



Call for Applications

South Pacific Regional Writeshop to Support Developing Country Publications on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change

10-14 October 2011, Suva, Fiji

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), are calling for applications from young scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and others from the South Pacific who are working in the field of climate change and disaster risk reduction to participate in a writeshop from 10-14 October 2011 in Suva, Fiji. The writeshop will be hosted by SPREP and USP, with support of the UNITAR executed C3D+ Project funded by the European Commission, the Austrian Development Agency, and the Swiss Government. Through the writeshop, participants will produce a peer-review quality publishable article and they will gain enhanced awareness of the process of writing papers for academic journals. These skills will allow their work to be incorporated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other high-level scientific bodies and consequently inform policy making on key issues of risk and climate.

The writeshop will involve one-on-one work with facilitators to provide supplemental training on academic writing and argumentation, in order to help new authors reach a standard of writing suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Sixteen participants will be selected.

Please note that the writeshop will be held in English. Be aware that the writeshop is not a training on adaptation and disaster risk reduction subject areas – we expect you to already have those skills.

How it works

Participants' papers are selected based on quality and relevance to the writeshop's chosen focus areas. After having been selected, participants are paired up with a facilitator with whom they will work to improve the paper. Prior to the writeshop, participants should prepare a draft of their papers to work with during the writeshop. At the event, participants will work closely with their mentors on various aspects of the paper. Finally, some follow-up work between the participants and mentors will be necessary to get the paper finalised.

Writeshops run for 5 days. This includes plenary sessions on the first day, and small group discussions and independent work on the second day. The third day includes an optional field trip for participants to take a break. On the fourth and fifth day, new versions of the papers are drafted in collaboration with facilitators and during plenary and independent sessions.

Participation requirements

Participants must be committed to completing the paper. If mentors do not consider the paper to be of sufficient quality to be submitted to a peer-review journal, they will assist participants in ensuring that the output is at least at a level where it can be submitted to a magazine or a non-peer review publication. Participants must also recognise that involvement in the programme does not guarantee publication – this will be determined by the peer-review process, which is independent and objective.

Selection Criteria and Applications

Applications in Word or pdf formats should be emailed to Nipa Laithong (nipa.laithong@sei-international.org) by 10 September 2011. Please read the selection criteria carefully, as we cannot consider any exceptions. **All travel costs and lodging will be covered by the organisers, including visa costs.** Please ensure that you have a valid passport at the time of applying to enable the processing of tickets and visas as quickly as possible.

Questions should be emailed to Lisa Schipper (lisa.schipper@sei-international.org).

Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- You are carrying out or have carried out research or project implementation that has provided you with new insights on adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- You are an early-career researcher, academic or practitioner in the fields of disaster risk reduction, climate change or other relevant topic, and expect to continue working in this field.
- You live and work in the Pacific, and are of a Pacific developing country nationality.
- You are committed to working with a mentor during and after the writeshop, to completing a paper, and to seeing it through the publication process.
- You can provide the organisers with a first draft of your paper by 5 October 2011.

There is no application form for this writeshop. The application should include:

- A brief biographical statement, explaining your background, current career hopes and rationale for wanting to be part of the programme, maximum 500 words. Please include nationality, country of residence and gender.
- An extended abstract or summary of your paper, including a brief description of the methodologies applied, the results of the work, whether the work was the result of research or project implementation, maximum 2 pages and minimum 500 words.
- **Please do not** include any other supporting material, such as diplomas, training certificates, etc. as you will not be evaluated on those.

Writeshop themes

The writeshop will address topics that are relevant to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; your research should have been sufficiently related to these topics to be selected for participation in the writeshop. Examples of topics include, but are not at all limited to:

- Experiences with specific extreme climate events in the region;
- Policies, institutions and governance issues related to adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Ecosystems and ecosystem services in the context of natural hazards and climate change;
- Socio-cultural aspects of risk and vulnerability, including community based assessments and adaptation planning; or
- Regional co-operation on climate change adaptation and/or disaster risk reduction.