



Call for Application YOUNG SCHOLARS' FORUM

EWACC - Energy, Water, Climate Change
Building Bridges between Europe and MENA and between Generations

June 8 – 14, 2015 (EWACC Young Scholars' Forum)

June 15 – 17, 2015 (EWACC Conference)

The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia, Cyprus

www.ewacc.org

-Application Deadline: 15 March 2015-

Background

The “Young Scholars’ Forum” is a seven-day summer school prior to the conference “[EWACC2015-Building Bridges](#)”. It will bring together about 30 young researchers mostly from MENA, but also from Europe in an informal but stimulating setting.

The region encompassing the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is characterized by strong environmental gradients, climate extremes and diverse economic, social and cultural identities. Adverse impacts of climate change throughout the 21st century are expected, and major challenges in energy and food security, threats to environmental integrity, as well as decreasing availability of fresh water are projected for the future in this region.

In order to develop effective solutions, Europe and the MENA countries need to act in concert in order to tackle the grand challenges posed by climate change and the Water-Energy and Food Nexus. Thus, a new European-MENA partnership on science and technology is urgently required. The EWACC-Building Bridges Initiative is aiming to address this need.

The EWACC – Building Bridges Initiative will be a new coherent approach to embark on a long-lasting partnership between Europe and MENA. It consists of a series of dedicated events addressing the following strategic goals:

- Promoting the next generation of scientists in MENA through a dedicated summer school,
- Broadening and deepening the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on grand challenges at a high-level scientific conference,

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- Fostering inter-regional scientific cooperation through teaming/twinning and launching of specific research projects through consortium building workshops.

To build a thriving research environment in MENA the strong involvement and active encouragement of the next generation of scientists is essential for a success of such a partnership. The EWACC-Building Bridges Initiative therefore includes a dedicated programme to engage young scholars and educators, particularly from MENA countries.

Young Scholars Forum – Objectives

The major objectives and the main elements of the Forum comprise:

- to explore and deepen basic scientific understanding in themes related to climate, water, energy and food security through a number of focused lectures by eminent scientists;
- to receive hands-on training in experimental and observational techniques of (a) climate-, environmental and water sciences and (b) in energy sciences, with an emphasis on renewables; this will be pursued by a one-day excursion to field sites in Cyprus that will include demonstrations of field and experimental methods in each of the disciplines mentioned:
 - Field observatories at the [Peristerona Watershed](#)
 - Cyl Pentakomo Field Laboratory for solar energy and solar desalination;
- to exchange knowledge and expertise among the young scholars through short presentations by each participant, followed by extensive discussions of the topics covered;
- to gain experiences from successful young professionals in a number of fields relevant to EWACC through lectures and training sessions and receive advice on career planning and training opportunities through individual and group counselling provided by relevant agencies and institutions. In addition, information and guidance related to European research funding (European Commission, European Research Council, European Science Foundation) will be provided;
- to get introduced into science diplomacy as a means to contribute to conflict resolution and conflict avoidance;
- finally, the young scholars will attend the high-level science conference EWACC-Building Bridges (June 15-17, 2015) to exploit opportunities for scientific cooperation and to get access to scientific networks in Europe and MENA.

Young Scholars Forum – Concept

The forum will consist of topical lectures by eminent senior academicians and top-class scientists on topics related to the pressing challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean area. A close contact between the senior and young generation will ensure an interactive, supportive and stimulating learning environment.

The presentation of plans and results of their master/PhD thesis or Postdoctoral research in concise presentations (oral and/or poster) and stimulating, interdisciplinary scientific discussions among the Scholars will be an important element of the Forum. A special mentoring session will round up the forum with individual advice and consultation on career options for MENA researchers who would like to enrol in academic exchange programmes and/or research visits at European research institutions and universities.

Involvement of all participants of the Forum in the international [EWACC2015-Building Bridges conference](#) (June 15-17, 2015) that immediately follows the Forum comprises an integral part of

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this unique summer school. To build bridges across regions and generations a spokesperson elected from the young scholars forum group will actively contribute in the final plenary of the international conference to represent and to speak on behalf of the future generation.

Finally, we aim for a wider dissemination of the topical lectures to students at their home institutions in MENA by providing webcasts of the talks in cooperation with our MENA academic partners.

Tentative Programme

| Day | Date | Time | Topic | Location |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--|-------------------------------|
| Sun | 07 Jun | Afternoon | <i>Arrival & registration</i> | Hotel Cleopatra, Nicosia |
| Sun | 07 Jun | Evening | <i>Welcome and Discussions</i> | Hotel Cleopatra, Nicosia |
| Mon | 08 Jun | Morning | <i>Introduction/Orientation</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Mon | 08 Jun | Afternoon | <i>Tour of the Cyl and demonstrations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Tue | 09 Jun | Morning | <i>Introductory Lectures & Student/participant presentations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Tue | 09 Jun | Afternoon | <i>Introductory Lectures & Student/participant presentations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Wed | 10 Jun | Full day | <i>Excursion and demonstrations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pentakomo field laboratory and Larnaca Desalination Plant</i> • <i>Peristerona Watershed and TERENO-MED observatory</i> | Different locations |
| Wed | 10 Jun | Evening | <i>Joint YSF BBQ Dinner</i> | tbd |
| Thur | 11 Jun | Morning | <i>Introductory Lectures & Student/participant presentations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Thur | 11 Jun | Afternoon | <i>Introductory Lectures & Student/participant presentations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Fri | 12 Jun | Morning | <i>Introductory Lectures & Student/participant presentations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Fri | 12 Jun | Afternoon | <i>Introductory Lectures & Student/participant presentations</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Sat | 13 Jun | Morning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Career development and entrepreneurship</i> • <i>Research planning and research funding</i> • <i>Discussions</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Sat | 13 Jun | Afternoon | <i>Cultural tour through Nicosia</i> | Nicosia |
| Sun | 14 Jun | Morning | <i>Free time</i> | |
| Sun | 14 Jun | Afternoon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion between participants and senior academics</i> • <i>Introduction to Science Diplomacy</i> | The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia |
| Sun | 14 Jun | Evening | <i>EWACC2015 – Ice breaker reception</i> | Hilton Hotel, Nicosia |
| Mon-Wed | 15-17 Jun | Full day | <i>Participation at EWACC2015</i> | Hilton Hotel, Nicosia |

If not stated otherwise, evenings are reserved for free group discussions among participants.

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Participation and how to apply

The maximum number of participants is limited to 30 and attendance is by invitation only. If accepted, there will be no participation fee. We expect the participants to be excellently qualified graduate students or young postdocs with proven academic track record and personal qualities that ensure that participants are good representatives of their respective country. Students and young researchers wishing to participate must first apply and will be nominated by an international selection committee (based on their academic accomplishment, research and education experience, and with careful consideration of gender and regional/national representation). If the nomination is accepted, the recipients will receive an invitation to attend the Young Scholars Forum and the EWACC2015/Building Bridges Conference.

The forum offers 20 full scholarships (travel, food and lodging) for accepted participants from MENA and 10 partial scholarships (food and lodging) for accepted participants from Europe.

Interested participants are requested to electronically submit a CV, a one-page motivation letter explaining why he/she would like to participate and how this might benefit his/her on-going or planned research and at least two reference letters. All documents should be submitted electronically no later than **15 March 2015**. Please be advised to submit your application as soon as possible.

Please send all application documents to ewacc@cyi.ac.cy, stating the following reference in the subject heading: YSF application.

Organizers:

Organizing institutes are The Cyprus Institute (Cyi) together with the University of Hamburg and the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY. The Young Scholars' Forum is co-sponsored by the DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, BMBF.

