General Outline of Social Environmental Management System (SEMS) Special Educational Program (2007)

In 2003, the research and educational program, “Social Capacity Development for Environmental Management and International Cooperation” proposed by the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Hiroshima University, was selected as one of the 21st century Center of Excellence (COE) programs. The 21st century COE program scheme, supported by the Japanese government selectively encourages and supports the outstanding activities by major research fields in universities of Japan to strengthen their international competitiveness of research and education toward establishing the world-class centers of excellence.

The objective of the COE program of IDEC is to build a new research field of “international environmental cooperation” and “international cooperation” on our prior interdisciplinary research activities including economics, engineering, ecology, education and so forth, with special focus on ascertaining the mechanisms of development process of social environmental management system (SEMS) in developing countries. Furthermore, we wish to contribute to the practices of international cooperation from academia through this new knowledge creation, establishing a research and education network amongst universities, research institutes, business circles, and NGOs from six Asian countries, namely Japan, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam.

The Social Environmental Management System (SEMS) program at IDEC has both master, and doctoral degree courses. This brand new program is very unique in that the program takes a practical and interdisciplinary approach, balancing integrated academic study, such as economics, sociology, engineering, ecology, and education, with fieldwork in developing countries. Through these academic and practical experiences in international cooperation, students will be able to foster quality and ability to contribute to international environmental cooperation.

1. Major characteristics
   The program has the following unique features to achieve the objectives mentioned above.
   (1) The program aims at training professionals who have both fundamental analytical ability in interdisciplinary research and practical expertise in international environmental cooperation.
   (2) The program requires students to join various research projects related to “The 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program - Social Capacity Development for Environmental Management and International Cooperation.” Through participation in these series of activities, students are to complete their master or doctoral theses.
   (3) The program offers practical training or internships at international organizations and international environmental cooperation sites in developing countries in Asia. The duration of overseas practical training or internships is at least one month.

2. Goals
   The program aims to nurture the following human resources.
   (1) Professionals in environmental cooperation at international organizations and donor organizations for development.
   (2) Professionals and researchers in international environmental cooperation or environmental studies
   (3) Environmental policy makers or administrators of governments
   (4) Professionals in international environmental cooperation in the private sector (e.g., NGO)

3. Guidance from professors
   The student will be able to study under the guidance of an academic advisor selected from the core members of “The 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program - Social Capacity Development for Environmental Management and International Cooperation.” The professors with a ☆ mark beside their name on the attached sheet are the professors under whom students can study on this program.
4. Admissions
   The number of students: Approximately 12
   SEMS students will be selected from those students admitted under the General Selection category of IDEC, who indicated their intention in the application form.

5. Inquiries

   Student Support Office
   Graduate School of International Development and Cooperation
   Hiroshima University
   1-5-1 Kagamiyama
   TEL +81-82-424-6910
   FAX +81-82-424-6904

   URL http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/idec/
       http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hicec/
   MAIL koku-gaku@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp

   * Please include the area code (082) when you want to give the office a call from Hiroshima-shi, Fuchu-cho, Kaita-cho, Kumano-cho, or Saka-cho in Hiroshima Prefecture, although their area code is the same.