

ICIMOD MOUNTAIN CHAIR Call for Applications

Date of Announcement: 24 April 2017

I. BACKGROUND

The **Himalayan University Consortium (HUC)** was founded in 2007 with a mandate to develop an effective, sustainable network of universities in the HKH, for collaboration with academic, research and knowledge generating and exchange institutions both within and outside the region. Since 2014 when it became an emerging Regional Programme of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Consortium has expanded its network to 35 full members in 8 HKH countries and 10 associate members in OECD and other Asian countries. Through initial activities such as Small/Seed Grants, Exchange/Mobility Grants, and PhD/Doctoral Fellowship Program, members have increased their sense of ownership and commitment and a number of common interest clusters and thematic partnerships have been formed. The HUC Steering Group has recognized an increasing need to promote scholarly leadership among senior researchers and professors of the Consortium's members who serve as catalysts in fostering inter-university research and training collaboration for sustainable mountain development (SMD) in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. Drawing on the existing good practices such as the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development (University of the Highlands and Islands, United Kingdom; University of Bern, Switzerland), the Iqbal Professorial Fellowship (University of Heidelberg, Germany), and the intensive mentorship offered by world-renown scholars to regional researchers within the South Asian Network of Environmental Economists (SANDEE), the HUC Steering Group developed a Concept Note of the ICIMOD Mountain Chair and secured a strong endorsement from the General Assembly at the HUC Annual Meeting in New Delhi, October 2016. With generous initial support from the ICIMOD Foundation, the first implementation period is scheduled for five years, 2017-2022.

II. OBJECTIVE

The ICIMOD Mountain Chair is an honorary title given by the Selection Panel led by HUC Steering Group to persons who currently hold a full-time teaching and/or research position in one of the HUC member institutions. The title as ICIMOD Mountain Chair is valid for two years. The main objective is to promote inter-university cooperation to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge-sharing and collaborative research and training for SMD in the HKH. The title provides an opportunity for the ICIMOD Mountain Chair to conduct or finalize a study on SMD issues from transboundary or comparative perspectives in her/his own university and with other HUC members, taking lead in bringing a mountain focus to curriculum development, or promoting regional collaboration through scholarly exchange activities such as lecture tours and conferences within and beyond the region.

III. OUTCOME

The ICIMOD Mountain Chair title is expected to create a stream of senior scholars who serve as catalysts for regional collaboration in research and training on mountain-specific issues in the HKH. Exchange of knowledge, enhanced collaborative research capacity, and high quality

scholarly publications or other forms of knowledge production are expected as end results of the title.

IV. REQUIREMENTS & BENEFITS

Candidates for the ICIMOD Mountain Chair must have excellent track record and substantial experience on mountain issues in the HKH, and currently hold a full-time teaching and/or research position in one of HUC member institutions. While a Chair holder can spend a large part of the title's duration in her/his home institution, s/he must be willing to spend from three to six months engaging in scholarly exchange activities at the Headquarter of ICIMOD and at least one additional HUC member in a country not of her/his own. The Chair holders are strongly encouraged to present their research at international conferences during the title holding term. They will also be invited to attend an International Conference in conjunction with the HUC (Bi-) Annual Meeting.

The title lasts 24 continuous months, starting at the beginning of the academic year in the country of the honoured, with a remuneration of USD10,000 for the entire tenure, excluding regional and international travel expenses during the tenure for the stated purposes. Travel expenses, which will be covered in addition, should not exceed USD3,000 per year without roll-over.

V. SELECTION PROCESS & ADMINISTRATION

Applications for the ICIMOD Mountain Chair will be invited once a year through open competition among HUC member institutions. A five-member Selection Panel consists of representatives from HUC Steering Group, ICIMOD/ICIMOD Foundation Board, and independent subject specialists. A rigorous selection process will review candidates' track record, publications and achievements. *Women and candidates from less-represented regional member countries are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Interested candidates are expected to complete an application form and submit a proposal specifying research, publication, training, and/or scholarly exchange activities and a list of higher education institutions in the HKH s/he plans to visit during the Chair term if the title is honoured. Unsuccessful candidates are encouraged to re-apply the following year for a maximum of two consecutive years.

The ICIMOD Mountain Chair is administered by ICIMOD through its Regional Program HUC. The HUC Secretariat is responsible for annual reporting.

A scheduled mid-term evaluation (2020) of the impact and attractiveness of this initiative will be leveraged to determine the continuity of the professorship and attract additional donors.

VI. DEADLINES & CONTACT

Announcement of the Call: 24 April 2017

*Deadline for Applications: **15 June 2017***

Selection Notification: 15 August 2017

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