



Online Course

International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development 2011 – 2012

The Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing states (SIDS) outlines the measures to be taken by SIDS and the international community to achieve the sustainable development of SIDS.

To support the action of SIDS in the pursuit of sustainable development, the Economic Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, is offering an online course on ***“International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development”*** from November 2011 to April 2012.

Course Objectives: The Course addresses the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environment. Course participants will:

- update their knowledge on the international architecture for environmental and sustainable development;
- learn of the interrelationships between the various institutional entities for sustainable development;
- learn of the processes for implementing the sustainable development mandates of small states;

- update their knowledge of economic and social policy issues in developing countries;
- learn of the regional issues surrounding sustainable development; and
- share good practices and lessons learnt from implementing sustainable development.

It is expected that, at the end of the training course, participants will return to their various ministries and departments with appropriate knowledge and tools of sustainable development.

Location: The Course will be taught in two phases: A **Residency Phase (face to face)** and an **Online Phase (Internet)**.

The Residential Phase of the Course will be held in various small states regions as follows:

Caribbean: 7-11 November 2011 (Jamaica);

AIMS: 21-25 November 2011 (Seychelles); and

Pacific: December 5-9, 2011 (Vanuatu).

Registration: October 12- November 3, 2011

The maximum class size for each residential course is 20 participants. This facilitates the maximum of 60 persons on the online phase of the course.

Persons wishing to participate are therefore invited to apply early.

The intention is that the course be run biennially; the next offering will be 2013 - 2014.

Course Duration: Residential Phase: One week and the On-line Phase 12 weeks.

The online phase will only be available to participants who have taken the one week residential phase.

Language: English

Implementation:

The course will be implemented by the Economic Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning Virtual University for Small States (VUSS), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the University of Seychelles.

The Course: The Course is organised in Modules, comprising of the **Foundation and Consolidation modules**. The Foundation modules provide the foundation for the other modules. Two of the Foundation modules address international issues pertaining to sustainable development, whereas the third Foundation module is specific to the regional issues as well as economic and social policy issues. The Online Phase of the Course will be delivered via the Virtual University for Small States. Course participants are strongly advised to spend a minimum of an additional ten hours per week on research and reading.

To facilitate the delivery of the Course a **Study Guide** has been prepared. Its purpose is to assist the course participants through the modules by highlighting the important elements of each topic and/or theme. It also points to the essential reading material necessary for each module, including, *inter alia*; resolutions and agreements pertaining to the topics under study; treaties; cases, case studies and statutory provisions and books. The Study Guide will also help the students to set their learning objectives.

In addition, a **Course Tutor** will be in charge of the Virtual Classroom and will assign course work on a weekly basis; participate in both classroom and online discussions and respond to questions and comments from course participants. Tutors will also assist in suggesting appropriate material for further reading and will keep in constant contact with the participants to respond to any difficulties being experienced in understanding the course materials.

Participants are required to send a summary of their work on a periodic basis to Course Tutors for reviewing.

Teaching methods employed include, *inter alia*, lectures, group studies and discussions and practical and simulation exercises.

Target Audience: Small states Professionals who are either working in the implementation of environmental, sustainable development, trade policy and economic planning at national, regional or international level; and/or are involved in environmental and sustainable development negotiations at regional or international level.

Qualifications: Participants are required to have attained a minimal academic qualification at the first degree level or have five years relevant work experience.

Access to and firm commitment to work on the Internet:

Since a significant part of the course is being offered in a virtual environment, it is important that participants be familiar and comfortable with working online, including the use of chat rooms and virtual foras.

Certification:

Participants who complete all the Course requirements will receive a Commonwealth Secretariat certification. In addition, the course is being evaluated by the Commonwealth of Learning with the view of obtaining accreditation under the Transnational Qualification Framework (TQF); a reference system which links national qualifications, systems and frameworks in different countries and regions.

Course outline:

Residential: November – December 2011	
<i>Module 1</i>	Placing Environment and Sustainable Development into its Historical Context: The Shaping of the International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development
<i>Module 2</i>	The Functioning of the International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development and the Follow-up
<i>Module 7-9</i>	Presentations on Social and Economic Issues
	Regional Specific Module
	Caribbean: Caribbean Community Environmental Law: Implications for The CARICOM Single Market and Economy
	Pacific and AIMS Regions: Planning for Environment and Sustainable Development: Institutional and Legal Frameworks.
On-Line: January – April 2012	
Week 1	Review of Residential Phase; Introduction to Virtual Classroom, the On-line Resource Centre; on-line course overview and approach.
Week 2	<i>Module 3 (a)</i> International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development, with Specific Focus on the Sustainable Management of the Marine Environment
Week 3	<i>Module 3 (b)</i> Protecting Our Oceans and Seas: International Civil Liability
Week 4	<i>Module 4</i> Instruments for Addressing Climate Change
Week 5	<i>Module 5</i> Instruments for Addressing Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management
Week 6	Review of Assignments 3 and 4
Week 7	<i>Module 6 (a)</i> Interrelationships between Environment and Sustainable Development Policy and Trade Policy
Week 8	<i>Module 6 (b)</i> Interrelationships between Environment and Sustainable Development Policy and Trade Policy
Week 9	<i>Module 10</i> International Financial Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development
Week 10	<i>Module 11</i> The International Architecture for Fighting Transnational Environmental Crimes
Week 11	<i>Module 12</i> Options for Rio 2012
Week 12	Evaluation of Final Assignment, Review and Evaluation of the Course

Costs and Financial Aid:

This initial offering of the course is free, but costs for future courses will be reviewed subsequently.

For the residential phase, travel expenses and daily subsistence will be incurred.

The Commonwealth Secretariat will cover the travel expenses (economy) and daily subsistence of one participant from each Commonwealth small state.

Other candidates wishing to join the training programme will have to meet this cost.

Registration Process:

Countries are advised to nominate candidates for the course by sending the completed nomination form (enclosed) to:

Elaine Ogilvie,
Coordinator,
Commonwealth Secretariat,
Economic Affairs Division,
Marlborough House, Pall Mall,
London SW1Y, 5HX.
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7747 6255,
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7747 6235
Email: smallstatesinfo@commonwealth.int.



Training Programme for Small States

“International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development”

Residential – Caribbean 7-11 November 2011; AIMS 21-25 November 2011; Pacific 5-9 December 2011

Online – January – April 2012

NOMINATION FORM

To be returned to the Commonwealth Secretariat

NOT LATER THAN Thursday November, 3rd 2011

Attn: ELAINE OGILVIE

Fax: + 44 207 747 6235

Email: smallstatesinfo@commonwealth.int

Please fill in BLOCK CAPITAL letters

Title: _____

First name(s): _____

Family name(s): _____

Designation: _____

Department: _____

Ministry: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: (country code): ⁺_____ (area code): _____ (number): _____

Fax: (country code): ⁺_____ (area code): _____ (number): _____

Email address: _____

What aspects of your current work would benefit from this course? _____

How will this course benefit you and your organisation? _____

Economic Affairs Division

Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom

www.thecommonwealth.org