, दिगो कृषि, जडीबुटी र जिम्मेवार पर्यटनमार्फत हिमाली समुदायको आय तथा रोजगारी बढाउन लगानी, प्रविधि हस्तान्तरण र बजार पहुँचका लागि सहकार्य गर्न आग्रह गर्नुभयो। उहाँले नेपालमा AIT केन्द्र स्थापना गर्ने अवधारणालाई मूर्तरूप दिन नेपाल सरकार प्रतिबद्ध रहेको समेत बताउनुभयो।

नेपाली राजदूतावास, बैंकक
२९ अक्टोबर २०२६

नेपाली राजदूतावास
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Keynote statement delivered by

Hon'ble Mr. Biraj Bhakta Shrestha, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal

At the A High-Level Regional Dialogue on

Sagarmatha to the Sea: Lessons from the Bhotekoshi-Trishuli Disaster in Nepal for Strengthening Resilience to Cascading Hazards in Asia and the Pacific

Organized by the Government of Nepal and UN ESCAP

On 29 October 2026, in UN CC Bangkok

Madam Executive Secretary,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Namaste.

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I warmly welcome you to this dialogue, jointly organized by Nepal and ESCAP. I thank Madam Executive Secretary for this partnership, the Royal Thai Government for its hospitality, Ministers and other distinguished panelists joining to share your thoughts and similar cases, and every country and institution that has stood with Nepal.

At 8:37 on the morning of 26 August, our seismometers recorded what looked like an earthquake. It was not an earthquake, but was a mountain falling.

A mass of rock and glacier ice broke away high on Langtang Lirung. Within minutes, it became a torrent of water, ice, rock and mud, devastating communities along the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers.

More than 1,400 people lost their lives. Thousands remain missing. Pilgrims, border officials, traders, drivers and hydropower workers were among the victims.

For many families, there is no body to cremate. They shape a figure from holy kush grass and perform the last rites over it. No damage assessment can fully measure that loss. Let us carry their grief, and our responsibility to protect others, into today's discussion.

Excellencies,

"Sagarmatha to the Sea" describes our shared reality. Water moves from our mountains through rivers and plains, across borders and towards the ocean. **As our Prime Minister reminded the world**, **glaciers and floods do not carry passports**.

Nor does the damage stop at the riverbank. We lost vital trade links, pilgrimage routes and clean hydropower infrastructure. Then, on 11 October, a landslide dam burst on the Budhigandaki, striking another major hydropower project.

That is what cascading risk means: one hazard triggering another, with consequences across communities, sectors and borders.

We must be guided by science. Investigations into the precise causes continue. But uncertainty about one event cannot justify delay in preparing for the risks of warming mountains.

Nepal is doing its part through forest conservation (around 48% of Nepal covering by green forests), clean hydropower, electric mobility (around 80% of vehicle imports are electric) and early warning. Yet national action alone cannot manage risks that cross borders.

Our warning systems helped communities downstream. But those nearest the collapse had very little time.

We have been watching the rivers. The danger also begins above them, in rock and ice.

This is why our partnership with ESCAP, other regional organizations, friendly countries and the space community matters. We thank ESCAP and partner countries for satellite information and technical support. The eyes we need are already in orbit. We must connect what they see to decisions that save lives.

With this background, let me offer four proposals.

First, share the eyes.

Let space agencies, scientific institutions and governments build a common watch over unstable slopes, glaciers and shared river basins. Connect satellite observations with ground measurements and local knowledge, and ensure warnings reach communities in time. For that we would like to establish Mult-hazard Early Warning System that would be enabled by satellite, AI and modern technology.

Second, share what we know.

Our Prime Minister has proposed a **Himalayan Climate Resilience Mechanism.** Let us advance this cooperation through joint research, timely data exchange and coordinated warnings. Nepal stands ready to contribute its experience and serve as a partner for regional learning. Let the Himalaya become a laboratory of cooperation.

Third, finance at the speed of disaster.

Watching the mountains costs millions. Not watching them can cost billions. We need accessible, predictable, grant-based support for monitoring, preparedness

and recovery. Every investment along our rivers must consider risks from source to sea.

Fourth, invest in a green future for mountain communities.

Our people need safe livelihoods and opportunities to prosper. We call on regional and global partners and friendly countries to help mountain economies turn their green potential into jobs, income and sustainable growth.

We welcome your investment in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, medicinal herbs, forest products and responsible tourism. We expect your support for local processing, transfer appropriate technologies, and connect mountain producers to regional and global value chains.

We expect for duty-free or preferential market access for their sustainably produced goods, simpler trade procedures, and support to meet international quality standards.

The communities who protect our forests, watersheds and mountain ecosystems are waiting to receive a fair return for their stewardship. **Let protecting nature become a pathway to prosperity for the people who safeguard it.**

Excellencies,

The presence of mountain, island and coastal countries gives this dialogue its strength. Our landscapes differ, but our safety is connected.

Let us leave today with practical priorities, committed partners and clear next steps. Nepal offers this experience so that others may be better protected.

What happens on our mountains will not stay on our mountains.

The mountain has spoken. Let our answer be cooperation—and action.

Thank you. Namaste.

Keynote Address to be delivered by

Hon'ble Biraj Bhakta Shrestha,

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation

at the AIT Symposium on Advancing Disaster Resilience in Asia through Research, Innovation and Partnerships with a focus on Resilient Rehabilitation and Recovery in Nepal on 29 October 2026

jointly organized by the Government of Nepal [Embassy of Nepal in Thailand] and Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

President of AIT, Professor Pai-Chi Li,

Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees,

His Excellency Ambassador Dhan Bahadur Oli,

Professor Sangam Shrestha,

Distinguished speakers, faculty members, students and friends,

Namaste and good afternoon.

It is a pleasure to join this symposium, organized together by the Government of Nepal, through our Embassy in Bangkok, and the Asian Institute of Technology.

AIT has trained generations of engineers, researchers and water professionals who serve Nepal today. I therefore speak among friends and among people who can help shape our future.

This morning, at the United Nations, we discussed regional cooperation, shared responsibility and climate justice. This afternoon, let us carry those commitments into the practical work of recovery.

Let me begin with a road.

The road from Kathmandu to Rasuwagadhi carried a great deal of Nepal's future. Pilgrims travelled towards Kailash Mansarovar. Trucks exchanges

goods with the north. Communities depended on trade and tourism. Hydropower projects along the rivers promised clean electricity for Nepal and our neighbours.

On the morning of 26 August, that corridor was devastated.

A collapse of rock and glacier ice high on Langtang Lirung became a destructive torrent through the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli valleys. Lives, homes, bridges, livelihoods and energy infrastructure were lost.

Then, on 11 October, a landslide dam burst on the Budhigandaki, striking another major hydropower project under construction.

Our rapid assessment places recovery and reconstruction needs at approximately 4.8 billion US dollars. Behind that figure are families without homes, businesses without income, and communities uncertain about their future.

Disasters are arriving faster than we can recover from them.

That is the challenge before us.

Distinguished colleagues,

Our Prime Minister has spoken of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, together with responsibility, reparation and resilience. These ideas must guide our recovery.

Replacing what was destroyed will not be enough. Rebuilding the same risks would leave our people exposed again.

Our ambition should be to make the Bhotekoshi–Trishuli corridor a model of resilient mountain development: safer settlements, reliable transport, protected hydropower, restored livelihoods and effective warning systems.

We must plan the corridor as one connected system. The safety of a bridge depends on what happens upstream. The security of a powerhouse depends on the slopes above it. A settlement’s future depends on safe land, access to services and opportunities to earn a living.

With this background, let me share four lessons.

First, a warning must lead to safety.

As I noted at ESCAP, hundreds of thousands of warning messages reached people during the recent disasters. Nepali scientists, engineers, drone operators and volunteers also helped map the damage.

These are strengths to build upon. But a warning must tell people what to do, where to go and how much time they have. It must reach people with disabilities, older persons, visitors and remote households. Communities need safe routes, shelters and regular exercises.

Second, we must watch the mountains as well as the rivers.

We need to connect observations of melting mountains, glaciers, lakes and unstable slopes with river monitoring and weather forecasts. Satellite images, seismic signals, ground instruments and community knowledge must inform one practical system.

Investigations into this disaster continue. We must respect what science can establish while acting urgently on the risks already evident.

Third, we must build for a changing climate.

Hydropower plants, roads, bridges and transmission lines must be assessed against cascading hazards. Designs must consider debris, sediment, blocked rivers and sudden floods. Operators need clear emergency procedures, and workers need training to act within minutes.

Fourth, recovery must restore livelihoods and dignity.

Mountain communities live near mountains and rivers because suitable land is scarce and livelihoods depend on access. Decisions about relocation must involve affected people and provide services, secure livelihoods and fair support.

A safer house is essential. So is a future worth rebuilding.

Dear Colleauges,

Nepal's call for climate justice grows from this reality.

Our contribution to global emissions is very small. Yet repeated disasters take lives, destroy development gains and divert resources from schools, hospitals and jobs.

Meanwhile, Nepal continues to conserve forests, expand clean hydropower, promote electric mobility and pursue its net-zero ambition.

Climate justice must therefore deliver **<u>three things.</u>**

It must recognize and fairly reward the environmental or ecosystem services mountain countries provide through conservation, carbon storage and clean energy.

It must provide adequate support for loss and damage, including destroyed assets, interrupted livelihoods and development opportunities lost.

And it must strengthen capacity across the full disaster cycle—from understanding risk and preparing communities to recovery and reconstruction.

A mountain country cannot borrow its way out of a crisis it did little to create. We need accessible, predictable grants alongside appropriate concessional finance, technology and expertise.

<u>Distinguished colleagues,</u>

We also need a stronger mountain economy.

Our people must be able to prosper while protecting the ecosystems on which others depend.

Nepal offers opportunities in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants, forest products and responsible tourism. But potential becomes prosperity only when producers have technology, finance, skills and access to markets.

We invite investment in local processing, storage, packaging and quality testing. We seek partnerships that connect mountain enterprises to regional and global value chains and retain more value within our communities.

We appeal for duty-free or preferential access for sustainably produced mountain goods, simpler trade procedures and help to meet international standards.

Communities that safeguard forests and watersheds deserve a fair return for their stewardship.

Let protecting nature become a pathway to prosperity.

This is an area where AIT can make a valuable contribution.

Your engineers, scientists and enterprise specialists can help develop affordable processing technologies, efficient irrigation, renewable energy solutions and products that meet market requirements. Your researchers can help mountain businesses use resources sustainably and turn innovation into viable livelihoods.

Let me therefore propose a practical partnership with **AIT in five areas.**

First, joint research for safer mountain development.

Working with Nepal's institutions and universities, let us improve our understanding of this disaster and identify priority slopes, lakes and infrastructure at risk. Let the findings guide planning and engineering decisions.

Second, technology that works in local hands.

Help us connect satellite and ground observations to warnings received by a village, a mobile phone and a powerhouse control room. We need affordable systems that Nepali institutions can operate, maintain and improve.

AIT has already shown what practical solidarity looks like. I thank intERLab, its students and partners for supporting emergency communications through DUMBO networks and donated smartphones. When ordinary networks fail, a working connection can help coordinate relief and reunite families.

Third, sustained investment in people.

Let us develop joint research, professional training and exchanges for hydrologists, engineers, planners and local officials. Bring students into field research alongside Nepali colleagues. Ensure that knowledge remains within our institutions and communities.

Fourth, projects ready for implementation.

Together with government, communities, businesses and financing partners, let us prepare a focused portfolio: a monitored mountain corridor, safer infrastructure, reliable emergency communications and green livelihood enterprises.

Fifth, harnessing the vision of a sustained green economy.

AIT can help Nepal turn its green potential into lasting livelihoods through research, practical training and technology transfer in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, medicinal herbs and responsible tourism. By supporting local processing, quality standards and links to regional and global markets, AIT can help mountain communities earn a fair return from their products while protecting the ecosystems that sustain us all.

For each proposal, let us identify who will lead, what resources are needed and how communities will benefit.

Now, let me return to that road.

As the corridor recovers, trade will resume, pilgrims will return and clean power will flow.

When they do, every family should know that the risks above them are better understood, that a warning will bring clear action, and that recovery offers a more secure livelihood.

Our partnership with AIT can help make that promise real. We are committed to materialize the vision of establishing AIT Center in Nepal.

Let this symposium begin work that lasts beyond today: research that guides decisions, technology that serves communities, and investment that builds a safer, greener mountain economy.

Thank you. Namaste.