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Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program 2009-2010

UC DAVIS



Hosted by:
Vice Provost Office of University Outreach
and International Programs

With primary support from:
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The Institute of International Education



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The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter to honor the late senator and vice president, a long-time advocate of international cooperation and understanding. The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and Eurasia to the United States for one year of non-degree graduate study and related practical professional experience.

Fellowships are granted competitively to professional candidates with a commitment to public service in both the public and private sectors. Applications are made in the applicant's country where the first-level screenings are conducted. Fellows are nominated by the United States Embassy or Fulbright Commission, based on their potential for leadership. Final selection is made in the U.S. by a panel of experts and the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board.

In the last 30 years, close to 4,090 professionals representing more than 157 countries have participated in the Humphrey Program. This year, 187 Humphrey Fellows from 94 different countries are spending the academic year at 17 universities across the United States. UC Davis hosted the Humphrey Program from 1986 until 1996, and again since 2001. The UC Davis Humphrey Fellows will concentrate on agricultural development and environmental science. In addition to the individual coursework, research, and co-curricular activities, a series of seminars on topics of mutual interest to the participants is offered to the Fellows, providing an opportunity to share new perspectives with U.S. colleagues and specialists. With the assistance of UC Davis faculty mentors, the Fellows undertake individualized programs of academic coursework, professional development and leadership skills.

The Fellows also travel throughout the U.S. to visit public and private agencies related to their professional fields, attend meetings, and network with colleagues.

By providing these future leaders with a shared experience of U.S. society and culture and of current U.S. approaches to the fields in which they work, the Humphrey Program provides a basis for lasting ties between the citizens of the U.S. and their counterparts in other countries. The Humphrey Program fosters the exchange of knowledge and mutual understanding. The U.S. joins developing countries in a significant partnership through this program.

University Outreach and International Programs

Established in 1998, the Vice-Provost Office of University Outreach and International Programs (UOIP) provides campus leadership and coordination for two increasingly important academic program areas: continuing and life-long learning, and international research and educational activities. The mission of UOIP is to facilitate, coordinate, stimulate and provide leadership for the UC Davis faculty, students, and staff to pursue educational outreach and international programs and activities. The office has primary responsibility for all international institutional cooperative agreements and official international visits, Services for International Students and Scholars (in conjunction with the Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), the Summer Sessions and University Extension International Programs. It also works collaboratively with many other international programs on campus such as the Education Abroad Center, Internships and Career Center, and the colleges' international programs. University Outreach and International Programs, International Programs Office of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and University Extension, jointly administer the Humphrey Fellowship Program.

Email Contact for 2009–2010 Humphrey Fellows

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Mr. Hayrullo Esonov
Agricultural Economist
SDC/ISW – Rural Water Supply Project
Fergana, Republic of Uzbekistan



Mr. Esonov received his degree in Economics from Fergana State University in 1999. For the last 10 years, Mr. Esonov has been involved in various small business agriculture projects to improve the livelihood of people in rural areas by promoting job creation and income generation opportunities. During his Humphrey year, he plans to work in the areas of crop growing, fruit and vegetable processing, storage and packaging. He also hopes to learn more about the creation of farmer enterprises, to increase agricultural and non-farm productivity. He is interested in stimulating rural enterprise, which will help support small-sized agricultural farmers and households to achieve greater economies of scale through collective purchasing, production and marketing.

Mr. Jean Marc Francois Pierre
Forest Engineer
Fleurantin Loubeau
Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Mr. Francois Pierre completed a B.S. in Forest Engineering in 2007 from Universad ISA (Dominican Republic). In Haiti, he was responsible for the Agroforestry section for a project financed by the World Bank. Mr. Francois Pierre is currently at the University of California, Davis focusing on Environmental Policy and Climate Change. After the completion of his studies, Mr. Francois Pierre plans to return home with the goal of promoting sustainable development, while improving economic benefits and providing food for the residents of Haiti.

Ms. Maria Cecilia González Seoane
General Coordinator
Office of Budget and Planning
Presidency of the Republic
Montevideo, Uruguay



Ms. Gonzalez is presently the General Coordinator of the Office of Budget and Planning at the Presidency of the Republic. She is in charge of the coordination of many government agencies, towards the achievement of the strategies and goals to be pursued in Uruguay for future decades. Since 1994, Ms. Gonzalez has been a legal advisor for the Public Electric Company in Uruguay. She is completing her Master's Degree in Territorial Planning and Urban Development at the University of the Republic in Uruguay. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Gonzalez hopes to enhance her knowledge and professional skills in the areas of renewable sources of energy, new carbon markets, environmental policies and climate change, as well as regional planning and sustainable development. She also hopes to network with people and organizations in her field of interest.

Ms. Zenna S. Kiwanga
Water Resources Engineer
Inter Consult Ltd.
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Ms. Kiwanga received her degree in Civil Engineering, specializing in Water Resources Engineering, from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in June 2002. Ms. Kiwanga has been working with Inter Consult Ltd. for more than five years in the Civil Engineering department. She is responsible for hydrological/hydraulic designs of road drainage structures, water network systems and sanitation systems. She has experience using computerized hydrological and hydrodynamic modeling. Ms. Kiwanga plans to strengthen her knowledge and skills in the areas of hydrology and hydraulic modeling of water, sanitation and drainage systems, and using satellite images and geographic information systems in planning and design.

Mr. Alberto López-Chaves
National Chamber of Tourism, CEO
San Jose, Costa Rica



Mr. Lopez-Chaves received his Master's Degree in Strategic Management in 2002, from Universidad Estatal a Distancia and his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Universidad of Costa Rica. During the last eight years, he has been working in the Costa Rica Tourism Sector as the Executive Director (CEO) of organization which represents more than 700 tourism companies. In his role as CEO, Mr. Lopez-Chaves has been invited to speak in other Latin American countries, addressing tourism development in Costa Rica, focusing on the tremendous efforts taken to protect its natural resources, sustainability of tourism companies, protection of natural resources and good environmental practices. Recently, he has been working on policy design for facing climate change effects in Costa Rica.

Ms. Ly Thi Thanh Le
Specialist
Field Crop Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Gialoc – Haiduong – Vietnam



Ms. Le received her first Bachelor's Degree in Plant Science from the Thainguyen University of Agriculture in 2002 and second Bachelor's degree from Hanoi University of Foreign Language in 2004. She has been working at the Field Crop Research Institute for five years. In 2006, she moved to the Department of International Cooperation and Research Planning to work as a specialist. She is in charge of working with international organizations, coordinating trips for staff to go abroad and inviting experts from other countries to exchange training techniques. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Le will focus on project management, including project design, planning, monitoring and evaluation. She also hopes to broaden her knowledge in the areas of plant and environmental science.

Mr. Peter Mutinda Mutua
Agricultural Performance Consultant
Sasolve Consulting
Nairobi, Kenya



Mr. Mutua holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has completed coursework for a Master's Degree in Entrepreneurship from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He has worked in the agricultural sector as a practitioner in dairy, cereals and artemesia production. He is currently a consultant in the area of small and medium enterprise business development with a focus on agricultural based businesses. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Mutua will explore the role of industrial market development in the agricultural sector to help improve farm performance and slow the rate of conversion of prime agricultural land to residential use in Kenya, which hinders food self sufficiency. He will also explore rural development as a strategy to stem the trend of urban migration in Kenya.

Mr. Mandip Rai
Agricultural Economist
Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
Government of Nepal



Mr. Rai received his M.S. in Agricultural Development Economics in 2001 from Reading University, UK. He is currently serving the government of Nepal as an Agricultural Economist, with over a decade of experience working in the field of agriculture and rural development. He has implemented programs in very remote districts of his country with local farmers and has also worked in central offices managing projects and drafting agricultural policies. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Rai wants to brush up his knowledge in the areas of economic agricultural development in developing nations, project management and public policy.

Mr. Albert Novas Somanje
Agriculture Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Livingstone, Zambia



Mr. Somanje holds a degree in Agricultural Crop Science, with an emphasis in Integrated Rural Development and Land Use Planning, from the University of Zambia. He is currently working for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Zambia as an agriculture officer. He has also worked in collaboration with local and international NGOs implementing agricultural development projects. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Somanje is interested in the area of agriculture and rural development with a focus on agricultural project management.

Mr. Pericles S. Weber
Research Engineer
Water and Wastewater Company of Parana
State – Sanepar
Curitiba, Brazil



Mr. Weber graduated in Chemical Engineering from Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil and holds a Master's Degree from Imperial College, United Kingdom. He has over twenty years experience in the water sector, focusing on wastewater treatment and environmental management. Recently Mr. Weber worked on renewable energy projects and distributed generation, mostly in bioenergy from wastewater treatment plants. He is also in charge of the green house gas (GHG) inventory of his company and coordinates the Parana's sanitation sector GHG inventory. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Weber expects to learn about US renewable energy policies and technologies. He hopes to develop a sustainable energy approach for water and wastewater services in developing countries. He would also like to get involved in carbon credit markets and renewable energy businesses.

Ms. Biao Xiong
Senior Engineer
Henan Environmental Monitoring Center
Henan Environmental Protection Administration
Zhengzhou, Henan, China



Ms. Xiong holds an M.S. in Environmental Science. For more than 20 years she has been working for Henan Environmental Monitoring Center in Henan Environmental Protection Administration, where she's had several management positions. She has been a Senior Engineer of Environmental Monitoring since 2002. Since 2008, she has been working in the Program Management Office of Henan Environment Automatic Monitoring System. During her Humphrey year, Ms. Xiong plans to study Environmental Policy, Natural Resources and Global Climate Change, while networking with environmental organizations and experts to help control and monitor air pollution effectively in Henan, China.

Mr. Dennis Yiga
Agricultural Officer
Department of Agriculture
Mukono, Uganda



Mr. Yiga received his Master's Degree in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development at Imperial College in London in 2002, adding to his B.S. in Agriculture with an emphasis in Extension. He is responsible for finding new sustainable ways of solving development problems for over 1000 villages in his district. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Yiga hopes to enhance his knowledge in human and natural resource management to learn about solar and wind power for improved water management in his country. Additionally, he would like to do research on social economic issues that affect poor organic farmers, focusing on finding ways to help their entry into international markets.