



MountainEXPO

#MountainsMatter

Background information

The World Mountain Forum 2018 “Mountains in a Changing World: Strengthening Partnerships and Pathways towards a Thriving Mountain Future”, which will be held in Kyrgyzstan on October 23-26, 2018, is the fourth in the series of World Mountain Forums (WMF), following three previous World Mountain Forums, each in different mountain regions of the world - Switzerland (2011), Peru (2014), Uganda (2016).

The organizers of the World Mountain Forum 2018 are the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the University of Central Asia. On the Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated June 4, 2018 and signed by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Organizing Committee was established. The University of Central Asia, jointly with its international partners and with the assistance of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, oversees the work of the Program Committee.

WMF2018 Goal and Objectives:

Referring to the global SDG debate and building on past achievements, the overall goal of WMF 2018 is to develop together a scenario for a thriving mountain future and to sketch out some pathways towards it. More specifically, the WMF 2018 aims to:

- Build and strengthen partnerships beyond traditional alliances for advancing the SMD agenda
- Develop and prioritize strategic and innovative pathways towards a more sustainable mountain future
- Position and reference the SMD agenda in regional and global debates (e.g. SDG, Paris Accord)
- Explore investment opportunities and challenges for mountain areas
- Collect and share best practices and innovative solutions, both regionally and globally
- Strengthen initiatives to form and strength reliable regional mountain alliances

The WMF 2018 will reflect on and contribute to ongoing debates related to SMD, by focusing on key thematic realms around which sub-themes and key questions will be addressed and explored. The WMF 2018 furthermore aims to provide a platform and arena for addressing national and regional SMD

priorities, fostering alliances, and exploring ways off the beaten paths. The following 4 main themes will structure the sessions:

- *Climate Change affecting Water and Energy*
- *Poverty, Food Systems, and Agrobiodiversity*
- *Resilience and transformation within mountain socio-ecological systems*
- *Investing in mountains securing the future*

On the initiative of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the opening of the World Mountain Forum is planned to coincide with the International Day of Snow Leopard, celebrated on October 23.

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Dates: October 22-24, 2018

Venue: Gapar Aitiev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts

The World Mountain Forum 2018 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and will be kicked off on October 23, 2018. The launch of the Mountain EXPO in the Museum of Fine Arts, located next to WMF2018 venue, will expand the forum's platform and will provide excellent opportunities for organizing pre-conference events, side events and exhibitions. Opened not only for WMF participants, but also for public, the MountainEXPO will thus widen the WMF2018 audience.

Hashtags #MountainsMatter #ГорыВажны (RUS), used for the title of MountainEXPO, are unique to the mountain agenda and SMD, are widely known at the global level and will attract more international attention to the event.

The MountainEXPO will be officially opened on October 22, 2018 and is aimed to turn into a significant event of the WMF2018. The official opening ceremony will be organized with the participation of the forum guests, representatives of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, international organizations and development agencies, Embassies of the countries - forum participants, the mass media, etc.

The rationale behind the MountainEXPO is to create an exhibition platform, as an important component of WMF2018 for promoting sustainable mountain development initiatives, that will allow participants and partners of the forum to showcase their best practices and products in the "knowledge fair" format, to exchange experience and to develop new partnerships.

The MountainEXPO will host the Youth Mountain Forum, organized jointly by UNICEF and UCA and launched on October 22, 2018.

The MountainEXPO will also host mountain related photo exhibitions – 'Mountains of Kyrgyzstan' and 'SMart' (Sustainable mountain art). The 'Mountains of Kyrgyzstan' is a photo exhibition featuring picturesque corners of Kyrgyzstan that depict the local nature, historical monuments and popular sightseeing places, as well as life of mountain communities in different regions of the country.

The SMart exhibition is a unique photo exhibition of the Swiss Foundation FDDM, featuring the photographs «The Agony of a glacier», which according to LAURENCE PIAGET, an artist, “carry a symbolism that must prompt us to react and change out daily behavior to benefit our environment”.

The MountainEXPO is also opened for WMF partners’ proposals of SMD side events, including those that cover aspects of cultural and traditional knowledge such as Ethno-Fashion, Traditional Pastoralism, traditional music, various master classes and presentations.

The organizers believe that the open format of the exhibition and an interesting program will make the MountainEXPO a great experience for visitors, exhibitors and participants of the WMF2018.

The selection and program of MountainEXPO

The participation for MountainEXPO’s exhibitors will be by invitations only and proposals from organizations will be selected by MSRIUCA.

The space of 600 sq. meters for MountainEXPO will be divided into thematic sections and the preparatory work will be coordinated by a special *curator* from MSRI. The final program and layout will be developed after finalizing the exhibitors’ selection process.

The deadline is August 31, 2018.

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