About the scholarship programme

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) developed its scholarship programme after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2007.

The prize was given in recognition of IPCC’s efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

In order to build capacity to understand and address climate change, the IPCC decided to use the money from the Noble Peace Prize to support young scientists from developing countries to conduct research at PhD level.

By June 2015, over 20 young scholars had received awards to undertake research in areas ranging from the “underlying sciences of climate change” to “adaptation and mitigation options for different sectors”.

How the programme works

The IPCC Secretariat launches a call for proposals for its scholarship programme every two years.

Topics to be considered are identified by the IPCC Science Board.

Applicants must:

- Be a citizen of a developing country;
- Have an admissions offer for PhD studies or be studying at PhD level in a university of their choice.

Applications are scrutinized by the IPCC Secretariat with the support of a Scientific Technical Committee composed of IPCC authors who are specialists on the chosen topics.

The final decision on the proposals to obtain an IPCC scholarship award is made by the IPCC Science Board.
Some student profiles

Sudeep Thakuri (Nepal)
Sudeep completed his PhD at the University of Milan where he worked in collaboration with Italy’s Water Research Institute which is part of the country’s National Research Council (IRSA-CNR for its acronym in Italian). His PhD research topic was “Coupling glacio-hydrological response to climate variability in Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha in Nepali) region of Central Himalaya”. His research aimed at understanding the climatic impact on glaciers, lakes, and river flow system that are expected to have influence on hydrologic processes and future water availability.

Luz Milena Niño (Colombia)
Luz is studying at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. Her research topic is “Assessing forest carbon storage across a rainfall gradient in Jamaica: implications for predicting impacts and mitigating the effects of climate change”. Her research looks at three different types of forests: wet, moist and dry tropical, and how the provision of eco-system services such as potable water and fisheries will change as a result of climate change.

Pheakkdey Nguon (Cambodia)
Pheakkdey is studying at the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, USA. His research aims at improving the understanding of how governance systems organize and distribute knowledge on the United Nations’ REDD+ Programme across different groups of stakeholders in Cambodia. Pheakkdey uses his IPCC scholarship for his field work in the Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey and Mondulkiri Provinces of Cambodia. In addition to working with stakeholders, Pheakkdey has been actively presenting his work at round-table policy events and has organized a series of workshops that focus on climate change, REDD+ and forest governance, for students from various departments of the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Royal University of Agriculture.

Rizwana Subhani (Bangladesh)
Rizwana did her PhD at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of her research was to understand the factors behind migration for people living in coastal areas and the impact of climate change on their livelihoods. Her research concentrated on the Khulna district. After Cyclone Aila raged the southern part of Khulna in 2009, many people migrated out of the region in order to avoid consequences of similar events in the future. It is expected that Rizwana’s research findings will be useful for developing policy frameworks to improve the livelihood of climate victims.

Genito Maure (Mozambique)
Genito graduated from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2013. His PhD research focused on the response of the southern African climate to the presence of biomass burning aerosols while considering both direct and indirect aerosol effects. Genito is now a lecturer and researcher at the University Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique. He is also establishing an environmental modelling group at the University to contribute to the understanding of the feedback between livelihoods and the local environment and climate.

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Join us in a partnership

The programme benefits from the support of individual contributions and partnerships with foundations. 100% of donations received contribute to the growing number of students with the opportunity they need to further the scientific knowledge on climate change.

The IPCC always welcomes contributions to the scholarship programme and is happy to provide further information to prospective funding partners.

The IPCC is also interested in developing links with academic institutions around the world hosting students who have been awarded an IPCC scholarship.

The scholarship programme has received funding from:

2009
- Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway) who, in her acceptance speech of the Tallberg Leadership Award, made the donation “for supporting what the IPCC has decided to do with its Nobel Peace Prize money: to give scholarships for research on climate change in developing countries and this is obviously meant for young people”.

2010
- Aster Finance (Switzerland)
- Mr Cheng Fa Qing (China)
- Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Belgium)

2013
- Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Belgium)

2014
- Professor Hoesung Lee and his wife Mrs Sungna Chung (Republic of Korea)

2011-2017
- The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
  www.fpa2.com

2013-2017
- The Cuomo Foundation
  www.fondationcuomo.mc

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