



46th Session of the World Climate Research Programme
Joint Scientific Committee

WCRP Global Fellowship

JSC Fellowship task team members:

Pascale Braconnot, Amadou Gaye, Cristiana Stan, Lisa Alexander,
Roberto Sanchez

Secretariat: Hindumathi Palanisamy, Narelle Van der Wel and Lian Xue

Introduction

- Decision at JSC44 : launch a Global South WCRP fellowship program..
- Announcement at WCRP OSC of African Fellowship for 2024 (specific case)
- Creation of a task team at JSC44b to design a fellowship concept for further discussion and adoption by the JSC.
- JSC 45 : Task team report providing context to the draft proposal of the fellowship program

→ Revision of the Global Fellowship program taking into account :

The 2024 African call

Discussion at JSC 45 and comments received

Objective of the Global South Fellowship program

- To give early to mid-career scientists from the Global South the benefit to develop their own WCRP related research activity, thereby boosting climate research activities in their own Global South region.
- Fellowship topics can address a wide range of scientific questions addressed in the WCRP Science and Implementation Plan as formulated through priorities of WCRP activities (Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities).

The 2024 African fellowship

- An amount of CHF 50K
- Led by Detlef Stammer ; secretariat : Hindumathi + Lian
- Definition of the call with African colleagues
- Call launched on 15 July 2024
- Fellowship recruitment panel : Detlef Stammer; Genito Amos Maure; Roberto Sanchez Rodriguez; Lisa Alexander; Mzime Murisa; Amadou Gaye; Pascale Braconnot; Bruce Hewitson
- Application platform set up
- Total applications received: 116 ; 84 applications eligible; 42 shortlisted
- Evaluation in 2 steps : identification of 07 candidates for interviews, then interviews and ranking of the first 03 candidates.

The first 3

- **Addis Alaminie**, Bahar Dar Institute, Ethiopia : AI-Driven Framework for Integrating Advanced Hydrological Models to Optimize Water Resources Management in the Nile Basin
- **Coumba Niang**: Universite Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD), Senegal: "Toward Enhanced Extreme Rainfall Preparedness in West Africa through S2S Forecast Model Prediction Assessment »
- **Daneeja Mawren**: The South African Weather Service (SAWS), South Africa, Strengthening Early Warning Forecast Systems for Extreme Weather Events and Tropical Cyclone Hazards impacting the Southern African Region.

Lessons for next calls

- Need dedicated people in the secretariat for the evaluation phase (prepare documents, interface with the candidates and with the recruitment panel).
- Large number of applications. It would not be possible to have more. → come back to the fact that we should propose either a region (preferred by the task team) or topics (to be define broad enough).
- The overall agenda (dates of committee meeting, dates of interviews) should be known in advance
- The 2024 platform for applications can be used for new calls
- Need to better organise the contacts between the candidates and the WCRP community during the preparation of the project
- Anticipate a little bit more potential conflict of interest.
- Important : applications were of good quality with good candidates ; corresponds to the targeted EMCR ; identification of leadership potential.

Points that have been revisited in the Programme outline

Simplify the number and role of committee

- Task team to run the program : The WCRP fellowship task team is composed of 4 JSC members (including either the JSC chair or vice-chair as chair) and 2 additional members from the WCRP Academy
- A selection committee will be appointed by the JSC based on recommendations of the WCRP Fellowship task team and the JSC core activities as soon as the call content is approved.
- The composition of the selection committee is independent from the JSC Task team in charge of the program, even if some of the members can belong to both. It will include a 2-3 JSC members, one of whom will act as the chair of the committee, + 1 member from the WCRP Academy and 2-3 topic specialists from CP and LHA or the broader climate community chosen for their expertise with regards to the call priorities. The membership of the selection committee will be revisited each year.

Time line

- Proposition for the call: annual JSC meeting
- Approval of the call: at the JSC meeting or no more than two weeks after
- Publication of the call: end of June-early July
- Establishment of the selection committee end of June -early July
- First meeting of the selection committee:
- Close of the fellowship call: no later than September
- Publication of dates of the interview meeting: period pre-announced in the call, exact dates specified after the first selection committee meeting and specified to the selected candidates after the pre-selection meeting.
- Selection by the selection panel
- Final approval of the ranking by the JSC

Next step

- Need to define next call
- Still pending because of
 - Funding situation and uncertainties
 - Need support for the secretariat (from IPOs, Academy?).
- In the longer term : need to secure dedicated funding for it
- Also think how the different fellowship or grant initiatives in the CP can be attached to the Global programme.

Thank You



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