

Graduate Research Assistant for Ph.D. candidate in **Geography, Environment, and Spatial Science/Urban and Regional Planning** at Michigan State University

Date: December 6, 2017

The Center for Global Change and Earth Observations (CGCEO) at MSU invites applications for a three-year, Ph.D. graduate research assistantship to begin in August 2018. The position is funded by a NASA's project "Quantifying human and climate impacts on wetland ecosystems in the Lower Mekong River Basin". The student's work includes (1) mapping and modeling land use land cover changes (2) analyzing key socioeconomic drivers, such as urbanization, globalization, and institutional changes, of the dam construction, and (3) evaluating social economic impacts of dam construction, particularly on water/energy resources, industrial development, and agriculture productivity. We are looking for a graduate student who will pursue a Ph.D. degree in Department of Geography or Urban and Regional Planning Program at MSU. The successful candidate is required to have a master degree in a related field. Other key requirements include: (1) experiences in both quantitative and qualitative methods of socio-economic and policy analysis, including using a variety of statistical analysis tools for modeling; (2) hands-on experience with remote sensing and GIS. The successful candidate must possess excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledge, experiences and languages skills of the study region (i.e. Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam), is desired but not required. All applications should include a CV, statement of interest, and the names of three references.

About the project

Mainland Southeast Asia is a dynamic and rapidly changing region, where rapid urbanization and technological and economic development are increasingly shaping rural landscapes, ecosystems, and agrarian communities. In recent years, numerous dams have been (and are being) constructed along the Mekong River and its tributaries in order to meet the region's growing appetite for energy, irrigation for agricultural intensification, and protection from extreme weather events. This highly interdisciplinary project aims to better understand the downstream social and ecological effects of dam construction in order to identify sustainable scenarios that address broader regional needs while preserving important ecosystem services and local livelihoods.

Contacts and Reviews

All applications should include a curriculum vitae, statement of interest, and the names of three references. Questions related to this particular position of the project may be directed to Professor Peilei Fan (fanpeile@msu.edu). Review of applications will begin as soon as the application is received and will continue until the position is filled. For more information about the MSU Center for Global Change and Earth Observations (CGCEO), please visit our website at: <http://globalchange.msu.edu/>

MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. The University actively encourages applications of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.