Administration of the Humphrey Fellowship Program

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The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.
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 panels of experts, and the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board makes awards.

In the last 27 years, over 3,000 professionals representing more than 120 countries have participated in the Humphrey Program. This year, 162 Humphrey Fellows from 81 different countries are spending the academic year, in groups of seven to 15, at 15 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, environmental science, and economics. 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 and professional development and leadership.

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 lifelong 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.

Faculty Mentors for 2005 – 2006 Humphrey Fellows

Kimberly Beard
Sea Grant Extension Program

Professor Tom Gordon
Department of Plant Pathology

Beth Greenwood
School of Law

Associate Professor Frank Hirtz
Department of Human and Community Development

Professor Miguel Marino
Department of Land, Air and Water Resources

Dean Dennis Pendleton
UC Davis Extension

Professor Richard Plant
Department of Agronomy and Range Science

Associate Adjunct Professor Minghua Zhang
Department of Land, Air and Water Resources
Mr. Ben Dhiaf holds a diploma in Agricultural Engineering from the Mediterranean International Center of Agronomic High Study Program. He received his Master’s degree in protected crops at the International Institute of Chania Greece in 1994. For more than 10 years, he has been working with the Ministry of Agriculture, starting in southern Tunisia as the director of a local project developing potential resources and improving management of agricultural production systems (1995-2000). From 2000 until today, he has been the head of phytopathology services in the central laboratory of plant protection and production quality control in the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture in Tunisia. During the Humphrey year, Mr. Ben Dhiaf plans to strengthen his knowledge and skills in the field of sustainable agriculture farming systems and integrated pest management, as well as attend seminars and workshops in the areas of plant pathology and pest and disease management. Finally he would like to establish professional contacts and partnerships with national and international organizations.

Mr. Aung Myo Chit
Manager of Wildlife Department
National Kandawgyi Gardens
Yangon, Myanmar

Mr. Aung Myo Chit holds a degree in Computer Science from the University of Computer Studies, Yangon, Myanmar. He received a Master’s Degree in Land Management from the University of Yangon, Myanmar. Expanding his expertise, he worked with the National Geographic Television for five years and produced two documentaries entitled “Elephant Power” and “Burmese Gypsies of Sea.” He is currently working as a Manager of Wildlife Department in the National Kandawgyi Gardens where his responsibilities include capacity building, staff training, Natural Resource Management and Environmental Management with a focus on project evaluation, management and design. He would also like to improve his knowledge in the field of diversification, ornithology and tree identification.

Mr. David Kapindula
Senior Inspector - Pesticides & Toxic Substances Project Co-Chair
Perinotus, Persistent Organic Pollutants
Environmental Council of Zambia
Lusaka, Zambia

Mr. Kapindula holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Zambia. He has over 20 years working experience in both local and international organizations. He currently serves as the National Inspector – Pesticides and Toxic Substances at the Environmental Council of Zambia as well as Project Coordinator for a National Implementation Plan (NIP) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). He has worked closely with several international organizations dealing with chemical management and is currently on the roster of experts for the United Nations Environment (UNEP) and United Nations Environment and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). During his Humphrey year, Mr. Kapindula plans to sharpen his knowledge and professional skills in pesticide management, environmental management, and toxicology. He would also like to be affiliated with organizations in the U.S. dealing with the regulation and disposal of the threat of soil and air pollution to the environment and human health from the adverse effects of chemicals in general.

Dr. Faiza Labidi
Chief of Department
Environmental Protection Agency
Tunis, Tunisia

Dr. Labidi holds a Ph D in Chemical Engineering from the University of Technology of Compiègne, France, where she lectured and did research for two years. She currently heads a department in the Environmental Protection Agency in Tunisia. She is responsible for the Assessment of Environmental Impact for industrial projects and also for project monitoring and control. Dr. Labidi is also an External Auditor and a Technical Expert in the Tunisian organization TÜV CERT in ISO 14001. The Humphrey Fellowship Program, along with work experience with American institutions and international organizations, will enable her to enhance her capacity to assess environmental issues, especially in the hazardous waste and recycling fields, and to keep her updated on the application of up-to-date technologies used to solve ecological issues. She will attend seminars and workshops related to environmental management. She would like to establish professional contact with American companies to establish professional partnerships.

Dr. Liu Guozhi
Senior Programme Officer
Division of International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation
State Environmental Protection Administration
Beijing, China

Dr. Liu Guozhi received her Ph D in International Law from the University of Politics and Law of China, then joined the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China in July 2002. She assists with the contact and cooperation between China and intergovernmental environmental organizations, especially the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Her responsibilities include assisting with preparing position papers for Chinese Delegations, and going to key international environmental conferences and negotiations. She is also responsible for assisting in the establishment of research groups on some crucial issues in the field of international environmental protection and development. As a Humphrey Fellow, Dr. Liu would like to further expand her U.S. government’s posts and policies in the field of international environmental protection and development; she will also implement its obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements to which it is a party. She hopes to establish close professional contact with her counterparts in the USA.

Ms. Thu Nguyen
Assistant and Office Manager
The Asian Wall Street Journal – Hanoi Bureau
Hanoi, Vietnam

Ms. Nguyen holds a Bachelor’s degree in English Language from Hanoi National University and a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the National Economics University in Vietnam. She has been working for Dow Jones, the publisher of the Wall Street Journal for nine years in Vietnam. She managed the editorial section of the Hanoi Bureau of the Asian Wall Street Journal and also provided diversified coverage from Vietnam. The coverage included stories in busines, politics, culture, education, health, environment and agriculture. She has also worked as the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Services (PBS) and the International Data Group (IDG). As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Nguyen will refine her reporting, writing and communication skills, learning about the nature of media science, freedom of the press and environmental management. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Nguyen will also further advance her qualifications and experience in print media coverage and also learn about documentary production.

Mr. Remigius Rushomwe
Land Use Planner/Senior Agricultural Field Officer
Division of Irrigation and Technical Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

Mr. Rushomwe holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He also holds a Master’s degree in Geo-information and Landscape Planning (Land Use Planning) and a Professional Master’s degree in Geo-information and Rural Applications from Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania and Institute for Aerospace Applications from the University of Laval, The Netherlands respectively. He currently works in the Environmental Management Unit dealing with environmental impact assessment, disaster management in agriculture, and use of GIS in water resources development. He would like to have professional attachment to organizations in the U.S. dealing with environmental assessments and disaster management in agriculture.

Ms. Farhana Shao
Deputy Manager (Geophysics)
Exploration and Development Division
Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ms. Shao received her Master’s degree in Geophysics from the Monash Geophysical Investigation. Upon her return home, she served Grant Geophysical Inc., a billion dollar seismic survey company, as a technical coordinator. Presently she is working at the Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (BDGC), as a Deputy Manager. Her current responsibility is to monitor the exploration and production activities of the international oil companies operating in Bangladesh and monitor submission of Production Sharing Contracts. She is also actively involved in the project for implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Shao would like to develop her knowledge in the field of natural resource management using GIS, economic and environmental impact of resource management and planning development projects. She would also like to follow up on energy policies, acts and regulations in order to enhance her capacity of energy management.