SRI Executive Search has been retained by our client, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), to appoint a visionary leader to the prestigious position of Director General. This role will report to the Board of Governors of IWMI.

Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and with offices in Asia and Africa, IWMI is a non-profit scientific organization with a budget of $32 million and 250 staff. It is one of fifteen research centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The CGIAR centers contribute towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing poverty, hunger and maintaining a sustainable environment. IWMI works through collaborative research with partners in the North and South to develop tools and practices to help developing countries eradicate poverty and better manage their land and water resources. The immediate target groups of IWMI’s research include the scientific community, policy makers, project implementers and individual farmers.

With the recent formation of the Consortium of CGIAR centers, IWMI is anticipated to lead a major CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems, as well as be a partner in programs on dry lands, semi-humid environments, aquatic systems and climate change.

PROFILE: The successful candidate will

- Provide vision, drive strategy and leadership to IWMI
- Possess high level management skills to ensure IWMI is effectively structured, administered, staffed and funded to produce scientific excellence to meet the goals and mission of the organization, particularly in the context of multi-partner research and development programs;
- Be a strong communicator and ambassador for IWMI with strong representational skills, able to serve as a spokesperson for IWMI and on behalf of sustainable agriculture and land and water resource management;
- Build upon excellent relationships established with national, regional and global research institutions;
- Promote research and scientific excellence as tools essential to poverty alleviation, and through partnerships and networking, to move research results into development and implementation;
- Undertake extensive international travel
QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have:

- Preferably a relevant postgraduate degree and extensive experience with an established reputation in the natural or social sciences related to land and water resources
- Broad understanding of land and water resources, their interaction with sustainable agricultural production and the global issues affecting them
- Senior management experience in a research, development or training institution, preferably in a developing country other than the country of birth;
- Strong communication and representational skills
- Demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively and within a multidisciplinary, multicultural setting
- Extensive fundraising experience and familiarity with the relevant donor community
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in written and spoken English

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: The compensation package is competitive with positions in similar international institutions and includes a housing allowance; a car for personal and business use, spouse accompanied overseas travel, assistance with the education of children, family health insurance, a pension contribution and annual home leave. The contract is five years and is renewable for a further five years subject to mutual agreement with the Board.

LOCATION: The Director General is based at IWMI’s headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Colombo provides a pleasant living environment with many amenities. A good English language school is available through the secondary level. IWMI will assist families in making personal and, to the extent possible, professional adjustments to the local environment.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Applicants should submit a letter indicating why they are interested in and qualified for the position (addressing the profile and qualifications statement above) and a detailed curriculum vitae including the names, telephone and fax numbers and email addresses of three referees.

IWMI believes that the diversity of its staff contributes to excellence and particularly encourages applications from women and developing country professionals.

Additional information is available at www.IWMI.org and at www.CGIAR.org

For further information on this position, please reply in confidence to Ms. Ursula Gallagher, Director, SRI Executive Search (www.sri-executive.com), 40 Grand Canal Street Upper, Dublin 4, Ireland, Telephone +353 1 6479206 or via email ugallagher@srigrp.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday 30th November, 2011.