



1 May 2014

Dear ProSPER.Net Members,

On behalf of Tongji University and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), ProSPER.Net Secretariat, we are pleased to invite you to participate in the 2014 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School (YRS), to be held at Tongji University, Shanghai, People's Republic of China from 15 to 26 September 2014.

Previous Young Researchers' Schools (YRS) were successfully organised by RMIT University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in 2010, by Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan, in 2011, by Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in 2012 and by Chulalongkorn University, Asian Institute of Technology and Prince of Songkla University in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2013. Following the rotating feature of the YRS, UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) of Tongji University, with UNU-IAS support, will host the 2014 YRS in Shanghai, People's Republic of China.

The main goal of the YRS is to provide graduate students with an opportunity to better understand the spectrum of challenges that underpin sustainable development. By assembling these young researchers together for an intensive 2-week workshop, the school also fosters the growth of a network of sustainability scholars and professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.

The theme of the 2014 school will be **'Urban Planning for Sustainable Development: Water Resources and Ecosystem Management'**. A preliminary programme (Attachment 1) outlines the ways in which students will be exposed to issues related to urban planning for sustainable development, and for them to begin developing research responses to several challenges that provide integrative solutions as considering water resources and ecosystem management.

This programme is designed to provide students with valuable learning opportunities as well as a platform to contribute ideas. Features of the programme include:

- Team building and group work on discovering research questions and developing proposals on sustainability issues.
- Development of communication skills through presentation of research plans developed during the school as well as their own dissertations. These will be discussed with leading scholars from ProSPER.Net member universities.
- Field visits to talk with local community and students developing sustainable initiatives.

Participants are encouraged to secure their own sources of funding. On a competitive basis, a limited number of scholarships will support the full participation of highly qualified PhD students from different ProSPER.Net member universities. These scholarships will cover: (i) the costs of tuition for the YRS; (ii) return economy class travel to and from Shanghai; (iii) local travel within Shanghai and adjacent areas; (iv) accommodation; and (v) most meals. **Please observe that travel**

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insurance shall be covered by the participants. Tongji University and UNU-IAS will not be able to provide for this and are not responsible in case any medical emergency happens. Tongji University and their team will be happy to assist participants in any need they might have, but medical related expenses shall be covered by individual travel insurance.

Given the preliminary outline for this year's YRS, we ask our members to undertake the following steps:

- ProSPER.Net universities invite PhD students who are working in the field of sustainable development to apply for the YRS. An application form is provided (Attachment 2).
- Each university considers what internal sources of funds are available to support the participation of students and submit the information together with applications.

Please send applications from students and advice on your level of support by 20 June 2014 to: yrs@ias.unu.edu.

We look forward to receiving applications from prospective students.

With best regards,



Prof. Jiang WU
Vice President of Tongji University
Dean of UNEP-Tongji IESD
Tongji University



Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto
Director, ESD Programme
ProSPER.Net Secretariat
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Attachments to this letter are:

1. Preliminary Programme of the 2014 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School
2. Application Form