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13/2/2014 *trung*



S E A M E O
SEARCA

Science and Education for Agriculture and Development

Southeast Asian Regional Center
for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture

College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031, Philippines
Telephone: (63-49) 5362365 to 67, 5362290, 5362287
Fax: (63-49) 5367097
<http://www.searca.org> | E-mail: post@agri.searca.org

Ref. No. GCS14-2042

13 January 2014

H.E. Pham Vu Luan
Minister
Ministry of Education and Training
49 Dai Co Viet Street
Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, Vietnam
Fax: (84-4) 869 4085

Attention: Mr. Tran Ba Viet Dzung
Director General, International Cooperation Department

Your Excellency:

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) invites applications from qualified nationals of your country for graduate scholarship (MS and PhD) in agriculture and related fields focused on inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development for **School Year 2015-2016**.

We are also sending letters inviting applications for the SEARCA scholarship through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as agricultural universities and schools in Vietnam. They will screen the applications that they will receive and the selected candidates will be endorsed to the Ministry of Education and Training together with their application documents. These names are to be considered in the final list of nominees the Ministry of Education and Training will approve before endorsing to SEARCA. All scholarship nominees from Vietnam will be interviewed by SEARCA between September and December 2014 at a venue to be specified by the Ministry of Education and Training.

The list of applicants accompanied by a complete set of requirements must be received by SEARCA not later than **30 July 2014**.

The following documents are to be fully accomplished and submitted by each nominee:

1. SEARCA Scholarship Application Form (three copies), two copies to be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Training and one copy to be submitted directly to SEARCA
2. Application forms for admission to the Graduate Schools of any three (3) universities listed in the SEARCA Scholarship application form where the applicant would like to pursue graduate studies

3. **Original transcript of academic records bearing the seal of the University and original signature of the Registrar or Head of the University.** Applicants for MS degree should submit their **original Bachelor of Science (BS)** transcript of records. PhD degree applicants should submit their **original BS and MS** transcripts of records
4. Certification of employment
5. Endorsement from employer
6. Updated curriculum vitae
7. Brief description of the research the applicant plans to conduct for thesis/dissertation. The research topic must be in line with the thrusts of SEARCA's Tenth Five-Year Plan i.e., social equity, environmental integrity and regional economic integration by promoting food and nutrition security; value chains and agribusiness commodity systems; innovations and modern technologies; rural entrepreneurship; climate change adaptation and resiliency, natural resource management; sub-regional cooperation in trade and investments; and government policies/reforms that address rural poverty, inequitable growth, and environmental degradation. The Plan will be made available at <http://www.searca.org>.
8. Two copies of passport-size photo of the applicant
9. Certification from a medical doctor that the applicant is in good physical and mental health condition and is fit to undertake graduate studies
10. A passing TOEFL score of 550 or IELTS results of 6.0

Please be informed that applications with incomplete documents will not be evaluated. Furthermore, submission of complete application documents does not automatically entitle the nominee to a scholarship award. The number of scholarship awards given to a particular country depends on the availability of funds and fulfillment of the requirements for graduate school admission. Nominees/applicants who are denied of admission by the concerned Graduate School will not be considered.

Moreover, all applicants/nominees for both MS and PhD programs must **not be older than 35 years old** at the time of application.

To facilitate the fulfillment of the application requirements, we have enclosed the following:

1. SEARCA Application form (three copies)
2. Information brochures on the graduate study programs of the University Consortium members namely: the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Kasetsart University, Institut Pertanian Bogor, and Universitas Gadjah Mada
3. Application forms for admission to the graduate study programs of the above-mentioned universities (two copies each)

4. List of priority courses, major fields and areas of specialization in agriculture and related sciences

Two (2) copies of the announcement regarding this scholarship are also enclosed for dissemination to interested universities and agencies and for posting in bulletin boards. The announcement may be reproduced, as your Ministry deems appropriate. More information about the scholarship and downloadable application forms are available at SEARCA's website <http://www.searca.org/index.php/scholarship/regular-msphd-scholarships/graduate-scholarship>.

We look forward to receiving the list of nominees and their application documents on or before **30 July 2014**. In case you decide not to submit any nominations for School Year 2015/2016, we would appreciate receiving your notice via fax at (63-49) 536 7164 on or before 30 July 2014.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of our highest esteem.

Very truly yours,



Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.
Director

Enclosures: as stated

Copy to: **Dr. Tran Van Dien**, Rector, College of Agriculture and Forestry, Thai Nguyen University, Vietnam
and Country Representative of Vietnam to the SEARCA Governing Board