

ADVERTISEMENT

TWO POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

at the

ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

INVITATION TO APPLY

The Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS), invites applications for **TWO full-time Postdoctoral Research Fellowship positions** to work on a SSRC-funded research project entitled *Sustainable Governance of Transboundary Environmental Commons in Southeast Asia*. The positions will be based in Singapore with an intended start date of **January 2018**, or as soon as possible thereafter, for a period of **two years** in the first instance, renewable on satisfactory review for a **further two years** (four years in total).

The project is being funded through a S\$2.579 million grant from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC) of Singapore.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

As a small, island city-state, Singapore is closely interconnected, economically, environmentally and politically, with regional neighbours in Southeast Asia. The resilience and reliability of these interconnections have facilitated economic growth, regional stability and cordial diplomatic relations. Development benefits in the region have not come without costs, however; rising living standards are associated with increasing rates of resource extraction, reduced environmental quality and impoverishment of biodiversity that have negative ramifications for exposed population groups.

In light of the above challenges, and focusing on water, hydropower and fisheries in the Mekong and peatlands, fire and plantations in Indonesia, this project seeks to: first, identify the drivers and impacts associated with two major transboundary environmental challenges impacting land, water and atmosphere in Southeast Asia i.e. biomass burning and haze, and hydropower development and water resources; second, to examine these transboundary challenges in the context of the governance of transboundary environmental commons, or common pool resources, within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as the identification of relevant best practices worldwide; and third, to develop the concept of transboundary environmental commons within ASEAN.

The project also aims to contribute to environmental sustainability within ASEAN, as well as provide an evidence-based foundation for policy-making and implementation at both national and ASEAN levels that enhances Singapore's reputation as a responsible neighbour and a leader in sustainability sciences.

THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP ROLES

The project will employ two postdoctoral fellows, one for each of two empirical work packages (WPs) that are central to the overall research project:

- **WP1: Atmosphere: Biomass burning and the haze.** WP1 has two main foci. First, peatlands and associated communities and activities in the region, and the drivers and impacts of peatland (biomass) burning. Second, the potential for changes in the value chain through which oil palm-derived and containing products are produced, towards cleaner and less damaging forms of production, and for attaining environment, social and governance goals.
- **WP2: Water: Hydropower (Energy).** WP2 will examine the drivers, characteristics and implications of the shift to private-sector development of hydropower in transboundary river basins; and understand how these processes are redefining the relationship between water as a public or private resource, and its governance, and the implications of this redefinition for governance across geographic scales.

The postdoctoral fellows will have experience and research networks in the relevant WP (WP1 – Indonesia [working on oil palm products value chain and/or ethnographic studies of rural communities living near peatlands]; WP2 – Laos/Thailand /China [on political economy of hydropower]) and in relevant research techniques.

The successful PDFs will lead research for the research questions identified in the initial Workshop, and will be responsible for integrating research done within the WP and taking the lead on delivery of key outputs (three peer-reviewed publications; one policy brief). The successful PDFs will also contribute to the development of graduate research students linked to the research project.

The successful candidate will hold a PhD degree (or be awaiting conferment), research interests in a relevant area of the social or natural sciences and a record of publication (or potential to deliver) in high impact journals and/or reputable publishing houses. S/he should have research experience in the areas outlined above, preferably in an Asian context. The candidates will join an international team of researchers. In addition to activities associated with ARI, the PDFs may wish to participate in research group meetings and departmental seminars in the Department of Geography, NUS.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Contract tenable for **24 months**, commencing in **January 2018, renewable for a further 24 months on satisfactory review**
2. A stipend of S\$5,500 per month
3. Travel assistance will be provided for successful candidates from overseas.
4. Singapore citizens and permanent residents are eligible for provident fund benefits.
5. All salary and benefit-in-kind are subjected to taxation in accordance with local tax laws.
6. There is support for research fieldwork and conference attendance (it has to be project-related and subject to approval).
7. Research staff at ARI should participate actively in research activities including attendance at seminars, conferences and ARI social events.
8. Other benefits that the University provides and other information about working in NUS and living in Singapore are available at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/careers/potentialhires/index.html>.

*Terms and conditions, according to university guidelines, are subject to change without prior notice.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested scholars should submit the following via email by **1 August 2017**:

- Letter of application
- Full curriculum vitae
- Academic certificates and transcripts
- A write-up, of no more than 800 words, explaining the candidate's past research experience and aptitude in relation to the research project

In addition, please arrange for **THREE referees**, one of whom should be the PhD supervisor, to submit a **confidential** report on their academic standing and research directly to joinari@nus.edu.sg. In the **subject line** of the email please type *Transboundary commons grant – PDF application*. The referee reports should also reach us by **1 August 2017**.

Please email your application and associated documents to joinari@nus.edu.sg by **1 August 2017**. Shortlisted candidates may be called for interview, either in person or by Skype, as appropriate.