**2014 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School**

**‘Urban Planning for Sustainable Development: Water Resources and Ecosystem Management’**

**Tongji University**

**Shanghai, People's Republic of China**

**15 to 26 September, 2014**

**Application**

**Applications:** Applications are openfor PhD students from ProSPER.Net member universities to participate in an interdisciplinary intensive Young Researchers’ School on ‘Urban Planning for Sustainable Development: Water Resources and Ecosystem Management’.

**Resource Persons:** The School will be taught by leading sustainability experts from ProSPER.Net member universities across the Asia-Pacific region and internationally.

**Aims:** Participants in the Young Researchers’ School will:

* Develop advanced knowledge and skills in sustainability research and practice, with a special focus on urban planning, water resources and ecosystem management;
* Develop in-depth research design and planning skills;
* Receive advice on their own thesis and related research proposals;
* Become part of a network of sustainability researchers in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Study Theme:** In view of Asia’s situation of environmental degradation, occurrence of natural disasters, increasing levels of urbanization, persistence of poverty, all of these impacting on human, social and economic development, the Researchers’ School will provide the participants with the opportunity to explore different dimensions of sustainability issues derived from the current situation, specifically how policies, projects and partnerships in urban planning for sustainable development including water resources and ecosystem management may provide integrative solutions as considering a) urban planning and green architecture, b) water resource management, treatment and safe water supply, c) wetland ecosystem and healthy agriculture and d) green economy and sustainable production and consumption. Fieldtrips have been chosen to correspond to specific projects being undertaken by different stakeholders in the region, focusing on how research can be practically applied and promote sustainable practices. Along with a series of lectures by resource persons, participants will be introduced to sustainability challenges faced by local communities and the innovative approaches that can be used to address them. Based on these lessons, students will then develop ideas on how to look at problems from their own perspectives and possibly find integrative ways and approaches to promote sustainable solutions.

**Other activities** in the 2014 school include:

* Life after PhD panel, to help participants realize the potential of their PhD course
* Research communication activities (3-minute thesis exercise, Our World 2.0 workshop)

As well as a focus on the *scientific and social scientific* *content* of these sustainability issues, the Young Researchers’ School will engage students in the joint investigation of sustainability issues and also develop the important research skills needed for interdisciplinary problem-based research.

Workshops at the Young Researchers’ School will also focus on research skills and strategies for effective research design and planning, with a focus on student research plan presentations.

**Selection Criteria:** Participants will be selected on the basis of written application according to the following criteria:

* Currently enrolled in a PhD programme in a ProSPER.Net member university.
* Completion of all coursework and in the thesis stage of their studies.
* High level of understanding of written and spoken English language.
* An advanced understanding of sustainability and its relevance to their own research.
* Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment and contribute to community service activities.

**Scholarships:** A limited number of scholarships are available. The scholarships cover all costs of Young Researchers’ School tuition, return economy class travel, accommodation and most meals, **except for travel insurance, which shall be the participant’s responsibility**.

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**Application Form**

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| **Family name** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **First and other names** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Date of Birth** | | | | | | | | | **Gender** |
| **Email** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **University** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **Department** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **Name of University ProSPER.Net Representative** | | | | | | |  | | |
| **Email** | | | | | | | **Telephone** | | |
| **Yes/No** | **Need of scholarship** | | | | | | **University Certification**  I certify that the information provided by the applicant is true.  Signature of University ProSPER.Net Representative  Date | | |
|  | **Please inform the stage of your Ph.D. studies (1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year...)** | | | | | |
| **Please indicate your English level ability from 1 to 5** | | | | | | |
|  | **Poor Excellent** | | | | | |
| **Reading** | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Writing** | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **How does your PhD research relate and contribute to the theme of the school? (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment and experience in community development/service activities (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **What is your vision to build a sustainable society? (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Research publications and/or presentations (conferences and dissertation defence etc)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Certification**  I certify that the answers to the above questions are true. | | | | | | | | | |
| **Signature** | | | | | | | | **Date** | |

This form should be completed and emailed as an attachment, together with a **recommendation letter** from the direct supervisor to yrs@ias.unu.edu by **20 June 2014**.