



Call for Participants of 2024 IRCK Training Course

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON KARST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PRE-CIRCULAR

**UNESCO International Research Centre on Karst
(IRCK)**

April 15-28, 2024

Guilin • Wuhan • Beijing, China

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON KARST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Background and aims:

Approved by the 34th General Conference of UNESCO in October 2007, an International Research Center on Karst (IRCK) under the auspices of UNESCO (Category II) was established in Guilin, China, the Agreement between the Chinese government and UNESCO concerning the Establishment and Operation of the IRCK was signed in Paris on February 11, 2008 and the Center was officially inaugurated in December 2008. On May 12, 2016, the Renewed Agreement for the Center was signed between Chinese government and UNESCO. In June 2023, Mr. Wang Guanghua, Minister of Natural Resources, on behalf of the Chinese government, officially signed the Tripartite Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China, UNESCO and IRCK on the renewal of the IRCK's Status as a Category 2 Center Supported by UNESCO, with Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr. Peng Xuanming, Director of IRCK, indicating the formal Phase-III operation of IRCK.

IRCK is based at the Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS), located at No. 50 Qixing Road, Guilin, Guangxi 541004, P. R. China. Its objectives and functions are, to provide advisory activities, technical information and training as a basis to advance karst sciences, undertake international technical consultation and organize international workshops and symposia on special subjects, scientific field investigations, and lectures and so on. It successfully organized twelve international training courses onsite in Guilin, Nanning, Chongqing, Kunming, Xiangxi and three international training courses online in the past 15 years, which were attended by 452 trainees from 56 countries.

With the support of the Institute of Karst Geology, CAGS, China Science and Technology and Exchange Center and Institute of Hydrobiology, CAS, IRCK will organize **the International Training Course on “Karst and Climate Change”** in Guilin, Wuhan, Beijing, to be scheduled on April 15th ~ 28th, 2024, with the aim of enhancing research cooperation and academic exchange between China and other countries, and sharing Chinese successful experience in groundwater aquatic ecology research with colleagues overseas. The Chinese groundwater scientists warmly welcome geologists, hydrologists and related administrators and scientists from all over the world, especially the developing countries to participate in this upcoming training course.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Time and venue:

The training course will be held in Guilin, Wuhan and Beijing, on April 15 ~ 28, 2024. The hotel will be noticed in Circular II at the beginning of March.

Working language:

The working language is English.

Arrangements:

See Appendix 1

Major topics:

1. Basic knowledge of karst hydrogeology and environmental geology
2. Groundwater utilization and sustainable development
3. Degradation and Restoration of Karst Wetlands
4. Aquatic ecology and carbon cycle

Lecturers:

The organizer of the training course will invite experienced experts and specialists from China and other countries to deliver lectures and usher field excursions.

Trainees:

According to our budget, we will only enroll 20 foreign trainees and 10 Chinese trainees. Once the applicants limit is exceeded, we will choose the more appropriate applicants to join the training course based on your application and recommendation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For alien trainees:

1. **Airfares reimbursement:** Once the applicants were accepted, we will reimburse the applicants' round-trip airfares (from the city where the applicants live to Guilin) less than CNY 9,500 for non-Southeast Asian Countries, and less than CNY 5,500 for Southeast Asian countries, and we could only reimburse economic class ticket due to related policy. Any airfare cost beyond quota would only be possible to be paid by the applicants themselves. When the trainees arrived at the hotel, please submit a copy of the e-ticket and sign your name on it, and we will give you the reimbursement in CNY within one week.
2. **Meals:** We will cover the meals during the training course from Apr.15 to 28, 2024.
3. **Accommodation:** We will reserve single rooms for all the accepted applicants in Guilin, Wuhan and Beijing (maybe double room in Beijing according the price of the hotel) and cover all the accommodation expenses within the duration from April.15 to 28. Any accommodation beyond the duration would only be possible to be paid by the trainees themselves.
4. **Vehicles rental:** Except the vehicles used for the field trip or pick-up/see-off services arranged

by the training course, we will not cover any cost on vehicles rental.

5. **Tuition fees:** The training course is free to all the foreign trainees.

6. **Insurance:** We will provide accident insurance to all the trainees for free.

For Chinese trainees:

All the Chinese trainees are encouraged to cover all the cost by themselves. But for the accommodation, we will reserve rooms in the same hotel for the Chinese trainees, but the room type could be decided by the trainees themselves according to their budget. For the students, we will try to arrange some accommodation for them. Once the trainees arrived at the hotel, please check-in and check-out by yourselves.

Please note that we do not suggest any trainee to bring along dependents.

Visa Application:

We will send scanned invitation letters to all the accepted applicants as soon as possible for visas via email. However, since the training course is supported by IKG, which is administrated by the Ministry of Natural Resources of China (MNR), all the official invitation letters are issued by the MNR. We need at least 2 weeks to submit the accepted applicants' personal information to MNR and get the invitation letters for visas' application.

Weather conditions:

The temperature in Guilin and Wuhan is in the range of 15°C~ 30°C with humid air during the training course. The temperature in Beijing is in the range of 8°C~ 20°C with large temperature difference between day and night. Field dress and rain coat are necessary.

Laptop computer requirement:

Each participant is expected to bring with him/her a laptop computer for the study and presentation preparation during the training course.

Application:

Please find the application form attached to this Circular, then fill in all the blanks for the information we required and send to the designated email address (irck_secretariat@163.com) before **Feb 23, 2024**. The name of your application form is appreciated as "Nationality-Name". Any further information will be sent to you via email.

Contact information:

For further information please contact:
irck_secretariat@163.com

International training course on *Karst and Climate Change*

International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK), UNESCO

Institute of Karst Geology (IKG), CAGS

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Websites: www.irck.org.cn/yrzx_en/index.html

Appendix: 1 Tentative schedule of the training course

2 Application Form

Appendix 1:

Tentative schedule of the training course

Date	Time	Programme	Site
April 15th (Monday)	Full day	Registration	Beijing
April 16th (Tuesday)	Full day	Dialogue on karst and climate change	Beijing
April 17th (Wednesday)	Morning	Indoor lectures: Karst carbon cycle and artificial carbon sink increase	Beijing
	Afternoon	Indoor lectures: Groundwater monitoring and protection of typical karst areas	Beijing
April 18th (Thursday)	Full day	Field practice: Fangshan Global Geopark	Beijing
April 19th (Friday)	Morning	Beijing-Wuhan (G79)	High speed railway
	Afternoon	Hotel check-in	Wuhan
April 20th (Saturday)	Full day	Indoor lectures: Karst aquatic ecosystem and karst carbon cycle	Wuhan
April 21st (Sunday)	Full day	Visit Hubei Provincial Museum; Visit Demonstration area for aquatic ecosystem rehabilitation in Dong Lake	Wuhan
April 22nd (Monday)	Full day	Indoor lectures: Sustainable utilization of karst water resources under the background of climate change	Wuhan
April 23rd (Tuesday)	Morning	Wuhan-Guilin (G439)	High speed railway
	Afternoon	Hotel check-in	Guilin
April 24th (Wednesday)	Full day	Self study	Guilin
April 25th (Thursday)	Full day	Indoor lectures: Karst caves speleothem and climate change	Guilin
April 26th (Friday)	Full day	Field practice: Guilin world natural heritage sites; Yaji Experimental Sites on Karst Hydrogeology; and experimental sites in IRCK new base	Guilin
April 27th (Saturday)	Full day	Trainee assessment and closing ceremony	Guilin
April 28th (Sunday)	Full day	Departure	Guilin

Appendix 2:

Email it **before Feb 23, 2024** to:

Mr. Zhong Liang

irck_secretariat@163.com

International Research Center on Karst, UNESCO

Institute of Karst Geology, CAGS

50 Qixing Road, 541004 Guilin,

Guangxi, P. R. China

Attach a
recent 6 MONTHS
photograph

APPLICATION FORM

For IRCK 2024 International Training Course

1. Last name:
2. First name:
3. Full name (as printed in your passport):
(Underline your name frequently used)
4. Passport number:
5. The city to apply for visa (Embassy/Consulate):
6. Passport's issue date and expiry date:
7. Date of birth:
8. Place of birth:
9. Gender:
10. Present nationality:
11. Nationality at birth:
12. Marital status: ☐ Single ☐ Married
13. Mailing address (Post code should be marked):
14. Fixed telephone number and mobile phone number:
15. Fax number:
16. Email and homepage:
17. Institution (University, Ministry or other):

18. Official position:

19. Education (omit primary schooling):

Institution	Location	Attended from...till...	Degree or qualification earned

20. Number of publications (submit a list of your papers):

21. Languages:

Languages commanded (mother tongue first)	Fluently used language(s)	Language(s) used only for reading

22. Submit a certificate of health issued by public health authorities.

23. What is your main field of research interest?

24. Submit a short letter from your head of department (or president of university, dean of faculty or corresponding) stating to what extent your training can be used at your department, university, laboratory after returning home.

25. Three references:

Full name

Contact Email

(1)

(2)

(3)

26. Are you applying simultaneously for another fellowship or position?

27. Have you studied abroad before?

28. Will you bring with you a laptop computer as required during this course?

29. Please attach the scanned image of your passport.