



Fachhochschule Köln
Cologne University of Applied Sciences



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DAAD Alumni Seminar 2015

“11 years after the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 – Lessons of Disaster Recovery, Rehabilitation and Resilience”

9-13 November 2015 – in Cologne & Bonn, Germany

Topic & Context

Disasters such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami, taking and substantially affecting the lives of many thousands of people, are events radically and abruptly changing local circumstances and needs. At the same time they can significantly reshape global paradigms of Disaster Risk Reduction. Such events also bring to light the challenges in coordinating assistance from the “global community” with all the intended and un-intended effects. Two of the most pressing questions therefore are whether the different actors have *learned from the disaster* and whether *sustainable processes of DRR and livelihood improvements* have been implemented successfully.

Almost 11 years after the disaster, the seminar aims to address questions such as:

- Lessons Learned: Which lessons have been learned in a way that a difference can be seen today for the livelihoods and resilience of local people in the regions affected in 2004?
- Lessons To Learn: Despite the body of knowledge created and reflected in a good number of lessons learned studies after 10 years - what is still unsolved or needs to be emphasized?
- Evaluation: Which DRR measures have been perpetuated and how can they be evaluated scientifically?
- Resilience effects and (unintended) side-effects: Which coping, recovery and adaptation measures are supported by the resilience paradigm and which other areas are side-lined, neglected or even contrary to the intended effects?
- Dynamics in risk: In which cases has resilience building taken place? In which cases have vulnerabilities been shifted internally or new vulnerabilities been created?
- Relocation/Resettlement: How did the relocation/resettlement process of displaced people take place and what are its long-term effects?
- Urban-rural divide: How have DRR measures in urban vs. rural areas differed and which linkages but also rifts in rehabilitation and reconstruction initiatives can be observed between the two?
- Early Warning: What is the future of Early Warning and how can important top-down information chains benefit from or be balanced with bottom-up feedback of users and affected people?

While these questions are of great interest to scientists and high level decision makers we also want to grasp the experience and lessons learned on the ground, i.e. by local practitioners and

communities. Therefore we invite **experts** from science, politics and local initiatives as well as **practitioners** in the fields of Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Protection, Livelihood programs and International Development to participate in this seminar. We highly encourage experts and practitioners not only from South and Southeast Asia but also from other world regions to apply if their expertise and experience relates to “Lessons Learned” approaches concerning the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004.

Seminar details & application procedure

The Cologne University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) and the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) call for applications from suitable candidates for the 2015 DAAD Alumni Seminar. This event will provide for DAAD Alumni to exchange experience and expertise on specific topics in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, to merge their networks and to foster future collaboration in research and practice. It will bring together experts and practitioners from many countries of the world, representing not only a variety of scientific disciplines but at the same time different national experiences and approaches towards disaster resilience.

The seminar will provide a unique opportunity for young experts from around the globe, who conducted part of their studies in Germany, to foster and enhance international cooperation and exchange. It will be composed of three webinars (July & October 2015, January 2016) and an intense **one-week program in Germany from 9-13 November 2015**. The program will comprise lectures, various discussion formats, field trips and interactive project activities. The seminar will be conducted **in English**.

Travel costs to/from the seminar as well as accommodation and meals during the program in Germany will be covered.

As a direct and tangible result of this seminar we envisage a special issue published in an indexed journal comprising policy papers and research articles of the seminar’s participants. Therefore, each applicant is asked to provide a **short abstract** (max. 350 words) related to the seminar’s topic that will serve as a basis of the publication.

In order for applicants to be eligible for participation, the following formal requirements must be met

- you hold a degree from a German University or have studied/done research at a German University for at least three months
- your origin is in a DAC country (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclistofodarecipients.htm>)

Applications including the short abstract may be submitted until **31 March 2015**. For more information on the program and the application procedure, please visit our [webpage](#).

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This seminar is part of the DAAD Alumni Programme and funded by the the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Within this summer school the participants will be able to use the DAAD Alumni [network platform](#) and webinar facilities.