



**The Third Pole – A Melting Pot of Climate Change Threats and Actions
Perspectives from the Himalayan Adaptation, Water and Resilience Research**

Understanding evolving risks in a changing socioeconomic context is crucial to planning for proactive action. The Third Pole or the Hindukush Himalayan (HKH), and its downstream regions, are home to a billion plus population, and are a biologically and culturally rich zone. Impacts of climate change across this region are going to be manifold and across levels, hence it is important to understand the interconnections, leading to informed decision making to improve lives and livelihoods of the people in the region. This event aims to decipher, and build an understanding on the current and persistent (biophysical and socio-economic) risks that communities in the region face and how these would evolve over the course of time influencing people and their spaces.

This event aims to build a broader understanding on the current threats and opportunities that the Third Pole/HKH faces. Through the research under the Himalayan Adaptation, Water and Resilience (HI-AWARE), this event would help develop an understanding on the many drivers that influence peoples' vulnerability in the region. Vulnerability, the way it is conceived is often a multiplier impact arising out of many factors. Understanding these drivers is crucial to help develop strategies that would ensure communities have the required adaptive capacity to cope with current and future risks.

Adaptation interventions can help alleviate peoples' vulnerabilities, and increase the capacity to absorb shocks. However, adaptation interventions also provide useful inputs for researchers to analyse what works and what doesn't in various contexts, and can help induce a learning curve to make retrospective and prospective adjustments to adaptation interventions and strategies. However, for a more robust planning around reducing risks from climate change, ensuring policy relevant research that can be mainstreamed with ease is essential. Effective stakeholder incorporation and strategic communication, amongst other steps, can aide in better and timely policy-uptake. Presenting snippets from HI-AWARE research on these issues, the event seeks to target the numerous stakeholders (researchers, academicians, media) working in the Himalayan Region in specific, and Climate Change Adaptation domain in general.

Furthermore, the event, through an external panel discussion, would like to understand the opportunities and challenges to upscaling climate action in the Indian Himalayan Region – an ecologically and economically sensitive region - and the growing role of partnerships across levels in answering crucial research issues. These partnerships ranging from cross-institutional to cross-stakeholder to cross-regional can lead to multiple, yet strong, intitation and sustaining points for effective climate action.