

## *First Circular*

**The International Geographical Union's Commission on Land Degradation (COMLAND)  
and Nong Lam University (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)  
are pleased to co-sponsor a Workshop/Study Tour on  
**LAND DEGRADATION AND POVERTY**  
in Vietnam, April 18-29, 2005**

### **Format**

The workshop/study tour will last 10 days, and will include one day of paper presentations at Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City, and excursions to selected field sites in the Central Highlands and Mekong Delta of southern Vietnam. Depending on participant numbers, additional paper presentations may be made during the field trips.

### **Themes**

This event is expected to attract geographers and others from related fields. Emphasis (in papers and study tour excursions) will be given to the interactions of human and biophysical aspects of land degradation and environmental change, as they shape and are shaped by processes of poverty. This links to a range of issues, including:

- sustainable livelihoods and protection of soil and water resources
- institutional change, property rights, resource conflicts, agricultural decollectivization, aquaculture development, environmental histories
- pressures of tourism and urban development affecting land degradation
- university, government, and community actions to address land degradation problems
- ethnic and gender dimensions of land use practices and land degradation
- environmental decision-making
- GIS applications in land degradation research

Participants may present papers on other aspects of land degradation not linked directly to poverty or to Vietnam.

The cost for the registration, materials, travel, food and accommodation is not yet confirmed, but we estimate about US\$1300. This cost will be subsidized for ASEAN country participants. If you are interested in attending and presenting a paper, please register your interest by notifying Ms. Hoang Thi Thuy (address below, and cc. to Dr. Steffanie Scott). Be sure to include a tentative paper title and your full contact details (including email address).

### **For more information contact:**

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*IGU Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification* <http://www.comland-commission.com>