Open Call: Fulbright Specialist Program
Vessel Traffic Science Open Project

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) is seeking a highly qualified professional to serve as a Specialist for a 42 day project, ‘Advanced Technologies in Vessel Traffic Management Service’ to take place in Egypt.

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP), part of the larger Fulbright Program, was established in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions. Grant benefits include international round-trip economy class airfare, transit allowance, all applicable visa fees, a daily honorarium, enrollment in a limited health benefits program, lodging, meals, and in-country transportation.

Host Institution: Arab Academy for Science and Technology - Alexandria
Project Title: ‘Advanced Technologies in Vessel Traffic Management Service’ (P008242)
Proposed Timeframe: Any 42 days between July 1 and December 31, 2023, with flexibility pending the selected applicant’s availability.
Location of Project: Alexandria, Egypt

Project Description:
In 2018, Integrated Simulators Complex acquired a Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) simulator which uses radar images and artificial intelligence to simulate port traffic scenarios and port information system for the intensive training of VTS operators who are responsible for the movement of vessels in and out of the ports in a safe and efficient manner. The VTS graduate certification consists of three courses covering the roles of operator, manager, and instructor. Each course takes one week.

The VTS certification from ISC is not yet accredited from the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). The training is conducted by faculty members whose professional experience is at sea; they deliver the training from the point of view of a sea captain, so it is missing the real-life experience of what it is like to work as a VTS operator and the requirements of the job on the ground.

Therefore, ISC is looking to host a Fulbright Specialist to review the curriculum and the practical trainings delivered through the VTS simulator to ensure that it meets the requirements of the IALA and to support the team in developing realistic scenarios based on practical experiences that truly prepares trainees for the challenges of the work. Additionally, ISC need the expertise of the specialist to get further exposed to the up-to-date technological advances in the field and the way that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is integrated in the educational training programs for VTS.

Project Activities:
- Meeting and consulting to review and improve the curriculum and the way that the simulator has been used in the practical trainings on the following topics:
  - Factors influencing ship transportation and decision making
  - Monitoring and managing traffic to safeguard the security and effectiveness of ship movement
  - Responses to unsafe situations that are developing in real-time
- Training workshops for instructors (2) on lecture delivery
- Training on instructional, coaching, and mentoring tools
- Training on AI technologies in maritime education and the latest advances in AI software
- Lead a roundtable discussion organized by the Fulbright Commission in Egypt to engage and share their expertise with a wider audience of academics and professionals in their field

Preferred Qualifications
The host institution hopes to collaborate with an experienced and certified VTS operator/manager/instructor. Strong knowledge of AI tools in maritime simulation in highly preferred.

How to Apply
Applicants must meet all program eligibility criteria, including U.S. citizenship. A complete list of U.S. applicant eligibility criteria can be found at https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/eligibility-specialists.

Applicants must submit a CV and Statement of Interest (400-word limit) via email to fulbrightspecialist@worldlearning.org no later than Monday, July 10, 2023.

Please note that if you are selected as a potential candidate for this project, you will be required to submit an official application to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster in order to serve as the Specialist for this project. For more information regarding this process and the program, visit https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/application-specialists/.