



## Regional Asia

### Call for Applications: Regional Human Rights Research Initiative 2019

As part of the **Regional Asia Programme on Human Rights and Sustainable Development 2017-2021**, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) hereby calls for applications from academics (both researchers and lecturers) affiliated with academic institutions in countries eligible for international development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup> to participate in our regional Human Rights Research Initiative 2019.

This initiative aims at strengthening research skills and thematic knowledge on connections between human rights, gender equality and environment in the Asia region, with the ultimate objective to influence knowledge, policy, practice and discourse. Thus the initiative's focus is to strengthen the capacities of academics to contribute to relevant policy and legal developments, support cross-border exchanges and engagement, and encourage more academics from human rights and other fields to participate in international and regional processes.

Applicants should choose topics that clearly relate to human rights and/or environmental protection and that explore roles and responsibilities of public actors and/or private actors (for ex., businesses). Placing such a topic within the broader framework of the Agenda 2030 is advised and a strength for the applicant. Research topics of a regional scope within Asia region rather than of a purely national scope (relevant to only 1 country) will be prioritised. Research proposals that manage to integrate all four aspects - human rights, environmental protection, development and gender will also be prioritised. The applicant should develop a research proposal (200-300 words) that describes the topic of the project, the main research question(s), the sources you intend to use, and why the project is important from a theoretical and/or practical point of view. If possible also indicate which methods might be used.

Successful applicants will be expected to carry out original academic research and produce a research paper in English. RWI will encourage co-authorship of the research paper meaning that two participants will work together on one single project on a commonly agreed topic. To facilitate the research process and the writing of final research papers, successful applicants will be invited to join a series of training events throughout the year. An initial research workshop will be held in Bangkok on 25-30 March 2019 which will contain thematic sessions (for ex., on human rights, the environment, social and environmental responsibilities of the private sector) as well as research methodologies (including methods on gender integrated research). Individual meetings between each participant and the resource person (mentor) will take place to define the focus and clarify all aspects related to research process. After the workshop, the researchers will carry out individual research with guidance and feedback from RWI mentors, in writing and/or Skype. Researchers will be given access to and RWI library resources and e-learning modules on the topics addressed in papers. As a third step, the researchers will meet for a roundtable in Jakarta on 10-12 September 2019 (tentative venue and dates), where they will present papers and receive feedback from discussant, other participants and resource persons. After this workshop researchers are encouraged to submit their papers to national, regional and/or international conferences and, if a paper is accepted, RWI may be able to financially support such participation to conferences. In addition, the researchers will also be supported in their efforts to publish their final papers, including on RWI's website.

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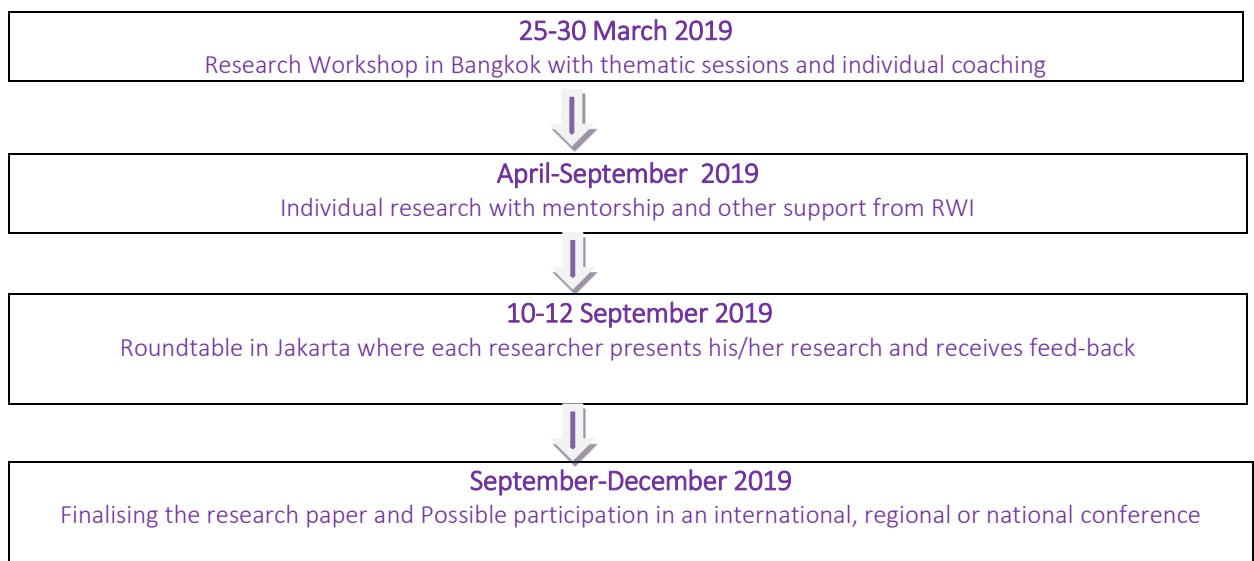
<sup>1</sup> RWI targets countries in South and Southeast Asia, China, the Pacific and Oceania, with the exception of countries not eligible for development cooperation, which cannot be covered by RWI funds.

RWI will select up to 20 participants from across the Asia Pacific region, pursuing gender balance and a wide institutional and geographical representation. Applications from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar will be prioritised. Note that it is of utmost importance that the selected participants are fully committed to this initiative and participate in all stages and activities of the programme, including by finalising the research paper. Successful candidates will be asked to sign a written declaration of such commitment and their participation in this program will be discontinued if there is evidence that the expected tasks and milestones are not observed.

All costs related to participation in the initiative, including for travel and accommodation during related activities will be covered by RWI. A small per diem will be provided to the participants during the different courses/meetings in accordance with RWI's general rules. However, all costs related to carrying out the actual research must be borne by the participants, and RWI is not able to pay researchers a salary or a stipend.

The programme is organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), with financial support from Swedish Development Cooperation. RWI has a thematic focus in a number of areas: people on the move, inclusive societies, fair and efficient justice, economic globalisation and human rights, corruption, as well as gender equality<sup>2</sup>, the regional Human Rights Research Initiative is part of the RWI's Regional Asia Programme on Human Rights and Sustainable Development supported by SIDA. For more background information, please see link to the strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific region: <http://www.sida.se/contentassets/342a1a62ebc2457992a1f8c2a3429971/asien-oceanien-eng.pdf>

### Outline of the initiative



### Requirements and Selection Process

Applicants should:

- ✓ Be citizens of eligible countries in Asia
- ✓ Be affiliated to an academic institution in eligible countries (this includes current PhD researchers)
- ✓ Be committed and available to take part in ALL steps of the research initiative and develop a good working relation with the mentors
- ✓ Be prepared to work collaboratively with another participant on the joint research paper
- ✓ Be willing to actively listen and engage with other academic disciplines represented in the group
- ✓ Be innovative and interested to explore how the skills obtained could be used, including within current or planned teaching at affiliated institutions

<sup>2</sup> These are RWI's thematic areas, more details can be found at <http://rwi.lu.se/what-we-do/>

If you are interested in taking part in this initiative, please submit the following, in English, **by 25 February 2019** via email to RWI through Ms Chen Tingting: [chen.tingting@rwi.lu.se](mailto:chen.tingting@rwi.lu.se)

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Research proposal
- ✓ Motivation letter
- ✓ CV
- ✓ Writing sample in English (an article, book chapter, report, essay or any piece of academic writing)
- ✓ Document of proficiency in English if available

Any questions regarding the initiative, requirements and arrangements, can be put forward to Ms Chen Tingting on the email address provided above.

This initiative is financially supported by:  Sweden  
Sverige