

Training Workshop on *Hydro-diplomacy in South Asia* at South Asian University

Call for Application to attend a workshop On Shared Waterscapes of South Asia

South Asian University is holding a training workshop on 'Hydro-diplomacy in South Asia' from January 5 to January 7, 2018. First workshop of its kind, students will be exposed to alternative discourses associated with water governance and diplomacy. Selected students will be invited to a two day workshop, which will draw upon deliberations from civil-society, grass-root activists and academics with the hope of familiarising them to expert fraternity and high level discussions. The workshop will be followed by a training session on 'Hydro-diplomacy in South Asia', which will have an element of field trip. The hydro-diplomacy module will include themes such as politics, culture, psychology, ecology, law, gender and technology of hydro-diplomacy. The module has been designed in collaboration with Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Last date for applying to the workshop is **December 20, 2017**. The selected candidates will be contacted by the University by **December 25, 2017**.

There are limited seats and we intend to encourage representation from South Asian countries. Preferably **two candidates each** from a SAARC country will be selected for the course. The workshop is only open to Students (Post-graduate and Ph.D/ M.Phil scholars).

Proposal selection criteria include (a) Statement of Purpose -why are you interested in the workshop (500 words), and what value you can bring to the workshop.

The select students will also be given a participation certificate. SAU will not be providing travel grants or arranging logistics for students. There is no registration fee.

The partner organisations for funding the workshop are IUCN-India and Asia Foundation. Knowledge partners include-Dhaka University and Indian Environmental Legal Organisation.

Please send applications to sharedwaterscapes2018@gmail.com no later than December 20, 2017.

Workshop Note

Introduction

Shared waterscapes of South Asia represent invaluable cultural integrity and therefore are extremely important units of enquiry, deliberation and analysis towards the greater ecological and economic integration of the region. The South Asian waterscapes are subject matter of complex yet networked interactions that do not, always reject ‘apolitical’ ecologies and conflicts over meaning and practice. This need for the emancipation of the discourse itself that looks beyond political ecology of water, calls for celebrating collective knowledge, experiences, ideologies and water cultures. It is therefore argued that constructive interdisciplinary/post-disciplinary transgression of ideas that draws on diverse examples and experiences from South Asian cultures via ecological and cultural narratives, offers tremendous opportunities for widening conceptual elaboration and empirical depth around better understanding of shared waterscapes. It is in this conceptual backdrop that a workshop on ‘Understanding Shared waterscapes of South Asia’ is proposed to be organized by the South Asia University in partnership with Indian Environmental Legal Organization) in January 2018.

The workshop promises to be an eclectic journey aiming to expand dialogic spaces for competing narratives around water and South Asian rivers. It aims to bring young and experienced minds to a shared space.

While it is often said that South Asian sensibility is found in its folk cultures manifesting itself in poetry, music, cinema and dance forms (Akmal Hussain and MuchkundDubey, 2014),the workshop underlines its contingency on the *political* and explores ways to transcend and engage with it by revisiting cultural, anthropological manifestations with respect to our existing understanding of rivers of South Asia. Can rivers offer alternative political imagination for the South Asian region?

Scholars have pointed out that Rivers in South Asia can offer a distinct “ecocultural cartography” whereby they not only highlight the uniqueness of specific cultural zones but in many ways also de-centre notions of artificial geographical boundaries—which have played a dominant role in shaping the official, colonial discourse in South Asia.Shared waterscapes of South Asia 2018 gives a platform to discourses (some dormant, some dominant), aiming to build a knowledge base for an emancipatory discourse which revisits the idea of South Asia.

Participants

The workshop aims to bring water professionals, academics, senior research scholars, students, informal social movements and civil society organisations working around rivers and issues related to water. Political, sociological, cultural, architectural, legal aspects related to South Asian Rivers will be highlighted. The aim is to revisit discourses on rivers from alternative lenses as well as to initiate alternatives frames through a bottom -up approach.

Workshop details—Coming Soon!!!