

**The International Geographical Union's Commission on Land Degradation  
(COMLAND) and Vinh University (Vinh City, Vietnam)  
are pleased to co-sponsor a Workshop/Study Tour on  
LAND DEGRADATION AND POVERTY  
in Nghe An province, Vietnam, February 17-27, 2006  
CIRCULAR 2**

### **Format**

The workshop/study tour will take place in Nghe An province, on Vietnam's north-central coast, about 300 km south of Hanoi. The 10-day workshop/study tour will include excursions to selected field sites in upland and coastal areas, plus one to two days of paper presentations at Vinh University (in Vinh City). Depending on participant numbers, additional paper presentations may be made during the field trips.

The language of the workshop/study tour is English. Vietnamese translation will be provided at the field sites. We anticipate having 30-40 participants. Register early to reserve space.

### **Themes**

This event is open to all interested persons, especially those who work in the area of land degradation, environmental protection, rural development, and poverty reduction. 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 management of soil and water resources
- institutional change, land rights, and environmental histories
- land use changes: agricultural intensification, aquaculture development, pressures of tourism and urban development
- university, government, and community actions to address land degradation
- ethnic and gender dimensions of land use and resource degradation
- environmental decision-making
- GIS applications in land degradation research

Participants may propose papers on other aspects of land degradation not linked directly to poverty or to Vietnam. Participants are encouraged to present a paper (reporting on research or a development project, etc.) or chair a session during the workshop.

### **How to apply**

The deadline for abstracts and registration is **September 30, 2005**. See registration form below. In case there are more applicants than can be accommodated, applicants will receive confirmation of their acceptance by October 15. Space permitting, participants may be allowed to register after September 30.

The workshop/study tour registration fees must be paid in full by **December 15, 2006**. Due to the difficulties of sending funds to Vietnamese banks, participants should send their registration fee, by VISA card or a bank draft made out to "COMLAND workshop", to Steffanie Scott at the address below.

The **costs** are as follows:

- The 'early-bird' fee for the workshop and study tour, for those who pay by December 15, 2005, is US\$1300. This includes all local travel (from Hanoi airport), food, and accommodation from Feb. 17 to 27. We will endeavor to provide single room accommodation to all participants, unless otherwise requested.
- Those who register after December 15, 2005, but before January 15, 2006, must pay the full fee of US\$1500. Registrations and payments will not be accepted after January 15.
- Those wishing to share a room will receive a \$100 discount.
- The cost for graduate/postgraduate students, retired persons, or persons coming from institutions in Southeast Asia or China, is US\$1050.
- There will be a limited number of subsidies for Vietnamese residents. Please submit an abstract and registration form and contact the organizers for more information.
- An 80% refund for cancellations will be issued if requested before Jan. 15. No refunds will be made after this date. Refunds will be paid out after the study tour.

Note: **visa authorization fees** for travel to Vietnam are not included. Visa authorizations will be arranged by Vinh University. Authorization will be sent from Hanoi to participants' nearest Vietnam Embassy. Participants will then have to send a completed visa application, photograph, and processing fee to the nearest Vietnam Embassy to receive their visa.

Participants must also arrange for their own **travel and health insurance**. The organizers and COMLAND do not accept any responsibility for insurance-related problems.

**For more information, contact:**

Dr. Steffanie Scott, Dept of Geography, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo,  
200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Canada, N2L 3G1, [sdscott@fes.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sdscott@fes.uwaterloo.ca)  
Tel: 1-519-888-4567 x7012, Fax: 1-519-746-0658

Mr. Hoang Van Son, Head, Dept of Rural Development, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries,  
Vinh University, Vinh City, Vietnam, [hoangson\\_vu@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:hoangson_vu@hn.vnn.vn)  
Tel: 84-38-552492, mobile: 091-219-3074 or 098-919-3828

→ **Further details, maps, and the full study tour program are available at the following website**

*International Geographical Union - Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification*

<http://www.ub.es/gram/COMLAND%20website/meetings.htm>

**Workshop/study tour on Land Degradation and Poverty  
in Nghe An province, Vietnam, February 17-27, 2006  
Sponsored by Vinh University (Vinh City, Vietnam) and the  
International Geographical Union's Commission on Land Degradation (COMLAND)**

**Registration form**

Please complete the form below and send it by email to Dr Steffanie Scott at [sdscott@fes.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sdscott@fes.uwaterloo.ca), or fax (+519-746-0658) or by mail to Dr Scott at Department of Geography, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada

Title (Mr., Ms., Dr., Prof., etc): \_\_\_\_\_ Male/female: \_\_\_\_\_

Given name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family name (surname): \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your name to appear on your name tag? \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

Full mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

(For visa purposes) City where your Vietnam Embassy is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary needs (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fees:**

- 'Early-bird' fee (to be received by Dec. 15, 2005) US\$1300
- Full registration fee (received after Dec. 15, 2005) US\$1500
- Registration fee for full time graduate/postgraduate students or retired persons (*Please attach evidence for these categories*) US\$1050
- Registration fee for persons coming from institutions in Southeast Asia or China US\$1050
- I prefer shared accommodation US\$100 discount
- I am a resident of Vietnam and would like to be considered for a registration subsidy

**Payment options:**

- I intend to pay US\$\_\_\_\_\_ by bank draft (to be sent to Steffanie Scott at the above address).
  - I intend to pay US\$\_\_\_\_\_ by wire transfer. Please send me more details.
  - Pending acceptance, I would like to pay US\$\_\_\_\_\_ by VISA card, to be processed by Dec. 15.
- My VISA card number is \_\_\_\_\_, expiry date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of paper/presentation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract of paper/presentation** (250-400 words): (*paste below or attach a separate sheet*)