

Regional Senior Managers' Course Planned for Vietnam, Sept/Oct 2015 (written remarks for MASG meeting 17 February 2015 from JMU CISR)

After hosting nine global Senior Managers' Courses (SMC) in ERW and mine action on the campus of James Madison University (JMU), the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) at JMU launched its first regional SMC in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in May 2014. CISR worked in close collaboration with the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) to bring 24 participants from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Nepal, Tajikistan, and Yemen together for three weeks of classroom and field-based instruction.

CISR worked with its JMU faculty partners, local host TNMAC and the course sponsor, US DOS PM/WRA, to redesign the SMC in 2014 with a regional focus to better accommodate the evolving scope and curricular requirements of today's national ERW and mine action programs. Specifically, it allowed for the program's curriculum to be adapted to the particular technical and capacity building needs of the participating countries and take advantage of shared experiences and cultures within the region.

In 2015, CISR, with course sponsor PM/WRA and local partners, will conduct its second regional course, this time for the countries of Southeast Asia. The course will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam with field visits to clearance sites in the central provinces. Course dates are set tentatively for late September/early October, with exact dates to be determined by May 1 when application materials will be available. Course enrollment will be 25, with applicants required to submit a detailed application form, a letter of support from their program director, and certification of adequate English language ability. Travel costs to Vietnam must be covered by the participants' employer or through another funding source. The costs of instruction, including accommodations in Vietnam, local travel to and from field sites, and meals will be provided by the course sponsor.

Countries invited to submit applications include: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma (Myanmar), Sri Lanka and Thailand. Confirmed course dates and application information will be posted to the CISR website at: <http://jmu.edu/cisr>.

CISR and its JMU College of Business faculty partners look forward to offering another Senior Managers' Course in 2015, and thank the US DOS PM/WRA for its continued commitment to the course and for guidance in helping to maintain the course's proven value to the CWD community of practice. CISR is prepared to continue to develop new and innovative ways to meet the community's ongoing need for program management capacity development.

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