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UNU-EHS

Institute for Environment
and Human Security



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Rheinische
Friedrich-Wilhelms-
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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY Institute for Environment and Human Security in cooperation with University of Bonn announce the PhD Block Course 2013



Coping with Disaster - <http://www.unmultimedia.org/sphotonet/detail/3160031659.html>

From Vulnerability to Resilience in Disaster Risk Management

10-22 March 2013, UN Campus, Bonn

Accepting applications until 31 January 2013

Location: UNU-EHS, UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

Coordinator: MSc. Dipl. Ing. Vilma Hossini (née Liaukonyte)

Email: hossini@ehs.unu.edu ; Phone: +49 228 815 0212

For more information about the PhD Block Course, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/elearning/>

We are inviting qualified PhD and Master's students who have an interdisciplinary focus and are working on research related to vulnerability and resilience in the context of disaster risk reduction and management to apply for the UNU-EHS PhD Block Course entitled "From Vulnerability to Resilience in Disaster Risk Management" to be held **10-22 March 2013** in Bonn, Germany. PhD students would ideally be in the early stages of their research while Master's students in the advanced stage of their research. Applications of interested candidates must be submitted no later than 31 January 2013 via email to: phd_block_course@ehs.unu.edu.

For more information about the PhD Block Course, please refer to the following link:
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Purpose

The Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS) assesses the vulnerability and coping capacity of communities facing natural and human-induced hazards in a changing environment. It leads United Nations University's (UNU) research and capacity building activities in the broad interdisciplinary field of risk and vulnerability. One of the institute's major educational activities is the UNU-EHS PhD Block Course, which highlights the complexity and importance of vulnerability and resilience in disaster risk management. The UNU-EHS PhD Block Course is offered every year in collaboration with the University of Bonn and is designed for postgraduate candidates in the early stages of PhD research (or about to begin PhD studies) and advanced Master's degree students.

About the Block Course

The growing frequency and magnitude of extreme environmental events (such as floods, landslides and drought) have intensified research interest in these events, in particular regarding the level of risk they pose in different locations, the vulnerability of communities, and their response capabilities. The concept of human security focuses on threats that endanger the lives and livelihoods of individuals and communities. Safeguarding human security requires a new approach and a better understanding of many interrelated variables (such as social, political, economic, technological and environmental factors) that determine the impact of extreme events when they occur.

The overall goal of the Block Course is to increase the awareness regarding the complexity and importance of vulnerability and resilience in the field of disaster risk management. The Block Course is based on UNU-EHS key research questions, and covers the following major themes:

- Environmental, physical, social, and economical dimensions of vulnerability
- Processes and conditions that have an impact on vulnerability and determine vulnerability patterns
- Methods and models to assess vulnerability
- Interlinkages between environmental migration and vulnerability
- Measures and activities which enable shifting from vulnerability to resilience policy recommendations

The UNU-EHS PhD Block Course is offered every year in collaboration with the University of Bonn. The time allotted for the Block Course is 11 days, within which the following modules will be covered:

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Theme	Topics	Assignments
Terminology	Disaster risk management (DRM Terminology)	•Comparative analysis of a disaster risk management terminology
Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hazard types •Historical spatial and temporal hazard distribution •Assessing hazards •Measuring hazards' impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mapping historical hazards •Hazard frequency-magnitude-damage analysis
Dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Definition of a system •Infrastructure •Economical •Environmental •Social •Coupling two or more dimensions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Analysis of the basic elements of particular system •Practical exercise on describing applied systems
Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Basic principles •Theoretical basis •Conceptual frameworks •Vulnerability and sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discussion of the applicability different frameworks •Improved understanding of the different conceptual and theoretical approaches
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assessing vulnerability •Indicator and indices •Qualitative versus quantitative assessment •Input data collection methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Perform data collection •Examples of qualitative analysis •Examples of quantitative analysis •Exercises using indicators and indices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Vulnerability models •Progression of vulnerability •Root causes •Dynamic pressure •Unsafe conditions •Environmentally Induced Migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assessing vulnerability using selected models •Analysing root causes for different vulnerability patterns - context specific •Environmentally induced migration - Qualitative tools and methods •Environmentally induced migration - stories •info on cases

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Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Remote sensing •GIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction of space based technologies for risk and disaster management •Discussion of various tools and methods •Analysis of existing international response and support mechanisms •Practical exercises
Vulnerability to Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •On theory of resilience •Progression of resilience •Achieving safe conditions •Reducing hazard impact •Development of safety culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assessing progression of resilience •Achieving safe conditions for selected hazard •Steps towards a culture of resilience •Linking vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies

Learning Objectives

- To increase awareness of the multi-dimensional nature of vulnerability and the necessity for an interdisciplinary approach
- To be able to critically evaluate and understand different concepts and frameworks of vulnerability
- To be able to analyse the role of vulnerability and resilience in disaster risk management and development planning
- To be in the position of understanding and implementing models and methods for vulnerability assessment
- To be in the position of implementing measures and activities which enable shifting from vulnerability to resilience
- To improve capacities to apply methods and tools
- To be able to understand of use of technology in DRM

Framework

10 March 2013

Ice Breaker

Meeting of scientists from Tohoku University, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), and participants of the course.

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11 March 2013

Scientific Workshop on “The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 11 March 2011 – Lessons Learned and Research Questions”

12 March 2013

Begin of the regular programme of the block course. A detailed programme will be provided to all participants after the selection process.

Block Course Organization and Materials

The UNU-EHS PhD Block Course consists of a series of lectures conducted by experts, students’ practical work, discussions, group work and students’ final work. Upon completion of the course, participants will be given a certificate of completion by the UNU-EHS and the University of Bonn. Course participants will also be invited to become members of the UNU-EHS Alumni Network.

Course materials will be provided by the UNU-EHS in class. A Block Course website has also been set up and can be found at the following link: <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/elearning>. This website also provides reading materials for participants to read before the Block Course.

Required Qualifications for Participants

- Currently a postgraduate candidate (i.e. in the early stages of PhD research or about to begin PhD studies); and
- A summary/abstract about current PhD studies; and
- A Master’s degree in geography, economics, social science, engineering, anthropology, environmental and/or natural science or related disciplines; or
- Currently enrolled in and in the advanced stage of a Master’s program in the mentioned disciplines
- Basic experience in vulnerability, risk and/or disaster management
- Fluency in English
- Basic computer user knowledge

Outcome

All participants will be required to write a paper for the PhD Block Course 2013. All outcomes and findings will be circulated to the institute’s network of academic scholars, and related international agencies and other relevant institutions with a view to furthering international dialogue on human security.

Application Process

To apply for the UNU-EHS PhD Block Course 2013, please submit the following materials:

For more information about the PhD Block Course, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/elearning/>

- A completed application form (found on www.ehs.unu.edu and <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/elearning>);
- CV (including any research related to the Block Course's theme);

Completed applications must be submitted and received no later than 31 January 2013. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The UNU-EHS will select 20 applicants according to the qualifications and previous achievements. Notifications will be made from 12 February 2013. For further information, please contact Vilma Hossini (Email: hossini@ehs.unu.edu, Phone: +49 228 815 0212).

Financial Information

The UNU-EHS PhD Block Course is free of charge. Each participant is expected to finance (or seek funding) and to organize his/her travel, local transport, and accommodation. Please note that UNU-EHS will not provide for any of these costs.

Tea, coffee, cold drinks, and lunch during the Block Course will be provided by UNU-EHS according to schedule.

Experts :

Dr. Tamer Afifi, Associate Academic Officer (EMOVA), UNU-EHS

Ms. Caudia Bach, Research Associate (VARMAP), UNU-EHS

Dr. Jörn Birkmann, Head of Section (VARMAP), Academic Officer, UNU-EHS

Ms. Humaira Daniel, Research Associate (EMOVA), UNU-EHS

Prof. Dr. Klaus Greve, Head of section for Geographic Information Systems, Department of Geography and Center for Remote Sensing of the Earth' Surface, University of Bonn

Dipl. -Ing. Vilma Hossini MSc, Research Associate (EGECHS), UNU-EHS

Dr. Fabrice Renaud, Head of Section (EVES), Academic Officer, UNU-EHS

Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner, UNU Vice Rector for Europe, Director, UNU-EHS

Dr. Jörg Szarzynski, Head of Section (EGECHS), Educational Officer, UNU-EHS

Dr. Koko Warner, Head of Section (EMOVA), Academic Officer, UNU-EHS

For questions or further information about the UNU-EHS PhD Block Course 10-22 March 2013, please contact:

Dipl.-Ing. Vilma Hossini (née Liaukonyte), MSc

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