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REPORTS

IPCC Scholarship Programme

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

REPORTS

IPCC Scholarship Programme

This report provides an account of activities under the IPCC Scholarship Programme since the 41st Session of the Panel.

1. Funding and Partnerships

The IPCC Scholarship Programme is funded from the IPCC Scholarship Trust Fund and also through the generous financial support provided by two Foundations, i.e. the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Cuomo Foundation. These two foundations, which have renewed their support for the third round of the Scholarship Programme, disburse the grants directly to the students.

2. Second Round of Awards 2013–2015

The Scholarship Programme provided funding to support sixteen students during the second round of awards (2013-2015). During this period, two students have already graduated with their PhD. The Secretariat is constantly monitoring the reporting requirements of the beneficiaries and progress reports are submitted to the IPCC Science Board and the Foundations. They are generally progressing well towards completing their studies. An exception is one student who has not yet finalized the registration for her PhD studies. The Secretariat is closely monitoring this case.

3. Third Round of Awards 2015–2017

Call for applications and selection process

A call for applications was issued on 12 January 2015 and largely publicized through the IPCC website and the IPCC Scholarship Programme facebook page. Students from developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition (EITs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), admitted or enrolled for PhD studies, who were below the age of 30 at the time of application, were eligible to apply. Research proposals falling within the following fields of study were eligible:

- 1) Socio-economic modeling related to climate change;
- 2) Climate and water;
- 3) Climate and the oceans; and
- 4) Underlying science of climate change.

A total of 175 applications were received by the 15 February 2015 deadline. The Secretariat performed the first technical screening of the applications for completeness, general quality and suitability to the eligibility criteria (i.e. age and nationality). A total of 49 applications were disqualified at this stage.

The Science Board of the IPCC Scholarship Programme formed a Technical Committee comprising of 15 experts who played different roles (Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs), Review Editors (Res) and Working Group Bureau Members) in the preparation of the Fifth Assessment Report. The membership of the Technical Committee is shown on the Scholarship Programme website. A review template which provides guidelines for reviewers was prepared by the Secretariat. The Technical Committee assisted by 41 other volunteer experts reviewed the 126 applications which passed the initial screening. The results from the review process and the recommendations were submitted to the Science Board, which shortlisted 18 candidates. The list of shortlisted candidates was submitted to the Foundations for their final selection.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation generously approved to contribute up to a maximum of 210,000 (two hundred and ten thousand) Euros to sponsor 7 students in the context of the Programme “Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation grants to IPCC”. The Cuomo Foundation approved financial support up to a maximum of 90,000 (thirty thousand) Euros to fund 3 students under the Foundation’s “Young Researchers Scholarships Initiative”. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two Foundations and the IPCC on 2 July 2015

Final selection

Students supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation are:

1. Adriana Maria Torres-Ballesteros (Colombia) (Climate and water)
2. Thushani Suleka Madhubhashini Elepathage (Sri Lanka) (Climate and oceans)
3. Peter Kabano (Uganda) (Climate and water)
4. Rasmila Kawan (Nepal) (Underlying science of climate change)
5. Kholoud Kahime (Morocco) (Climate and water)
6. Ada Metaliu (Albania) (Socio-economic modeling related to climate change)
7. Christine Onyango (Kenya) (Underlying science of climate change)

Students supported by the Cuomo Foundation are:

1. Cocou Jaures Amegnaglo (Benin) (Socio-economic modeling related to climate change)
2. Mulugeta Gemi Mokria (Ethiopia) (Climate and water)
3. Md Amirul Islam (Bangladesh) (Underlying science of climate change)

These students are invited to the 8th edition of the Prince Albert II Foundation Award Ceremony, to be held on 2 October 2015 in Monaco, for the presentation of their awards. The Foundations will provide financial support for their travel and accommodation expenses. The IPCC Secretariat will be represented at this occasion.

(More details on students’ research projects are contained in Annex 1 to this document)

4. Conclusions

There is an ever growing interest in the IPCC Scholarship Programme expressed by prospective candidates from eligible countries. The generous support from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Cuomo Foundation is the only additional source of funding available for the third round of awards.

The IPCC Science Board currently comprises of the Chair of the IPCC or his nominee and the three Vice-Chairs. Considering the amount of work involved during the selection process and the review of reports submitted by the beneficiaries, the involvement of the Working Group Vice-Chairs has been proposed.

Beneficiaries of the 3rd round of awards of the IPCC Scholarship Programme

Students supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	
Adriana Maria Torres-Ballesteros (Colombia)	Adriana is registered for her PhD at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. Her research focuses on methane formation from hydroelectric reservoirs. In her study, she will estimate the potential for methane formation in Brazilian reservoirs, evaluate changes in methanogenic metabolism under different carbon source conditions and design metabolic fluxes from functional gene sequences.
Thushani Suleka Madhubhashini Elepathage (Sri Lanka)	Tushani is a student at the University of Sun Shine Coast, Queensland, Australia. In her research, she is investigating the effect of global warming on changes in the genetic population structure of flathead mullet, a certain fish species usually found in coastal waters of tropical, subtropical and temperate seas.
Peter Kabano (Uganda)	Peter is studying at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. He is investigating the impact of tropical urban climates on vegetation phenology, aiming at gaining new insights on the interactions between temperature and soil moisture in controlling tropical vegetation dynamics.
Rasmila Kawan (Nepal)	Rasmila is a student at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Motivated by the growing climate change and public health concerns in India, she is investigating the short- and long-term health effects of black carbon on the population of Pune. She would like to understand the relative contribution of domestic and ambient air pollution, particularly black carbon, on different health outcomes.
Kholoud Kahime (Morocco)	Kholoud is a student at the Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco. Her research aims at informing regional adaptation strategies for agricultural land management based on water resources in a changing climate. She will quantify the amount of water used in agricultural irrigation as a function of the climate, crop type, soil characteristics and irrigation efficiencies. She will also develop an application linking demand for agricultural products to changes in population dynamics, climate change and technological advances in order to assess the implications on water resources requirement, and identify realistic and feasible local adaptation measures.
Ada Metaliu (Albania)	Ada is studying at the Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania. Her research focusses on the challenges of Albanian farmers in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. She aims at carrying out a vulnerability assessment which will involve identifying the impacts of climate change on crop yields and assessing the farmers' adaptive capacity.
Christine Onyango (Kenya)	Christine is a student at the Moi University, Kenya. In her research she will establish the relationship between climate change induced temperature and rainfall patterns on the phenology, abundance, distribution and vectorial capacity of Anopheles spp over parts of western Kenya with the aim to provide information for the formulation or enhancement of adaptation strategies to combat vector borne diseases such as malaria.

Students supported by the Cuomo Foundation
Cocou Jaures Amegnaglo (Benin)
Cocou is studying at the University of Ghana. In his research, he is comparing the economic value of forecasts made from indigenous knowledge with modern meteorological forecasts for smallholder farmers in Benin. His work will promote the integration of traditional knowledge with contemporary scientific knowledge to improve the quality and uptake of advance information and warnings provided to subsistence farmers in Benin.
Mulugeta Gemi Mokria (Ethiopia)
Mulugeta is registered at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany. He is investigating the dendroclimatological potential of afro-montane tree species in order to use the tree-ring proxy data to reconstruct multi-century precipitation and streamflow for the upper Blue Nile river basin. He expects to gain more insight on drought tolerance levels and water use efficiency of the tree species.
Md Amirul Islam (Bangladesh)
Md is a student at the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology Moscow, Russia. In his research, he wants to understand hydrogen production by green algae, ways to increase hydrogen production yield per gram of organism, and the long recovery time between switching green algae from sulfur deprived to sulfur replete conditions.