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ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Stuttgart, the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, the University of Lima and the WASTE Club Stuttgart e.V. are organising the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminars and Workshop
Innovation and circular approaches for animal and agro-industrial residues: Connecting Peru and Mexico

24–29 August 2026 in presence at the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico

followed by the participation in the

Intersolar Mexico 2026
together with the trade fairs The Green Expo and Aquatech Mexico

31 August – 3 September 2026 in Mexico City, Mexico

Background

The proposed seminar and the visit to the conference Intersolar Mexico 2026 (ISM) are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme **SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development for Germany Alumni from the Global South** (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). The international DAAD Alumni Seminar “Innovation and circular approaches for animal and agro-industrial residues: Connecting Peru and Mexico” is organised and hosted by the University of Stuttgart, the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, the University of Lima and the WASTE Club Stuttgart e.V.

The training seminar targets **Germany Alumni** from developing countries (DAC country nationals) from Latin America (including Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean), who studied, carried out research or worked in Germany for at least 3 months and are presently living and working in their home countries.

The prospective participants should be professionally involved in various areas of environmental engineering and sustainability, and/or working for academic, educational or development organisations, NGO's, donor agencies, private enterprises. They should also be potential multipliers in a position to spread the acquired knowledge and experience and/or take decisions on implementation of new technologies and innovations.

The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Objectives and Tentative Training Seminar and Workshop Programme

The **overall objective** of the training seminars and workshop is to exchange knowledge and expertise in the fields of biomaterials/biofilters, circular innovation and biogas production from organic waste, building on the research and experience of University of Stuttgart, the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, the University of Lima and the WASTE Club Stuttgart e.V.

The programme will offer seminars, excursions and one final case study, with the following **specific learning objectives**:

The project promotes innovative technologies for the sustainable use of cattle farming and agro-industrial residues and strengthens international cooperation. Specifically, it aims to:

- Identify practical solutions for residue valorization,
- Expand academic and professional exchange between Peru, Mexico, and Germany,
- Support Germany Alumni with knowledge and tools for the implementation of sustainable strategies,
- Foster the expansion of the alumni network and promote knowledge exchange across regional borders.

Through seminars and workshops, a structured exchange of knowledge will be facilitated. Thematic focuses include: biomaterials (e.g., biofilters for wastewater treatment), biogas production as a renewable energy source, and circular economy approaches.

Expected benefits:

Contribution to sustainable waste management in the cattle farming and agro-industrial sectors in Peru and Mexico:

- Strengthening of regional Germany Alumni networks through knowledge transfer
- Provision of practice-oriented approaches for municipalities and companies

Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The training seminar aims to initiate an active participatory learning process. It uses a mixture of

- interactive lectures with plenary discussions to introduce knowledge and concepts,
- group work with group discussion to conceptualise new knowledge and put the knowledge into practical contexts,
- workshop on-site including a real case study to discuss specific subjects in depth,
- individual presentations and assignments.

The main objective for the participation at INTERSOLAR 2026, THE GREEN EXPO 2026 and AQUATECH Mexico 2026 is to explore mutual opportunities between industry and organisations represented at the fairs, and participants with their background of decision-making in sustainability and environmental solutions in their respective countries, regions and organisations.

The detailed programme will be shared with the selected participants.

Social events: In addition to the content-related sessions of the training seminar and the visits to the trade fairs, the project programme also includes social and informal events, such as a group dinner and a welcome reception. This aims to further promote intercultural exchange and social networking among the seminar participants.

It is necessary to participate in the whole programme: training seminar, trade fairs and social programme.

Important dates

18 April 2026	Online Kick-Off
23 August 2026	Arrival in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
24 – 29 August 2026	Seminars, workshop and excursions in Nuevo Leon, Mexico
30 August 2026	Onward journey to the trade fairs, Mexico City
31 August - 3 September 2026	Intersolar Mexico 2026, The Green Expo, Aquatech Mexico
4 September 2026	Departure from Mexico City

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the training seminar in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon to the last day after the trade fairs. Any exceptions must be communicated to the DAAD before your travel to the project.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

This project (training seminar and trade fair participation) targets alumni of German universities / research institutions

- who are German university alumni of countries listed on the [OECD DAC list](#) from Latin America (including Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean),
 - who are currently living and working in their home country / in a DAC-listed country, and
 - who carried out research or studied in Germany for **at least 3 months**
- OR**
- who were funded within the framework of
 - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme
 - the Centres of African Excellence
 - the SDG Graduate Schools
 - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed
 - the Global Centres for Climate and Environment as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention

Participant's Profile

You should have

- 1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of environmental engineering, sustainability, circular economy, biomaterials and biogas.
- 2) **professional experience and personal interest** in one of the following areas: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,
- 3) the requirements to **act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation,
- 4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held in **English**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects:

Participations in SDG Alumni Projects are limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. This rule does not apply for attendance on a completely digital SDG Alumni Project (formerly: Alumni Special Project).

Cost coverage

The **university as part of the project** covers the following costs for the training sessions in Monterrey:

- International return ticket to and from your residence country (lowest possible economy class airfare - max. 1100 €)
The flights will be booked individually by each participant and purchased upon prior authorization from the coordination office of the University of Stuttgart.
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in Monterrey
- Transportation for excursions during the training week
- Transportation from Monterrey to Mexico City
- Travel insurance coverage for a maximum of 35 € per participant
- Visa fees (if required) up to a maximum of 35 € per participant

The **DAAD** covers the following costs during your stay in Mexico City:

- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the trade fair stay in Mexico City
- Daily transport from the hotel to the trade fair and back (private bus or public transport)
- Entrance fees for the trade fair Intersolar Mexico 2026 as well as The Green Expo and Aquatech Mexico
- Transport and entrance fees on excursions

Please note: If you are receiving financial support from the DAAD or any other funding organisation at the time of this SDG Alumni Project stay (training seminar week and conference/trade fair visit), you are obliged to state this in full (in the application form). A funding within the framework of this project may be reduced in order to avoid double funding.

Please note: The flight ticket considers an economic class. All additional costs, such as transportation expenses from your hometown to the airport of departure/arrival, travel costs related to the visa application process, and any additional visa expenses in your home country, **must be covered by the participant.**

Health and travel insurance as well as visa fees will be reimbursed up to a maximum amount of 35 euros each. Any costs exceeding this amount **must be covered by the participant.**

Please keep in mind that **living expenses are only covered partly** during your stays in Monterrey and in Mexico City.

Extensions of stays

Extensions of stays before the training seminar or after the SDG Alumni Project are possible for a maximum of 5 working days. In case you want to extend your stay, you are required to submit a comparison of flight ticket prices before the start of your travel. The cost will be covered by the university as communicated above. Should your actual travel dates differ due to the extension, you will be responsible for paying any price difference compared to the ticket costs on the official arrival and return dates. All additional travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence costs, and other expenses incurred during your extension are to be borne by yourself.

Please note that if your extension exceeds 5 working days, both your outbound and return flight must be fully financed by yourself. The university and the DAAD will, however, continue to cover accommodation and partial living expenses during the seminar week, as well as your participation in the trade fair.

For any period of extension, you must arrange your own accommodation and ensure valid health insurance coverage for the additional days. Please also bear in mind that your host university and the DAAD will book accommodation for you during the official seminar and trade fair period. **If, for any reason, you are unable to participate in the programme from the first seminar day to the last day of the trade fair, you must inform both your host university and the DAAD as soon as possible to avoid potential cancellation costs.**

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

All applications should be submitted by e-mail. Please, send your application documents as **ONE PDF-File (Max. 5 Mb)** to info@waste.uni-stuttgart.de

All applications have to be submitted no later than **5 April 2026 (23:59 CET)**.

The **APPLICATION** consists of the following sections:

- The completed **application form** (available for download [here](#)), which will be accessible starting Monday, March 2, 2026.
- A **motivation statement**, outlining your motivation for participation and your particular interest in the topic, a brief description of your present duties/position/responsibilities, what these seminars and workshop will bring to your professional and/or personal

development, and how you can be a multiplier of the knowledge gained in the seminars upon your return to your home country.

- A **short CV* with a passport-size photograph**.
- **relevant documentation of alumni status*** (e.g. your master's degree certificate).
- An **overview** of seminars, workshops or conferences attended in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

Important: Please name your ONE PDF file “First name_Last name_Country”.

***Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the application will affect your eligibility as a participant.**

With your application, you agree that your data will be stored by the University of Stuttgart, shared with the DAAD and that you may appear in pictures that may be published in association with the seminars and workshop in Monterrey or your participation in the trade fairs INTERSOLAR 2026, THE GREEN EXPO 2026, AQUATECH MEXICO 2026.

With your application, you commit to participating in the whole programme (training sessions in Monterrey and the trade fairs in Mexico City as well as any mandatory social events).

After review by the local organising committee in Stuttgart and the DAAD, all applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process in **April 2026**.

Contact Details

For further questions, please contact

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We are looking forward to your application!

Dr. -Ing. Carolina Acuña Caro

Grecia Solis Castillo

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