



Call for Sessions

المؤتمر الدولي لعلم بيئة المناطق الجافة والأمن الإنساني

International Symposium on Drylands Ecology and Human Security

Perspectives, Policy Responses and Sustainable Development
in the Arab Region - Challenges and Opportunities



Dubai, December 4-7, 2006

The **GCC Network for Drylands Research and Development (NDRD)**, the "Institute of Environment, Water and Energy" of Ajman University and the Gulf Research Center (GRC) invite submissions of proposals for sessions or papers for its joint initiative in recognition of the United Nations "International Year of Deserts and Desertification" to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), December 4 -7, 2006.

Individuals wishing to design and convene a session should submit a proposal via email to the organizing committee: papers@isdehs.com

Further information on session proposals can be seen and downloaded from our website www.isdehs.com

If you feel that there is a need for an additional **round table** or special **plenary lecture**, please let us know your proposal!

Important: Before you start working on your session proposal, please check first which session is actually still available!!! Or if in doubt, contact us Most sessions covering natural sciences have already been assigned, but we are urgently looking for the **socio-economic aspects of desertification and land degradation** drylands!

Keywords: Livelihood, Vulnerability, Poverty Alleviation. Traditional Knowledge, Policies, Crisis and Conflict, Equity, Civil Society, etc.

To encourage these contributions, a selection of our best interdisciplinary / social sciences papers will be published in form of a presentable book!

The following information should be included in your proposal:

- ⇒ **title** of the proposed thematic session
- ⇒ **name of convenor(s)**, contact information
- ⇒ a short session summary (**abstract**) for use in online & print program
- ⇒ **optional:** please provide a short bio to be listed on the website for us (background/qualifications)

The deadline for submitting a session has been extended to **August 15, 2006**. You will receive notification whether your session has been accepted or denied by latest August 17, 2006.

A selection of possible thematic sessions can be found on our website, however we are **open to everything that will encourage a challenging debate** and of course **especially interdisciplinary research**.

In addition we are urgently looking for co-organizers for existing sessions on the following three themes: **Biodiversity / Urbanization** and **Public Health** (in Drylands)
In case you are interested in teaming up with our Arabic colleagues - please contact us!

We do not even want to ask what exactly happened to "**Gender Issues**"? Ladies????

All convenors selected to participate will receive **free registration to ISDEHS 2006** as well as gaining a two year free individual membership in NDRD.

Due to extremely limited funding, **presenters are responsible for covering travel, lodging and the registration costs for the optional field trip**. However we are making all efforts to ensure funding to reimburse part of the travel costs of some conference participants and our session convenors, with a preference for Arab colleagues from "less privileged" developing countries (not GCC!). Further information on "travel support" will be available on our "website" shortly.

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 4 papers to be held. (However we already received over 70 abstracts to be distributed) Interested participants can submit their abstract under one of the sessions during our **Call for Papers**.

Convenors are expected to also submit a paper abstract in the Call for Abstracts (Deadline for Abstract submission will be September 15, 2006 – however session convenors may extend this deadline according to individual demand)

A selection of final papers will be peer-reviewed and if accepted published in both Arabic and English and all other papers will be published online with NDRD.

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

Mohamed and Andy
(Joint Organizing Chairs)

Questions regarding preparation of abstracts may be directed to the Organizing Committee at:
E-mail: info@isdehs.com

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