



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF PSYCHOLOGICAL  
SCIENCE

FOUNDED IN 1951

Asia-Pacific Workshop 2014:

Announcement and Call for Applications

December 8-11, 2014, Mianyang, Sichuan, China

Applications are invited from psychologists in  
*Asia-Pacific Countries*  
**(Deadline Extended to 20 October 2014)**

**Building Individual and Organizational Capacity for  
Psychological Intervention after Disasters in the  
Asia and Pacific Region**

**Workshop on Psychological Intervention after Disasters**

**Organized by**

International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)  
with sponsorship by Jacobs Foundation

**Partnership**

Chinese Psychological Society (CPS)  
International Council for Science (ICSU) - Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific  
Region (ROAP)  
United Nations University (UNU) - International Institute for Global Health  
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) - International Centre of Excellence  
(ICoE) Tapei  
Center for Applied Developmental Science (CADS)

**Target group:**

The Asia-Pacific Workshop 2014 is intended for:

- Researchers, educators, and practitioners from across the entire Asia-Pacific region, who have an academic background, primarily in psychology, and who are interested and experienced in work on disasters
- Psychologists who work with particular target groups, such as children and adolescents
- Young and early career scientists from Asian-Pacific countries

**International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS):**

IUPsyS is the internationally recognized umbrella organization of 80+ national scientific organizations of psychology worldwide. It works to promote the development, representation and advancement of psychology as a basic and applied science nationally, regionally, and internationally. The main activities of the IUPsyS focus on fostering the development of the science and practice of psychology. For further information see [www.iupsys.net](http://www.iupsys.net).

**Location:**

Mianyang (population about 1 million) is the second largest prefecture-level city of Sichuan province in Southwest China. The workshop will take place at the Southwest University of Science and Technology

[www.english.swust.edu.cn/s/198/t/623/p/1/c/2836/d/2854/list.htm](http://www.english.swust.edu.cn/s/198/t/623/p/1/c/2836/d/2854/list.htm)

For information on the city and region you may look at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mianyang>

**Background to the workshop:**

This year's workshop is the third of the series, after the successful ones in the year 2012 and 2013, both in Beijing. Reports on the workshops can be found at <http://www.iupsys.net/events/capacity-building-workshops/index.html>. The focus on the Asia and Pacific region relates to two important facts: First, the four billion inhabitants of the region form 60% of the world's population, yet in the last decade, 41% of the natural disasters around the world occurred in this region, bringing untold damage, loss of life, and hardship.

Second, the majority of countries in this region often lack an advanced infrastructure or responsive rescue systems, meaning that help is typically concentrated on addressing physical and infrastructural devastation with less attention paid to effects on individuals, especially on psychological adversity. For example, people need help to deal with problems arising from the loss of close relatives, from significant property and/or environmental loss, from the effects of physical injury, and from other stressors, including the overarching effects of displacement. The effects on psychological health, which can be long-lasting, are known to vary with age and other

demographic characteristics, reflecting differences in cognitive capabilities and other resources to deal with the challenges of a disaster. Here the concept of resilience is a potentially powerful asset in understanding responses to disaster: the degree of resilience to stressors depends on both social and individual factors within a particular region, so that it is important to be mindful of the cultural and infrastructural context.

### **Workshop focus:**

The workshop will use international scientific and applied expertise to help researchers, educators and practitioners in the Asia and Pacific region have a better understanding of and ability to respond to the mental health consequences of regional disasters. The focus will be on events that have a tremendous negative impact on large sections of the population in the affected area, such as natural catastrophes, technological failure, warfare or pandemics. The workshop will also address a particular group that has been relatively overlooked in this regard, that is to say, children and adolescents. As well as focusing on the science needed to enhance the relevance of psychological interventions in the Asia-Pacific region, the workshop will also aim at increasing the capacity for sustained theoretical and applied research in the Asia and Pacific area. In sum, the workshop aims to:

- present participants with the most recent scientific and applied scientific evidence and knowledge relevant for Psychological Intervention after Disasters;
- show the constraints and opportunities of working with particular target groups, such as children and adolescents;
- develop relevant knowledge provision, education and training in academic programs of psychology;
- help develop a regional network to support continuance in scientific research and training in mental health support following disaster.

The overall aim is to use existing IUPsyS experience and its access to international scientific and applied expertise on resilience in the face of stressful and traumatic events to help researchers, educators and practitioners in the Asia and the Pacific region to increase their understanding of and ability to respond to the mental health consequences of regional disasters.

Whereas the last workshops had a strong emphasis on new genetic insights and especially the role of epigenetic processes in transmitting environmental catastrophes into individuals' lives and development, this year we will have a similarly strong evidence on advanced multi-level statistical methodology, with a special emphasis on field research and evaluation, and new insights from resilience research. Beyond that, the faculty represents excellent expertise in basic, applied, and translational research, including social policy implications. It is expected that this workshop will further the longer-term plans of IUPsyS and its partners towards meeting these aims, especially regarding the establishment of a regional network, and an infrastructure of advanced studies.

### **Organizers:**

**Rainer K. Silbereisen**, Professor, Director Center for Applied Developmental Science , University of Jena, Germany.

**Jianxin Zhang**, Professor, Department of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Science, China.

### **Support:**

**Duan Huang**, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Science, China.

**Verona Christmas-Best**, Ph.D., Center for Applied Developmental Science , University of Jena, Germany

### **Faculty:**

**Sue-Huei Chen**, Professor, Department of Psychology, Taiwan University, Taiwan. Areas of Interest: Trauma consequences.

**Thomas D. Cook**, Professor, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, USA. Areas of Interest: Social and behavioral science research methodology.

**Fang Fan**, Professor, School of Psychology, South China Normal University, China. Areas of Interest: Effects of natural disasters/children and adolescents.

**Abigail Gewirtz**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Family Social Science & Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota, USA. Areas of Interest: Family prevention/intervention.

**Sarb Johal**, Associate Professor, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University, New Zealand. Areas of Interest: Psychological and social impact of disasters/ emergency management.

**Ann Masten**, Professor, Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota, USA. Areas of Interest: Resilience.

**Douglas Paton**, Professor, School of Psychology, University of Tasmania, Australia. Areas of Interest: Community/cross-cultural.

### **How to apply for the Asia-Pacific Workshop**

If you are interested in being considered for this workshop, please send the following documents without delay:

1. A completed application form; see appendix;
2. Your full CV;
3. An abstract of the poster you will present at the workshop - you will be asked to make a short presentation of your poster, which should cover your work and/or research, to the workshop. Your abstract should be no more than 200 words.

Details of poster format can be found at:

<http://www.studentposters.co.uk/templates.html>

Send the above materials via email: [IUPsySCB@psych.ac.cn](mailto:IUPsySCB@psych.ac.cn) or via fax: +8610-64855830 to be received no later than 20 September 2014

As a successful applicant, you would receive the following support:

- Letter of Invitation: A formal letter of invitation to participants to help raise funds and obtain visas to attend the workshop will be sent by Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- Accommodation: Costs will be covered and accommodation will be provided in a good quality hotel.
- Transport: Costs will be covered by the workshop (basic economic class or equivalent).

<b>APPLICATION FORM</b>	
<i>Please type and return either by email or fax</i>	
<b>1. Personal data</b>	
Name:	
Sex:	
Age:	
Nationality:	
<b>2. Contacts</b>	
Postal address ( <i>street, number, city, postal code, country</i> ):	
Telephone and/or mobile phone number:	
E-Mail:	
<b>3. Organization or institution</b>	
Name:	
Postal address:	
E-Mail:	
Homepage:	
Your role in the institution or organization:	
<b>4. Letter of application</b>	
Including the contents about previous experience related to the theme of the workshop - why would you like to participate in this workshop, what you would bring to the workshop in the way of experience/expertise etc.?)	

**5. Curriculum Vitae and Publication List**

Please provide a record of your academic education and training, employment record, special skills, research experience, publication activities (if applicable).

**6. Visa**

If you need a visa for China, please visit the official website of Chinese embassy or consulate in your country to check information on China visa requirements. Please also indicate the following information for a formal invitation letter from us if needed.

- Name (as on the passport):
- Sex:
- Date of birth:
- Citizenship:
- Passport number:
- Intended entry date:
- Intended duration of stay:
- Number of entries:
- Which embassy will apply to (which city):

**7. Important Note:**

The language of instruction at the Workshop is English. A good proficiency in spoken and written English is required.