



**Pre-Arrival Assignment #2:**

**Understanding the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF)**

2013 East-West Center (EWC) Global Environmental Issues (GEI) Institute

One of the key desired outcomes of the Global Environmental Issues (GEI) Institute is to empower participants to lead positive environmental change in their home countries/region. As alumni of a US State Department International Exchange Program, you are eligible to win up to \$25,000USD to support your project through the [Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund \(AEIF\)](#). The AEIF is an annual competition where teams of ten US State Department Alumni propose innovative projects that tackle global issues.

Every year since the inception of the AEIF in 2011, a participant from the EWC GEI Institute has won this award. Throughout the Institute you will learn how these EWC GEI alumni developed winning proposals and be guided step by step in how to develop your own winning proposal. On Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 at the US Department of State in Washington DC, you will present your AEIF proposal and timeline which illustrates your expertise.

The process of developing a winning proposal begins with this assignment. The first task is for you to familiarize yourself with the major global environmental issues requiring action. This can be done by reading the executive summary of UNEP's Millennium Ecosystem Assessment using this [link](#).

Your second task is to read the AEIF structure and rules. Begin by going to this [link](#) and carefully reading the AEIF commonly asked questions.

Your third task is to go to this [link](#) where you can find a full list of the AEIF winning proposals from 2012. Overall, do your best to get a feel of what the AEIF is aiming for. Read through these projects and pick five (5) which resonate with you. As you read through the proposals, ask yourself these questions:

1. What is the winning factor of these proposals? What makes them stand out and be worthy of the award?
2. Note that not all projects are related to the environment; there are projects in many different categories. Which categories are getting more attention? Is there a way to integrate environmental elements into the other categories?
3. For those projects related to the environment, do they share anything in common?
4. What is the scale of impact for these winning proposals (e.g. students in a community, rural women, the poor and underprivileged, an entire country)?

It is highly recommended that you download these documents and save them to your laptop/tablet for easy reading (e.g. in the airport, on the plane, in your free time). If necessary, print copies to read. Once in Honolulu, you will be assessed on what you understand about the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the AEIF competition. The 2013 AEIF winners will be announced this month (July 2013), providing an opportunity



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for you to investigate a new set of winning proposals to further inform your own proposal development.

For help, please contact Geh Tsung, Chow through email ([gehtsung.chow@gmail.com](mailto:gehtsung.chow@gmail.com)) or the Global Environmental Issues Institute EWC SUSI 2013 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354944737961756/>