

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

International DAAD Alumni Seminar

Scientific Communication – (new) actors and challenges

9 – 14 September 2015, Göttingen (Alumni Seminar)

15 – 19 September 2015, Berlin (visit of Tropentag 2015)



The seminar is scheduled in the run-up to the Tropentag 2015 “Management of land use systems for enhanced food security - conflicts, controversies and resolutions”, 15-18 September 2015, Berlin.

Seminar goals and concept

Addressing major societal and environmental challenges requires scientific expertise and innovations, where science is expected to develop basic knowledge and identify scenarios and options for action. Thus, science specifically claims the confidence of citizens, their elected representatives, and policy makers at regional, national, and international level. Science communication makes the elaborated options of action accessible and understandable to the public.

The assessment and improvement of land use systems is essential for food security, water availability, mitigation of climate change and other ecosystem services. Basic and applied research in this field relies on long-term exchange and cooperation of different experts, stakeholders and interest groups from politics, science, civil society, and economics. Therefore, outreach and communication of land use issues is a very important aspect of transforming land use systems and societies.

How can we meet our needs for food, transport and clothing compatible with limited resources? How can we enjoy life without securing the natural resources? How can we manage land use in a better way? What strategies could help to defuse or even prevent land-use conflicts? What role can research play? Varied approaches and perspectives from different stakeholder communities around the globe will be discussed and presented during this Alumni seminar.

Intensified by the presence and use of “new media”, science increasingly reaches the public directly and unfiltered, the descriptive and critical voice of science journalists is weakening. This fosters the challenge of a well-informed and independent transfer of scientific results and scenarios.

The Alumni seminar intends on elaborating and reflecting your experience and self-awareness to present your scientific work to “non-professionals” and perceive it in the same way. Discussions will be embedded in the thematic areas of the Tropentag (management of land use systems for enhanced food security) and aim to transfer current knowledge. In addition, it will facilitate networking between

the participants, scientists & international students of Göttingen University, and local actors in science communication. By means of several excursions and guest moderators, you will get in touch with institutions and organizations involved in scientific communication and have the unique opportunity to develop and exchange ideas with renowned experts.

The seminar is organized and hosted by the Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (CBL), Section of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (SeTSAF), University of Göttingen. The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Program of the seminar

The seminar program in Göttingen will include:

- Sessions and workshops moderated by invited scientists working in Tropentag related topics and experts in science communication
- Oral and poster presentations from the participating alumni
- Group work activities e.g. world café, professional networking opportunities
- Excursions
- Cultural events

The final program in Göttingen will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

Tropentag 2015

The Tropentag conference that will take place at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is a development-oriented, interdisciplinary conference addressing topics of resource management, environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food, nutrition, and related sciences in the context of rural development, sustainable resource use, and poverty alleviation worldwide. Every year it gathers more than 700 young scientists and thematic experts by providing a platform to present ongoing research in the Tropics and Subtropics. All available program information on Tropentag 2015 can be viewed at www.tropentag.de.

The summer school results will be presented in the framework of the Tropentag conference.

The program for the visit to the Tropentag 2015 is prepared by the DAAD.

Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets Alumni of German higher education institutions

- from countries, listed on the DAC list of “developing” countries,
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for at least 3 months and
- who are currently living and working in their home countries in the fields relevant to the topics of natural resource management, environment, agriculture, forestry, rural development
- who are multipliers, e.g. people who are in a position to spread the acquired knowledge and experience as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation

You should also have professional experience and personal interest in one of the following areas: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders.

Please share with us your experiences of communication initiatives (e.g. online information platforms, publications, scientific networks, environmentally-conscious student associations, research projects with outreach projects, campaigns or country programs, school projects or others).

The seminar will be held in English, hence English proficiency is essential to follow the presentations and participate in the discussions. It is necessary to participate in the whole program (seminar, congress visit, and social program).

Cost coverage

- International return ticket to Frankfurt and from Berlin (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- Transport from Frankfurt to Göttingen (by train)
- Transport from Göttingen to Tropentag 2015 in Berlin
- Transport from Hotel in Berlin to Berlin Airport
- Transport to and from the excursion venue, entrance fees
- Accommodation and living expenses during the stay in Göttingen and Berlin
- Travel health insurance (max. 30 Euro) and visa costs for the stay in Germany

All other costs, such as transport costs from participants' home town to their home airport or travel costs for visa application in the home country have to be borne by the participants. Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stay in Göttingen as well as in Berlin.

Travel dates:

8th September 2015: Arrival at the venue in Göttingen

19th September 2015: Departure from Berlin

Application procedure

Your application should emphasize your motivation and personal/ professional benefit considering the framework of scientific communication. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

Please conduct your **online application latest by 14th June 2015** via our application portal on <https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/uni/uzbl/Tropentag2015Alumni.nsf/Application>

The portal will close on 14th June 2015 at midnight!

Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

In addition to the online application form, your **application** should include the following documents as **one single PDF** which can be uploaded on the portal:

- 1) A **short CV** providing information on your studies at home and in Germany and your professional development
- 2) **Exposé** (max. 3 pages!!) addressing and answering the following four questions:
 - What do you expect to learn during the Alumni seminar and the Tropentag 2015 and how will you personally and professionally benefit from the participation?
 - What are your present work and duties, and what topics related to the seminar are especially important to you?
 - How are you planning to imply the results of our discussions into your present and upcoming projects and what stakeholders are you planning to work with in the future?

- If applicable, please list all examples where you transferred science/ research results to specific stakeholders and the public

After the review by the local organizing committee and DAAD, the invited participants will be notified latest by the end of June.

For further questions, please contact Dr. Simone Pfeiffer or Antje Henkelmann (setsaf@uni-goettingen.de; phone: ++49 551 39 33909)

Göttingen, June 2015

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

