



*Invited speakers of the
“Silk Roads in the Mountains of Central Asia: Ancient Routes and Modern
Challenges in Times of Global Change” International Workshop*

Invited speakers	Institutional affiliations	Presentation
Dr Yuri Badenkov	Institute of Geography, RAS	Transboundary Knots of High Asia and Silk Road: Geography, Environment & Sustainability in Altai
Dr Hermann Kreutzmann	ZELF, Freie Universität Berlin	Pamirian Crossroads & the New Silk Road Initiative
Dr Wu Ning	ICIMOD (Ecosystem Services)	Transboundary conservation and management of mountain ecosystem services
Dr Troy Sternberg	Geography and Environment, University of Oxford	The role of landscape and politics of infrastructure for China's New Silk Road program in Central Asia

Dr. Yuri Badenkov is a leading scientist in the field of sustainable mountain development and adaptation strategies for global change, with experience working in North Eurasia, Central Asia, North and South Caucasus and the Sudet Mountains in Poland. Dr. Yuri Badenkov was a core member of the founding commission of University of Central Asia (UCA) and is member of the Advisory Committee for UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI). From 1983 to 2013, he led the Mountain Group MAB-6 at the Russian Academy of Science Institute of Geography. He also has contributed to UNESCO's work on sustainable mountain development, and the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), working to preserve mountain biosphere reserves. Dr. Badenkov received a medal of honour from the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO Affairs for his contribution in promoting Russian cooperation with UNESCO. Dr. Badenkov holds degree in Geology from the University of Moscow and in Geochemistry from the University of St. Petersburg.

Dr. Hermann Kreutzmann has been Chair of Human Geography and Director of the Centre for Development Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin since 2005. Previously he held the Chair of Cultural Geography and Development Studies, and was the Director of the Institute of Geography at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuernberg since 1996. He studied physics, geography and anthropology at the universities of Hannover and Freiburg/Brs., received his Dr. rer. nat. in 1989 from the Freie Universität Berlin, acted afterwards as the field director of the DFG-funded special research programme "Culture Area Karakorum", was awarded postdoctoral habilitation degree from Bonn University in 1994 and became a visiting professor at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle in

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1995. He received a Heisenberg Fellowship in 1995 and was awarded the Tianshan Prize China in 2010. Empirical research was conducted in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Nepal, Tibet and Xinjiang since 1977 and spanning a fieldwork period of nearly a decade resulting in more than 200 publications including more than twenty authored and edited books. Principle Investigator in the Berlin Graduate School "Muslim Culture and Societies" and board member of the BMBF programme "Crossroads Asia".

Dr. Wu Ning, a Chinese national, joined ICIMOD in October 2011. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he worked at the Chengdu Institute of Biology (CIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) as Director General and was responsible for the formulation, development, and management of many national and international programme activities. He handled over 60 projects from the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and many international organizations. His work on two national projects on carbon assessment of grasslands in southern China and ecological restoration of degraded mountain ecosystems in the Hengduan Mountains are especially relevant to ICIMOD's work in China's Himalayan region and the Tibetan Plateau. Prior to that, he worked as a professor at CIB from 2001, studying alpine vegetation ecology, wetland ecology, rangeland ecology, and pastoral development of the Tibetan Plateau. Dr Wu Ning has an MSc in plant ecology from CAS and a PhD in vegetation geography from the Free University of Berlin, where he was also a Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation from 1999 to 2000. He has published over 150 articles in international and national academic journals on various topics including forest ecology, alpine rangeland, alpine timberline, restoration ecology, and geography of nomadic pastoralism.

Dr. Troy Sternberg is a member of the Center for Climate and Security's Advisory Board, and British Academy Post-doctoral Research Fellow in the School of Geography, Oxford University. His research focuses on the interaction of natural hazards with societies and the environment in the Gobi Desert, including hazard identification, social exposure and resilience and the evolving climate and hazard impact on human systems. In particular, he explores how drought, dzud (extreme winter) and climate influence human opportunity and security in the Gobi region of northern China and southern Mongolia. His interests center on desert processes – natural hazards, water, drought, climate, degradation, pastoralism, livelihoods, development and expanding dryland knowledge. He has contributed to a number of peer-reviewed journals, including the International Journal of Climatology and the Forced Migration Review. Troy holds a Doctorate in Philosophy (D.Phil) from Oxford University.

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