



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



### **DR. MEETA S. PRADHAN ASSUMES DIRECTORSHIP OF THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE, HIMALAYAN PROGRAMS**

**WASHINGTON, DC, AND KATHMANDU, NEPAL --**

Meeta S. Pradhan, Ph.D., joined The Mountain Institute as Director of Himalayan Programs, in Kathmandu, Nepal effective from January 1, 2014. The Mountain Institute (TMI) is a non-profit organization promoting economic development in mountain communities, conservation of mountain environments and support for mountain cultures, and has been working to advance sustainable development in Nepal since 1988.

Dr. Pradhan joins TMI with impressive credentials and experience, and a professional commitment to alleviating poverty focusing on issues of social justice and equity. She received her Ph.D. from University of Michigan concentrating on Social Exclusion and Social Change, examining the barriers that prevent local communities from fully participating in local development initiatives.

Dr. Pradhan has many years of experience working in technical and senior management positions including serving with CARE Nepal as Program Development Coordinator, and UNICEF on project monitoring and evaluation issues. She has produced a number of highly regarded technical and analytical reports and publications examining development impacts on poverty, social inclusion, and gender. The Mountain Institute is especially pleased to have Dr. Pradhan join our team as she started her professional career with the Institute as the Women's Development Officer with the Makalu Barun Conservation Project, helping establish a new

model for national park management in Nepal emphasizing co-management of natural resources between local communities and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.

Dr. Pradhan replaces Brian Peniston as Director of Himalayan Programs who served in that position from February 1996 through the end of 2013. Mr. Peniston will be taking up a new position at TMI as Director for Livelihoods and Innovation based out of Washington, DC.

“The Mountain Institute is fortunate to bring on board a dedicated leader with Dr. Pradhan’s experience, passion and history of commitment to mountain people and environments,” said TMI’s Executive Director, Dr. Andrew Taber. “TMI’s long-standing commitment to the region makes the role of our Himalayan Program Director particularly critical as the mountains of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas face unprecedented pressures from climate change and other global and local trends. With Dr. Pradhan’s assumption of this leading role, the Board of Trustees, The Mountain Institute staff and I are confident that TMI will substantially expand its service to mountain communities, and contribute more effectively to the preservation of important mountain environments, benefiting us all, and especially the highland peoples of the region.”

#### **About The Mountain Institute:**

The Mountain Institute is a non-profit organization established in 1972 with offices in Washington, DC, West Virginia, Nepal and Peru. Its work focuses on three central themes: sustainable economic development in the mountains, conservation of mountain environments, and support for mountain cultures. By listening to the people who know mountains best – the people who live there – TMI helps identify and implement solutions to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and the health of their environments. Working closely with development agencies, government, academic and technical partners, TMI’s programs now reach more than a quarter of a million people each year. Further, approaches the Institute has developed are in use in mountainous countries around the world. For more information, go to: [www.mountain.org](http://www.mountain.org).