

4th GLOBAL MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

WORKING GROUP ON INNOVATION, 18/9/13

Facilitated by Martin Price

The MP Draft Governance and Strategy lists two outputs/activities under the function of innovation. It was agreed that **innovation should not be a function per se, but a principle: all outputs/activities of the MP should be innovative, and that the MP as a whole should be a platform that create and link informed and inspiring dialogues.**

In terms of innovative means (platforms) for knowledge management and communication, different types of mass media (e.g., films, music, video games) – should be used to widen awareness: to deliver positive messages using well-known means in new ways and at different levels (local to global) and in different contexts (cultures, countries, target audience, etc.). Well-known mountain sportspeople (climbers, skiers, etc.) could be valuable in this context. TED talks (15-minute presentations on new ideas) could be another possibility; they reach a wide global audience.

In considering future developments, young people should be asked what they see as emerging challenges/key issues for the future. The MP could create a group to develop/collect new ideas/types of information and have means to make them accessible. : Participatory approaches (e.g., brainstorming, World Cafe, e-dialogues) should be used.

These were the points that related most directly to the outputs/activities listed in the MP Draft Governance and Strategy.

Much of the discussion centred on innovations in mountain areas:

- the need to assess the potential impacts (good and bad) of innovations (whether developed in or coming from outside mountain areas);
- how to monitor the impacts of innovations (following trends, both positive and negative);
- how to prevent negative impacts of innovations

Other key points:

- innovation implies giving wider options that people can choose from
- innovation cannot be controlled, but well-organised/structured means/platforms are required for people to find out about them and decide whether they are appropriate;
- how an innovation is used is what matters
- the potential and actual impacts of innovations will vary between different mountain regions; what works somewhere not necessarily work somewhere else.

The group agreed to conclude its discussion with these points, and that its members would join other working groups on the following day.

Participants: Axel Borsdorf (IGF), Karinjo DeVore (AIMF), Alexey Gunya (MAB-6 Center), Rozana Alieva (CAMP Kuhiston), Peter Trutmann (Global Mountain Action)