



THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
for the advancement of science in developing countries



Sustainability, SDGs and Global Challenges

3 – 5 December 2019 - Gebze, Turkey

1. Background and rationale

Since the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the achievement of their targets has become a high priority. However, full awareness about the SDGs and the associated Global Challenges at the level of young scientists and researchers is often inadequate. Their role in contributing towards fostering scientific knowledge, technology and innovation is crucial for finding solutions to the sustainability issues. A workshop is being organized aimed at early-career researchers to deepen their understanding of the SDGs.

2. Introduction

In order to raise awareness on SDGs and the associated challenges faced by humanity globally, and to build capacity of young scientists and researchers in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other countries lagging in science and technology, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), in collaboration with the TWAS Regional Partner for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, and COMSATS' Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), are organizing an international workshop titled 'Sustainability, SDGs and Global Challenges'. The workshop will be hosted by TUBITAK, at Gebze, Turkey, on 3 – 5 December 2019.

This activity will be within the pursuits of COMSATS and TWAS. COMSATS Centres of Excellence are reservoirs of scientific research capabilities and expertise in diverse fields. Their contribution in enhancing the capacity of COMSATS' member countries especially the LDCs and countries on the verge of developing ST for SDGs is a strong manifestation of south-south cooperation and commitment to sustainability. The offer of TUBITAK, the COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Turkey, to host the workshop is deeply appreciated.

3. Focus and Possible Topics

If SDGs are to bring about transformative changes in the socio-economic and socio-technical systems, it is imperative to promote active links and dialogue among different actors, disciplines and knowledge holders. This would enable better understanding of the challenges confronted by humanity and possible progress toward their solutions. It is important for all stakeholders to imagine SDGs as a whole, interlinked and interactive process and systems. Hence the overarching aim of the workshop is to provide an overview and training on the concept of sustainable

development; the rationale of SDGs; importance of targets set as benchmarks for monitoring the progress of the implementation processes; and on the planetary boundaries. This is expected to provide a useful backdrop to more focused deliberations on three crucial topics: climate, energy and biodiversity. Though these are covered under most of the Goals, the specific ones could be identified as: Goal 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

4. Structure of Workshop

The structure of the workshop is based on presentations by international experts in the fields identified, which will be followed by interactive sessions. The idea is to engage with the participants and involve them in brainstorming on key issues. The handouts and possible reading material will be provided. The participants will be expected to suggest their views on the solutions specific to their countries/regions.

5. Targeted Individuals

The focus of the workshop is on the LDCs and S&T Lagging countries, especially those that are members of TWAS and COMSATS. Young affiliates & scientists holding PhD (graduated at least 3 years ago), belonging to LDCs/S&T Lagging Countries, and the host country are encouraged to participate in the event.

6. Financial Support

Partial or full financial support will be provided to selected foreign participants belonging to LDCs/S&T Lagging Countries (<https://twas.org/66-countries>). The local hospitality will be provided to the foreign participants by TUBITAK, Turkey.

7. Application Procedure

The candidates are required to submit their CVs, duly filled-in application forms (enclosed), expression of interest (up to 500 words), passport copy, and nomination/recommendation letters at the following email addresses: regionaloffices@twas.org; farhan@comsats.org on or before **18th September 2019**.

8. For further information, please contact:

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