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# Alpine Club Notes

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## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2003

PRESIDENT .....	A Blackshaw
VICE PRESIDENTS .....	D J Lovatt
	D W Walker
HONORARY SECRETARY .....	R M Scott
HONORARY TREASURER .....	I Appuhamy
HONORARY LIBRARIAN .....	D J Lovatt
HONORARY EDITOR	
OF THE ALPINE JOURNAL .....	E Douglas
HONORARY GUIDEBOOKS	
COMMISSIONING EDITOR .....	L N Griffin
COMMITTEE ELECTIVE MEMBERS .....	W J E Norton
	R L Stephens
	R Turnbull
	P Wickens
	D R Buckle
	M D Eldridge
	T A Gronlund
	P Mallalieu
	W G Thurston

## OFFICE BEARERS

LIBRARIAN EMERITUS .....	R Lawford
HONORARY ARCHIVIST .....	P T Berg
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S PICTURES .....	P Mallalieu
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S ARTEFACTS .....	R Lawford
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S MONUMENTS ...	W A C Newsom
CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE .....	R F Morgan
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE .....	
CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBRARY COUNCIL .....	G C Band
CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE .....	W G Thurston
CHAIRMAN OF THE GUIDEBOOKS EDITORIAL AND	
PRODUCTION BOARD .....	L N Griffin
GUIDEBOOKS PRODUCTION MANAGER .....	J N Slee-Smith
ASSISTANT EDITORS OF THE <i>Alpine Journal</i> .....	J L Bermúdez
	G W Templeman
PRODUCTION EDITOR OF THE <i>Alpine Journal</i> .....	Mrs J Merz

## ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARIES:

ANNUAL WINTER DINNER .....	W A C Newsom
LECTURES .....	M W H Day
MEETS .....	T A Gronlund
MEMBERSHIP .....	W G Thurston
TRUSTEES .....	M F Baker
	J G R Harding
	S N Beare
HONORARY SOLICITOR .....	P G C Sanders
AUDITORS .....	PKF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION) .....	Sheila Harrison

## ALPINE CLIMBING GROUP

PRESIDENT .....	D Wilkinson
HONORARY SECRETARY .....	R A Ruddle

## GENERAL, INFORMAL, AND CLIMBING MEETINGS 2002

8 January	General Meeting: Elizabeth Hussey, <i>Arnold Lunn</i>
22 January	Informal Meeting: Henry Day, <i>Travels with a Donkey in the Kun Lun</i>
23 January	Northern Lecture: Pat Littlejohn, <i>Big Free Walls in Kenya</i>
1-2 February	Scottish Winter Meet
12 February	General Meeting: John Town & Derek Buckle, <i>Up the Kongpo without a paddle</i>
20 February	Northern Lecture: Members' Night, featuring Ed Douglas, Dick Turnbull et al
26 February	Informal Meeting: Adele Pennington, <i>Bolivian Climbs</i>
2 March	'Alpine Style' Symposium
12 March	General Meeting: Richard Goedeke, <i>'Alpine Odyssey'</i>
13 March	Northern Lecture: Richard Goedeke, <i>'Alpine Odyssey'</i>
26 March	Informal Meeting: Colin Knowles, <i>The Trident of Shiva</i>
9 April	General Meeting: Discussion led by Ed Douglas, <i>The Hidden Face of Everest</i>
13-14 April	North Wales Meet
23 April	Chris Fitzhugh, <i>Short Neck in the Hindu Kush</i>
11-12 May	Peak District Meet
14 May	General Meeting: Allen Steck, <i>Hummingbird Ridge</i>
11 June	General Meeting: Sarah Chandler, <i>Going up in the world</i>
25 June	Informal Meeting: Terry Kenny, <i>Cascade Ice in the Rockies</i>
13-20 July	Alpine Meet (with ABMSAC & CC): Vanoise Alps Haut-Maurienne
20-27 July	Alpine Meet (with ABMSAC & CC): Vanoise Alps, Tarentaise

- 27 July-17 Aug Summer Meet: Les Choselets, Chamonix  
 1-13 September Alpine Meet (with ABMSAC & CC): Tour de Mont Blanc  
 10 September General Meeting: André Hedger, *Ethiopia to Antarctica*  
 9-16 September AC/CC Cornwall Meet  
 27-28 September Lakes Meet: Rawhead, Langdale  
 18 September Northern Lecture: Paul Knott, *Aotearoa NZ – Land of the Long Stripty Thermals*  
 24 September Informal Meeting: Paul Knott, *Aotearoa NZ – Land of the Long Stripty Thermals*  
 27-28 September Lake District Meet  
 8 October General Meeting: Tashi Tenzing, *Tenzing and the Sherpas of Everest*  
 23 October Northern Lecture: Mick Fowler, *North Face of Siguniang*  
 26 October AC/YR Meet: Yorkshire Dales  
 8 November Boardman Tasker Award Ceremony  
 12 November General Meeting: David Hamilton, *Highlights of 2002*  
 13 November Northern Lecture: Ian Parnell, *SW Face of Denali*  
 26 November Informal Meeting: James Harris, *The Antarctic Peninsula*  
 6 December Annual General Meeting  
 8 December 134th Annual Dinner  
 11 December Northern Lecture: ACG Meeting

The 134th Annual London Dinner was held on 7 December at The Great Hall, St Bartholomew's Hospital. The principal guest was Tom Hornbein.

### THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2002

Four Council meetings were held in 2002, but much of the effort involved two separate work groups: one concerning a redefinition of relationships between the Club and the Library; the other being an assessment of the space occupied by the two bodies.

At present, the Library has custody of the Club's books and photographs and, as a registered charity, is responsible for their care and maintenance. As the Club owns other 'heritage' items, such as its archives, paintings, memorabilia, and even some monuments, it was considered that the Library Council might be a more appropriate body to be granted custody of these items, provided the relative responsibilities of the two bodies was clarified in a new Custodial Agreement. This was developed in a joint Work Group under the chairmanship of Patrick Fagan, a Vice-President of the Club, and submitted to the Club Committee and Library Council for approval at year's end. This should help to improve communication and understanding between the two bodies, particularly for the more transient members of the Club Committee who may initially have little knowledge of the extent of the Club's possessions.

On the second issue, previous reports have drawn attention to the cramped facilities tolerated by our professional librarian, Margaret Ecclestone, and the very restricted working space for readers. Responding to this plight, a Space Working Group, set up by the Club Committee under the chairmanship of Richard Morgan, decided after careful consultation that the Club could now afford to take back half of the top floor at Charlotte Road when our tenant's lease expired in mid-2002. This extra space allowed the first floor to be re-arranged to give the Librarian marginally more room and to divide the former office into two compartments. There was also some enthusiasm to create a more sociable Members' Room. A number of permutations were discussed and were being planned under the supervision of our member Hunter Johnson who very tragically died in an Alpine climbing accident in summer 2002. This delayed implementation considerably, until our member Neil Lawton kindly volunteered his services to agree fresh plans with the Club Committee. These placed the Members' Room and Committee Room on the top floor with some welcome fresh furniture. The Club office was also renovated, and the inner compartment proposed for use by the Himalayan Index and the photo library. In fact, very little extra space was gained by the library itself. During 2003 we are hoping to make more efficient use of the basement.

Our professional archivist, Susan Scott, ended her two-year, half-time assignment in mid-2002 by managing to complete the computerised cataloguing of the Club's unique holographic archives, using the special ADLIB software which links the library and archive cataloguing systems together. To continue maintaining the archives, our Honorary Archivist, Peter Berg, has recruited another professional archivist, Margaret Pope, to assist him for two days per month.

The photographic collection has benefited from the great enthusiasm and dedication of Sue Lawford, working voluntarily two or more days per week. Some £13,000 worth of equipment has been purchased to permit digital photography and both flatbed and transparency scanning of images to pre-press specifications. This will enable us to respond more efficiently to media enquiries and earn an increasing stream of income. In order to proceed with the equally important work of computerised cataloguing of the more marketable images, we needed more manpower so, as with the archives, we decided to employ professional help. In March 2003 we recruited Helen Long for a two-year, half-time assignment and she has settled in well, so that Sue Lawford can gradually reduce her voluntary commitment for which we have been exceedingly grateful. We had hoped we might receive a substantial grant from the Pilgrim Trust for cataloguing the images. They have responded positively with an offer of £6,000, but this is to be directed to the conservation of the collection to prevent deterioration, so we are arranging for volunteers from NADFAS to help with this work during the second half of 2003.

More funds will be sought from other charitable bodies to add to a

welcome £2,500 received from the Stanley Foundation. The Mount Everest Foundation commissioned the Library Chairman to write an official history of Everest, published by HarperCollins, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the first ascent in May 2003. The book included over 300 images, mostly drawn from the RGS and AC collections, and briefly entered the best-seller lists. Numerous other Everest articles and publications were expected to add to the photo-library's income. Later during 2003 we hope to clarify the somewhat uncertain copyright arrangements between the AC and the RGS for Everest images which have been held for many years by the AC.

Our endowment fund continues to be managed with discretion by Flemings, now a subsidiary of J P Morgan. This has suffered from the recent falls in the stock market, but dividend income has held up well around £20,000 which meets a large part of our operating costs. In the absence of sufficient grants, donations and legacies to fund the balance, we are continuing to erode our capital base by some £20,000 annually which is a cause for concern.

We have received a number of very welcome gifts: £1500 from a fund initiated by Nigella Hall and Elisabeth Parry in memory of the late Peter Ledebor, to be devoted to an appropriate facility in the Library; a £1000 legacy from the estate of the late Oliver Turnbull together with £3,574 from the sale of books given to him by Charles Warren. Jennifer Bourdillon has kindly donated the 1951 and 1953 Everest diaries kept by her late husband Tom Bourdillon, including the manuscript report of his first ascent of the South Summit with Charles Evans on 26 May 1953, written specially for John Hunt. The executors of Charles Warren's estate have donated his Leica camera with which he took the earliest colour photographs of Everest in 1938.

We are very sad to report the death of Oliver Turnbull who had only recently joined the Library Council and was making a valuable contribution. The AC has nominated Chris Fitzhugh to replace him.

After two years serving as Honorary Secretary, Luke Hughes asked to stand down owing to pressure of work and family, although he agreed to remain on the Council. Margaret Clennett agreed to take on the administrative duties of Honorary Secretary, so that the current membership of the Council is as follows: five nominated by the Alpine Club: George Band, Chairman, Jerry Lovatt, Peter Berg, Chris Fitzhugh, Luke Hughes; Michael Westmacott, nominated by the RGS; Richard Coatsworth nominated by the BMC; Margaret Clennett as Honorary Secretary. Bob Lawford has continued to handle sales of surplus books, which has provided very welcome income over the years, but he has more than earned his retirement from this task, and we are looking for a successor. As always, I am grateful to Margaret Ecclestone and to our hard core of regular volunteers, but we can always use more help!

*George Band*

*Chairman, Alpine Club Library Council*

## HARISH KAPADIA WINS THE PATRON'S MEDAL

For the year 2003, Her Majesty The Queen approved the award of the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society to Harish Kapadia 'for contributions to geographical discovery and mountaineering in the Himalayas'. The Patron's Medal is one of two Gold Medals awarded by the Royal Geographical Society. It was presented on 2 June 2003 on the exact day of the 50th anniversary of the Coronation of HM The Queen.

The citation by the President, Professor Sir Ron Cooke DSc, was as follows:

Harish Kapadia has made a unique contribution to our knowledge of the Himalaya: as editor of the *Himalayan Journal*, one of the most authoritative and comprehensive records of exploratory activity in the Himalaya, through his numerous guide books and as a leader and organiser of countless expeditions over the years. He has been assistant editor and then editor of the *Himalayan Journal* since 1978 and has consistently improved both its content and its production. His guidebook and works on the Himalaya are erudite and practical, skilfully combining historical, geographical and practical guidance to increase our understanding of the region.

As an expedition leader, he has initiated a series of joint expeditions with climbers from the United Kingdom, France, Japan and the United States to explore and climb throughout the Indian Himalaya. The quality of exploration and the full and detailed reports that he has issued have provided superb background information about these areas.

Furthermore, Harish has been a tireless campaigner for the resolution of the Kashmir conflict through the Siachen Peace Park initiative in the Karakoram region. He is an outstanding modern explorer in the finest traditions of the great Himalayan pioneers.

It is most fitting, that this year, in which we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest, we honour Harish Kapadia.

Harish Kapadia has dedicated the Award to his son Lieut Nawang Kapadia, a Gurkha officer of the 4th battalion of the 3rd Gurkha Rifles of the Indian army, stating, 'He shared my passion for trekking and love of nature, and he gave his life defending the Himalaya.'

Harish is the first Asian and Indian to receive this Award in the past 125 years. The only other Indian and Asian who has received it was Pundit Nain Singh in 1877.

Past winners of the award include Eric Shipton (1938), H W Tilman (1952), Lord John Hunt (1954), Sir Charles Evans (1956), Professor Ardito Desio (1957), Sir Edmund Hillary (1958), Sir Chris Bonington (1974), Michael Ward (1982), Doug Scott (1999) and Reinhold Messner (2001).

## BOARDMAN TASKER AT TWENTY

The Boardman Tasker Charitable Trust marked the twentieth year of its Award for Mountain Literature with a celebration of the lives of the two men in whose memory it was established, Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker. At a packed Royal Geographical Society in November 2002, Pete and Joe's former climbing partners recalled their considerable achievements, from Dunagiri and Changabang to Kangchenjunga and Everest North-East Ridge on which they were lost in 1982. Speakers included John Barry, Sir Chris Bonington, Paul Braithwaite, Dr Charles Clarke, Jim Curran, Doug Scott and Martin Wragg, so it was not surprising there was standing room only in the gallery. John Boardman and Paul Tasker also read pieces from their brothers' books and Hilary Rhodes recalled climbing the Carstensz Pyramid with Pete.

Earlier in the same day the 2002 Award winner was announced at a lunchtime reception at the Alpine Club, generously making their premises available to the Trust for the twentieth year. The first overseas chair of the judges, Dr Mikel Vause of Ogden, Utah, noted that there had been twenty-four entries and from a shortlist of seven the winner was Robert Roper's *Fatal Mountaineer* (St Martin's Press, New York), the story of Willi Unsoeld's obsession with Nanda Devi and the climb he would attempt with his daughter of her namesake mountain, a climb that would claim Devi's life at 24,000 feet on its North-West Face. In his summing up Dr Vause said:

We found Mr Roper's book to be a highly original biography. Its structure gives a new shape to the art of mountaineering biographical writing, taking his readers forward and backward through Unsoeld's intellectual and spiritual philosophies by which he governed his life, both in and out of the mountains. By cutting through layer after layer, Roper breaks down many of the deceptions with which mountaineers are forced to live. In examining what was a very complicated expedition, Roper presents an even-handed analysis of the various personalities of its members and the difficulties they all faced. He avoids accusations and judgments. By linking together anger and happiness, humility and bravado, triumph and tragedy, Roper aptly paints a compassionate picture of a very complex situation as a window into the life of Willi Unsoeld, a very complex individual.

The Boardman Tasker Prize is currently worth £2000 and is awarded annually. The charity appoints three independent judges who, for 2003, are David Hopkins, Eric Major and Chris Smith. For further details see [www.boardmantasker.com](http://www.boardmantasker.com).

*Margaret Body, Honorary Secretary*

## THE KING ALBERT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Foundation, established in Zürich in 1993 by Walter Amstutz, aims to honour individuals or institutions for exceptional and lasting achievements in a very wide range of activities – sporting, scientific, ecological, social and artistic – relating to mountains. Since 1993 the Foundation has presented twenty-one awards to individuals and societies at ceremonies which have been held in Switzerland every two years. Its First Award Ceremony was held in 1994 when Lord Hunt, Bradford Washburn, and (posthumously) Wanda Rutkiewicz were honoured (see *AJ 100*, 348-350, 1995). At the Second Award Ceremony, held in 1996, presentations were made to Charles Houston, Erhard Loretan, Silvia Metzeltin and Pit Schubert (see *AJ 102*, 367-368, 1997). The winners at the Third Award Ceremony, held in 1998, were Professor Augusto Gansser, Elizabeth Hawley, the Belgian society Intersoc, and the documentary series Land Der Berg (see *AJ 104*, 350-351, 1999).

### Fourth Award Ceremony

This was held on 23 June 2000 at Muottas Muragl above Pontresina, when five individuals nominated by the trustees were presented with its Gold Medal and Diploma for outstanding photography, defined in various categories relating to mountains and mountain people. Prior to a dinner held on the eve of the award ceremony, invited guests and members of the public were able to view the work of the award winners which was displayed in the halls of the Alpine Museum in Pontresina. The recipients were:

#### **Simon Carter**

The colour photography of Simon Carter, born in Canberra and now living in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, combines the unique landscape of Australia with brilliant images of climbing skills portraying scenes of great visual beauty. His photographs, which have been published in magazines all over the world, incorporate the action, passion, and commitment of climbers on hard rock and his book *Rock Climbing in Australia* vividly illustrates the high technical quality of his work. Carter's photographs have portrayed several internationally-known climbers, including Lynn Hill and Catherine Destivelle. He describes himself as a climber who takes photographs, as well as a photographer who climbs. For the prizegiving in Pontresina Simon Carter was accompanied by Julian Saunders, a leading rock-climber from Blackheath, New South Wales.



**Walter Niedermayr**

After training in electrical engineering, computer science and technical drawing, Walter Niedermayr took up photography in 1970; he now works as an architectural photographer in Bolzano, where he lives. His series of large-scale black and white photographs of the Dolomites taken in 1992 and entitled *Die Bleichen Berge* (The Pale Mountains) has been exhibited at the Art Museum in Bolzano and in Austria, France and Switzerland; under the same title it has been published as a book. In 1993 he received the European Photography Award. In 1998 he produced a fresh photographic series of urbanised Alpine landscapes *Reservate des Augenblicks* (Momentary Resorts), followed by a book under that title. During the past ten years Niedermayr's work has been exhibited all over Europe as well as in the USA, Canada, and in London in 1997 and 1998. His photographs subtly analyse the physical and emotional aspects of mountains, highlighting the change and damage to the Alpine environment brought about by the spread of mass tourism.

**Didier Ruef**

After completing a university course in economics at Geneva, where he was born, Didier Ruef undertook a course of study at the International Center of Photography in New York. His photographs, taken during journeys in Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, Africa, India and South-East Asia, in collaboration with *Médecins sans Frontières* and the World Council of Churches, have been widely displayed in magazines across Britain, the USA, and Europe. He has received a number of Awards, including the Italian *Prix Geoffroy* and the Nikon International Prize for black & white photography. His book *Bauern am Berg* (Mountain Peasants) published in 1998 was awarded the *Prix des Pays du Mont Blanc* in Passy (France). Didier Ruef's expressive black and white photography has won special acclaim for its sensitivity and beauty, portraying the arduous routine in the daily lives of mountain farmers, and the fascination of the alpine environment, now under increasing encroachment owing to expanding tourist demands.

**Shiro Shirahata**

During a lifetime's devotion which began in 1951 when he was eighteen, Shiro Shirahata has gained wide renown for his brilliant portraiture of mountains. In addition to his extensive photographic coverage of the Japanese Alps, he has made 17 photographic journeys, between 1971 and 1989, to the Nepal and Indian Himalaya, the Karakoram, the Afghan Hindu Kush, the Pamir, Peru, South Korea, and three journeys to the European Alps. He has published several photographic volumes including *Nepal Himalaya*, *The Alps* (translated into seven languages), *Beauty of South Korea* (in four volumes), and *My Southern Alps* which was awarded a prize in 1977 by the Japan Photographic Association. A Shiro Shirahata Museum for

Mountain Photography was opened in 1984 in his home province Otsuki, and a prize for mountain photography, in his name, was established in 1989. Shirahata's photography depicts in brilliant colour the magnificence of mountain peaks in a variety of settings.

### **Jürgen Winkler**

After serving as a photographer's apprentice for three years, Jürgen Winkler won his first photographic prize at a contest in Frankfurt at the age of 21. He held his first exhibition in Munich in 1972. An active climbing career, which developed side by side with his photography, included Mont Blanc's Innominata Ridge and the fifth complete traverse of the Peuterey Ridge. In 1970 he was a member of Karl Herrligkofer's expedition to Nanga Parbat, and later joined expeditions to the Himalaya, New Zealand, Africa and the USA. He qualified as a mountain guide in 1973.

In 1970, with Walter Pause, he co-authored a book about extreme climbing, *Im Extremen Fels*. Winkler's first photographic volume *Nepal* appeared in 1976. His next book *Himalaya* received the European Mountain Book Award in 1989. In 1990 he received an award from the DAV (German Alpine Club) for mountain photography, and in 1993 his book *Aus den Bergen* was awarded the *Prix Mondial de l'Image de Montagne*. The high technical quality of Jürgen Winkler's work illustrates the unique power of black and white photography to emphasize the artistic impact of the mountain scene.

### **Fifth Award Ceremony**

This was held on 31 August 2002 at Zernez in the Swiss National Park region when awards were presented by Jürg Marmet, President of the Foundation, to the following:

**Professor Dr Bruno Messerli**, Swiss geographer, research scientist and lecturer, who has been described as the doyen of mountain academics. His commitment to the protection of the world's mountains led him to play a leading role in establishing the Mountain Chapter of the United Nations' Agenda 21, emphasising the significance of mountains as vital sources of water, energy, recreation and challenge. His fieldwork has taken him to Africa, the Andes, the Mediterranean, Bangladesh and the Himalaya. His much-appreciated book *Mountains of the World: A Global Priority*, written in collaboration with Professor J D Ives, contains guidelines for presentation to the United Nations General Assembly. He is an honorary member of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, a member of the Swiss National Science Foundation, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Foundation for Science, Stockholm. In 2002 he was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society.

**Professor John David Ives**, who was born in Grimsby England, emigrated to Canada in 1954 and is now a Canadian citizen. As a geographer and lecturer with a deep commitment to protection and preservation of the fragile ecosystems of mountain regions, he was the founder and first editor of the journal *Mountain Research and Development*, which provides essential source information for students, scientists and political leaders. He authored, jointly with Professor Messerli, the book *Mountains of the World: A Global Priority*. He was Director of the McGill Sub-Arctic Research Laboratory at Schefferville Quebec (1957-60), and of the Canadian Federal Geographical Branch (Energy, Mines & Resources) in Ottawa. He was Professor of Mountain Geoecology at the Universities of Colorado (1979-89) and of California (1989-97). He was Chairman, for two eight-year terms between 1972 and 1996, of the International Geographical Union (Mountain Geoecology); and Chairman of UNESCO's International Working Group for study of the impact of human activities on mountain ecosystems. He founded the International Mountain Society in 1980 and was editor-in-chief (1981-2000) of *Mountain Research & Development*.

**Hans Weiss**, Swiss conservationist, scientist, and lecturer, has made valuable contributions to the preservation of the Alpine environment by arousing public awareness of the value of mountain ecosystems. He has introduced basic training courses in ecological issues at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich. He is the author of two books, *The Peaceful Destruction of Swiss Landscape and Attempts at Reversal* and *Indivisible Landscape: Enhanced Ecological Awareness*, the publication of which has been responsible for the incorporation of new guidelines into existing laws. He has written numerous articles, and has done invaluable work helping to establish a fund for the preservation of cultivated land, without which the Alpine landscape would present a different picture.

**Alliance in the Alps** is a project founded in 1997 by CIPRA-International Committee for Protection of the Alps in Schaan (Liechtenstein) and AFI-Alpine Research Institute in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavarian Alps. This pioneer project brings together a network of 27 local authorities in France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland, with the purpose of advancing environmental initiatives by providing a flow of information between the affiliated communities to assist development of agriculture, energy, transport, and responsible promotion of tourism in the mountains. The objectives are pursued by means of cross-border conventions and workshops aimed at establishing closer communication between community networks towards the improvement of social, economic, and ecological standards, whilst emphasizing the need for sound environmental practices.

**ECO Himal**, a non-government organisation founded in 1991, based in Salzburg Austria, with a regional office in Kathmandu Nepal, promotes and supports, in partnership with local organisations, social, cultural, educational, and ecological development programmes in Nepal and Tibet which are intended to generate income for the population and to bring long-term benefits to their lives.

- Construction of a 600 Kw Hydropower Plant in Thame which is operated by a trained Sherpa team. Since 1999 the Khumbu power plant has been managed by representatives of local communities, who are its major shareholders. Regional development of the Sagarmatha National Park includes promotion of solar energy, village improvement projects, and provision of drinking water and sewage systems for Namche Bazar.
- Integrated rural development project Arun valley (Makalu-Barun National Park) including building of pathways, bridges, drinking water systems, improved agricultural output, fruit plantation, small-scale health services and literacy systems.
- Since 1992 Tibetan primary schools have been built and furnished in neglected rural areas. Each school will be provided with a flock of sheep in order to generate income for the school and provide food for the pupils.
- Thame mountaineering school provides training for trekking and mountaineering guides, as well as for Nepalese Tourism Management personnel.
- Restoration of an historical garden and architectural ensemble *Keshar Mahal* situated in the centre of Kathmandu, assisted by local and international experts.