Subject: Announcement Refresher Course (for UPCWS applicants)

Dear Colleagues,

Hereby we would like to invite you to apply for a Refresher Course on the theme Gender and Generation in Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights: the new agenda of Population and Development Research and Policymaking.

This course will be held in The Philippines 24th October – 4th November 2011 and is organized by International Institute of Social Studies (ISS/EUR, The Hague) in collaboration with Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Centre (PSTCRRC) and the University of the Philippines Centre for Women’s Studies (UCWS).

Background to the theme and objectives of the refresher course

The field of Population and Social Development has undergone rapid changes in the past decades. These changes in the real world have led to new paradigms, notably a gender- and generation sensitive perspective and a rights-based approach to fertility, health and wellbeing. This has also brought the domain of sexuality centre stage in research, policy analysis and practice.

Governments as well as movements and NGOs representing or working for people’s rights to health and well-being face challenges in the traditional approaches to the population and development domains of “Sex, Life and Death”. At the same time, policy-makers face a changed and changing world in which the health and wellbeing of the majority of the population: women and young people is structurally in jeopardy.

Different stakeholders concerned therefore need to build capacity to understand and to address the new challenges in the population and development domain, from a gender and generation sensitive rights perspective

As the title indicates the refresher course will provide alumni of ISS Development Studies an up-to-date and state-of-the-art overview of these new developments and challenges with special reference to the situation in the Southeast Asian region, and thus provide a renewed empirical and theoretical basis for the participants which they can use in their current places of work.

This two-week course aims to refresh and strengthen participants’ capacities regarding knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); gender analysis; generation analysis; challenges and lessons learned regarding SRHR policy and program development, with a focus on young people.

Ten slots are allotted for applicants from UPCWS. Who can apply and is eligible for this refresher course?

The minimum requirements for joining the program are:
• at least master’s degree (or Alumnus/na of ISS MA or Diploma in Development Studies; notably CYS, HDS, PPSD, POV, WGD specializations)
• relevant work experience in development studies, human rights and reproductive rights (or mid-career professional like development policy maker/practitioner, researcher or academician with stated motivation to engage with the particular questions related to the link between the domains of gender, sexuality, reproductive health and development who is in a position to transfer acquired knowledge and skills within his/her organization); and,
• international exposure.
Please note that selected participants from UPCWS must pay a subsidized course fee. They will be responsible for their transportation/travel, accommodation, and food for the duration of the course program.

**Deadline for application (07th October) and procedure for selection**

The prospective candidates for this Refresher Course have to send an electronic application letter with full details about their motivation and how they meet the above criteria. These applications have to reach UPCWS on **Friday 07 October**.

The selection committee UCWS will select and rank the applicants and the list of maximum 10 participants from UPCWS will be finalized.

Though the topic of the course is often considered a typical women’s issue and may therefore attract more female alumnae, men’s involvement in (young people’s) sexual and reproductive rights is indispensable. The selection committee at ISS will see to it that sufficient male applicants will be selected and thus ensure that the targeted representation across gender and above other factors will be achieved.

Kind regards,

*Sylvia Estrada Claudio, MD, PhD*
Director