

PostDoc Scholarship for Visiting Scientists

Job vacancy reference No. 2006/GITEWS-PostDoc



The UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY, Institute for Environment and Human Security ([UNU-EHS](#)) in close cooperation with the GITEWS consortium partners: *GeoResearchCenter Potsdam* ([GFZ-Potsdam](#)), German Aerospace Center ([DLR](#)), German Consortium for Marine Research ([KDM](#)), Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research ([AWI](#)), GKSS Research Centre ([GKSS](#)) and the German Technical Corporation ([GTZ](#)), kindly invite applications for PostDoc scholarships for scientists from Indonesia or from other countries in the Indian Ocean Rim.

Background Information:

Following the catastrophic impact of the December 2004 tsunami, the Government of Germany under the initiative of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research ([BMBF](#)) has launched the German Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System ([GITEWS](#)) to contribute to the implementation of a tsunami warning system in Indonesia. The project, in its final stage of development, fosters both an integral element of the larger international system which is being designed for tsunami early warning in the whole Indian Ocean and the initial step for the set-up of a multi-hazard end-to-end early warning system in Indonesia and in the whole Indian Ocean region.

While the German Indonesian project focuses on the research and development of sophisticated technologies and on strengthening technical capacities to e.g. monitor earthquakes and thus forecast triggered tsunamis, training and higher level education programmes are also considered as complementary modules to ensure that the TEWS is properly operated, maintained and improved/upgraded in future decades. In this context, eight (8) PhD scholarships have been granted for a period of three years for talented young researchers from Indonesia and from other countries in the Indian Ocean Rim.

PostDoc Research Programme:

In a further step of promoting capacity building measures within the context of GITEWS, it has been decided to establish a PostDoc Research Programme for Scientists from Indonesia and from other countries in the Indian Ocean Rim spending a short-term research visit at one of the above listed host institutions. This scheme is to conduct individual small research project in any of the disciplines related to the research and development (R&D) of technical elements or last-mile components of the TEWS in the Indian Ocean.

The funding for this PostDoc programme enables highly qualified, early-stage researchers who are actively involved in operating, maintaining and updating the TEWS, and who already hold doctorates (S3) to initiate and carry out small research projects in close cooperation with the respective host institution in Germany. Scholarships, travel grants, health insurance and support to locate an accommodation are foreseen and coped with by UNU-EHS administration. For the time of their stay in Germany, the selected candidates are officially affiliated to UNU-EHS as Visiting Research Scholars.

Application Process:

Suitable official applications for short-term research stays have to be submitted online and supporting documents sent by email or airmail. The essential criteria for selection and decision upon funding are the quality, relevance and feasibility of a detailed proposal the applicant is requested to submit. This document should reflect in-depth the small research project he/she wants to carry out during his/her short-term stay in cooperation with the respective host institution in Germany (form/layout of proposal is provided below for download).

The short-term research stay is deemed successful if a detailed research report and/or any other form of significant scientific output (monograph, paper submitted for scientific journal, presentation, etc.) is produced. Furthermore, it is obligatory that during their research stay the candidates be willing to participate in open lectures and additional short courses in the broad spanning disciplines of disaster management and vulnerability assessments conducted by UNU-EHS scientific staff. The candidate's attendance on the occasion of seminars held by invited national and international renowned researchers on the theme of TEWS

at UNU-EHS premises in Bonn is anticipated. Extra travel grants (journey, accommodation, etc.) for the applicant will be provided in this context.

The applications will be assessed by an independent selection committee of German and other related partners within the GITEWS project. Decisions will be made solely on the basis of the applicants' academic qualifications, involvement in the project, and relevance to the set up of the TEWS in the Indian Ocean. It is advantageous if the details of the research project and the time schedule are agreed upon with the prospective host prior to submitting the application.

General Requirements for Application:

- Excellent academic records in one of the TEWS relevant scientific or technological disciplines: Doctorate (S3) or comparable academic degree (PhD) is essentially required;
- A minimum of 5 years scientific and technological working experience related to TEWS relevant disciplines. Proof of independent research, convincingly demonstrated by applied research or significant field work in relevant subjects. Reports, monographs, and further publications as author, co-author or editor, e.g. in recognised journals, are valuable criteria for the selection process;
- Younger academics having nearly completed their doctoral degrees may also feel encouraged to apply if they provide the manuscript of their dissertation and additional references;
- While the project sets the focus on Indonesia, the Indonesian citizenship is not mandatory. Candidates from countries in the Indian Ocean Rim are also encouraged to apply;
- Adequate language skills. Candidates must have a good proven knowledge of English (language certificates, e.g. TOEFL etc., will support application and final decision upon funding);
- High motivation and the ability to work in an interdisciplinary team and international environment are essential. The individual application should be introduced by a short motivation letter followed by the thematic research proposal compiled by the applicant based upon the anticipated research objectives (form/layout of report is provided below for download).

UNU-EHS and the GITEWS consortium partners strive to increase the percentage of female participants in the programme and encourage applications from female candidates. Handicapped applicants are welcome. Interested applicants should apply online only through UNU-EHS's webpage: <http://www.ehs.unu.edu>. Additionally supporting documents should be emailed to PD Dr. Torsten Schlurmann or airmailed, stating the reference number for the particular post and application reference (automatically given by email following the online application process) starting **1 June 2006** to the following address:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY (UNU-EHS)
GOERRESSTRASSE 1553113 BONN, GERMANY

Miscellaneous Information

General requirements as well as further details on the call for applications of the vacant posts are given on our webpage <http://www.ehs.unu.edu> and subsequently following the link [...Capacity Building/PostDoc Programme](#) to reach the relevant documents and online application procedure. First time users must register at the beginning of the application process with a specific username & password, family name and valid email address! Regarding this essential information, the candidate has then the possibility to get back to the online application process whenever he wishes to do so; unless his application has been already submitted. **Only one submission per username is permitted!**

In case of further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the coordinator of the PostDoc and PhD programme, PD Dr. Torsten Schlurmann by email: schlurmann@ehs.unu.edu or phone: +49 228-42285518

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