

Call for Applications: Advanced Institute on Data for Coastal Cities at Risk

22 - 27 October 2012 – IRDR International Centre of Excellence, Taipei, Taiwan



Background

Much of the world's rapid population and economic growth is occurring in large coastal cities that are at high risk from a changing climate including sea level rise, intense precipitation and heat stress. Densely populated mega-deltas and other low-lying coastal urban areas are among those described in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report as "key societal hotspots of coastal vulnerability" with many millions of people potentially affected.

With the increase in population in coastal areas, there is an increased potential for loss of life and property. Physical risks and vulnerabilities in these regions are often accompanied by a deficit of adaptive capacity (i.e., the ability to cope with the risk and vulnerabilities posed by climate change) as the cities generally lack necessary resources – financial, human, and institutional – as well as access to relevant scientific information. These constraints argue for an urgent demand to enhance the knowledge base and adaptive capacity of cities by the integration of science into planning and policy for potentially affected areas, based, in part, on improved data management. Further research is needed to advance the methods for collecting, analyzing and evaluating data for coastal cities and to have improved management and accessibility of scientific information and its incorporation into systematic analyses of methods to reduce risk and improve adaptive capacity. For this purpose, models of cities are being developed to reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience.

Addressing this deficit requires integration of research and policy-making across all hazards, disciplines and geographic regions. The **Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) program**, a decade-long program of international research and related activities, aims to bring together the natural, socio-economic, health and engineering sciences in coordinated efforts to address the challenges brought about by natural disasters, mitigate their impacts and improve related policy-making mechanisms.

Call for Applications: 2012 Advanced Institute on Data for Coastal Cities at Risk

Participation in the **2012 Advanced Institute on Data for Coastal Cities at Risk** will provide approximately 15-20 young to middle-career researchers and practitioners from Asia with the enhanced understanding, skills and resources to use and collect data for coastal cities related studies in their own countries. The 6-day, intensive event is hosted and organized by the IRDR International Center of Excellence (ICoE) in Taipei, Taiwan (<http://irdr-icoe.sinica.edu.tw/>), in partnership with START (www.start.org), the International Council for Sciences (www.icsu.org) and IRDR (www.irdrinternational.org) and with the participation of the Coastal Cities at Risk project (www.coastalcitiesatrisk.org). Sessions will include educational modules, interactive exercises and field visits. **Special attention to and case studies will be given from the cities of Vancouver, Manila, Bangkok, Lagos, Jakarta, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Mumbai, and Taipei.** All Institute participants will contribute to collaborative projects, which may later be funded to support follow-on activities. Travel support is available for those individuals selected to participate and will include round-trip economy class airfare, accommodations and modest daily subsistence while in Taipei.

Applying to Participate

Individuals from Asia who are interested to participate in the 2012 Advanced Institute on Data for Coastal Cities at Risk, should submit the following materials to the IRDR ICoE (Taipei) **no later than 17 September 2012**:

- A **Participation Statement** (2 pages maximum) that clearly articulates
 - Why the applicant would like to participate in the Institute;
 - Relevant background knowledge and experience that the applicant can share with other Institute participants;
 - Current projects, activities and responsibilities in which the applicant is involved that are applicable to and would benefit from training in coastal cities -related approaches to disaster research; and
 - Any unique ideas, skills and/or foreseeable opportunities for advancing follow-on activities subsequent to Institute participation, including the identification of potential partner organizations.
- And an updated **Curriculum Vitae or résumé** for the applicant.

Both documents should be submitted by email to the IRDR ICoE at siyuyu@gate.sinica.edu.tw. Applications that are not received, in full or in part, by the deadline stipulated above will not be considered for participation. Applicants will be informed of participant selection by 1 October 2012.

For More Information

Questions about the Advanced Institute on Data for Coastal Cities at Risk or this Call for Applications may be directed to Si-Yu Yu at IRDR ICoE at siyuyu@gate.sinica.edu.tw or to Sarah Schweizer at START at sschweizer@start.org.

IRDR is co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR).