



## Opening: INI Regional Centers Europe, South Asia, East Asia

In view of the completion of the term-of-office of the current Directors of the INI Regional Centers for Europe (Kevin Hicks), South Asia (Tapan Adhya) and East Asia (Xiaotang Ju), INI is seeking an eligible person to lead its activities over the following 3 years. They shall be exceptional scientists in relevant field(s) with broad interests in various aspects of reactive nitrogen science, including research, application, policy and networking. As a member of the INI Steering Committee (INI SC), each regional Director will foster a wide international engagement of nitrogen science, technology and policy communities within the global activities of INI. This includes engaging with relevant stakeholders in the governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and facilitating the triennial International Nitrogen Conference. The background information related to INI and this call for Regional Directors is provided below, while more details on INI activities are available at: <https://initrogen.org/>

### Overview of INI

**Mission:** INI is an international network of nitrogen scientists that has as its mission to address the problems of too much or too little nitrogen in the environment, as these situations threaten a wide range of global concerns, including water, soil and air quality, climate and carbon sequestration, ecosystems, biodiversity, food security and human health.

**Authorization:** INI was established as a joint project of the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) (a body established by ICSU, the International Council for Science) and of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). Now that IGBP has completed its program in 2015, INI is a part of ICSU's new 'Future Earth' programme.

**Organization:** INI conducts its activities at global and regional scales through a Steering Committee consisting of Chair, and Regional Directors for East Asia, South Asia, North America, Latin America, Africa, Oceania and Europe, and international Project Leaders.

**Projects:** As a leading nitrogen scientist, the INI Centre Director is expected to be engaged in their own research projects but will also actively facilitate the development and application of global nitrogen science, including participation in the ongoing INI projects. The INI does not yet have specific funding to support international or regional projects but can aid in supporting such proposals and project developments.

One such project in progress is the GEF-UNEP project 'Towards International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)', which includes several regional assessments involving local stakeholders to build a more robust global assessment with strong regional data.

**INI Conferences:** One of the major tasks of INI is to organize the International Nitrogen Conference series, which is the leading global forums for discussion of nitrogen science and its implications for policy (Netherlands - Noordwijkerhout 1998, USA - Washington N2001, China - Nanjing N2004, Brazil - Costa de Sauipe N2007, India - New Delhi N2010, Uganda - Kampala N2013, Melbourne – Australia N2016 and the virtual conference in Berlin, Germany N2021).2021. The conference declarations generated high-profile global messages for action (e.g., Nanjing Declaration, Delhi Declaration, Kampala Statement for Action, Melbourne Declaration, Berlin Declaration), and the Conference provides opportunity for interdisciplinary networking with stakeholders and publishing key conference proceedings.

**Recent achievements:** A major milestone was the first ever UN resolution on ‘Sustainable Nitrogen Management’ (UNEA 4, Mar 2019) adopted with the efforts of present and past INI Chairs. The INI has a long-term interest in developing science-based syntheses and assessments related to the nitrogen cycle to promote evidence-based policies and international cooperation for action. The leading examples include US Technical Report on Climate-Nitrogen Interactions and the European, Indian and Pakistan Nitrogen Assessments, while assessment activities in other regions are in progress under INMS. INI also led the development of the Global Overview on Nutrient Management, “Our Nutrient World”, commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Key outputs from INI scientists have also featured regularly in the pages of *Science*, *Nature* and many other scientific journals.

**Future outlook:** The key tasks of INI for the next 3-5 years include its scientific and geographical expansion and building stronger ties between the science community and international policy processes. The INI will continue to develop partnerships to highlight the relevance of sustainable nitrogen management in all the existing conventions including UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, UNECE-LRTAP, and work closely with UNEP-GPNM, OECD, as well as working with UNEP’s recently formed Inter-Convention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM).

**Roles of the INI Regional Directors:**

- To contribute to nitrogen science networking internationally and lead regional activities of INI over the following 3 years.
- To promote and disseminate regional nitrogen science and policies and to link them with global efforts (including policy processes, improved practices, public understanding of science).
- To contribute regularly to the INI SC teleconferences, approximately every 3 months.
- To identify, in discussion with the INI SC, some actions where the Regional Director would take a lead, including representing INI at key national/regional/international meetings/activities.
- To appoint a Deputy Director and a Regional Executive of around 5 scientists, representing the countries/disciplines of the region to supporting the work of INI in the region.
- To contribute as an active member of the INI-SC to the International Nitrogen Conferences.

**Tenure and Transition:** Each INI SC member is appointed for a three year term (July 2022 – June 2025, preferably with an overlapping period of up to one year between the outgoing and incoming Regional Directors to enable smooth transition.

**Expressing Interest:** If you are considering to be nominated, we suggest that you contact the current INI Director in your region and register your interest with the recruitment committee by sending your nomination documents (see below). If you would like to nominate someone else, please send a letter of nomination describing the suitability of the nominee to the email address below. For any further details in this regard, feel free to contact the recruitment committee or any of the INI SC members (for contact details, see [www.initrogen.org](http://www.initrogen.org)).

**Nomination:** Please email nominations to the recruitment committee no later than **30<sup>th</sup> July 2022**, with the following documents:

- a) A copy of your *curriculum vitae*, including publication list, grants list and other key outputs.
- b) A covering letter where you: **outline your vision** for the next three years for the INI Regional Centre, **identify any areas of special interest** that you would like to develop through the INI network, and **quantify the extent of your time availability** to contribute as the INI Regional Centre Director and **indicating the names**, contact and affiliation of 1 or 2 referees who **nominate** you.
- c) A separate **letter of nomination** from those nominating you, clearly recommending your suitability as the Regional Centre Director and confirming your time availability for the role.

**Note on remuneration:** All members of the INI-SC including the Regional Directors are appointed in honorary roles and are NOT paid by INI for their contribution. However, involvement with INI offers many invaluable opportunities for international engagement and for development of funded projects to support the mission of INI.

**Eligibility and selection process:** The candidate for the Director of the INI Regional Centre must hold a Ph.D. and be an active scientist/scholar. They shall be exceptional scientists in relevant field(s) with broad interests in all aspects of reactive nitrogen, including research, application, policy and networking. Evaluation of the candidates will be conducted by the INI Steering Committee, based on the submitted nomination documents in relation to the roles described above. Shortlisted nominees may be interviewed through online teleconferencing.

**Circulation:** This is a public document and may be shared across websites and email networks.

**Contact details:** Applicants should send nominations or any further enquires to Dr Cameron Gourley, Leader INI Recruitment Committee at [cjpgourley@gmail.com](mailto:cjpgourley@gmail.com)