



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

Conference Announcement - Call for Applications

Environment and Health Symposium

Jointly held by the:

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS)

Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS)

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Pretoria, South Africa

Date: 1-3 June 2015

Themes: air pollution, water pollution, metals exposure and solar
ultraviolet radiation

Introduction

The Academy of Science of South Africa, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina are planning a joint symposium on Environment and Health from 1st to 3rd June 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa. *The hosting of the symposium is subject to approval of funding from the Volkswagen Foundation in Germany.*

The objectives of the event are to scientifically analyse key environmental challenges and their implications for human health in Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany in order to identify future research needs and to assess possible solutions to current environmental health issues and how these can be mainstreamed into science, society and policymaking.

Involvement of young scientists is an imperative of the symposium. Your input, both your ideas and thoughts on the subjects, as well as your research presented in the forms of posters, will serve as valuable input to fulfilling the objectives of the conference.

1. Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that “environmental health addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health.”¹ The human health implications that environmental factors may trigger can be physical (e.g. skin cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and allergic reactions) as well as psychological (e.g. stress, anxiety, trauma and depression). Issues of environment and health increasingly concern societies all over the world and require interdisciplinary analysis.

2. Conference Themes

The symposium will focus on four key issues relevant in the area of environmental health and the interrelations between them.

- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Metals exposure
- Solar ultraviolet radiation

3. Eligibility

The planned symposium has opportunities for young male and female scientists who meet the following criteria to participate:

- Be resident in Sub-Saharan Africa or Germany
- Be under the age of forty (40)
- Be a PhD candidate or Post-Doc researcher
- Have a research interest in the conference themes

¹ World Health Organization, “Environmental Health” http://www.who.int/topics/environmental_health/en/. Accessed August 2014

4. Call for Applications

The Joint Academies invite young scientists to submit applications to participate in the symposium and present scientific posters. The costs for travel expenses, accommodation and board will be covered during the event, on the condition that the applied funding will be granted by the Volkswagen Foundation.

4.1. Application Requirements

The application should be submitted as follows:

- a) Be in English
- b) The motivation must be as follows:
 - Be a maximum of 500 words.
 - Include the name of the poster presenter, institutional affiliations, and country.
 - Provide a short description of the proposed poster including title, author(s), and institution.
 - Explain why you would like to participate in the symposium (no more than 100 words).
- c) A one (1) page CV that includes:
 - Education
 - Current position
 - Other relevant experiences or academic awards
 - Candidate's current research topic(s)
- d) All documents should be submitted in pdf file.
- e) If you are a resident of Germany, please send your application to: francesca.azara@leopoldina.org. If you are a resident of Sub-Saharan Africa, please submit your application electronically to: phyllis@assaf.org.za.
- f) **Deadline** to submit the application is **16 February 2015**.

4.2. Application Review

Applications will be reviewed by a scientific panel which reserves the right to accept and allocate poster presentations. All eligible candidates who submit applications by the due date will be notified by mid-March 2015 whether their application was successful or not.

4.3. Poster Presentations

Accepted posters will be displayed at the conference venue and the young scientists will be expected to do brief oral presentations during the allocated poster sessions. Full details and specifications will be provided in the acceptance letter.

5. Programme

Attached is the draft programme for the symposium.

6. General Conference Information

For any further information on the conference, please contact:

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