



## Call for Applications for Annual School on Grassroots Innovations (Theme: Energy and Water)

**National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru  
(10–18 January 2018)**

Grassroots innovations are essentially those which are driven by individual and communities to solve local problems reducing drudgery or expanding livelihood options. Fostering these innovations not only empowers innovators and generates employment, but also can be instrumental in fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development by employing bottom up approach. Acknowledging the importance of grassroots innovations, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS, Bengaluru), National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF, Gandhinagar), TransDisciplinary University (TDU, Bengaluru), and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Energy and Development (MGIRED, Bengaluru) have come together to utilize their unique individual strengths to work together at the intersection of science, technology, innovation, policy, institutions and creative individuals and communities and jointly undertake the first Annual School on Grassroots Innovations at NIAS during 10–18 January 2018.

This will be a full-time residential programme at NIAS, Bengaluru. The theme of this year is 'Energy and Water'. The school builds upon the efforts of individuals and communities to produce grassroots innovations within the domains of energy and water, and the knowledge of seasoned practitioners in these areas. Broadly, the sessions of this year school will both sessions on grassroots innovation in general and pertaining to such innovations in energy and water domains. The school will have four components, viz. lectures and demonstrations, interactive sessions with innovators, field visits, and public talks/panel discussions. As part of the school, an exhibition of innovations, developed by innovators, in the field of energy and water will also be organized. The resource persons for the school comprise experts with experience of working on grassroots innovations and having domain knowledge in energy and water sector.

The aims of the annual school are: (a) to expose the participants to the pervasive and prevalent culture of creativity in our country, (b) to introduce to them the various principles, processes, and practices related to grassroots innovation, (c) to make the participants understand the role of intermediary organizations in an innovation value chain, (d) to apprise them about the grassroots innovations in energy and water and their applications, (e) to provide a platform for lateral learning among the practitioners, innovators and participants, (f) to assess the gaps in research and policy in grassroots innovation and identify the paths ahead.

Applications are sought for this School from students, researchers, civil society members, innovators, entrepreneurs, and policy practitioners who are involved or have keen interest in grassroots innovations. Applicants must submit their CV along with a 500 word Statement of Purpose (SoP) to [asgi2018@gmail.com](mailto:asgi2018@gmail.com) latest by **30 November 2017**. As limited seats are available, priority will be given to applicants with demonstrable work or interest as evident through CV and SoP. The SoP must include a problem statement in context of India, preferably in the domain of energy and water on which the candidate is interested to work towards innovating solutions during the course of the School. There is no fee for this school. For any query or additional information applicants may contact **Dr Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan** at [happyhippu@gmail.com](mailto:happyhippu@gmail.com) (Ph: 89047 14396/94811 21296).