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UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
International Network for Water, Environment and Health

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Officer (Drylands)

Personal Service Agreement
Based in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Organizational Unit: UNU-INWEH
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Reference Number: 2009/INWEH/PO-01

Closing Date: 28 February 2009

Address applications to: contact@inweh.unu.edu

Application process: The application package, to be submitted electronically only, should include: (a) a letter of intent; (b) the UNU Personal History form, downloadable from the website (**please do not submit your curriculum vitae**); (c) a list of publications and/or recent writing sample; and d) full contact information of three referees. The application package should be preferably prepared as pdf files and attached to an e-mail sent to the above address. Incomplete applications will not be considered. We regret that it will not be possible to acknowledge applications and only the short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Institutional Context: The International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) is a unit of the United Nations University based in Canada (www.inweh.unu.edu). It was created in 1996 with its core funding provided by the Government of Canada, and is hosted at McMaster University, Hamilton. Its purpose is to strengthen land and water management, particularly of developing countries, through capacity development and policy-relevant research. Activities are undertaken with minimal overhead and flexible teams are assembled from different disciplines and countries with the precise skills and expertise required to meet a given need. The programme on drylands focuses on rehabilitation of degraded drylands in rural environments and global land-degradation assessment programmes leading to harmonization of methodologies and capacity development. It aims to assist developing countries in dry regions to manage their water, land and biodiversity resources sustainably.

The position will contribute to the following activities of the drylands programme;

- *Research on Alternative Livelihoods:* This research area directly explores the challenges dryland communities face in adopting non-traditional livelihoods in order to conserve their scarce natural resources. The work also relates to enabling policies to facilitate broader adoption of these livelihood approaches.
- *Global Synthesis of Knowledge on Sustainable Land Management:* UNU-INWEH strives to lead a broad, worldwide effort to “warehouse” knowledge that is pertinent to sustainable land management and disseminate it effectively to end-users.
- *Poverty Reduction through Capacity Building:* This area entails capacity development at various scales, ranging from community-based efforts to advanced degree programmes. The capacity building is directly pertinent to poverty-reduction strategies and better integrated natural resource management.

The principal activity of the post will be the oversight of a GEF-funded, interagency project on “Ensuring Impacts from Sustainable Land Management (SLM) – Development of a Global Indicator System.” The project aims to provide the scientific-technical basis for selecting indicators to record the performance,

results and best practices of SLM projects in the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area. It will also develop a Learning Network for these projects, develop knowledge management tools and guidelines. This project is part of a long-term initiative to improve knowledge management on SLM projects, involving the GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNU-INWEH, FAO, IFAD, World Bank, IADB, ADB and AfDB. The project is expected to lead to the development of other activities in knowledge and sustainable land management and the creation of global networks.

Position description: The Project Officer (PO) serves as an integral member of the UNU-INWEH team. The primary responsibilities of the PO concerns the design and implementation of projects related to the Drylands Programme. The PO will *inter alia* focus on the afore-mentioned project; particularly coordinating the activities and outputs of the project, including publication and dissemination of the project findings through print- and web-based media. The maintenance and continuous development of a network of experts on dryland issues will be essential to the success of these initiatives. Core tasks associated with this position are as follows.

- Coordinating and organizing project meetings, workshops and conferences
- Coordinating publication and dissemination of research findings and training materials
- Undertaking deployment and timely implementation of contracts
- Monitoring the progress of the project and preparing periodic project reports
- Maintaining the project Learning Network, including a database of information

In addition to these core tasks, the Project Officer will have the opportunity to contribute to the research components of the various drylands projects.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will hold a Ph.D. degree in environmental sciences, engineering, or a related discipline. In addition to academic qualifications, (s)he should have at least two years' work experience at the international level, including responsibilities for project management tasks. Demonstrated experience of financial management and administrative capabilities is required. Demonstrated excellent research and writing skills are essential.

A strong preference will be given to those candidates with a focus on SLM and integrated management of natural resources in drylands. Demonstrated ability to perform effectively in team-based scientific research, incorporating both social and natural science disciplines, are also highly desirable. Experience of working in developing countries and a genuine commitment to capacity-building projects and to sustainable development are also valued. Fluency in English is essential and knowledge of another UN Language is desirable.

Applications from suitably qualified women and candidates from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply.

Core Values: Be able to demonstrate the values of the United Nations, including impartiality, fairness, honesty and truthfulness, in daily activities and behavior. Respect for diversity and ability to work effectively with people from all backgrounds is essential.

Remuneration: Salary will be in the range of US\$55,000 to US\$60,000 p.a., commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience. This salary is exempt from any income taxes in Canada. For successful candidates, an economy class air ticket will be provided by UNU-INWEH for relocation to Hamilton, Canada. Annual leave is accrued at the rate of 30 days per year in addition to 10 UNU official holidays. The successful candidate will be employed under a Personal Service Agreement (PSA) and will not hold international civil servant status.

Duration of contract: The initial appointment will be for one year, with the possibility of annual renewal, based on performance.

Start date: As soon as possible, not later than May 2009