LOCAL RECRUITMENT
Tokyo, Japan

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
(Personnel Service Agreement - PSA)

Organizational Unit : United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Reference Number : 2014/UNU/IAS/PSA/RA/55

Applications to : 2014iaspsafgc@unu.edu

Closing Date : 05 October 2014

United Nations University Objectives:

The UNU is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate training and the dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. The University functions as a think tank for the United Nations system, contributes to capacity building, particularly in developing countries, and serves as a platform for new and innovative ideas and dialogue. For more information please visit http://unu.edu.

United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

UNU-IAS is a new UNU institute, created in January 2014 by consolidating the former UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP). It is based at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo. The mission of UNU-IAS is to serve the international community through policy-relevant research and capacity development focused on sustainability, including its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

UNU-IAS applies advanced research methodologies and innovative approaches to challenge conventional thinking and develop creative solutions to emerging issues of global concern in these areas. The institute’s research, education and training combine expertise from a wide range of areas related to sustainability, and engage a global network of scholars and partner institutions. Through postgraduate teaching UNU-IAS develops international leaders with the interdisciplinary understanding and technical skills needed to advance creative solutions to problems of sustainability.

For more information please visit http://ias.unu.edu
Fukushima Global Communication Programme

The Fukushima Global Communication (FGC) Programme is an initiative developed by UNU-IAS with financial support from the Government of Japan. The FGC programme applies a human security approach to examine impacts of the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident of March 11, 2011 on people and society, and the challenges of the recovery process in Fukushima. It also focuses on issues of risk and information provision, aiming to improve understanding of how the threat of radiation is perceived, and the specific challenges of risk communication related to nuclear energy.

The FGC programme engages in field research in Fukushima and a series of collaborative research workshops, engaging a broad network of both Japanese and international experts. In analyzing the reality of recovery in Fukushima and the changes in post-3.11 Japanese society, the programme connects these issues with relevant international debates and policy processes such as the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The risk communication component of the project will focus initially on issues of risk perception, examining how the affected population and the general public considers and deals with the risks of nuclear energy. Findings from this research will feed into the next phase of the programme, focusing on the challenges of risk communication and information provision related to nuclear energy.

For more information about the FGC programme and its activities, please visit the website at: http://fgc.unu.edu/

Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Director of UNU-IAS, and the direct supervision of the FGC Project Manager, and in close cooperation with other staff of the Institute, the Research Associate will plan and conduct research as part of the FGC programme, with a specific focus on its risk communication component. The Research Associate will also assist in the implementation of other programme activities of the Institute. Specific tasks will include the following:

- Supporting the development, planning, organization, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of academic and research activities as well as publication and dissemination efforts of the Institute;
- Assisting the UNU-IAS Postgraduate Programme in preparing and teaching postgraduate modules, and engaging in capacity development work;
- Planning and organizing scientific meetings and workshops;
- Drafting and editing scientific reports and articles, as well as policy-oriented outputs such as policy briefs, and descriptive material for online dissemination;
- Developing inputs to UN system organizations and international processes based on programme findings;
- Assisting in fund raising, including project proposal development, contacting and maintaining a dialogue with potential donors, and other work related to fundraising; and
- Performing other duties as may be assigned.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- A completed PhD degree or equivalent in the field of political science, science and technology studies, sociology, international relations, disaster studies, public health, risk management or a related discipline.
- At least 1 year of work experience in an academic or research institution; 3 years or more desirable. Work experience in an international organization is preferred, and some programme management experience would an asset.
• Knowledge or background in risk communication and/or risk management related to disasters would be desirable.
• Prior experience working on issues related to the Fukushima nuclear accident or related issues would be an important asset.
• Excellent communication skills, with fluency in both oral and written English and Japanese are required. Knowledge of another UN official language would be an asset.
• Computer and web literacy required. Strong IT skills would be an asset.
• A good team player with strong interpersonal skills, demonstrated by the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Remuneration:

Remuneration will commensurate with qualifications and experience, within the range of JPY 400,000 to 450,000 per month. There are no other fringe benefits.

Duration of Contract:

This is a full time employment on a Personnel Service Agreement (PSA) with UNU-IAS. Initial appointment will be for one (1) year with the possibility of renewal subject to satisfactory work performance, with the combined duration of appointments not exceeding six (6) years.

This is a locally recruited post; no relocation expenses or allowances apply. The successful candidate will be employed under a local contract and will not hold international civil servant status nor be a “staff member” as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations. UNU does not sponsor a working visa for this position.

Applications from suitably qualified women candidates are particularly encouraged.

Starting Date: 3 November 2014 (preferred)

Application Procedure:

Interested applicants should submit their applications by email (to 2014iaspsafgc@unu.edu), and must include the following:

• a cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
• a curriculum vitae and a completed and signed UNU Personal History (P.11) form downloadable from United Nations University website at http://unu.edu/about/hr. Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations;
• full contact information of three (3) referees; and
• an indication of the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2014/UNU/IAS/PSA/RA/FGC/55)