**UK-Mexico Researcher Links Workshop**

**12-14 September 2017**

**Instituto Tecnologico Superior de Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo, Mexico**

**Promoting collaboration between the UK and Mexico**

**Theme***: Present Status and Horizon Scanning of Sustainable Aquatic Resource Development in Mexico.*

**This application form has 3 pages.** See pages 4-6 for additional instructions and information.

**Please return your completed application by emailing to:** [aquaticresourcesmex@gmail.com](mailto:aquaticresourcesmex@gmail.com)

**Deadline:** 9 June 2017

**UK coordinator: Dr Martin Genner** [m.gennert@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:m.gennert@bristol.ac.uk)

**Mexico coordinator: Dr Luis I. Hernandez** [li.hernandez@itscarrillopuerto.edu.mx](mailto:li.hernandez@itscarrillopuerto.edu.mx)

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| **Applicant** | |
| Name |  |
| Gender |  |
| Professional position / job title |  |
| Institution |  |
| Postal address |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone number |  |

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| **Confirmation of eligibility** | |
| Are you available and able to travel to Mexico to attend the workshop 12-14 September, and if a place is offered will you accept? |  |
| Country of residence: UK or Mexico? |  |
| Year PhD awarded[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |

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| **The workshop will take place in English as standard. Please indicate your ability to work and communicate in English (Note, translators may be provided if necessary)** | | | |
| Native speaker |  | Good |  |
| Excellent |  | Need support |  |

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| **Equality**  *We wish to ensure equal involvement of all workshop participants, regardless of gender, age, religion, ethnicity, disability, or other considerations. Please use this space to inform the coordinators (in confidence) of any potential barriers to your participation so that we can make appropriate accommodation.* |
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| **Research**  *Please describe your research interests and expertise (up to 200 words). We seek participants from any field relevant to the sustainable development on aquaculture and fisheries, including invasive species, native species, habitat alteration, conservation and biodiversity of aquatic resources, pollution and climatic change, fish ecology, evolution and genetics. The workshop will focus on the sustainable use and development of aquatic biological resources, with a focus on fisheries and aquaculture and fisheries.* |
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| **Motivation**  *Briefly describe your interest in this workshop and how it will contribute to your professional development.* |
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| **Previous experience**  *Please describe any experience you have that would be relevant to the long-term goals of building collaborations between the UK and Mexico.* |
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| **Brief CV**  *Please expand these sections as necessary but do not exceed one page* | |
| Education and qualifications (degrees, dates awarded, institution) |  |
| Professional positions and Employment history |  |
| Grants and funding (funding body, amount, duration of grant, and your role) |  |
| Three (3) selected publications |  |

**British Council Researcher Links workshop**

Present Status and Horizon Scanning of Sustainable Aquatic Resource Development in Mexico

Globally aquatic capture fisheries production has flatlined. This has driven unprecedented aquaculture development - “the blue revolution”. This poses substantial threats to indigenous species and their habitats. Sustainable development of the industry requires technological developments that enhance productivity while minimising risk to the environment and society. In Mexico, 80% of capture fisheries are maximally exploited or overexploited. There is no realistic scope for increased natural capture fisheries production to supply an expanding human population. To match this demand aquaculture has expanded exponentially since the 1980s, alongside artificial stocking of capture fisheries within natural water bodies. Fisheries and aquaculture development in Mexico is largely based on invasive species, and there also concern about associated issues including habitat alteration, pollution and climate change. Threats could be mitigated with collaborative research and industry support. The workshop will provide opportunity for researchers and stakeholders to discuss the current status of regional aquatic environments, and the relevance for people who depend upon them. It will provide a horizon scan for the future impacts and potential technological (rearing systems, species choice, strain selection, genome editing), and/or policy solutions that can be addressed through collaborative research.

**Venue:** Instituto Tecnologico Superior de Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo, Felipe Carrillo Puerto. Mexico.

**Background:** Researcher links is a programme that supports international collaboration and knowledge exchange, with a focus on early career researchers. This workshop is aimed at building collaborative links between researchers in the UK and Mexico. The workshop coordinators and other mentors will act as moderators for group discussions among participants.

**Funding:** For selected participants, the British Council will cover all costs related to the participation to the workshop, including: travel (both international and local), accommodation and meals. Costs for visas (if necessary) will be covered. Participants and their institutions will be responsible for making all the necessary insurance arrangements. Insurance costs will not be covered by the British Council. Therefore, participants are responsible for ensuring they have adequate travel and medical insurance for their trip. Participants who wish to extend their trip are welcome to do so but this will be at their own expense.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

* Applications must be submitted using the expression of interest form
* Application must be submitted by the deadline, 09 June 2017
* Demonstrable research experience and expertise relevant to the theme and aquatic resources

Participants should be Early Career Researchers: defined as holding a PhD (or having equivalent research experience) and having up to 10 years’ post-PhD research experience. That is, participants will normally have a PhD awarded in 2007 or later; however, allowances can be made for career breaks such as parental leave.

* Participants should have a research or academic position (either a permanent post, independent fellowship, or equivalent research contract) at a recognised research institution either in the UK or in Mexico.

**Application and Deadline:**

The completed expression-of-interest form must be completed and submitted by 09 June 2017.

Forms should be submitted to the workshop email address: [aquaticresourcesmex@gmail.com](mailto:aquaticresourcesmex@gmail.com)

**Assessment of Applications:** Applications will be assessed by the full mentorship teams in both countries. We will consider the following factors in selecting participants:

* Eligibility
* Experience and relevance of the applicant’s research area to the workshop
* Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop
* Ability to contribute to the long term aims beyond the workshop.

**Timeline:**

* The application deadline is 09 June 2017
* We aim to notify successful applicants by 14 of June 2017.
* Successful candidates will communicate with our travel agent to make flight arrangements.
* Travel arrangements for UK participants must be finalised before 15 of July.
* The dates of the workshop are 12-14 September 2017.
* Please note that if you are offered a place, you must confirm your attendance and by available to confirm your travel arrangements in middle of July, or you may forfeit the funding and your place given to a reserve candidate.

**Equal Opportunities:**

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities and this includes the avoidance of any bias in the assessment of applications due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Participants’ selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene this policy. Extra support to enable participation of early career researchers with special needs will be given. Please use the space in the application form to inform the coordinators or contact them in advance by email. Your personal information will be treatment in absolute confidence.

**WORKSHOP DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**Site**: Intituto Tecnologico de Felipe Carrillo Puerto (ITSFCP) has state-of-the-art workshop facilities and is surrounded by a tropical rainforest. ITSFCP buildings are located easily accessible from the main city centre, providing an ideal setting for the group to focus on the topic.

**Overall structure:** The activities of the workshop will combine (1) opportunities for participants to share and discuss their research interests and latest findings in an international environment, and (2) develop professional links for future collaborations or new projects, to pursue beyond the scope of the workshop. As part of the workshop there will be a field trip to one of the most important reserves in Mexico.

**12 September (Day 1):** Orientation and internationalisation. Day 1 will enable participants to get acquainted with each other, the mentors, and the inter-cultural differences between the UK and Mexico.

Day 1, morning. Keynote talk – Past and future of aquaculture (30 mins), followed by 4 presentations on related issues (covering research, industry and policy).

Day 1, afternoon. Keynote talk - Past and future of fisheries (30 minutes), followed by 4 presentations on related issues (covering research, and potentially industry and policy).

Day 1, Evening group trip.

**13 September (Day 2):** Day 2 continue with the presentations. The recess moments will give the all the participants discuss research ideas, and potentially collaborative projects.

Day 2, morning Keynote talk – Impacts and benefits of aquatic invasive vs. indigenous species (30 mins), followed by 4 research presentations.

Day 2, afternoon. Keynote talk – Impacts of climate and habitat alterations on aquatic resources (30 minutes), followed by 4 research presentations.

Day 1, Evening meal.

**14 September (Day 3):** During Day 3 we will identify the current and future issues influencing sustainable aquatic resource use, building on research topics approached in the previous days of the workshop.

Day 3, morning. Horizon scanning groups form to identify and discuss the key challenges and potential technological and policy solutions in sustainable aquatic resource development.

Day 3, afternoon. A presentation on the role of collaborations for career development in science, and an overview of the research base in the UK and Mexico. Groups form to discuss specific research themes outlined as key challenges, with a view to developing shared project outlines that can be developed for funding applications.

**End of Workshop**

1. Funding is available to ‘**early career researchers’,** with a PhD awarded 2006 or later; however, allowances can be made for parental leave or career breaks. Please indicate your circumstances under ‘Equality’ if this applies to you. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)