ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU), Germany and Vietnamese-German University (VGU) are organising the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Climate Resilient Alumni and Digital Learning for Floating Rice Enhancement in the Mekong Delta (CRADLE–Mekong)

08 – 14 March 2027 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

followed by the participation in the

AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027

15 - 20 March 2027 in Ho-Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Background

The proposed seminar and the visit to the conference AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027 (AGRI) are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme **SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development for Germany Alumni from the Global South** (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). The international DAAD Alumni Seminar "CLIMATE RESILIENT ALUMNI AND DIGITAL LEARNING FOR FLOATING RICE ENHANCEMENT IN THE MEKONG DELTA (CRADLE-MEKONG)" is organised and hosted by the Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU) and Vietnamese-German University (VGU).

The training seminar targets **Germany alumni** from developing countries (DAC country nationals) notably south and south-east Asia, who studied, carried out research or worked in Germany for at least 3 months and are presently living and working in their home countries.

The prospective participants should be professionally involved in various areas of environmental management, water resources management, natural disasters, hydrology, data management, agricultural economics, sustainability, etc, and/or working for academic, educational or development organisations, NGO's, donor agencies, private enterprises. They should also be potential multipliers in a position to spread the acquired knowledge and experience and/or take decisions on implementation of new technologies and innovations.

The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Objectives and Tentative Training Seminar Programme

The **overall objective** of the training seminar is to provide participants with the necessary technical skills and in-depth practical knowledge in the use of floating rice as a nature-based solution (NbS) for climate-resilient rice production to replace the flood-season crop in triple-

cropping systems and to develop competence in the application of agricultural big data and IoT in enhancing the adaptability of floating rice systems to the impacts of climate change. Please see below the **specific learning objectives** of the CRDALE-Mekong seminar.

At the end of the training seminar, participants will

- develop competence in mapping flood patterns using open datasets and understand data-driven solutions for floating rice systems,
- understand and address barriers against the deployment of bigdata sources in floating rice systems
- understand the application of AI and IoT in predictive analytics for crop yield and climate risks
- have an in-depth understanding of big data governance and global best policy support mechanisms for floating rice farmers and the socio-economic impact of such transitioning.
- gain related project development skills and communication strategies
- acquire industry and applied research exposure and networking opportunities

In order to reach these overall objectives, participants will learn to

- Understand the basic principles of floating rice systems
- Identify different bigdata sources for mapping climate risks against floating rice systems
- Perform data analysis and interpretation of datasets from learned bigdata sources
- Apply retrieved datasets in performing predictive analytics for crop yield and climate risks
- conduct sustainable agricultural related policy assessment using established global best practices
- identify structural and institutional barriers against the deployment of bigdata sources in floating rice systems and the adaptation of global best practices in the mitigation of these barriers
- write related project proposals and effectively present project benefits to stakeholders

The training seminar aims to initiate an active participatory learning process. It uses a mixture of

- interactive online presentations and case-based learning approach through prepared training materials
- team work and participatory engagement of the trainees to conceptualize new knowledge
- awareness creation, with focus on alumni research work, research collaborations and real industry projects
- Group icebreaker sessions and presentation during onsite training phase
- active discussion and teambuilding sessions
- workshops including related case studies application and exercises
- Practical experience through industry site visitation and industry dialogue

The main objective for the participation at AGRITECHNICA Asia 2027 is to explore mutual opportunities between industry and organisations represented at the fair, and participants with their background of decision-making in sustainable agriculture practices in their respective countries, regions and organisations.

The final training seminar programme (online preparatory phase and onsite in Vietnam) will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

Social events: In addition to the content-related sessions of the training seminar and the visits to the trade fair, the project programme also includes social and informal events, such as a group dinner and a welcome reception. This aims to further promote intercultural exchange and social networking among the seminar participants.

It is necessary to participate in the whole programme: training seminar, field visit, trade fair and social programme.

Travel dates

08 March 2027	Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
09 - 14 March 2027	**Seminar in VGU, Ho Chi Minh City**
15 March 2026	Travel to Ho-Chi Minh City
16 – 19 March 2027	**AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027**
20 March 2027	Departure from Ho-Chi Minh City

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the training seminar in VGU, Ho Chi Minh City to the last day after the trade fair. Any exceptions must be communicated to the DAAD before your travel to the project.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

This project (training seminar and trade fair participation) targets alumni of German universities / research institutions

- who are German university alumni of countries listed on the OECD DAC list, from south and south-east Asia
- who are currently living and working in their home country / in a DAC-listed country, and
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for **at least 3 months**

  OR
- who were funded within the framework of
  - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme
  - the Centres of African Excellence
  - the SDG Graduate Schools
  - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed
  - the Global Centres for Climate and Environment as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention

Participant's Profile

You should have

1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of environmental management, water resources management, natural disasters, hydrology, data management, agricultural economics, sustainability, etc,
2) **professional experience and personal interest** in one of the following areas: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,

3) the requirements to **act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation,
4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held in **English**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects:

Participations in SDG Alumni Projects are limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. This rule does not apply for attendance on a completely digital SDG Alumni Project (formerly: Alumni Special Project).

Cost coverage

The **university** covers the following costs for the training seminar in Vietnam:

- international return ticket to and from Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN) in Ho Chi Minh City (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- train tickets (2nd class)/shuttle bus: Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN) in Ho Chi Minh City to VGU
- travel health insurance (up to 35,00 EUR)
- visa costs (for alumni requiring visa to travel to Vietnam – up to 35,00 EUR)
- accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in VGU
- transport for excursions and daily transfers from hotel to VGU
- transport from VGU to HO Chi Minh City for the AGRITECHNICA Asia trade fair

The **DAAD** covers the following costs during your stay in Ho-Chi Minh City:

- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the trade fair stay in Ho-Chi Minh City
- Daily transport from the hotel to the trade fair and back (private bus or public transport)
- Entrance fees for the trade fair AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027
- Transport and entrance fees on excursions

Please note: If you are receiving financial support from the DAAD or any other funding organisation at the time of this SDG Alumni Project stay (training seminar week and conference/trade fair visit), you are obliged to state this in full (in the application form). A funding within the framework of this project may be reduced in order to avoid double funding.

Please note: All other costs, such as transportation costs from your hometown to your airport of departure/arrival, travel costs for visa application, **must be covered by yourself**.

Please keep in mind that **living expenses are only covered partly** during your stays in VGU and Ho Chi Minh City.

Extensions of stays

Extensions of stays before the training seminar or after the SDG Alumni Project are possible for a maximum of 5 working days. In case you want to extend your stay, you are required to submit a comparison of flight ticket prices before the start of your travel. The cost will be covered by the university as communicated above. Should your actual travel dates differ due to the extension, you will be responsible for paying any price difference compared to the ticket costs on the official

arrival and return dates. All additional travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence costs, and other expenses incurred during your extension are to be borne by yourself.

Please note that if your extension exceeds 5 working days, both your outbound and return flight must be fully financed by yourself. The university and the DAAD will, however, continue to cover accommodation and partial living expenses during the seminar week, as well as your participation in the trade fair.

For any period of extension, you must arrange your own accommodation and ensure valid health insurance coverage for the additional days. Please also bear in mind that your host university and the DAAD will book accommodation for you during the official seminar and trade fair period. If, for any reason, you are unable to participate in the program from the first seminar day to the last day of the trade fair, you must inform both your host university and the DAAD as soon as possible to avoid potential cancellation costs.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

All applications have to be submitted no later than **18 October 2026 (23.59 CET).**

- **Applications must include the following documents in one single PDF file:**
- the completed **application form**,
- a **motivation statement**, outlining your motivation for participation and your particular interest in the topic, a brief description of your present duties/position/responsibilities, what this seminar will bring to your professional and/or personal development, and how you can be a multiplier of the knowledge gained in the seminar upon your return to your home country,
- a concise two-page CV with current and past professional profiles, publications, references, and educational backgrounds,
- an abstract (max. 400 words) on Laws, Policy Formulation, and Implementation for Climate Change Adaptation and Circular Economy through wastewater reuse, water management and conservation, and sustainable agriculture or on the “barriers against the deployment of bigdata sources in floating rice systems” (font type “Arial” 11pt, 1.5 line spacing)
- a **relevant documentation of alumni status*** (e.g. your master’s degree certificate),
- an **overview** of seminars, workshops or conferences attended in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

***Please note: The single PDF file should be named in the format: “Last name_First name_Country” (e.g., Smith_John_Germany) and must be sent via email to anayoazubuike.ezeamama@b-tu.de and binh.dv@vgu.edu.vn and chuckchuan@gmail.com and hoai.nt@vgu.edu.vn with subject line: CRADLE-Mekong 2027 application**

Please note: non-completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

With your application, you agree that your data will be stored by the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus-Senftenberg, VGU, shared with the DAAD and that you may appear in pictures that may be published in association with the seminar in VGU or your participation in the trade fair AGRITECHNICA Asia 2027.

With your application, you commit to participating in the whole programme (seminar in VGU, the trade fair in Ho-Chi Minh City and any mandatory social events).

After review by the local organising committee in Cottbus and the DAAD, all applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process in **November 2026**. Shortlisted applicants will be required by the selection committee to attend a short online interview.

Contact Details

For further questions, please contact
Dr. Anayo Azubuike Ezeamama (anayoazubuike.ezeamama@b-tu.de) - Coordinator of the Alumni Training Seminar.
Websites: www.b-tu.de ; www.vgu.edu.vn

We are looking forward to your application!

Cottbus, 18 September 2026

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
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