



Announcement

Executive Director of the ICSU-IAMP Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme

The International Council for Science (ICSU) and Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP) invite applications for the post of Executive Director for a new international, interdisciplinary research programme – “Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: a Systems Analysis Approach”. An International Programme Office (IPO) is being established at the Institute of Urban Environment (IUE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Xiamen, China. This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to head the IPO and provide academic leadership for the implementation of the programme.

The ICSU-IAMP Urban Health programme is a new, 10 year, coordinated international research effort, whose overall aim is to generate policy-relevant knowledge that will improve health status, reduce health inequalities and enhance the wellbeing of populations living in urban environments. The programme will focus on the integration of natural, social, medical and engineering sciences using systems approaches to address the complexity of urban issues and their influence on health.

The IPO will meet the management needs of the Urban Health programme and support the work of an international Scientific Committee, which is responsible for the overall scientific planning, coordination, guidance and oversight of the programme. The IPO has dedicated core funding, with considerable potential to attract additional resources from both national and international sources.

Under the authority of the Scientific Committee, the Executive Director of the programme is expected to:

- lead and facilitate the development, implementation and co-ordination of science projects;
- effectively promote the programme with research funding organisations and donors;
- liaise with international partners;
- ensure effective representation and links between the ICSU-IAMP Urban Health programme, other relevant international activities and their sponsoring organizations;
- develop and implement an engagement strategy which promotes networking within the research community and with urban stakeholders;
- plan and organize capacity building and outreach activities;
- work with the ICSU Regional Offices to ensure the involvement of lesser-developed countries in programme activities;
- promote the establishment and/or strengthening of national committees and regional initiatives;

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The Executive Director will recruit and manage a team of at least two professional staff members, and will direct all activities of the IPO, including the preparation for, and conduct of, meetings of the Scientific Committee. He/she will have responsibility for drawing up annual work-plans and budgets of the Office, and ensuring that they are implemented. The Executive Director will maintain effective cooperation on administrative and technical matters with the host institution, IUE. Depending on his/her academic interests there are also possibilities for direct involvement in teaching or research activities (20% time max.) at the IUE.

The IUE has a strong international reputation for research on a broad range of topics relating to the urban environment; its interdisciplinary approach is unique in China and many of the research teams work closely with stakeholders from both the public and private sector. The Institute has a proven track record in international cooperation and partnerships. The IPO is located on the new IUE campus and has access to all Institute facilities and services, including library, restaurant and conference facilities. IUE is located in a rapidly developing commercial and residential area of Xiamen, which is considered to be one of China's most 'liveable' cities, with easy access to international destinations.

The Executive Director will hold a PhD, MD or equivalent in a relevant health, natural or social science discipline and have several years experience of international research collaboration in an interdisciplinary setting in the area of urban health. Proven management, fundraising and communication skills are important, as is a history of policy-relevant work and experience in interacting with non-academic stakeholders. He/she will have an excellent command of written and spoken English (Mandarin Chinese is not essential but would be an advantage). Personal networks and some experience in the use of on-line consultation techniques and web-based collaborative tools would be an advantage.

The annual salary of the Executive Director of the Urban Health programme will be in the range 70,000-90,000 euros equivalent + benefits to be structured depending on the candidate and will take due account of the experience and qualifications of the candidate. The initial contract of employment will be of three years' duration, renewable. Applicants who might be seconded or take leave of absence from their current employment are encouraged to apply. It is expected that the successful candidate will take up his/her appointment, located in Xiamen, early in 2014. Assistance with relocation will be provided as necessary.

Applications should include: (i) a Curriculum Vitae, including your current salary; (ii) a covering letter explaining why you are interested in the post, and outlining the skills and experience you feel you, the candidate, could bring to the ICSU Urban Health programme and its IPO; and (iii) the names and addresses of three individuals who have indicated their readiness to provide a reference.

Applications should be addressed to Dr Carthage Smith, Deputy Executive Director at ICSU and submitted electronically (with 'UH IPO Director' as the subject line) to Rohini@icsu.org. **The closing date for applications is 18 January, 2014.**

For more information on the ICSU Urban Health Programme see:

<http://www.icsu.org/what-we-do/interdisciplinary-bodies/health-and-wellbeing-in-the-changing-urban-environment/?icsudocid=objectives>

and, <http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/health-and-wellbeing/>