



21 May 2012

Dear ProSPER.Net Member,

On behalf of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), ProSPER.Net Secretariat, we would like to invite your institution to participate in the 2012 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School, to be held at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 17 to 28 September 2012.

The first and second Young Researchers' School (YRS) were successfully organised by RMIT University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in 2010, and by Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan, in 2011. Upon excellent feedback from students and resource persons, UGM, with UNU-IAS support, decided to host the 2012 YRS in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

As happened in previous years, resources have been committed to provide support for selected young scholars, who will benefit from exposure to a wide range of expertise from post-docs to professors of the ProSPER.Net community. This will be delivered in the form of interactive seminars, assistance in working groups as well as broader mentoring.

The main goal of the YRS is to provide graduate students and young post-doctoral researchers with an opportunity to better understand the spectrum of challenges that underpin sustainable development. By assembling these young scientists together for an intensive 2-week workshop, the school also fosters the growth of a network of sustainability scholars and professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.

The theme of the 2012 school will be **'Building a Resilient Society in Asia'** with special focus on policies and projects involving health and well-being, poverty eradication, social entrepreneurship, urban development and disaster management. Through lectures and field trips where different community projects will be presented, students will be able to experience how UGM has been contributing to local community development through activities that aim to empower both students and local people.

A draft programme (Attachment 1) outlines the ways in which students will have an opportunity to learn more about these issues and begin developing research responses to

several challenges that affect a country like Indonesia, many of them impacting other countries in Asia.

This programme is designed to provide students with valuable learning opportunities as well as a platform to contribute ideas. Features of the programme include:

- Team building and group work on discovering research questions and developing proposals on sustainability issues.
- Development of communication skills through presentation of research plans developed during the school as well as their own dissertations. These will be discussed with leading scholars from ProSPER.Net member universities.
- Field visits to talk with local community and students developing sustainable initiatives.

The budget includes funds for scholarships that will support the full participation of 10-12 PhD students from different ProSPER.Net member universities. These scholarships will cover: (i) the costs of tuition for the YRS; (ii) return economy class travel to and from Yogyakarta; (iii) local travel within and around Yogyakarta for field trip; (iv) accommodation; and (v) most meals. Please note that travel insurance shall be covered by the participants. UGM, ProSPER.Net and UNU-IAS will not be able to provide for this and are not responsible in case any medical emergency happens. UGM and their team will be happy to assist participants in any need they might have, but medical related expenses shall be covered by individual travel insurance.

The largest cost element for this project is air travel to and from Indonesia. This is the reason for the limited number of funded participants. The likelihood of demand for travel support exceeding supply is very high, and decisions will have to be made about who will be able to be supported.

However, we may consider students coming from ProSPER.Net member universities that are willing to fund them to participate. They are welcome to apply, but final decision will depend on availability for participation.

Given the proposed outline for this year's YRS, we ask our members to undertake the following steps:

- ProSPER.Net universities invite PhD students who are working in the field of sustainable development to apply for a YRS scholarship. An application form is provided (Attachment 2).
- Each university considers what internal sources of funds are available to support the participation of additional students.
- ProSPER.Net universities consider who from their academic staff could be invited to participate in the YRS as lecturers or resource persons. There is provision in the budget

to share the cost of supporting few resource persons. An application form for potential resource persons is provided (Attachment 3).

Please send applications from students and proposals for additional resource persons as well as advice on your level of support by June 20 2012 to: yrs@ias.unu.edu.

We look forward to receiving applications from prospective students and resource persons.

With best regards,

Professor Hari Kusananto
Director, Centre for Environmental Studies
Universitas Gadjah Mada

Kazuhiko Takemoto
Director, ESD Programme
ProSPER.Net Secretariat

Attachments to this letter are:

1. Draft Programme ProSPER.NET Young Researchers' School
2. Scholarship Application
3. Nomination Form for Lecturers/Resource Persons