



UNDP Human Development Academic Fellowships for Asia-Pacific



**Asia-Pacific Regional Human Development
Reports Initiative (APRI)**

UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo
(www.undprcc.lk)



Objective

The objective of the UNDP Human Development Academic Fellowships for Asia-Pacific is to encourage young Ph.D. students from the Asia-Pacific region to analyse development issues from a human development perspective, contributing to theory, applications and policies.



Context

A vast difference exists between analysing a theme as a sectoral issue versus examining it through a human development lens. This difference is important to UNDP's mandate as the United Nations' global development network, as well as its advocacy for connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build better lives. The human development approach involves recognition of development as a process that acknowledges the importance of economic concerns, but goes beyond this to enlarge human capabilities. This enables people to take informed positions that promote their broader well-being while respecting concerns of the disadvantaged.

In this context, this initiative aims to strengthen the capacity in Asia-Pacific to analyse issues from the human development perspective, with a focus on fostering creative thinking and innovative research among young people. This initiative will target students who are nationals of developing countries listed in the Annexure and who have completed all course requirements and are embarking on their Ph.D. dissertations. The research must focus on a well-defined aspect of human development and can be theoretical, applied, policy-oriented, or a combination. It must amount to a substantive contribution to human development thinking relevant to the region.

If human development is about expanding choices, then how can individual versus collective choice issues be resolved? What institutional arrangements can be consistent with human development in making social choices? How can interests of minorities be protected if majority decision-making rules operate, and vice versa? These are examples of interesting theoretical issues for human development. Poverty, inequality, gender concerns and basic capabilities of survival and sustenance - including health, nutrition, education and human rights - are important areas for applied and policy-oriented research. To push the frontier of human development, prospective Fellows can address any of these or similar issues.

A student selected for the UNDP Human Development Academic Fellowship for Asia-Pacific will be provided

financial support of USD \$ 10,000, which will be released in two installments. The Fellow will be required to submit a copy of the dissertation to UNDP. In addition the Fellow also may be expected to present his/ her work in workshops/seminars and other events arranged by UNDP (travel-related costs will be covered separately).

Eligibility

As a citizen of a country in Asia and the Pacific, the applicant shall have a Masters degree in a relevant discipline. S/he shall be enrolled at a reputable and recognised university in any country as a full-time student in a Ph.D. programme. S/he shall identify a human development-related topic and submit a proposal approved by her/his supervisor at the university.

S/he shall be younger than age 30.

However, in exceptional cases the age requirement may be relaxed to 35 years to accommodate candidates who have returned to full-time study after a period of work and/or family responsibilities.

Selection Procedure

Selection will be based on an assessment of written proposals of up to 2,500 words.



A review of eligibility and an assessment of proposals submitted will be the basis for shortlisting. Shortlisted candidates may be required to participate in an interview. A Selection Committee will review the proposals and interact with the shortlisted candidates for the final selection. Applications shall be submitted by **30 April 2006**.

Other Selection Criteria

- * Exceptional creativity in choice of idea or topic
- * Stage of development of the proposal
- * Value-addition or new direction to the human development concept, methodology, analysis, application or policy relevance
- * Track record of past accomplishments
- * Time needed for completing the work undertaken



Contact Information

Applications should be sent preferably by e-mail, to:

asiapacific.hdrmdg@undp.org

Or by post, to:

UNDP Human Development Academic Fellowship for Asia Pacific

Asia-Pacific Regional Human Development Initiative (APRI)

Regional Centre in Colombo

148 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02

Sri Lanka

ANNEXURE

Nationals of the countries listed below are eligible to apply:

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan
4. Cambodia
5. China
6. Cook Islands
7. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
8. Federated States of Micronesia
9. Fiji
10. India
11. Indonesia
12. Iran
13. Kiribati
14. Lao PDR
15. Malaysia
16. Maldives
17. Marshall Islands
18. Mongolia
19. Myanmar
20. Nauru
21. Nepal
22. Niue
23. Pakistan
24. Palau
25. Papua New Guinea
26. Philippines
27. Republic of Korea
28. Samoa
29. Solomon Islands
30. Sri Lanka
31. Timor-Leste
32. Tokelau
33. Tonga
34. Thailand
35. Tuvalu
36. Vanuatu
37. Viet Nam



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