Humanitarian & Sustainable Development Initiative (HDI) Welcomes Application

June 9 - 23, 2019

BACKGROUND

Intensive loss and complex destruction caused by emergencies such as disasters, conflicts, public health crisis have affected the well-being and safety of persons, communities and countries. Many of the crisis are increasing in frequency and intensity, “significantly impede progress towards sustainable development” (UNISDR, 2015).

For decades, the humanitarian and development nexus has been a crucial issue across sectors and varied in terminology, policy, implementation, and research levels. Stakeholders are extensively involved in this constant dialogue, including governments, the United Nations, international and national non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The Innovation Center for Risk Governance (ICRG) in Beijing Normal University (BNU) with support from partners including UNDP, WHO, Harvard University, proposes to develop the China Humanitarian and Sustainable Development Initiative (HDI), which aims to contribute for enhancing youth’s knowledge, capacity and entrepreneurship in participating in the global humanitarian and development sectors.

ACTIVITY

In 2019, HDI welcomes application from university students (undergraduate and graduate), young scholars and practitioners to become HDI Fellows. The Fellows will then participate in three phases of capacity building:

1. Face-to-face Classroom learning (June). A two-week summer academy in Beijing (June 9th-23rd) provides HDI Fellows with intensive learning activities including lectures, case studies, symposiums, field visits, simulation and team-learning.
2. Community-based project planning (July-September). HDI Fellows are expected to transform their knowledge and skills into a community-based humanitarian/development project plan and submit the plan online.
3. Internship (since October). 5-10 Outstanding HDI Fellows will be recommended
to access to short-term secondment/internship in international humanitarian and development partner organizations, including UN agencies and INGOs. During the secondment/internship (three to six months), HDI Fellows are also expected to accomplish an independent research on relevant topics.

Through a highly collaborative, practice-oriented learning process, the HDI Fellows will be expected to increase capacity with mastery of skills in leadership, management, communication and entrepreneurship relevant to the global humanitarian and sustainable development sectors.

TARGET GROUP

The HDI anticipates 20-30 international and Chinese university students, young scholars and practitioners in humanitarian and development sectors with global vision and social entrepreneurship as HDI Fellows in 2019.
- Good English communication and writing skills required;
- Record in relevant courses or training, experience in community service or international volunteering an asset;
- Students with recommendation from University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) members in priority.

Applicants are required to submit their curriculum vitae and a personal statement in a 5-min video. Submissions must be made at https://www.sfu.ca/wil/usr-network.html .

[Application Deadline: April 3, 2019]
Application result will be communicated by the end of April.

SUMMER ACADEMY

The 20-30 HDI Fellows are expected to complete prep reading in May, and take a two-week course in summer academy based in Beijing Normal University from June 9th to 23rd. They have the chance to listen to and dialogue with professors and experts from Program on Crisis Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Overseas Development Institute, and Chinese scholars and non-governmental organization partners.

The Fellows are encouraged to learn interactively in four modules: Humanitarian
Contexts and Challenges; Sustainable Development; Methodology and Cross-cutting Issues; Activities and Practice.

HDI supports the Fellows with adequate allowance to cover their travel and accommodation fee.

Students in the 2018 Humanitarian and Development Entrepreneurship Summer Academy in Beijing Normal University.

In 2018, Students doing interview regarding child’s safety in a community in
Students visiting Chinese local social organization

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