PENSION REFORM – BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
Agencia Sueca de Cooperación Internacional

Objectives
The programme provides in-depth, presentation and discussion of the Swedish pension system and the National Health and Social Security system, seen in the international context. The programme will explore the legal framework, the role of the politicians in the consensus-making process and the participation of the private insurance industry in the current pension system. The programme will also contribute to the process of change of the Pension System or Social Insurance in the participant country. Additionally the programme will create an opportunity for networking internationally and nationally among the practitioners and the participants.

Contents
This programme consists of two parts: a three week period in Stockholm and a five day follow-up seminar. In the first part in Stockholm, the Swedish pension system and the social security system will be presented in form of theoretical lessons in the classroom and practical study visits to the keys institutions of the Swedish pension system. Time for discussions and reflections will be considered on the programme schedule. An important part of this activity is to develop the Case Study / Project Change which the participant has described in the application form. Delegates from the same country will be requested to build a national team and prepare a realistic project plan to be implemented within the framework of a pension reform in respective country. Since the goal of this program is to contribute to the process of change, the project must be approved and signed by the participant’s superior. Ample time will be provided for work and dialogue with Swedish lecturers and experts. The projects will be presented and discussed in class at the end of the first part in Stockholm. The second part of the program is a follow-up seminar held in one of the participant countries, six months after the course in Stockholm. This seminar is to discuss progress, new challenges facing the project, advantages or disadvantages of the project plan presented in the first part. A team of Swedish experts will be present to provide the participants with advice and recommendations.

Programme Structure
The pension system, is one of the most important parts of a country’s infrastructure. A well built organization and equitable system can contribute to reduction of poverty among the elderly and redistribution of the nation’s income. The programme is an interaction of lecturers and participants. The participants will be requested to prepare a presentation of their own pension system, before they leave their home country, and present it for the class during the first week in Stockholm. At the beginning of the programme in Stockholm, the participants will be acquainted with different words and terminology used during the three weeks program and introduced in the Swedish economical, demographical, legal and political arena. Then working with the multipillar pension system will be developed through a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge. Points of special interest include:

- International pension reforms: past, present and future
- How to organise a pension system, contributions and taxes
- Public pension solutions: The Swedish welfare system
- Income pension and guarantee pension
- The construction and functioning of the Premium Pension
- Political, economical, demographical and legal issues
- Experiences from the reform process and the implementation
- Legal structure and capitalisation
- Capital market issues and investments
- Private pension solutions: Occupational pension schemes, Voluntary groups schemes, Individual pension
- Supervision and regulation
- Development of essential functions for the Swedish welfare system
- Indexation of accrued rights and pensions, mechanism for self regulation, financial aspects of NDC system
- Lobbying Study visits to the key institutions will be arranged: the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Premium Pension Authority, the Seventh AP Fund, the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority, NORDEA-a Life Insurance Company, and the Swedish Parliament.

Date and place
The programme consists of two parts:
- Phase 2: April 2010, a city to be determined
The selected candidates are expected to arrive to Stockholm one or two days before the program starts and depart one or two days after the program is finished.

Lecturers
The lecturers are experts and practitioners from the institutions which are involved in the Swedish pension system, lecturers at universities, active politicians and private consults with long experience in the area of pension & social insurance and the Swedish insurance industry.

Time for discussion of current problems will be provided. The study visits are intended to help the participant to discuss in detail a specific area of interest.

The participant’s project work will be carried out during the three weeks in Stockholm and time for working group will be planned. Also a tutor will be assigned to each National Team.

Management and staff
Programme Manager is Mr. Olof Engfeldt, jurist with over 30 years experience in the Swedish insurance industry. As Managing Director of Training and Consulting in Stockholm BICON AB he has worked extensively with international development projects in a number of transitional economies. In Sweden he has built up the Advanced Vocational Education and Training in Insurance that are in compliance with EU directives and requirements. Programme Coordinator is Mr. Miguel Prado, economist, educated in Perú. In Sweden he studied at the faculty of Political Sciences of Stockholm’s University. He has experience working at the Social Insurance Agency in Perú and the Swedish Tax Agency. The last three years he has organised, administrated and conducted this training program.

Application Process
Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered.

Application must be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents. An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability. The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests.

When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish embassy or consulate. In particularly, where there is no Swedish embassy in the country, the application should be submitted directly to the programme organiser.

Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or fax. Once accepted, the applicant must confirm participation according to the deadline that the program organiser stipulates. An invitation letter will be sent out, containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements.

Cost of Participation
The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation costs include board and lodging.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs. International travel cost to and from Sweden is not covered by Sida. The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport in the home country.

Sida always pays international travel cost in connection to the second phase of the training programme. Personal expenses are not included.
More Information
The address for all communication is:
Insurance Training and Consulting in Stockholm BICON AB
Programme Manager: Olof Engfeldt e-mail: olof.engfeldt@bicon.org
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Homepage: www.bicon.org

Closing date for application is
May 30, 2009