A. Introduction

The “UNESCO Biotechnology School in Asia” newly launched in October 2012, takes over the termination of 34-years-operation of the UNESCO International Postgraduate University Course in Microbiology (1973-2003) and UNESCO Postgraduate Inter-University Course in Biotechnology (2004-2007). This program is an activity of the “UNESCO Extra-budgetary Program for Human Resources and Research Network in Sciences and Technology” supported by the Japanese Fund-In-Trust (JFIT).

The course is a program for the scientific training of young Asian university-graduates in the field of Biotechnology and related areas resulting in achieving master degree, and the participants are expected to make significant contributions to an educational or scientific institution in the coming years in their home countries. It aims also to strengthen the network among the biotechnology scientists in the region.

The training is implemented through inter-universities cooperation in five countries (Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) involving five Japanese universities (Tohoku University, The University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Osaka University and Kyushu University); two universities in Indonesia (Gadjah Mada University, and Bandung Institute of Technology), 4 universities in Philippines [University of the Philippines (Los Baños, Diliman and Manila), De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, and Ateneo de Manila University], four universities and an institution in Thailand [Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi, Mahidol University, and the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC, National Science and Technology Development Agency)], and two universities in Vietnam (Vietnam National University Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City). The International Center for Biotechnology (ICBiotech, Osaka University) works as the secretariat. Particularly, it is expected to have several contributions from the leading researchers in Asian countries as supervisors, who are alumni of the past program from the two UNESCO Courses either in Microbiology or in Biotechnology.

More information is available at homepages on http://www.icb.osaka-u.ac.jp/.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Course is to provide the participants with a more profound education as well as a methodical preparation for their own research or educational activities in the field of Biotechnology and related areas. The course focuses mainly on biotechnology-related education and research, particularly related to “Sustainable Utilization of Bioresources in Asia”.

Course participants, after successfully obtaining the required credits, will receive Master degree from the relevant universities of Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand or Vietnam.

C. Program

The UNESCO Biotechnology School in Asia 2014 consists of the 2-year Master-degree awardable courses (August/September 2014 - July/August 2016). Participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar or Mongolia etc will enroll into the master courses of universities in Indonesia, Thailand or Vietnam. During the first year of the relevant master course, participants (the Bachelor’s degree-holding young researchers/post-graduate course students in the Asian countries) will be equipped with contemporary expanding knowledge and technology for further development of skills and study for advanced research following the curricula of the relevant master courses. Only after the successful clearing of the required credits for the 1st year, participants will be allowed to move into the 2nd year of the master course.

In between the 1st year and the 2nd year, all the participants will be placed at Osaka University for about 10 days to have lectures of advanced biotechnology, as well as lectures of biodiversity, intellectual property rights, and business developments, which will be necessary to equip to be the future leaders in the field of biotechnology.

After the 10-days lecturing period at Osaka U, participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Mongolia, or Vietnam etc (category a) will return to their 1st-year university to continue the 2nd year of the master course. Participants from Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (category b) will remain in Japan to perform their 2nd-year research. The Program Outline of the Course is attached to this Prospectus as Annex 1.

D. Working Language

The working language of the Course is English. Some knowledge of Thai/Bahasa Indonesia will be helpful in daily life but it is not essential for the training purposes.

E. Admission Requirements

The Course will be open to young scientists/students of Asian Member States of UNESCO.

1) Applicants should have at least Bachelor’s degree in the field of biotechnology or related areas in the university, or to be completing the Bachelor's degree before the enrollment. For those still in the undergraduate, a letter or recommendation by the supervisor to ascertain his/her successful graduation is required. (For applicants wishing to enroll at Gadjah Mada U, Bandung Institute of Technology and Vietnam universities, only those who
completed Bachelor’s degree at the stage of application can be considered). Since this program is not aimed for postdoctoral research fellow, Ph.D. holders are not eligible to apply.

2) Applicants are required to possess certified proficiency in the use and understanding of the English language (see below F-5). Certificate of English proficiency (TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS etc) is necessary upon application.

3) Applicants are not to be older than 30 years old as of August 1, 2014.

Participants are expected to continue and pursue further educational and/or research activities in their own countries after finishing the Course and to participate actively in the Course alumni activities.

F. Application

Each applicant should submit (by airmail) completed application form (Annex 2) together with the documents listed below (only in English) (1 set of original and 5 sets of copies) to the Secretary-General, Office of the UNESCO Course, c/o International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University (full address see below). The deadline for receipt of application forms is the 31 January, 2014.

Privately made application forms are rejected. The application forms can be downloaded as Word/PDF files from the Web site of ICBiotech.

The application form must have as attachments the following documents:

1) 6 copies of applicant’s photograph (4 cm x 6 cm) taken within 6 months before the application date;

2) certificate of health (Annex 4);

3) academic records issued by the university (both at the undergraduate, and postgraduate levels, if applicable);

4) copy of latest diploma;

5) certificate of proficiency in English (TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS certificates are preferable);

6) leave permit; If employed, it is necessary to get a letter from the Dean or Director of his/her institution or organization stating that the applicant’s leave from the present position is officially approved.

7) recommendation letters from two references (Annex 5); one of which should be from the applicants supervisor. Another reference, preferably and where possible, may be from an alumnus of the UNESCO Courses either in Microbiology or Biotechnology.

8) a list of scientific papers and a thesis written/published by the applicant. Summary of each paper should also be included.

G. Mailing Address

All materials for the application should be sent to the following address:

Secretariat Office for the UNESCO Course
International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University
2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan
Phone: +81-6-6879-7455
Fax: +81-6-6879-7454
E-mail address: uncourse@icb.osaka-u.ac.jp

More information is available at http://www.icb.osaka-u.ac.jp

H. Selection

The Selection Board, consisting of representatives of each academic consortium from Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, on behalf of the Course Organizers, will select a maximum of 8-9 participants for the Course to enroll into master course from the 1st year, and a maximum of 5-6 participants to engage research training in Japan for their M2 period for the batch 2014-2016.

Applications will be considered individually on an international competitive basis after careful examination of all the documents submitted. There is no country quota. All applications received will be individually acknowledged. Each applicant will be informed, at the end of March 2014, of the results of the selection. The documents submitted by the applicants will not be returned.

I. Pledge

Each participant is required to sign the pledge attached to this prospectus (Annex 6) once he/she is admitted to the Course.

J. Fellowship

UNESCO in conjunction with universities of Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand will offer each participant of the Course a scholarship* and a round trip air ticket (economy class) between his/her home country (a nearest international airport) and the destination country to study master course.

The amount of a monthly scholarship is as follows:

1) During stay in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam: about 30,000 Japanese Yen**

2) During stay in Japan: 120,000 Japanese Yen

*The scholarship is subject to change without notice.

**The scholarship amount and covering items can be different due to the scholarship policy of enrolled university

Participants through scholarship should by themselves cover all living expenses including accommodation or visa extension.
The stipend, though sufficient for one person, does not cover the payment of the living expenses of family members. The Course is not responsible for the expenses of should discuss the insurance matter with the supervisors in accompanying person.

K. Accommodation

The Secretariat of the Course will help to secure moderate accommodation for participants. There are no dormitories for the participants in Japanese universities. The rent has to be borne by participants themselves. Housing for those accompanied by family is very hard to find.

L. Medical Care

On travelling to the destination country to enroll into the assigned master course, participants are requested to purchase in their home country minimum “10-days travel insurance” to cover both unexpected bodily injury and diseases (Annex 7). The expense will be covered by the UNESCO budget.

Once he/she enrolled into the master course of the relevant universities, participants should join insurance program which covers for (1) the expenses incurred due to bodily injury by any fortuitous and external accident and (2) the expenses for hospitalization, including employment of a professional nurse, and surgical operation. Participants

M. Degree

After satisfactory completion of the 2-years master course, a Master’s degree will be awarded to each participant by the assigned university.

Annexes

Annex 1: Program Outline
Annex 2: Application Form
Annex3-1:List of Research themes in Japan (for category-b applicants from Indonesia, Philippine, and Thailand only)
Annex3-2:List of Research themes in Thailand (for category-b applicants from Vietnam only.)
Annex 4: Form of Health Certification
Annex 5: Form for Recommendation Reference
Annex 6: Pledge
Annex 7: Form of Insurance Notification

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