

Post-graduate Research Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change (PRoACC) in the Mekong River Basin

Recruitment of post-graduate researchers for Phase 2 PRoACC

(for further details the reader is referred to the PRoACC programme document)

Introduction

The second Phase of the Post-graduate Research Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change (PRoACC) in the Mekong River Basin intends to respond to the regional research agenda on water and climate. The design of the programme is based on results and experiences from the first Phase. The second Phase of the programme will have the following characteristics:

- The programme will be executed in four inter-related research themes:
 - o Enhancing the adaptive capacity and livelihoods of poor people to cope with climate change
 - o Managing sediments and nutrients across scales and climate change adaptation
 - o Urbanizing areas in the Mekong delta and climate change adaptation;
 - o International cooperation for sustainable water management and climate change adaptation.
- Each theme will be implemented by a team of young researchers in different water-related disciplines with a MSc or PhD degree (post-MSc or post-doc researchers) in the years 2013 and 2014.
- The post-graduate researchers will be recruited through reputed Knowledge Institutes in the Mekong region, preferably belonging to the staff of these institutes, who make them available to participate in the research.
- The post-graduate researchers are expected to devote a considerable part of their time to the research programme, over a period of maximum 2 years. The proposed start date is 1 January 2013. They can spend part of their time in The Netherlands for specialised training, supervision etc., but the majority of the time at their home institute.
- UPaRF will compensate the contributing research institutes for the salary related costs of their staff and provide necessary research costs and travel costs for the post-graduate researchers.
- The programme intends to contribute to concrete national climate change adaptation initiatives ('actions on the ground') and therefore make links to these initiatives from the beginning of the programme. This includes cooperation with key organisations in the field of water and environmental management, interactions with policy makers and possibly action research including local stakeholders.
- The programme will work towards scientific publications including joint publications, outreach, and dedicated workshops and conferences in the region.
- The programme is guided by UNESCO-IHE in collaboration with its partners and an international scientific and policy advisory panel.

Post graduate researchers

The programme focuses at young post-graduate researchers and will recruit post-doc researchers and / or post-MSc researchers. Post-doc research is aimed at recognising that the most productive period in a scientific career is often the first five years following the completion of the PhD. Post-MSc researchers can be young graduates or those who have a few years working experience. Post-MSc researchers could be PhD students who do part of their research in the context of PProACC, but PProACC will not fund a full PhD fellowship.

The post-graduate researchers will undertake their research under the guidance of a supervision team that includes a professor of UNESCO-IHE and a professor of a partner institute, key staff members from UNESCO-IHE research cores and partner institutions, and further representatives from stakeholders. Experts from MRC, CWRC, water sector organizations and various stakeholders (local and regional level) will participate to ensure a sound policy link and ultimately impact on the ground. Each of the four research themes will be coordinated by a Mekong and UNESCO-IHE expert.

The total duration for the implementation of the research is set to 2 years (2013 and 2014). All post graduate researchers should ideally be a current employee of a partner institute from the region, or the possibility to be hosted by such a partner must be developed. They will not enter a working contract with UNESCO-IHE, but obtain a research fellowship which will be granted through the partner institute (all knowledge institutes from the region of the study area).

The post-graduate fellows per research theme are expected to come together at UNESCO-IHE, Delft, The Netherlands to obtain specialised training and supervision and interact with other groups for shorter periods, i.e. generally for a maximum of 4 months of a total of 2 year programme. There will also be opportunities for fellows to work outside their country to strengthen regional cooperation, and give students additional experience beyond the purely academic.

The post-doc fellows must have demonstrated their capability to conduct independent and high quality research resulting in peer-reviewed international journal publications. The post-graduate research fellows will be contracted part-time (i.e. for post-doctoral fellows) or full-time (post-MSc researchers) and hosted at a local knowledge institute.

Selection of candidates and research proposals

The post-graduate fellowships will be advertised through the channels of UNESCO-IHE and the partner institutes (webpage, direct contact of suitable candidates etc). As the fellows mainly work at the partner institute, the hope is it that we mainly find them through the contacts of the partners.

Candidates are expected to submit a CV and letter of motivation which includes their interest in one of the four Phase 2 research themes. The latest date for applications is 30 September 2012.

After selection of the candidates, which will be done jointly by the supervision team (see above), a research proposal of about 10-12 pages for the project needs to be developed by the post-graduate researcher in collaboration with the research theme coordinators and his/her

supervisors during the first 6-8 weeks of the project. The proposal will be in line with the research theme description. The proposal has to apply a classical proposal structure and needs to include a detailed work plan that defines significant project milestones and associated timelines. The proposals should be endorsed (in writing) by all parties involved and be presented for approval to the Scientific and Policy Advisory Committee (SAC, see below) during the 2nd month of the project. The SAC will then formally accept, suggest modifications, or reject the proposal. The evaluation criteria are scientific quality, originality, relevance, feasibility of the research plan, and potential for the implementation of project outputs.

Coordination and information

The programme is coordinated by Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook the PProACC programme director and Dr. Wim Douven the programme manager; both UNESCO-IHE. You are kindly requested to submit applications to Dr. Wim Douven, who is also available to respond to any queries that may arise (w.douven@unesco-ihe.org).

For more information on PProACC including the detailed description of the programme see our website: www.unesco-ihe.org/proacc.