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Certificate course on 'Perspectives on Environment and Development: Concepts and Debates'

The Academy for Conservation Science and Sustainability Studies
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru

invites applications for

Certificate course on 'Perspectives on Environment and Development: Concepts and Debates'09 – 16 March 2011

Background

The last few decades have seen a dramatic increase in the attention given to environmental issues in rural development. Rural development practitioners and analysts are confronted with rapidly changing debates that are often filled with jargon, talking at cross-purposes, resting on divergent assumptions and utilizing inadequate scientific knowledge. Buzzwords keep emerging and disappearing before they can be internalized. Markets, state and civil society keep getting invoked by everybody in all contexts but with vastly differing underlying concerns and assumptions.

Purpose

This interdisciplinary course is aimed at going 'back to basics', i.e., revisiting and internalizing the fundamental concepts, theories and debates in natural resource management (NRM) based rural development, and thereby building capacity to examine and analyze topical and emerging issues in this area.

Audience

The course is targeted towards persons from practitioner and activist organizations, policy research and advocacy groups, journalists and policy-makers who work on questions of NRM-based rural development, and are interested in keeping updated with the conceptual advances in the area, thereby enhancing their analytical capabilities.

Course content

The topics covered in the course will include basic development theory, the emergence of environmental concerns and their various forms, alternative approaches to the environment-development linkage (environmental economics, political ecology, sustainability studies etc.) and related natural science concepts, particularly in forest ecology and water resources management. Relevant and topical case studies will be used to illustrate the concepts and theories.

Note: The course will not cover research tools and methods.

Course structure

The course will be conducted over 8 days (including 1 off day), and will involve lectures, group discussions and assignments. The course instructors will comprise of faculty members from ATREE as well as eminent external resource persons.

Course dates, logistics and costs

The course will be held during 09 – 16 March 2011 at ATREE, Bengaluru. While most of the course costs are supported, participants are expected to cover their travel costs and pay Rupees 2,000/- as a nominal course fee. Accommodation and local hospitality for outstation participants will be provided by ATREE.

Applications and fee payment

Applications should be submitted in the prescribed format ([download the application form](#)) to the course coordinator by January 31st, 2011. Filled in applications can be sent either by email or through post. Applicants will be informed of the decision by 15th February 2011. Selected candidates must send the course fees as soon as they are informed of their selection.

Please send the application via e-mail or post to:

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