

NEWDAY – The Nansen East-West Dialogue Academy

Invitation to the East-West Dialogue Academy Summer Course 2017

Are you one of the students we are looking for? You are interested in the surrounding society, the reality that you are a part of, a reality you ideally want to contribute to improving. You know that societies are diverse in many ways, and you understand that international communication is a difficult but increasingly important discipline.

If this description fits you, please continue reading.

The East-West Dialogue Academy summer course is organized for East Asian and Nordic university students. The event will take place from 4th to 14th July 2017 in the city of Lillehammer in Norway.

The global issues confronting us today are many: increasing inequality is causing growing social insecurity within nations and instability between them. Internationally new East-West tensions are on the rise, undermining the much needed concerted efforts of curbing climate change that is threatening life on earth altogether. An informed and continuous cross-cultural dialogue is required as a fundamental common basis in order to engage in and contribute to tackling such serious problems. Against this background, we invite you to spend part of your summer vacation at the East-West Dialogue Academy in Lillehammer, Norway.

We are a group of social science and humanities scholars who strongly believe that channels for global conversation and collaboration are needed more than ever, and that international, cross-cultural dialogues are urgent and necessary peace promoting activities. At Lillehammer you will meet counterparts from China, Japan and Korea as well as from the five Nordic countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. You will have the opportunity to form lifelong friendships with a group of people among which global leaders are to be found, and thus be a part of an interesting and potential influential network.

We call this summer course the Nansen East-West Dialogue Academy (NEWDAY) after the Norwegian Polar explorer and diplomat Fridtjof Nansen, and we hope to engage each other in his pioneering spirit. The local environment is beautiful. Norwegian summer days are long and even the nights are full of light. The social and academic climate that we offer is creative, open-minded and challenging. And, we believe, together we can make a difference.

We cooperate with leading universities in the above-mentioned eight countries, and with the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat in Seoul as well as with the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen. The event is further supported by the Fudan-European Centre for China Studies, NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies and the Nansen Academy.

We hope you will consider joining us. Attached follows more information and an application form to be returned to NIAS by 1 March 2017. The organizing committee will decide about your attendance by 1 April 2017.

On behalf of the organizers,

Geir Helgesen, Director, NIAS