



U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR  
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP

# NexGen Mekong Young Scientists Program

## World Fisheries Congress 2024

Are you an early career Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) scientist, interested in attending the World Fisheries Congress (WFC) and presenting your original research to a diverse group of peers? If so, we encourage you to apply to join the NexGen cohort that will attend WFC in March 2024.

The NexGen Young Scientists Program (NexGen) is a partnership between the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of the Interior, aiming to empower early career professionals and scientists in the LMB to increase science-policy engagement, build working relationships among future leaders, and foster responsible and sustainable stewardship of the Mekong River Basin.

NexGen is excited to announce support for up to five individuals to attend and present at WFC, taking place from March 3-9, 2024, in Seattle, Washington state, USA. The opportunity is available to early career individuals from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam who have research to present that aligns with WFC (please check the WFC website - [wfc2024.fisheries.org](http://wfc2024.fisheries.org) - for details).

All NexGen funded individuals will be assigned a mentor in their respective disciplines and will be invited to travel to the USA two weeks prior to WFC to interact with their mentor and work on their WFC presentation. For those selected, all travel, lodging, registration, and other costs associated with traveling to the USA and attending the Congress, will be covered by NexGen.

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

**When:** February 18 – March 9, 2024

**Activity Location:** Seattle, WA, USA

**Eligible Applicants:** Nationals from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam

**Application Deadline:** August 28, 2023

#### Implementing Partner(s):

- DOI-ITAP

#### Key Partner(s)

- Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
- Department of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
- US Geological Survey
- World Fisheries Congress

### PROGRAM CONTACTS

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#### Claire Shields

Program Manager

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Web: [wfc2024.fisheries.org](http://wfc2024.fisheries.org)

Web: [www.nexgen.mekongwater.org](http://www.nexgen.mekongwater.org)

Facebook: [@DOI.ITAP](https://www.facebook.com/DOI.ITAP)

Facebook: [@ScienceDiplomacyUSA](https://www.facebook.com/ScienceDiplomacyUSA)

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Selected NexGen fellows can expect to travel to Washington DC around **February 18, 2024**, where they will have the opportunity to interact with the other NexGen fellows and be assigned mentors. Fellows will then travel to their mentor's respective institution (University, Government Institutions, etc.), where they will be hosted, interact with, and shadow other researchers, and finalize their WFC presentations. Fellows will then travel to Seattle, WA for the World Fisheries Congress.

In attending the WFC, NexGen fellows are expected to take full advantage of the networking opportunities throughout the week. Each fellow is also expected to present their own original research at a NexGen session during the congress. Following WFC, fellows will return home, having established a network of colleagues with whom they will hopefully develop future collaborations.

## SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications will be accepted through **August 28, 2023**. To apply, you must submit an application to the NexGen team via e-mail at “[nexgenscientists@gmail.com](mailto:nexgenscientists@gmail.com)” with the following information:

- Name and contact information
- A short description (one paragraph) stating why you wish to attend WFC and how you hope to benefit by attending.
- Attach a copy of your current resume (pdf document)
- Attach an abstract submission based on the guidelines below
- Confirm that you have or can obtain a current passport (valid for a minimum of six months beyond March 10, 2024).
- Please also state whether you have ever previously been issued with a U.S. visa or if you have ever been refused a U.S. visa.

Applicants should ideally be between the ages of 18 and 40, a national of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, or Thailand, proficient in written and spoken English, and currently pursuing higher education or a career in the field of natural resources management.

Highly qualified applicants will:

- Recognize the importance of multidisciplinary research
- Be knowledgeable and passionate about Mekong River Basin fisheries and relevant issues

NexGen is committed to removing barriers to educational opportunities for LMB young professionals, irrespective of gender, ability, or socio-economic background. For additional information, or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact [nexgenscientists@gmail.com](mailto:nexgenscientists@gmail.com).

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>August 28, 2023:</b>	NexGen Application Deadline
<b>September 22, 2023:</b>	Selected participants notified
<b>September 29, 2023:</b>	Deadline to Confirm Participation
<b>January 2024 (TBC):</b>	Pre-Travel Virtual Briefing
<b>February 17/18, 2024:</b>	Travel to USA
<b>March 5-9, 2024:</b>	Attend World Fisheries Congress

### Contact Information:

Joseph Holway, Program Advisor, [Nexgenscientists@gmail.com](mailto:Nexgenscientists@gmail.com)  
Claire Shields, Project Manager, [claire\\_shields@ios.doi.gov](mailto:claire_shields@ios.doi.gov)

## Guidelines for Abstract Submission (NexGen Applicants Only)

### Congress Theme: Fish and Fisheries at the Water–Energy–Food Nexus

*Organized through the [World Council of Fisheries Societies](#), every four years delegates from around the world meet to exchange ideas and perspectives about new research, emerging issues, scientific breakthroughs, and governance related to fisheries science, industry, conservation, and management.*

Abstracts should include the following:

1. Primary author, affiliation, and contact information
2. Title (*12-word limit, please use Title Case*)
3. Short title (*under 30 characters*)
4. Abstract (*300-word limit*)
5. Keywords (maximum of 5)