

AFSIB MEMBER - STUDENTS' INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND

(Established by AFSIB as an outreach activity of the 8aff2007, Kochi)

GUIDELINES

ABOUT THE TRAVEL FUND

The AFSIB Member-Students international travel Fund is an outreach of the 8th Asian Fisheries Forum held in November, 2007 in Kochi, India. This was the first international forum of the Asian Fisheries society (AFS) ever held in India which gave our scientists an unique opportunity to present their best research while experiencing the taste of international quality in research output dissemination sustained by the AFS ever since its inception in 1984. The 8aff2007 was attended by over 1000 delegates from 33 countries. This was also an opportunity for the Indian Branch of AFS to demonstrate our capabilities in organizing international events of such magnitude with all arrangements for registration, accommodation, transport, event management, multi-cuisine catering, holding 5 parallel sessions and international symposia concurrently, poster presentations, trade exhibitions, membership enrolment, travel bookings, banking, post forum tour facilities and punctual and professionally managed conduct and management of all processes with precision and quality. It was decided by the National Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee of 8aff2007 that the AFSIB should provide opportunities to brilliant and promising young scientists to showcase their best research in future AFS Forum to be held in rotation once in 3 years in the Asian countries. With this objective in view, it was decided to create a corpus of INR 10,00,000 and deposit in a permanent FD account, the interest accrued from which to be utilized for funding international travel of a few fulltime member-students whose papers have been accepted for oral presentation in the Forum, subject to availability of adequate money in the form of accumulated interest and recommendation by an evaluation committee constituted by AFSIB for the purpose of the award. This travel fund is the outcome of that initiative.

APPROVALS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

The National Advisory Committee of 8aff2007 and the then Executive Committee of AFSIB had accepted the concept of establishing the member-students' international travel fund and agreed upon the basics. However, detailed guidelines are prepared only now at the time of the fund transfer so that once these are accepted by the AFSIB, there will not be any future changes or diversion of the funds at any time from corpus. Earlier, the General Body of the AFSIB which met in December 2011 at Chennai during the 9th Indian Fisheries forum resolved the creation of the fund and its operation and management by the AFSIB.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Member-students' International Travel Funds are:

1. To partially cover the cost of participation in the Asian Fisheries Forum held once in 3 years in one of the Asian countries by reimbursing the cheapest economy class excursion return air fare to an AFSIB Member-Student whose paper has been accepted for oral presentation in the Forum
2. To promote the spirit of competition in carrying out high quality research in areas of fisheries science in India.
3. To attract the next generation of researchers to the brotherhood of Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch and provide opportunities for wider scientific exposure, interaction and handholding.
4. To involve the student- researcher in activities of AFS and AFSIB by providing a platform for interaction and collaboration with the best fisheries researchers in the world during the Forum and to continue the association for mutual benefit.

TERMS OF AWARD OF TRAVEL GRANT

1. The applicant must be a Member of the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (Full Member / Student Member) with at least **two years of active paid membership** at the time of applying. Joining the AFSIB as a member the purpose of availing the travel grant will be discouraged.
2. The applicant for the travel grant must be a **full time student-researcher** who has registered for a postgraduate degree in any one of the Indian Universities/ Deemed Universities at the time of applying
3. The candidate must be an **Indian Citizen** and a **full time registered student for a research degree in India** and must be residing in India. The journey for participation will be from India to the city of the Forum and back to India. Round trip through multi-city will not be allowed. Student identity / proof of studentship will have to be produced.
4. The candidate must be the **first author** of the paper. The **FULL PAPER** will have to be submitted for evaluation. Proof of acceptance from Forum Secretariat will have to be produced.
5. The cost of **excursion fare air ticket by the shortest and cheapest route** by the candidate will be reimbursed by the AFSIB. Travel of spouse will not be funded. Only

international travel will be covered by the Travel Grant from the port of exit from India to port of re-entry to India.

6. The Travel Award will be through **reimbursement of the international ticket fare**. Reimbursement will be made after presenting proof of participation, proof of presentation, copy of air ticket and any other documentary evidence as required, including photocopy of the printed abstract of the paper from the Book of Abstracts of the Forum.

7. A candidate can avail the award only once in the student career. Unsuccessful candidates can apply for the next forum if they fulfill the other criteria.

8. The travel grant is to cover only air ticket, but will not cover registration Fee, boarding/lodging, visa fee, local transport, *per diem etc* for which the candidate must make other arrangements.

9. There is no age limit; however candidates below 35 years of age will have preference over others

10. The number of travel grant available will vary. The decision will be taken by the Award Committee depending on the amount available for the purpose and the cost of air ticket.

11. AFSIB is an equal opportunity organization and especially encourages application from female candidates and those representing socially and economically weaker sections.

WHEN TO APPLY

The AFSIB will call for applications for award through the website of the Society www.afsib.in about six months prior to the commencement of every Asian Fisheries Forum.

HOW TO APPLY

Application blanks can be downloaded from the website of the Society www.afsib.in after the Society makes the announcement of the Travel Grant for a particular Forum. Completed applications with electronic copy of the paper must be submitted to the AFSIB before the deadline. Applications submitted with Abstracts alone will not be considered. The results of selection will be uploaded on the website as well as communicated individually to all applicants.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

The purpose of the Travel grant is to promote good fisheries science research in India. The Award Committee will consider, among other parameters, the following aspects while deciding on the Award.

1. The originality of the concept, objectives, design, analysis and inferences.
2. The usefulness of the research in resolving existing or emerging problems / concerns which will have a direct bearing or impact on Indian fisheries and aquaculture.
3. The discussion leading to new thoughts, approaches, applications.
4. The social, economic and environmental inclusiveness of the research and the likely benefits accrued from the research for the country.

SELECTION COMMITTEE: STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The award Selection committee will be constituted by the Chairman, AFSIB with a jury of 3 members and a Chairman, whose decisions will be given due consideration in the final decision by the Executive Committee of Society.