

Treaty Signed With Russian Universities:

A Russian delegation visited the Institute in the month of October and finalized the areas of common concern and collaborative research. The areas of future collaborative research were finalized and two individual *Memorandum of Understandings* (MOU's) were signed between the Institute and Altai State Technical University and Altai State Agrarian University.

This collaboration will be beneficial for both the partners and communities at large. The Programme will be called as ALTAI-INDIAN HIMALAYA SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE FORUM (AIHCEF). It will consist of a well defined set-up having a Scientific-cum-Governing body. Heads of the respective institutions involved in the treaty will be the Directors of the Forum. To begin with, following activities will be undertaken jointly with the Altai State Technical University and Altai State Agrarian University:

- Publication of Biannual Journal
- Publication of Monograph on common thematic areas
- Academic exchange programme

After the synthesis of ideas, following common thematic areas of research have been identified for future research among various institutes:

INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED HIMALAYAN STUDIES, H. P. UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA

AND

ALTAI STATE AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY

- Linking Culture and biodiversity
- Policies, laws and institutions related to biodiversity
- Blending Indigenous Technical Knowledge with modern technology
- Collection of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) in relation to traditional health care systems, agriculture and farming systems, water management and rain water harvesting and veterinary and animal husbandry
- Agriculture and sustainable development (Scientific and technological exchange of information)
- Glaciers and water resources of both region: Problems and mechanisms of protecting water resources
- Cross cultural Altai-Indian Himalayan Investigations on spiritual, (religious, philosophical, art, literary) and traditional myths, rituals, cultural values and response of two cultures to the changing scenario of globalization

INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED HIMALAYAN STUDIES, H. P. UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA

AND

ALTAI STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

- Energy Conservation
- Natural Resources Data Management System

- Climate Change Studies
- Ecology and sustainable development of the regions (Informative exchange, presentation of scientific reports and articles and organization of conferences or seminars on the problem)
- Construction of regional models of adaptation to the climatic changes
- Ecologic-economical potential of forests due to Kyoto and post Kyoto protocols
- Possibility of using alternative sources of energy and energy preservation technologies
- Elaboration of regional models of monitoring of natural and artificial plants in system of air-space global monitoring of Earth (IGMAS)
- Listing of World UNESCO Cultural and natural heritage in the two regions
- Common Educational Programmes (Academic Exchange Programme and active use of modern technology for distance education)