



15 April 2011

Dear ProSPER.Net Member,

On behalf of Hosei University and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, ProSPER.Net Secretariat, we would like to invite your institution to participate in the 2011 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School, to be held at Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan, from 1-12 August 2011.

The first Young Researchers' School (YRS) was successfully organised by RMIT University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and following its conclusion and the excellent feedback from students and resource persons regarding this exciting initiative, Hosei University, with UNU-IAS support, decided to host the 2011 YRS in Tokyo, Japan.

Excellent resources have been committed, from Hosei University, ProSPER.Net (through the contribution from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan to UNU-IAS) and the German Ministry of Education and Research, that will also support the winners of their Green Talents competition to participate in this year's YRS (<http://www.research-in-germany.de/greentalents>).

Thanks to this support, the selected young scholars will benefit from exposure to a wide range of expertise from post-docs to professors of the ProSPER.Net community. This will be delivered in the form of interactive seminars, assistance in working groups as well as broader mentoring.

The main goal of the Young Researchers' School is to provide graduate students and young post-doctoral researchers with an opportunity to better understand the spectrum of challenges that underpin sustainable development. By assembling these young scientists 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.

For this purpose, sharing and networking tools such as Basecamp and LinkedIn groups are available for past participants to interact with current students and we hope that we will slowly expand this network of Asian researchers working with sustainability issues.

The theme of the 2011 school will focus on urban sustainability in Japan. Through lectures and field trips where operational projects will be presented, students will be able to experience how a developed country is tackling complex urban issues and will be challenged to reflect on how these various approaches and knowledge may be incorporated or transferred to developing countries.

A draft programme (Attachment 1) outlines the ways in which students will have an opportunity to learn more about the issues and begin developing research responses to these challenges.

We have been greatly assisted in the development of this programme by UNU-IAS Sustainable Urban Future Fellows, Dr. Christopher Doll and Dr. Osman Balaban, who helped to facilitate last year's researchers' school in Viet Nam and are now advising Hosei University's Organising Committee in the academic aspects of the school.

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 the 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 representatives of local government and companies developing sustainable initiatives in their respective domains.

The budget includes funds for scholarships that will support the full participation of 10-12 PhD students from different ProSPER.Net member universities. These scholarships will cover: (i) the costs of tuition at the Young Researchers' School; (ii) return economy class travel to and from Tokyo; (iii) local travel within Tokyo and adjacent areas; (iv) accommodation; and (v) most meals. The largest cost element for this project is air travel to and from Japan. This is the reason for the limit on the number of funded participants. The likelihood of demand for travel support exceeding supply is very high, and decisions will have to be made about who will be able to be supported.

However, Japanese students are welcome to apply and for these, we hope that ProSPER.Net Japanese universities will be able to fund student travel and participation from their own funds.

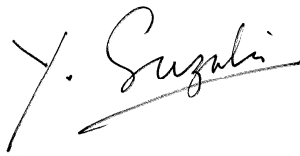
Given the proposed outline for this summer's Young Researchers' School, we ask our members to undertake the following steps:

- ProSPER.Net universities invite PhD students who are working in the field of sustainable development to apply for a Young Researchers' School scholarship. An application form is provided (Attachment 2).
- Each university considers what internal sources of funds are available to support the participation of additional students.
- ProSPER.Net universities consider who from their academic staff could be invited to participate in the Young Researchers' School as lecturers or resource persons. There is provision in the budget to share the cost of supporting few resource persons. An application form for potential resource persons is provided (Attachment 3).

Please send applications from students and proposals for additional resource persons as well as advice on your level of support **by May 15 2011** to: yrs@ias.unu.edu.

We look forward to receiving applications for the Young Researchers' School from prospective students and resource persons.

With best regards,



Professor Yuji Suzuki  
Hosei University Committee Chair



Kazuhiko Takemoto  
Head, UNU-IAS ESD Programme  
ProSPER.Net Secretariat

**Following the devastating events of the earthquake and tsunami and unprecedented chain of events that has unfolded since March 11 many people around the world are naturally concerned about the situation here in Japan. Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones and are without shelter. As such we try to put risks in context. At present, we envisage no disruption to the researchers' school. We are however keeping a close eye on the developing situation and reserve the right to amend these plans as necessary. We will of course keep you fully updated should any plans change. We thank you for your understanding in this regard.**

Attachments to this letter are:

1. Draft Programme ProSPER.NET Young Researchers' School
2. Scholarship Application
3. Nomination Form for Lecturers/Resource Persons