



Call for abstracts

WASH Futures: Pathways to universal and sustained water, sanitation and hygiene

The future of action on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) looks positive – with the post-2015 global Sustainable Development Goals agenda focusing attention on the need for water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone, all the time. But achieving this global agenda requires new ways of thinking. Over the past decade the emphasis has shifted from simply providing access to WASH facilities for most of society to ensuring equity and inclusiveness (WASH for everyone) and sustainability (WASH all the time, always). There has been increased integration between water, sanitation, hygiene and health actors and activities, and increased attention on social processes, governance arrangements and the ways in which behaviours change, to help ensure progress is sustained.

The challenge to close the gaps and achieve universal access for all remains, and the future of universal and sustained WASH requires further attention and innovation. How can all WASH actors - governments, private sectors and civil society - work together, whether at community-scales or larger institutional scales, to achieve not only sustained WASH access for everyone, but also health, well-being, environmental and economic outcomes for societies?

The new global agenda emphasises the fundamental importance of water for human development, the environment and the economy, and makes the connection between WASH, water security (quantity and quality of water) and water governance. It makes a call for all water actors to acknowledge the connectedness and dependencies between actors and actions that have sometimes operated in isolation, and requires 'joined-up' thinking and action.

The WASH 2016 conference brings together WASH actors from around the globe to share new ways to achieve a WASH future in which the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of all in society are sustained. Four key themes will be addressed:

1. Improving service levels and service sustainability
2. Moving WASH beyond the household
3. Integrating hygiene to ensure health outcomes
4. WASH and water security

The conference will specifically draw out the issues of private sector participation in WASH, equity and WASH in the Pacific as cross-cutting themes.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the WASH Reference Group and the International WaterCentre (IWC) are partnering to deliver an international water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conference in 2016. WASH 2016 builds on the successes of three earlier international WASH conferences in 2008, 2011 and 2014. The conference comprises five days of activities with two days dedicated to conference-style sessions with parallel streams addressing specific themes, and three days of training workshops relating to the theme of the conference 'WASH Futures: Pathways to universal and sustained water, sanitation and hygiene'.

1 Improving service levels and service sustainability

Sustainability remains perhaps the most critical challenge facing the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. A failure to maintain services and long-lasting changes to behaviour means that even where capital investments are made, the health, wealth and dignity benefits associated with WASH may not be realised. To address the sustainability challenge, attention has shifted away from a narrow focus on installing infrastructure towards a broader 'service delivery' approach; strengthening water utilities, urban and rural local governments and other institutions, and embedding the financial and management systems and processes necessary to maintain lasting services.

The sector is moving beyond simplified ideals that WASH services can be effectively managed and sustained by a single actor, such as a utility company or a community, towards more complex but cooperative arrangements. These may be community-led or institutionally led, but involve a larger array of actors and a broader range of formal and/or informal contracting and cooperation mechanisms. To bring about equitable improvements in WASH service levels, approaches may require different strategies to engage communities, the private sector, households and individuals in processes of participation, inclusion and empowerment along the service delivery pathway.

As the Sustainable Development Goals reshape the development landscape, it is timely to deepen our analysis and understanding of how we can ensure sustainability and improve service quality for households.

Abstracts are welcomed on the following topics:

- Financial and business models and approaches that deliver sustainable WASH services
- Alternative service delivery pathways, maintenance and management models to keep WASH services working, including engaging the private sector and local enterprises
- Viable and sustainable approaches by water utilities to serve low income and informal settlements
- Effective and innovative approaches for addressing inequalities in group or individual access to WASH, particularly for girls, women and people with a disability
- Lessons and innovations to address specific environmental, institutional, technical and behavioural challenges (abstracts dealing with WASH in the Pacific region are particularly encouraged)
- Strategies for building the capacity of national and sub-national governments, utilities, service providers (including the private sector) and service users to manage WASH services
- Mechanisms and interventions which support Individuals, households and groups to participate in WASH governance and hold WASH actors to account
- Mechanisms to promote sector-wide harmonization, coordination, accountability and transparency
- Monitoring and benchmarking WASH service performance, quality and sustainability, including the collection, analysis and use of information

2 Moving WASH beyond the household As we look forward, the dialogue around achieving universal and equitable access for all raises the challenge of WASH in contexts beyond the household. Universal access challenges us to consider WASH when at work, in public places such as markets, and within institutional settings including schools and healthcare facilities. WASH beyond the household is essential both to achieve the direct health outcomes derived from WASH as well as to support the delivery of other key goals, particularly those associated with education and maternal health.

The WASH sector is increasing its knowledge on how to address the challenge of WASH in schools. However, challenges remain including meeting the needs of women and girls, such as menstrual hygiene management at school, providing access for children with disabilities, and sustaining the operation and maintenance of school WASH facilities.

Achieving universal and sustained WASH in wider institutions, work places, market places and healthcare facilities is an area where there has been less progress, data are more sparse and strategies are still evolving and emerging.

Abstracts are welcomed on the following topics:

- Strategies to finance, provide, operate and maintain inclusive WASH facilities (including menstrual hygiene) in schools, healthcare facilities and other public institutions/ public places, and the roles of different stakeholders in this, including private sector and different government agencies
- Measuring the benefits of investments in WASH beyond households – strategies to detect outcomes and impacts arising from WASH beyond households

- Strategies to leverage the uptake of improved WASH behaviours from schools and health facilities to households and the wider community
- Cooperation and accountability for WASH in institutions/ public places – whole-of-community and/or local governance mechanisms to achieve and continuously improve WASH coverage

3 Integrating hygiene to ensure health outcomes With Whilst progress is accelerating in sanitation, less attention and fewer resources have been applied to addressing sanitation and hygiene behaviours beyond the use of toilets. This is despite an increasing understanding of the importance of hygiene in realising positive health outcomes—it not only promotes good health by preventing and controlling disease, it is also essential for reducing undernutrition, improving disease management and preventing disability.

As we work towards universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene by 2030 and beyond (proposed Sustainable Development Goal 6), greater prioritisation of hygiene in WASH is essential. Hygiene also underpins proposed Sustainable Development Goal 3, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages. To achieve better sanitation and hygiene behaviour outcomes, we need to understand how to scale up promising innovations, better integrate programming and mobilise stakeholder commitment, particularly with health and education actors, and explore broader partnerships including with the private sector.

Submission conditions

- Abstract submission deadline: **30 September 2015**
- Submit online: **www.wash2016.com**
- Abstracts should be presented in the provided templates
- Your abstract submission should clearly state which type of presentation you would like to make: oral, poster presentation or training workshop
- Abstract submission must include:
 - a submission title and authors
 - information on the type of presentation/training
 - the sub-theme of the conference to which the presentation relates.

Only submissions made online using the provided template will be considered.



Abstracts are welcomed on the following topics:

- Changing hygiene behaviours—evidence-based, equitable and scalable approaches for hygiene behaviour change including hand washing, infant faeces disposal and menstrual hygiene management
- Hygiene hardware—innovative, locally built or purchased facilities for WASH-related hygiene; opportunities for strengthening supply chains to promote sustainability and access; private sector engagement
- WASH within health programming—why, when and how should programming be integrated; opportunities to strengthen collaboration
- WASH links to disease—emerging knowledge about the role WASH plays, particularly with neglected tropical diseases; nutrition and stunting; maternal, newborn and child health; and other diseases; promising innovations and implications of this knowledge for WASH programs
- Using health data—effective use of health surveillance data to prioritise WASH resources to deal with priority areas, challenges and pitfalls, and ways forward for the integration of health system data into WASH program monitoring and vice versa.

4 WASH and water security The proposed Sustainable Development Goal 6 sets the objective to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. New targets expand the WASH agenda to consider the whole water cycle, with the inclusion of issues such as ambient water quality, wastewater management, water use efficiency, integrated water resources management and water-related ecosystems.

This new global agenda emphasises the need for WASH practitioners to take into account the interactions between WASH and water resources, particularly in the context of increasing climate variability and the growing risk of natural and man-made disasters. A high level of cooperation between WASH and water resource actors is therefore critical. Understanding the connections between WASH and water resources is a first step, followed by identifying ways to work together, for example, through governance arrangements or frameworks that support coordination across catchments and shared or harmonised monitoring programs.

There is a need to build collective skills and expertise to ensure that future WASH professionals can plan and manage services in a way that strengthens wider water security, and that water resources professionals are able to engage proactively with WASH programming.

Abstracts are welcomed on the following topics:

- Harmonising global sustainable development reporting frameworks for water and sanitation with country monitoring and reporting needs
- Integrating water security (water quality and availability)

into planning and sustaining WASH services—considering factors such as climate change, population growth, change in land use, urbanisation and changing lifestyles

- Water security involving multiple actors—optimising and coordinating government, community and private sector roles; strategies for basin-wide cooperation such as water stewardship
- Integrating water resource management with development in WASH and emergency WASH to improve the resilience of WASH services in the face of increasing disasters
- Water quality—strengthening governance to manage interactions between treatment and disposal of faecal sludge and wastewater, and connected water supplies through, for example, standards and compliance, including options for reusing faecal sludge and wastewater
- Ensuring equity and sustainability in sharing water to meet WASH needs through community participation and involving women in water management

Ways to participate in the conference

WASH 2016 invites submissions of abstracts for:

- oral presentations, to be given during the first two days of the conference
- poster presentations, to be presented during the first two days of the conference including at the poster session
- training workshops, to be held during the final three days of the conference.

There will also be new awards presented during the conference, for individuals and organisations. For further information about applying for awards, please visit www.wash2016.com

A trade exhibition will be convened for the first two days of the conference. Organisations interested in participating in the trade exhibition should contact WASH2016@ozaccom.com.au

WASH 2016 program structure, May 16-20, 2016

Monday	Conference
Tuesday	Plenary & concurrent sessions Poster session and Trade exhibition
Wednesday	Training workshops
Thursday	
Friday	

MORE INFORMATION: www.wash2016.com

Oral & poster presentations

Conditions of presenting

- All presenting authors must register by the early bird deadline of 29 January 2016 to attend at least one day of WASH 2016 and must have paid their fee in full prior to the event.
- All travel and accommodation for presenting authors is at their own expense. The WASH 2016 conference is not in a position to contribute to this. Limited funding is available for delegates from developing countries. Guidelines are available on the website www.wash2016.com. An application can be made only at the time of submitting an abstract via the online submission system.
- All authors must complete the copyright release form found in the online submission system when submitting their abstract for consideration.
- Any abstract without at least one registered presenter may be withdrawn from the program unless there is a letter provided explaining the reasons for this.
- Normal delegate cancellation fees will apply if a presenter cancels their presentation.
- Standard audio visual is provided for all sessions (microphone, lectern, data projector, screen, laptop). Any additional requirements must be listed in the online submission system.
- Material presented must be based on the authors' own original material.
- Presentations may be recorded to be made available on the website www.wash2016.com along with audio visual after the conference.

Submission types

Oral presentations (16-17 May 2016)

- Presentations must be made in person
- Maximum abstract word count: 300 words
- The abstract should clearly describe the process/ approaches used to achieve the work, achievements to date as well as challenges faced and lessons learned.
- Sharing of practical experiences is encouraged.
- Presentations should be between 15-20 minutes long, and will be delivered alongside 2-4 other presentations about similar topics in a session. In addition to questions about specific presentations, the session will allow time for general discussion on the session topic with conference delegates, for example, through a presenters' panel towards the end of the session.
- Presenters may use PowerPoint or other presentation tools (not required). Where PowerPoint or similar aids are not used, presenters will be asked to prepare a transcript of the presentation prior to the conference.
- Presenters may be asked to submit a draft of their presentation prior to the conference to be reviewed by the conference committee to ensure a high quality of presentations and sessions is achieved.

Poster presentations (16-17 May 2016)

- Posters will be prominently displayed at the conference.
- Maximum abstract word count: 300 words
- The poster should provide the audience with sufficient information to understand the process and outcomes of the research or practice being described.
- The most effective posters employ a mix of text, images and data to convey the main aspects and outcomes of research or practice in a clear and striking manner. Text-heavy posters and small text size should be avoided.
- Preparation of suitable posters will be your own responsibility and will be at your own cost.

Abstract format

Please use the abstract template attached to prepare your abstract. You can copy this into a new document and overwrite it with your own abstract.

- Title of abstract to appear in the program should be limited to 10 words maximum.
- Format: Ms Word File
- 12 point Times New Roman font
- Title of abstract (bold)
- Author(s) (underline author(s) who will be presenting)
- Affiliation/institution of each author
- Email address of each author
- Maximum 300 words

Save the abstract with file name: WASH2016_Last Name First Initial.doc (for example: for John Citizen save as **WASH2016_CitizenJ.doc**)

Selection criteria

Abstracts will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to WASH theme
- Clarity of presentation description
- Contribution of new knowledge or practical models to WASH
- Demonstrated awareness of previous work related to the topic
- Demonstrated awareness of relevance of work to other WASH practitioners.

MORE INFORMATION: www.wash2016.com

Selection and notification process

You will be notified by email by November 2015 if your application for a presentation was successful.

If the number of abstracts received is much greater than the number of available spaces in the program, abstracts for oral presentations may instead be offered the opportunity to present a poster.

The program committee may edit your work with your approval. If this occurs, it is critical for you to carefully check the edited abstract for grammar, spelling and technical correctness.

Publications

All abstracts will be published in conference proceedings. Copies of all presentations, with audio or audio-visual, may be made available on the conference website after the conference.

Training workshops

The WASH Conference Committee is keen to extend opportunities for capacity development to delegates through training and workshop sessions. These sessions may take the form of:

- Training, during which the training leaders share existing knowledge with participants through activities and materials, or
- Workshops, during which the training leaders facilitate the sharing of knowledge provided by themselves as well as by the participants. The workshops are suited to topics for which knowledge is still emerging and so collective sharing of knowledge is likely to provide a more comprehensive update on the knowledge. Examples of how this could be achieved include panels of participants sharing their knowledge, and breakout groups to discuss the state of knowledge on specific topics and report back to the broader groups.

Abstracts are invited from interested individuals or groups, on the conference themes, or other relevant topics. Teams of trainers are encouraged, which includes a diversity of experiences from conceptual/academic to implementation.

The Conference Committee will review abstracts and work in partnership with selected training individuals/teams to ensure the training program delivers high quality opportunities for building the capacity of delegates.

Key requirements

- Each workshop should be planned to be anticipated to be delivered in three-quarters to one day; 2 or 3 day workshops may be supported in exceptional circumstances
- The most effective training makes use of a mix of training methods, allows for a high level of participant activity (active learning) and uses trainers with specific practice and pedagogy skills.
- Each training workshop must be designed to accommodate between 20 and 40 participants

Abstract should:

- summarise the subject of the training and its importance
- summarise expected learning outcomes for participants
- summarise training methods or approach, including the duration
- summarise the training team, including their experience both of the subject matter and in training.
- Not exceed 500 words

Trade exhibition

For more information about opportunities to exhibit organisational materials and interact with conference delegates, please contact WASH2016@ozaccom.com.au

Key dates

Conference registration opens: **1 August 2015**

Abstract submission closes: **18 October 2015**

Notification of acceptance: **16 November 2015**

Early bird registration closes: **29 January 2016**



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australian
WASH
Reference Group

Privacy Statement

In accordance with the Privacy Amendment Act 2001, we advise that information provided in the online submission system will be held in a database on a secure server by WASH.

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