



Inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi) from Engineering Colleges/Universities in India

## IIT Bombay-KILA Summer School-2018 Decentralized Water and Sanitation Planning for Small Towns

### Calling Brightest Minds of India to Alappuzha, Kerala

This is to invite Expression of Interest (Eoi) from engineering colleges/universities across India to participate in the Summer School – 2018 on Decentralized Water and Sanitation planning in Alappuzha, Kerala.

Alappuzha town, situated on the Western Coast of Kerala is sandwiched between the Arabian Sea in the west and the beautiful Vembanad Lake in the East. Among the other riches of the town, noted architect Laurie Baker in his book 'Venice of The East' (1999) counts famous and still beautiful canals, the distinctive old buildings and small shops by the side, and a rich crop of ancient mosques, churches and temples. The backwaters have high economic and ecological relevance but the town is slowly losing its sheen owing to indiscriminate dumping of solid and liquid waste into the canals.

Appreciatively, due to the remarkable efforts of the government in solid waste management, especially by the MLA of Alappuzha and the current Finance Minister of Kerala, Dr. Thomas Isaac in the last two years, the town received an international award from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2017. But, the pitiful state of liquid waste management is still an issue of concern as it is affecting the health of the canals and the inhabitants, at large. Once considered richest resources of the town, the canals now are no more than waste carrying drains. Looking at the apathy of citizens towards the canals and difficulty in addressing the issue through conventional means, the Alappuzha Municipality with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) and SCMS Water Institute conducted a Winter School in December, 2017. It involved training and survey components to understand practices and access to services in water and sanitation at household level; and mapping of drains / canals to identify waste hotspots and encroachments in the major canals. The exercise led to identification of problematic areas and possible technological and institutional interventions.

Inspired by the success of first Winter School-2017, IIT Bombay and the Government of Kerala with the active involvement of the Finance Minister and support from KILA are conducting a Summer School in May, 2018 in Alappuzha Municipality. The Cochin University College of Engineering, Kuttanad (CUCEK), Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination Society (CDD), Bengaluru and the Inspiration team, Cochin are also collaborating in this endeavor. The aim of the upcoming Summer School-2018 is to provide a platform for students from all over India to interact with and learn from the experts, peers, practitioners and local people and to go beyond classroom learning in order to understand the complexities of water and sanitation issues.

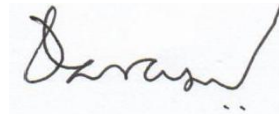
We invite Expression of Interest (Eoi) from engineering colleges / universities across India to participate in the Summer School-2018. Please note that students pursuing Master / Bachelor degree (for Bachelor degree, students who completed sixth semester by May 2018) in civil/environmental engineering/architecture/planning in any university/institution of any state in India can apply. We have limited number of seats (~400). Students are expected to pay INR 1000/- as registration fee, which will be refunded after successful completion of the Summer School. Selected students, during their stay at Alappuzha, will be provided training on smart tools- mobile apps and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to be used for canal mapping and household survey. They will also work out details of interventions needed in each canal including the financial estimates for canal cleaning and implementing decentralized technology solutions. Students will also get an opportunity to interact with the leading experts in water, waste water management, pollution mitigation and policy analysis through a daily lecture series. The entire cost of boarding, lodging and local travel of students will be borne by the organizers.

Some of the major challenges which would be of interest to the students would be discussed in detail during the program by domain experts from across the country. The following glimpses may be worth reading to throw some light: The network of canals in Alappuzha is now diverse and exists as a complex system. Much of the area of the canals is inaccessible, width of some portion of canals is too shallow to use existing excavators, in addition to sewage and black water the canals are lifeless with plastic and other pollutants, there are encroachments in some portions of the canals, unprotected side bunds and growth of vegetation are some of the challenges to be tackled. A methodology suitable for cleaning, protecting and maintaining the canals is to be devised based on the deliberations of the Summer School and this would be a most useful academic as well as social exercise to make the participants more rounded professionals.

The Summer School will be conducted as three independent one week modules in the month of May. The selected students will be allotted to one of the modules and participation on all seven days is mandatory. Interested colleges can send their EoI to participate in the Summer School-2018 through an email to [sanitationalp1@gmail.com](mailto:sanitationalp1@gmail.com). The email should have clear subject title (EoI – Summer School-2018, Alappuzha), indicate number of students that the college want to send to Summer School-2018 and details (name, designation, phone number, email-id, postal address etc.) of the contact person at the college. After getting your EoI, by the third week of February 2018, we will inform you the details of student registration process through our web portal. For any further clarifications or doubts, please reach us at [ncn.alpsummerschool@gmail.com](mailto:ncn.alpsummerschool@gmail.com). We look forward to have you at the Summer School-2018 in Alappuzha, Kerala.



Dr. Joy Elamon  
Director  
Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)  
Mulamkunnathukavu P O, Thrissur - 680581,  
Off Phone : 0487-2201312, 2207000  
Email : director@kila.ac.in



Prof. NC Narayanan,  
Centre for Policy Studies,  
IIT Bombay.  
Off Phone: (022)-2576-7842  
Email: ncn@iitb.ac.in

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018