

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development Scholarship Program

OAS/DHD-CIR. 145/2007

1. **Study venue:** United States Telecommunications Training Institute, 1150 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, DC 20036, United States of America
2. **Offered by:** Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) under the auspices of the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), Regional Training Center of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).
3. **Coordinator:** Brian T. McCloskey, USTTI Curriculum Director, Email: bmccloskey@ustti.org Phone: (202) 785-7373, Fax: (202) 785 1930
4. **Modality:** On site
5. **Start and end dates:** October 9 – 15, 2007
6. **Course duration:** 7 days
7. **Language:** English
8. **Objectives:** The course is designed to address preparation for natural and manmade disasters in which normal communications are often disrupted by physical damage, system overload, weather conditions, or natural features such as terrain.

Site selection, planning and design considerations, and the purposes and uses of Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) will be featured, along with the requirements for interfacing between EOCs and government officials, public safety operations, public and government media, emergency medical response and radio amateur networks. Participants will tour several types of EOCs, communications centers and commercial television facilities. Special focus will be on methods of tracking and exchanging critical information prior to, during and after an emergency, including use of computerized maps, data management, modeling and communications. The course will cover vulnerability assessment and telecommunications infrastructure development requirements for disaster-prone regions, and operations issues such as emergency access to telephone central offices and reordering of existing radio networks.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Participants will be introduced to a wide range of technologies including Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs), wireless mobile and fixed satellite and terrestrial communications, remote sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS – positioning location), and Geographic Information System (GIS). Participants will be given the tools to help them evaluate which technologies will be of most potential use to them for a wide range of applications including: refugee management, anti-terrorism, disaster recovery and relief operations, early detection and warning, public safety, public information and emergency medical including telemedicine.

9. **Participant Learning Objectives:** At the conclusion of this course, selected officials should heighten their ability to anticipate disaster-related communications needs and to develop an understanding of how to integrate available communications facilities and services into a disaster network
10. **Methodology:** Participants will receive hands-on and classroom instruction from a variety of different Emergency Operations Centers, broadcast facilities and communications centers.
11. **Requirements:**
 - a. Citizenship or permanent residence of an OAS Member State, with the exception of the United States since is the host country.
 - b. Participant profile: Managerial, planning, preparedness and technology applications.
 - c. At least, two years of experience in their field of work.
 - d. Submission of completed application form by the deadline set by the National Liaison Organization (ONE).¹ It is the candidate's responsibility to ascertain the deadline set by the ONE in his or her country of residence
 - e. In addition to the OAS application, applicants must also submit a formal application through the USTTI prior to September 7, 2007. Applications may be filed through USTTI's web site: <http://ustti.org>
12. **Benefits:**
 - For successful candidates, CITELOAS will cover round trip economy class air tickets from country of origin or residence to Washington, DC, United States of America²
 - USTTI will provide a scholarship of \$400.00 to subsidize hotel, living and ground transportation expenses and will waive the \$150.00 administrative fee. **However, CITEL fellows are responsible for securing a minimum of USD\$600.00 to cover the remaining hotel (shared room), living and ground transportation expenses for this training.**

¹ The deadline for presentation of applications to the (ONE) differs from country to country and should therefore be confirmed with the relevant ONE in the applicant's country of origin or permanent residence.

² Funds for terminal and in-transit expenses are NOT provided

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

13. Responsibilities of selected candidates:

- *The selected candidates must confirm their acceptance to the OAS Department of Human Development in Washington, DC., through the OAS General Secretariat Office in their respective countries and through the ONE in order for the OAS to proceed with making the necessary travel arrangements to purchase the air travel tickets, economy class, round-trip, between their country of origin or residence and the study location or, if the scholarship is refused, to appoint another candidate.*
- Upon selection, candidates must accept the scholarship by confirming to CITEL their availability to follow the course during the period indicated and their acceptance of the duly provided conditions of study.
- Upon acceptance of the scholarship, candidates must promptly liaise with USTTI Curriculum Director Brian T. McCloskey (bmccloskey@ustti.org) to arrange for hotel accommodations and other logistical aspects of participation.
- Selected scholarship recipients are responsible for obtaining the necessary visa(s) to enter the country of study and the corresponding transit(s). The OAS will not be responsible for any costs relating to obtaining visas or transfer documentation.
- Each scholarship recipient is responsible for arriving in time for the commencement of activities on the date established by the institution offering the course or program.
- If the scholarship recipient fails to travel on the scheduled dates, or change routes, after the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) has purchased his/her travel ticket, he/she will be responsible for paying the difference in ticket costs in order to arrive at the course site in time. The scholarship recipient will furthermore have to **reimburse** the GS/OAS the total cost of the airfare for his/her travel from his/her country of residence to the site where the Professional Development Course will take place and back if, after the ticket has been purchased, he/she declines the scholarship without written authorization from the Department of Human Development. The latter includes any additional costs, if any, incurred by the GS/OAS, such as extra costs for accommodation during the scholarship recipient's travel to and from the country where the course will be held.

14. **Certification:** USTTI will provide each participant with a certificate upon successful completion of the course.

15. **Presentation of candidacies:** OAS scholarship applications must be submitted using the *Formulario para Solicitud de Beca de Desarrollo Profesional/ Application Form for Professional Development Scholarship (098/02/07)*, including all documentation required. Applications must be forwarded to the Organization of American States through the official channels established by the government of each country (ONE). **This is a mandatory requirement.**

The following is the list of National Liaison Organizations (ONEs) in the OAS Member states: <http://www.educoas.org/portal/en/oasbecas/ones.aspx?culture=en&navid=282>

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

OAS Forms may be obtained from the OAS offices of the General Secretariat in the Member states or via the fellowship application page using the following link <http://www.educoas.org/portal/en/oasbecas/formspd.aspx?culture=en&navid=282>

Please note that the official announcement is published in the language of instruction of the course and is available via the Educational Portal of the Americas Web page at: <http://www.educoea.org>.

Any questions regarding submission of applications for this course should be sent to: Scholarships@oas.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS CORRESPONDING TO THE 2007 REGULAR BUDGET

Sincerely,

Maria Levens,
Director
Department of Human Development

C.c.: Course Coordinator
Course file