

INVITATION

Workshop on „Desirable tourism futures in Khumbu & Mustang”

Date: 13th February 2020 // 1st Falgun 2076 (10am-04pm)

Venue: Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu

The workshop will reflect on past and present challenges, opportunities as well as emerging issues on tourism development in mountain regions.

We welcome honourable guests such as **Dr. Dhananjay Regmi** (CEO Nepal Tourism Board) and **Prof. Sanjay Nepal** (University of Waterloo), a well-known tourism specialist.

The morning starts with a panel discussion including **Nepal Tourism Board, Mr. Tripple P. Gurung** (entrepreneur), **Ms. Laxmi Gurung** (entrepreneur, Mustang), and **Mr. Laxman Adhikari** (political representative, Khumbu – tbc) and **Mr. Ashish Shrestha** (HoneyGuide) on general issues of mountain tourism.

The afternoon will focus on interactive **discussion sessions** in small groups touching on topics such as: Tourism Development: New products, changing trends and patterns; Natural Hazards: Impacts on accessibility, settlements, attractions.

The intended **aims** of the workshop are:

- raising awareness of present and future problems for the tourism industry in both regions;
- identifying challenges and opportunities, problems and solutions;
- reflecting a desirable (tourism) future and practical steps towards it;
- sharing of knowledge, best practice and experiences between participants of both regions.

We invite **local tourism entrepreneurs** and stakeholders from **Solukhumbu** and **Mustang** region to discuss key trends, challenges and opportunities for tourism development.

The workshop will take place in Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu and includes lunch and coffee breaks. Participation is free but **registration** is needed; the number of places is limited! Workshop is mainly in Nepali.

For pre-registration please contact touRES@uibk.ac.at
or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/508648066448661/>

For questions or inquiries contact Ms. Eva Posch (986 797 3080) or Mr. Sonam Gurung (9813011075).

The workshop is funded by the Austrian Academy of Science and the OEAD.

Proposed schedule

Registration & Coffee	09.30-10.00
Official welcome by Nepal Tourism Board (Mr. Dhananjay Regmi, CEO)	10.00-10.15
Introduction & Background by project lead Ass-Prof. Dr. Robert Steiger (Austria) (<i>English/Nepali</i>)	10.15-10.30
Keynote on tourism development in mountain regions in Nepal by Prof. Sanjay Nepal (University of Waterloo) (<i>Nepali</i>)	10.30-11.00
Panel Discussion & Open Panel 'Challenges & Opportunities for Mountain Tourism – Experiences from Khumbu & Mustang' with Mr. Tripple P. Gurung, Ms. Laxmi Gurung, and Mr. Laxman Adhikari and Mr. Ashish Shrestha (HoneyGuide) covering issues such as off-season, domestic tourism, accessibility, environmental issues and mountain migration (<i>Nepali</i>)	11.00-12.30
Lunch break	12.30-13.30
Regional Profile Tasks Small discussion groups with Prof. Monique Fort & Narayan Gurung and Dr. Pranil Upadhayaya on driving factors affecting the tourism industry (identifying desired tourism futures, sharing ideas) (<i>English/Nepali</i>)	13.30-15.00
Coffee Break	15.00-15.30
Discussion and Presentation of Regional Profile Tasks	15.30-17.15
Synthesis and farewell	17.15-17.30