



21 December 2016

Dear ProSPER.Net Members,

On behalf of International University – Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City (HCM-IU) 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 2017 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School (YRS), to be held at International University – Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam from 6 to 15 March 2017.

The 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 young researchers from ProSPER.Net institutions for an intensive 10-day programme, the school also fosters the growth of a network of sustainability scholars and professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.

The theme of the 2017 school will be **'Water Security for Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate'**. A preliminary programme (Attachment 1) outlines the ways in which students will be exposed to issues related to water security in the context of climate change. Students will then be asked to develop research responses to several challenges related to water security in the region. The goal of these responses is to provide integrative solutions that can be applied in communities facing water security issues.

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 for the students' own dissertations. These will be discussed with resource persons and scholars from HCM-IU and UNU-IAS.
- Field trips to learn about water management in Vietnam and engage with local experts and communities.

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) round-trip economy class ticket to and from Ho Chi Minh; (iii) local travel within Ho Chi Minh and adjacent areas; (iv) accommodation; (v) visa processing fee (if applicable) and (vi) most meals. **Please observe that travel insurance shall be covered by the participants.**

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HCM-IU and UNU-IAS will not be able to provide for this and are not responsible in case any medical emergency happens. HCM-IU 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 **11:59 pm, 16 January 2017** to: yrs@unu.edu.

We look forward to receiving applications from prospective students.

With best regards,

Associate Prof. Dr. Ho Thanh Phong
Rector
International University
Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City

Naoya Tsukamoto
Project Director
United Nations University
Institute for the Advance Study of Sustainability
ProSPER.Net Secretariat

Attachments to this letter are:

1. Preliminary Programme of the 2017 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School
2. Application Form