

7th South Asian Conference on Sanitation

Call for Abstract(s)

SACOSAN VII Secretariat invites professionals to submit abstract(s) for technical papers for seventh South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) to be held in February 2018 in Pakistan.

SACOSAN is a sanitation-centered biennial convention led by the governments of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

There will be eight thematic sessions on selected topics to be conducted by each SACOSAN member country. Each country will select four papers relevant to the theme assigned to them and conduct plenary during the thematic sessions at the conference.

Themes for SACOSAN VII

- Policy, strategy and sector planning
- Human resources development
- Operations and maintenance
- Regulation, accountability, monitoring and evaluation
- Sanitation as cross cutting (health and nutrition)
- Financing of sanitation
- Sociology of sanitation
- Climate change and sanitation

Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply, Sri Lanka would be leading the thematic session on Financing of Sanitation in collaboration with National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka; South Asian Regional Center for Sanitation and WaterAid.



Financing of Sanitation

SACOSAN-VII would provide an opportunity to reflect upon the existing sanitation issues in the South Asia region in light of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). A critical aspect to make this shift happen is about financing. In the wake of transition to SDGs, at one level, the sanitation challenge is to achieve open defecation free (ODF) status for the South Asia region and its sustenance and at another level, the challenge is also to move beyond ODF status to achieve safe sanitation. Ensuring safe sanitation across the sanitation value chain would include interventions at various levels such as: raising the standard for onsite sanitation services; improved shared sanitation facilities; septage management for offsite sanitation systems; decentralised community sewage treatment plants; centralised piped sewerage systems; and moving beyond household coverage to institutional setups such as schools, healthcare facilities, market places and so on.

In making this change happen, possible areas of discussion identified under the theme of Financing of Sanitation are:

- 1.** The assessment of potential financing gaps in the wake of SDG targets for safely managed sanitation services that will help in identifying required areas of investments.
- 2.** Areas of investment in hardware would be at one level to accelerate capital flow and its maintenance. On the other hand is the non-capital expenditure (institutions and utilities; human resources; capacity building; innovations and research; planning; monitoring; operation and maintenance) which is critical for sustainability. Issues for reflection in South Asia countries include trend of investments; short term and long term planning for the sector; investment in the systems to strengthen enabling environment for long-term impacts etc.
- 3.** Assessment of current mechanism of combination of finance – taxes, tariffs and direct transfers – followed in various countries to understand the trends in the flow of domestic resources, donor contributions and private sector resource mobilisation. Best practices and lessons learned to promote sustainable financing strategy, one that will increase resource allocations to the sector, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing resources wherever they are found, and tap the potential of alternative financing mechanisms.
- 4.** Quality parameters in sanitation financing- budget allocations versus spending; absorption capacity and why funds remain underutilised, human resources gaps; key inequities in financing; criteria of prioritisation and principles followed for getting investments rights. Assess the best practices to ensure participation of communities in decision-making over priority spending in water and sanitation.
- 5.** Mechanisms for review of sanitation expenditure for accountability, transparency and better planning; opportunities and constraints for budget analysis and tracking of national systems till sub-national level and integration of other relevant sectors.

Guidelines for technical papers

- Papers should bring new insights to the proposed theme and push systematic knowledge agenda in the wake of SDGs.
- Where possible, please provide gender and social segregated data and impact and keep equity center stage.
- Focus on affordable solutions and policy changes.
- Contributions must propose concrete recommendation for future actions.
- Papers to be related to South Asia region only- either one country or more than one country from the region or complete South Asia region.

Process and timelines

10 December 2017

Initial abstracts submission of **500 word limit**

15 December 2017

Thematic lead country to select four abstracts and write to authors for submission of full paper

5 January 2018

Final paper (08-10 pages) to be received by thematic lead country

19 January 2018

Authors are communicated if revision is required

31 January 2018

Revised paper received

02 February 2018

Final submission to the SACOSAN VII Secretariat



Abstract(s) for technical papers on financing of sanitation from professionals should reach the following focal persons in Sri Lanka:

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