CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PhD scholarship position in agricultural science at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan (UADY) / Mexico

Application Deadline: **31 August 2012**

Scholarship Starting Date: **1 November 2012**

The International Center for Development and Decent Work (ICDD) invites applications for a PhD scholarship position at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan (Mexico) for a student from an ODA recipient country*, who aims to pursue his/her PhD in agricultural science. The ICDD is an interdisciplinary and international scientific network of excellence, with the head office located at the University of Kassel, Germany, and partner universities in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It is funded under the programme "ex)/(ceed - Higher Education Excellence in Development Co-operation" launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Background

The ICDD's objective is to generate and transfer knowledge on how to create and improve work and income opportunities in rural and urban regions of developing countries, in light of globalisation, climate change and urbanisation. The ICDD encompasses various disciplines such as agricultural science, political science, sociology and economics. It co-operates closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and various NGOs.

One of the ICDD's core structures for the inter-disciplinary generation of knowledge is the Graduate School of Socio-Ecological Research for Development. The successful applicant will be a fellow of this school. The ICDD promotes three research clusters. Prospective PhD projects must relate to one or more of them:

1) Sustainable Value Creation for Decent Work

This cluster focuses on strategies to increase value creation by developing technologies for the more efficient and sustainable use of resources and by improving human skills, preferably along agricultural commodity chains. PhD applicants should be interested in analysing spatially and sectorally detailed urban-rural linkages to address the mobility of people, goods, services, money transfers, information, and associated flows of nutrients, energy and water.

* Countries eligible for Official Development Assistance of the OECD as approved by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in October 2011 (see list attached)

2) Instruments for Promoting Decent Work

This cluster focuses on the effectiveness of existing instruments in enforcing minimum standards for labour as formulated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) such as public procurement, supply chain governance, and national minimum wages. PhD applicants should be interested in analysing such instruments and their effective implementation in different state/country contexts. A special focus should be directed towards their impact on or relevance for informal labour relations and particularly on the working conditions and lives of temporary labour migrants.

3) Strategies of Empowerment for Decent Work

This cluster focuses on the advocacy of good working conditions within economic and political decision-making processes, against the background of eroding capacities of workers to engage in collective action due to the growing informal nature of work. Thereby, special attention is directed towards particularly vulnerable groups, such as domestic workers. PhD applicants should be interested in exploring possible sources and forms of organisations to foster empowerment strategies within informal labour relations.

Scholarship

The successful applicant will be based at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan (UADY), Mexico, and enrolled in its PhD training programme. Moreover s/he will take part in the ICDD Graduate School´s international workshop programme on development and decent work issues, research methods or the linkage between theory and empirical research. Presentations of PhD projects will take place every year within the Graduate School.

The scholarship will be awarded for two years with the precondition of successful admission as a PhD candidate of UADY and a successful evaluation by the ICDD after the first six months of the scholarship. The scholarship includes a monthly allowance of 500 Euro, the coverage of the tuition fees at UADY, the participation in the Graduate School and other ICDD activities as well as the possibility to apply for field research travel funds of the ICDD. Applying for a scholarship extension after two years maybe possible.

Application Requirements

- a completed or almost completed Master degree, with excellent results, in a discipline related to agricultural science; the applicant's last academic degree should not be more than six years ago; if an applicant already started with his/her PhD project, it should have started not more than three years ago;
- a high proficiency of English (CEFR level: C1 or above), demonstrated by one of the following language certificates: TOEFL, with a minimum score of 550 PBT (paper-based test) / 80 IBT (Internet-based test); IELTS 6.5 or above; the Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English or an equivalent (native speakers and applicants who have completed their first degree fully in English do not have to provide an English proficiency certificate);
- Academic or vocational experience in one of the disciplines related to the thematic field of development and decent work;
- Citizenship of an ODA recipient country (see DAC list attached).

Application Procedure

1) Your application package must include the following elements in this sequence:

- a completed cover sheet (see attachment or download from ICDD Graduate School website);
- a detailed curriculum vitae (including the academic background, the list of publications [if applicable], professional experience, language skills, voluntary work);
- a preliminary PhD project proposal (about 2000 words, including topic, research question, short overview of the relevant literature, theoretical approach, research design and methodology);
- a summary of the Master thesis (about 1500 words) if applicable;
- scanned copy of an English proficiency certificate if required;
- scanned copies of the following documents in the original language **with translations attached, if the language of these documents is not German, English, French, Spanish or Portuguese**:
  - the certificate and transcript of records of your recognised Master degree, listing all subjects and grades (if you have not yet completed your master degree, please provide the transcript and a letter from the programme coordinator testifying the date and likelihood of its successful completion);
  - the certificate and transcript of records of your recognised Bachelor degree, listing all subjects and grades;
  - the university entrance examination certificate, listing all subjects and grades;
  - certificates of additional studies and on the completion of these studies, listing all subjects and grades;
- scanned copies of certificates of previous professional/vocational experience if applicable.

Please send the complete application package electronically as **a single pdf file**[**] **no later than 31 August 2012** to:

graduateschool@icdd.uni-kassel.de

Application packages reaching the inbox of this account after 31 August 2012 at 12:00 pm (GMT + 01:00) cannot be processed.

2) Letter of recommendation: Applicants are required to ask for a letter of recommendation from a current member of the ICDD faculty at UADY, who could be a potential supervisor of the PhD project. Applicants thus should send their request for such a letter together with their full academic CV, research proposal and full contact details via email to the dean of the faculty of agricultural sciences, Dr. Carlos Sandoval-Castro, ccastro@uady.mx.

The request will then be forwarded to a potential supervisor on the basis of the applicant's profile. Requests for letters of recommendation from UADY should thus be sent as early as possible. The signed recommendation letter must be sent as a scanned copy from the referee´s email account to:

graduateschool@icdd.uni-kassel.de

The letter of recommendation must also arrive at the ICDD **no later than 31 August 2012.**

If you are selected for admission, officially authenticated photocopies of all the documents and translations will have to be presented.

For further information please visit the website of the ICDD Graduate School:

http://www.uni-kassel.de/einrichtungen/icdd/graduate-school.html

or contact:

Dr. Carlos A. Sandoval-Castro (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science University of Yucatan, México), for issues related to the PhD programme at UADY: ccastro@uady.mx;

Mr. Christian Möllmann (ICDD, Germany), for issues related to the application process: phone + 49(0)561 804 7395, moellmann@icdd.uni-kassel.de.

[**] The items of your application must be assembled according to the sequence listed above, with the completed cover sheet as the front page, followed by your CV etc. All items of your application must be assembled in one pdf document. **Applications consisting of multiple files will not be accepted!**

DAC List of ODA Recipients

Effective for reporting on 2011, 2012 and 2013 flows

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= $1 005 in 2010)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI $1 006-$3 975 in 2010)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI $3 976-$12 275 in 2010)
Afghanistan	Kenya	Armenia	Albania
Angola	Korea, Dem. Rep.	Belize	Algeria
Bangladesh	Kyrgyz Rep.	Bolivia	*Anguilla
Benin	South Sudan	Cameroon	Antigua and Barbuda
Bhutan	Tajikistan	Cape Verde	Argentina
Burkina Faso	Zimbabwe	Congo, Rep.	Azerbaijan
Burundi		Côte d'Ivoire	Belarus
Cambodia		Egypt	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Rep.		El Salvador	Botswana
Chad		Fiji	Brazil
Comoros		Georgia	Chile
Congo, Dem. Rep.		Ghana	China
Djibouti		Guatemala	Colombia
Equatorial Guinea		Guyana	Cook Islands
Eritrea		Honduras	Costa Rica
Ethiopia		India	Cuba
Gambia		Indonesia	Dominica
Guinea		Iraq	Dominican Republic
Guinea-Bissau		Kosovo[1]	Ecuador
Haiti		Marshall Islands	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Kiribati		Micronesia, Federated States	Gabon
Laos		Moldova	Grenada
Lesotho		Mongolia	Iran
Liberia		Morocco	Jamaica
Madagascar		Nicaragua	Jordan
Malawi		Nigeria	Kazakhstan
Mali		Pakistan	Lebanon
Mauritania		Papua New Guinea	Libya
Mozambique		Paraguay	Malaysia
Myanmar		Philippines	Maldives
Nepal		Sri Lanka	Mauritius
Niger		Swaziland	Mexico
Rwanda		Syria	Montenegro
Samoa		*Tokelau	*Montserrat
São Tomé and Príncipe		Tonga	Namibia
Senegal		Turkmenistan	Nauru
Sierra Leone		Ukraine	Niue
Solomon Islands		Uzbekistan	Palau
Somalia		Vietnam	Panama
Sudan		West Bank and Gaza Strip	Peru
Tanzania			Serbia
Timor-Leste			Seychelles
Togo			South Africa
Tuvalu			*St. Helena
Uganda			St. Kitts-Nevis
Vanuatu			St. Lucia
Yemen			St. Vincent and Grenadines
Zambia			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tunisia
			Turkey
			Uruguay
			Venezuela
			*Wallis and Futuna

*Territory.

(1) This is without prejudice to the status of Kosovo under international law.

Cover Sheet

ICDD
International Center for Development and Decent Work

Application for a PhD Scholarship Position of the ICDD at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan (Starting Date: 1 November 2012)

General Information

Given Name(s):	Family Name:
Date of Birth:	Place of Birth:
Address:	Country of origin / Country of residence:
Country issuing passport:	
Telephone:	E-Mail:
Sex: [ ] Male [ ] Female	
Marital Status:	Number of Children:

PhD Project

Title of PhD Proposal:	
Aspired ICDD Research Cluster (as in Call for Applications):	

Academic Qualifications

Degree	e.g. Bachelor in Political Science e.g. Master in Economics	Bachelor:
		Master:
Terms/Years	How many terms/years did you study?	Bachelor:
		Master:
Grade	e.g. A, B –,…; Distinction, Merit,…; Second Class Division,…	Bachelor:
		Master:
Proficiency in English	e.g. native speaker or TOEFL or IELTS test result	
Professional Experience	e.g. Development Institutions, Unions, NGOs etc.	

Content of this application package (check if item is attached):

1. [ ] Curriculum Vitae
2. [ ] PhD proposal
3. [ ] Summary of Master thesis
4. [ ] English proficiency certificate
5. [ ] Certificate of Master degree/letter of coordinator
6. [ ] Transcript of Master degree
7. [ ] Certificate of Bachelor degree
8. [ ] Transcript of Bachelor degree
9. [ ] University entrance certificate
10. [ ] Certificates of additional studies
11. [ ] Certificates of previous professional/vocational experiences