CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

"SCIENTIFIC MEGASTORIES"

A TRAINING CYCLE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

DEADLINE: 30 JULY 2020
From August 2020 to February 2021, CFI, the French Media Development agency, is offering a training opportunity for up to 10 journalists in Vietnam to improve their skills on crafting megastories with a focus on

Air Quality
Water pollution
Agroecology

APPLY NOW!
Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar are all predominantly rural countries; indeed, in the last three, more people work in the agricultural sector than any other.

These four countries are among those that are most affected by climate change, especially in rural areas. They also have to cope with major challenges in terms of air and water pollution, food safety and new pandemics.

Faced with these threats, the work carried out by journalists is absolutely critical, as it makes it possible to raise people's awareness and inform them about the issues linked to sustainable development, so that they will be inspired to play their part in making the environmental changes needed in their respective countries.

Launched in 2019, the Mekong: Sustainable News project is helping to improve how scientific news topics are being processed in the Mekong region, especially by digital media organisations. It is encouraging journalists to cover environmental subjects in a positive and humane way, by highlighting actionable solutions.

By acting as intermediaries between the scientific community and the general public, journalists can better inform their audience about the most relevant issues concerning the key challenges ahead.

The project is specifically financed by the Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects, Civil Societies, French-Speaking Countries and Human Development, which is run by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.
The training cycle will start in August 2020 and will last for 6 months. It will gather up to 5 participants from Hanoi and 5 participants from Ho Chi Minh City, committing to attending 4 training sessions and coaching sessions once a month by a professional journalism trainer to publish at least 2 online multimedia stories linked to specific scientific issues linked to sustainable development and environment.

The following topics will be taught during the training sessions:

- Introduction to air quality and its measurement
- Introduction to microplastics pollution in the water and its potential impact on human health
- Introduction to the notion of agroecology and natural resources management in Northern and Southern Vietnam
- Use of data, data analysis and data visualisation
- Storytelling and debunking misinformation techniques to write compelling science stories.
To ensure the quality of the program, CFI is partnering with the leading Vietnamese training organization VJTC and the leading French organization GRET, to provide journalism training, scientific data and reliable expertise on these topics. Field trips will be organized to allow participants to work on visual stories. Other leading French research agencies will be associated to the training to provide outstanding insights to this training program.

The training will be accompanied by one CFI project staff and at least two trainers specialized in scientific reporting, environmental storytelling and data visualisation. The training sessions will be followed by individual mentored writing sessions on specific topics selected by the project team together with the participants.

During these sessions the participants will have to develop at least two visual stories on an environmental related issue, which is in line with the overall and specific objectives and main communication messages of the project.

The writing process will be fully supervised and mentored by the project team and experts in form of advice for literature, research methods, statistical data, writing style, etc.

The project will apply an innovative approach to teaching through scientific "nano-modules", field trips, expert talks and digital media professionnel.

Stories will be published on the participants’ respective news platforms. The participant who will have gained more audience engagement with his/her story will win a prize enabling him/her to continue telling stories.

The Mekong Sustainable News project is implemented by CFI the French Media Development Agency, and supported by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.
WHO SHOULD APPLY

Participation in the MEKONG SUSTAINABLE NEWS training cycle is awarded on a competitive basis. All training expenses will be covered by the project and experienced media experts will support the participants in the development of their articles on environment related issues. Thus, it is a unique opportunity to participate at this training.

Eligible candidates have to be citizens from Vietnam with preferably notions of English. They need to have some experience in working in media and some knowledge on environment and sustainable development. They must be available to participate in the full training cycle from August, 2020 to February 2021 (each training will last maximum 2-3 days only). Reporting fees to work on 2 megastories will be covered and a prize will be awarded to the best story.

The following people are eligible to apply:

- Junior or established journalists and media content producers from Vietnam. Freelance journalists are also encouraged to apply
- Journalists and media creators who already attended a training in the framework of the CFI Mekong Sustainable News project in 2019 are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Interest in environmental and scientific topics

A good level in English is recommended but not compulsory

CFI will have the rights to publish, broadcast and distribute the published stories freely.
APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE

- **Recent CV** including contact information and a short biography (up to 100 words) and references (contact of line manager, co-worker).

- **Copies or links of up to three published stories/journalistic pieces** related to environment in English or Vietnamese language (in most common file format (MS Word – for text articles/blogs, etc; AVI, WMV – for video; PCM, WAV or MP3 – for audio stories. Please, contact the organisers, if there are questions related to the file format).

- **Short motivation letter** explaining the wish to participate in the training.

*All materials must be submitted in English language (except the copies of the articles to be submitted in their original published version).*

**Only selected participants will be contacted.** The organisers reserve the right to contact journalists via email or phone before making the final selection. The training session will be held in English and Vietnamese languages. Participation in the trainings is free of charge, meals and training materials will be covered.

Click on the APPLY NOW button at the bottom of the page.

Questions on the procedure can be asked to:
- vananh.vjtc@gmail.com & mailan.mdm@gmail.com (Vietnamese)
- or clz@cfi.fr (English)

until July 30th, 2020 at 5 PM Vietnamese Standard Time (GMT +7)

Submission of complete applications by July 30th, 2020 at 5 PM Vietnamese Standard Time (GMT +7) via the dedicated online form

Potential consultations and notifications of acceptance with shortlisted candidates: 31st July - 7 August 2020

APPLICATION PROCESS

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#MEKONGNEWS

INNOVATIVE JOURNALISM.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.