



Invitation for Proposals

Researchers from academia, civil society organizations and governmental institutions are invited to submit proposal for thematic sessions, roundtables, interactive workshops, plenary lectures that deepen our understanding of the environmental concerns in drylands as well as reposition the ongoing desertification debate within the context of human security.

The place and date of the event will be decided within the scope of the meeting of the ISDEHS Organizing Committee in Dubai in December.

Individuals wishing to design a proposal should submit their work via e-mail to the pre conference chair:

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Barth

barth@ndrd.org

We will install an online proposal submission form in January 2007.

The following information should be included in your proposal:

- title of the proposed thematic session, interactive workshop, roundtable or plenary lecture*
- name of convenor(s), contact information
- a short session summary (abstract) for use in online & print program
- Please provide a short bio to be listed on the website for us (background/qualifications)

*Please note that you need to be a full professor if you wish to submit a proposal for a plenary lecture!

The deadline for submission is March 31, 2007.

However early proposals on interesting topics will be considered on a first come / first served basis. You will receive notification whether your session has been accepted or denied by latest April 15th, 2007.

The following topics are just examples for possible thematic sessions:

We are open to everything that will encourage a challenging debate and of course especially interdisciplinary research!

- Hydrology and Scarcity of Water -
- Climate Change Scenarios and Livelihood Vulnerability
- Agricultural Management and Sustainable Livelihoods: the Case of Arab Drylands
- Range Management and Pastoral Activities
- Conservation of Biodiversity in the Arab World
- Urban Explosion in Drylands
- Environmental Implications of Migration
- Regional Perspectives, Vulnerability and Policy Responses
- Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage
- Opportunities to Promote Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Drylands
- Assessing the Security Implications of Desertification

- Recognizing and Coping with Increasing Regional Tensions and Social Instability in Relation to Progressive Resource Scarcity
- GIS-Based Vulnerability Assessment and Regional Database Development
- Desert Environments, Sustainable Development and Economic Growth – New Challenges and Opportunities for Macroeconomic Reforms, Agricultural Policies and Environmental Legislation
- Tourism – Opportunity or Threat to Livelihoods in Drylands
- Human Health under Threat from Ecosystem Degradation
- Gender Issues:
Women's Role in the Development of Deserts and Combating Desertification
- The Role of Social Capital in Promoting Drylands Related Scientific Research, Enlightenment and Resilience
- The Integration of Drylands Research into Sustainable Development Policy and Project Implementation
- Institutional Dimensions of Desertification
- The Role of Local Bodies in Implementing the UN Convention
- Best Practice Examples from Other Regions

All convenors selected to participate will receive free registration to ISDEHS 2007 as well as gaining a one year free individual membership in NDRD (2008)

Due to extremely limited funding, new presenters (not the previous volunteers of ISDEHS 2006) are responsible for covering travel, lodging and the registration costs for the optional field trip.

By submitting a proposal, the applicant agrees to serve as the session designer and is responsible for developing the session. Once selected, the convenor is in charge for promoting the proposed session and recruiting participants as well as providing all required information to ISDEHS. The keyword here is "networking"!

Further Guidelines:

"Just perfect" would be to find teams of two or more co-organizers for each session from which at least one should be from the Arab world. However we are aware that this might be very difficult to achieve and therefore will not insist on this idea. One of these co-organizers should volunteer to be the main focal point for all communication regarding the symposium and session / paper selection. Session convenors will later be responsible for choosing the papers to be presented at their session. However we strongly encourage session convenors to at least try to include 1 or 2 Arab presenter in each session by promoting their session to the relevant colleagues and institutions in the Arab world. The number of papers presented at each session will vary according to demand, but each session will require a minimum of 6 papers to be held. Interested participants can submit their abstract online from January 2007.

Convenors are expected to also submit a paper abstract in the Call for Abstracts
Final papers will be peer-reviewed and if accepted published.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee we would like to say thank you for your voluntary participation effort and look forward to seeing you at ISDEHS 2007.

Hans-Jörg Barth
(Pre Conference Organizing Chair)

Conference Secretariat:

GCC Network for Drylands Research and Development (NDRD)
Alter Postweg 116a, 21220 Seevetal (Hamburg), Germany
phone (UAE): +971 50 7307274 phone (Germany): +49 172 5949747 fax (Germany): +49 4105 669234
e-mail: info@ndrd.org web: www.ndrd.org event: www.isdehs.com