



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

24TH INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY (IPMS)

APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIPLOMACY

HOTEL BERGSE BOSSEN, DRIEBERGEN, THE NETHERLANDS, JUNE 2017

WHY US? POWER AND PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABILITY

Our planet is under multiple pressures. In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, it is no longer possible to make economic and environmental decisions without engaging stakeholders and advocate for many different interests.

Governments, development agencies, donors, and private sector actors are increasingly aware of the socio-political and economic complexities embedded in economic and natural resource

management. There is overwhelming evidence that sustainability is not only an environmental and economic challenge, but also a challenge of power, where poverty, identity, gender, and politics influence the voice of stakeholders. In contexts of competing or conflicting interests, it is often the case that power overrides participation, resulting in unsustainable outcomes characterized by further disadvantages to vulnerable communities.

Within this complex global setting, the needs of a growing number of people



fleeing from natural and conflict disasters must also be considered. With a global community of 65.3 million displaced—one in every 113 people—migrant communities and their interests must be factored into development strategies. Concurrently, the particular burdens faced in asylum hotspots of the severe competition for resources can lead to hostile environments for migrants.

In order for the concept of sustainability to succeed in its mandate of inclusive, pro-poor growth, it is critical that actors be equipped with the necessary skills to balance and integrate the interests of a wide range of local and global stakeholders.

SCF is the only international not-for-profit organization of its kind. Our mission is to build and strengthen the negotiation and diplomacy skills required to create meaningful solutions in the realm of global sustainable development, with a particular

focus on improving the sustainability of policies and projects targeting climate change, biodiversity and biosafety, forests, environment and trade, food security, and water.

Based in the Netherlands, SCF hosts a core team of technical experts in negotiation and consensus building for sustainable development and an extensive global network of advisors, who have been trained through our programs in negotiation and diplomacy. Our services are enhanced by our vast intellectual and practical-oriented personnel resources from partner organizations, including internationally esteemed academic institutions, organizations, businesses, and research bodies.

WHY IPMS?

The International Program on the Management of Sustainability (IPMS) was created to help professionals and

leaders around the world meet the central challenge of sustainable development: overcoming disagreement on how to balance economic, environmental, and social priorities, by building consensus on innovative strategies and solutions that simultaneously sustain people, the planet, and shared prosperity.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Since 1994, over 800 mid-career professionals from more than 90 countries have participated in IPMS. They have come from Australia and Zimbabwe, prime minister's offices and community-based conservation NGOs, management consultancies, mining companies, and academic faculties. If your professional work and personal commitments require you to work effectively with other stakeholders to negotiate agreements, initiatives, and partnerships that deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits, then IPMS can help you become more effective in your work.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN, AND HOW WILL YOU LEARN IT?

At the core of IPMS are three skill sets: Mutual Gains negotiation, multi-stakeholder consensus building, and multi-disciplinary analysis of sustainable development diplomacy. The negotiation and consensus building principles and skills we teach have been honed through more than 30 years of research and practice at the Consensus Building Institute, whose founders and senior staff are affiliated with the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, and Wageningen University and Research

Center in the Netherlands. Our faculty also draw directly on a wide range of practical experience as facilitators of multi-stakeholder negotiation and consensus building processes in developed and developing countries.



At IPMS, you will learn a clear and useful framework of principles, strategies, and tools that integrate these skill sets through a carefully designed series of presentations, discussions, and exercises. You will practice applying them intensively through a series of multi-stakeholder cases and simulation exercises drawn directly from real life. The simulations are the centerpiece of IPMS. Each involves several hours of preparation and role-play with other participants, closely observed by the faculty, followed by group and individual debriefing and feedback. Along with the intensive group work comes the development of relationships with faculty and participants. The program also includes social activities and informal time in the beautiful setting of Driebergen, in the "Green Heart" of the Netherlands.

APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES AND SKILLS IN YOUR WORK

IPMS provides a substantial opportunity not only for learning through analysis and

role-play, but also for direct discussion of issues and opportunities in your ongoing work. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own work into group discussions, and there is a carefully designed exercise for participants to present and work on their own cases, with feedback from faculty and peers. All participants have an opportunity to seek direct advice and guidance throughout the week from faculty, and many find conversations with their peers equally valuable.

JOINING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Your engagement with IPMS does not end after a number of days. You will become part of the SCF alumni network, over 1200

strong, in over 120 countries. Using the IPMS alumni directory available through our Web site, and the secretariat at the Sustainability Challenge Foundation (the Netherlands-based organizer of IPMS), you can connect with colleagues in your own country, and those around the world working in the same field. Participants periodically post news of their challenges, successes, and learnings, and faculty are available for informal consultation as well.

Most important, you will find thousands more colleagues around the world who will appreciate the principles and skills you have learned at IPMS, share your passion for bridging divides and building strong agreements and partnerships, and become your allies in the ongoing work of realizing sustainable development together.



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A limited number of scholarships for participants from developing countries to attend IPMS 2017 is available. For more information or to register for IPMS 2017, please contact Ms. Viv Mestdagh, International Program Manager.

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