

Alumni Seminar ITT – DAAD

"Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America: Translating Paris" in San Jose at the University of Costa Rica



The Paris Agreement adopted by the UNFCCC framework and already ratified by 174 parties, aims at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming below 2°C compared to pre-industrial times, and to strengthen country's ability to deal with climate change impacts.

As Latin American countries are particularly susceptible to climate change impacts, the development of projects to address such impacts in the region will not only contribute to the global action plan to avoid dangerous climate change effects but will strengthen local coping and adaptive capacities.

Under this principle, the ITT Alumni Seminar "Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America: Translating Paris" carried out from the 15 May to 31 December 2017,

focused on the development and preparation of research project proposals related to climate change aligned to the Paris Agreement.

The seminar consisted of an online phase, an attendance phase in Costa Rica and an online post-event evaluation phase.

During the online phase, the Alumni had the opportunity to join webinars and receive advice on how to write project proposals, complemented with a practical exercise according to the different topics of interest related to resources management in Latin America. In groups of two or three, alumni from two different study generations joined efforts to prepare a project proposal including the selection of the call and the development of the project idea.

After the evaluation of the different project

proposals between the participants, 32 Alumni from Latin America and Germany were selected to join the attendance phase in San Jose, Costa Rica from 6 - 10 November 2017. The event took place in the University of Costa Rica, where the participants had the opportunity to present their project proposal and participate in a bid simulation exercise to select the most suitable and most relevant project ideas. The seminar included presentations from experts in academia and consultants who presented measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Likewise, a roleplay game allowed the participants to improve their understanding of the climate change negotiations during the simulation of a UNFCCC Climate Change Conference - COP, in which the Alumni represented different parties seeking to achieve a global compromise on a new climate change action plan.



The interest was so high that to the date the participants are still working on a network proposal concept to promote the communication among the Alumni in an efficient, simple and useful way that reflects the needs and interests of all participants.



The attendance phase encompassed a site visit to the region of Santa Maria de Dota, where the Alumni visited a rural electrification cooperative "Coopesantos" which is running a windmill energy generation project financed by the carbon market due to the Clean Development Mechanism - CDM and the emission reduction credits. The participants also visited CoopeDota, a local coffee cooperative, which earned recognition in 2011 as the world's first carbon neutral coffee producer.

The closure of the event included a pleasant dinner in a country house outside San Jose, where the different Alumni groups received

feedback regarding their project proposals. The meeting also enabled them to discuss a concept for future collaboration to formalize the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC)-ITT Alumni network. The interest was so high that the participants are still working on a network proposal concept to promote the communication among the Alumni in an efficient, simple and useful way that reflects the needs and interests of all participants.

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