

FOREWORD

Mountainous areas the world over provide mankind with pure water, food, fodder and fuel. They represent a very fragile land sensitive hydrological regime. Man's greed and over exploitation of the precious mountain resources over the years has caused extensive damage to the ecosystem of the mountainous regions. Development of the mountain regions have therefore to be carefully planned and scientifically executed to prevent any negative impacts following the developmental activities. This is all the more relevant in the Indian context.

Considering the need for a better understanding of the hydrology of the mountainous areas especially in the tropical regions the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee an apex organization in the area of Hydrology organized an International Symposium on the Hydrology of Mountainous Areas at Shimla from May 28-30, 1992. The symposium intended to provide a forum for scientific discussions and exchange of ideas on the latest methodologies developed for the solution of the multifaceted problems of the mountainous areas in different parts of the world. The symposium was sponsored by UNESCO and co-sponsored by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA).

The response to the symposium has been very encouraging. Fifty technical papers including 16 from outside India have been included in this post symposium proceedings. I hope that the discussions during the symposium and recommendations made at the end of the symposium would be useful in planning the hydrological programme in the countries of the regions and also the other developing countries in other parts of the world.

A number of organizations, particularly, HPSEB, Shimla, have extended their cooperation and resources for the successful organization of this symposium. Sri K.S. Ramasastri, Sri R.D. Singh, Dr. S.K. Jain, Dr. Bhishm Kumar, Sri A. Agrawal, Sri M. K. Goel, and Sri S.S Kanwar, all from NIH have made untiring efforts in the organization of this symposium and printing of proceedings.

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