

Call for Abstracts

Conference presentations, posters, and training and workshops

WASH Futures conferences, developed and hosted by The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the International WaterCentre (IWC) and the Australian WASH Reference Group (AWRG), are a highly-regarded forum for sharing innovation and evidence to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). WASH entails the provision and use of safe and sustainable water and sanitation for domestic and livelihood purposes, and the practicing of safe hygiene, for all people in all contexts, whether they live in cities, peri-urban informal settlements, or rural and remote villages in developing through to developed economies. Safe and sustainable WASH is an important determinant of environmental health, influencing human health and wellbeing including social aspects, security, and agency.

The WASH Futures 2018 conference comprises two days of conference-style sessions, with parallel streams addressing specific themes relating to the conference theme 'Collaboration for Universal WASH', followed by three days of training and workshops on emergent WASH topics.

WASH Futures 2018: Collaboration for Universal WASH

As the global agenda shifts to emphasise the universality and sustainability of WASH, the need for collaboration among WASH organisations is becoming more apparent and more urgent. Ensuring everyone has water, sanitation and hygiene at all times and everywhere, is a large task, and will not be achieved by any one actor alone. How can governments, businesses, investors, development partners, academia and civil society work together to close the gaps in WASH service delivery? How do we meet the WASH needs of women and girls, people with disabilities, impoverished urban populations, and all marginalised populations, while empowering them to further improve their lives?

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, re-enforces the importance of sector-wide collaborations, but further attention and innovation is needed to find effective ways of working together, particularly in ways that can affect large-scale change.

The SDGs also emphasise the need for collaboration beyond traditional WASH actors, acknowledging the dependencies and influences between WASH and other aspects of poverty reduction and sustainable development. With water at the very core of sustainable development, SDG 6, WASH and water resources management not only have strong linkages to all the other SDGs, they also underpin them. Multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary approaches can produce synergies between WASH initiatives and water security, nutrition, food security, disaster risk reduction and emergency recovery.

Building on the success of past WASH Futures conferences, the WASH Futures 2018 conference brings together WASH actors from around the globe to share innovations and evidence about ways to achieve a WASH future in which the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of all in society are sustained.

Global WASH – where do we stand?

Despite significant progress made during the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era, in 2015 the World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) estimated that 660 million people still do not have access to improved drinking-water sources, and over 2.4 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, build upon the many achievements made under the MDGs, but are more aspirational, extensive and ambitious. They seek to address the challenges that emerged during the MDG period, including addressing poor water quality and the unsafe management of faecal waste.

The SDGs acknowledge the importance of environmental systems, linking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) targets with other targets within SDG6 (water and sanitation), and the importance of community participation and capacity building – two critical components required to achieve universal and sustainable WASH.

Conference presentations and posters

We are now calling for abstracts for presentations that align with the topics below. Two types of presentations are invited:

- **Oral presentations**, to be presented during the first two days of the conference (5 and 6 March)
- **Poster presentations**, to be displayed during the conference and training days, including the dedicated poster showcase event on Monday 5 March.

Details of abstracts for trainings/workshops are below.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

A conference program of oral presentations, with specific thematic sessions and streams, will be developed based upon the abstracts accepted. Submitted abstracts must align with one or more of the following topics (abstracts may align with more than one numbered topic, and do not necessarily need to align with a specific dot point listed under each topic).

To promote sharing and learning that is most useful to delegates, the conference is particularly interested to receive abstracts that:

- include practice-based evidence (rigorous evaluations and analyses of what worked and what didn't)
- address issues of scalability (how was/will the approach be implemented in a large (district/national) scale?)
- consider multiple-dimensions of service delivery (e.g. governance, management, finance, technical, customer engagement)

1. Financing and investing to achieve universal and sustainable WASH systems

- Incentivising investment in large-scale/universal WASH by governments and private sector
- Effectiveness and strategies guiding multilateral agency investment in WASH, including the SDGs and learning from the MDGs
- Incentivising and managing risks of WASH investments (e.g. through output-based approaches)
- Allocating government WASH investment (e.g. between institutional/public WASH, and subsidising or cross-subsidising household WASH to urban, rural, remote, poorest-of-the-poor populations)
- Expanding scale and reach through bottom-of-the-pyramid businesses
- Value of social enterprises and impact investing to bring in private sector actors
- Cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analyses of WASH interventions
- Motivating household investment in WASH

2. Collaborative and effective WASH enabling environments

- Strategies for sector collaboration and coordination
- Enabling environment actors, roles and functions
- Influence and application of SDGs on national WASH enabling systems
- Enabling accountability of governments and service providers
- Building an effective WASH workforce and upskilling practitioners
- Monitoring and research to improve evidence-based WASH
- Participation of communities in WASH governance
- Effective government planning or monitoring in the context of SDG6

3. Equitable WASH

- Practical and scalable approaches to achieving universal access
- Social inclusion strategies
- Pro-poor support mechanisms and reaching the 'last mile'
- Identifying and targeting vulnerable populations
- Approaches to including disability in WASH
- Innovations in or evidence of effectiveness of financial mechanisms and incentives
- Use of targets, data and monitoring to drive equitable WASH outcomes

4. Women and sustainable WASH

- Meeting the specific WASH needs of women and girls, such as WASH for maternal health and menstrual hygiene management
- Approaches to integrate gender-equality strategies
- Strengths and challenges of mainstreaming targeted gender objectives in WASH initiatives
- Understanding and working with WASH decision-making dynamics within the household
- Women's participation and leadership in WASH within and beyond community levels, such as in workplaces
- Leveraging WASH initiatives to empower women and achieve broader gender outcomes, such as, reducing gender-based violence, improving gender relations, improving reproductive health and fertility, improving women's economic empowerment, livelihoods and education opportunities
- Use of targets, data and monitoring to drive improvements to gender and WASH

5. Sustainable WASH for rural populations

- Addressing the challenges of scale and sustainability of rural WASH systems
- Achieving and sustaining open-defecation-free communities in challenging contexts
- Service delivery models for rural, remote and small communities



- Strategies for demand and supply approaches for rural WASH outcomes
- Roles of enabling actors in rural WASH
- Sustaining and continuous improvement of sanitation post-open defecation free achievements
- Safe rural sanitation and/or faecal sludge technologies and management

6. Urban water and sanitation systems

- Planning, service delivery models and technologies for systems to achieve sustainable water provision and sustainable waste management
- Interactions with drainage and solid waste management
- Technologies and strategies for transitioning urbanising rural communities from rural WASH systems to urban systems
- Phasing and transitional technologies for sanitation in informal settlements
- Integrating nature-based solutions to urban water and sanitation systems
- Public health risk considerations in urban sanitation development
- Integrating recycling of human waste to urban water and sanitation systems

7. WASH service delivery beyond households

- Collaborative approaches to achieve and sustain WASH everywhere outside the household, such as in schools, health facilities, public spaces, work places
- Service delivery approaches that can be achieved and sustained at large scales
- Facilities that meet the needs of all users, including menstrual hygiene and disability

8. Hygiene for personal health and wellbeing

- Evidence-based and scalable WASH-related hygiene promotion and behaviour change
- Menstrual hygiene management in different settings (households, communities, work places, schools etc)
- Approaches to community environmental health (linking human health to environmental conditions)
- Cost-effectiveness of hygiene behaviour change approaches
- Beyond access to wellbeing outcomes
- Measuring hygiene and environmental health improvements from WASH initiatives

9. Integrating WASH with water security and other sectors

- Climate change, resilience, vulnerability and WASH
- Community-scale WASH and water resources management
- Development and disaster WASH
- Maximising synergies between WASH and nutrition programming and outcomes
- Integrated approaches to WASH and food production
- Leveraging investments between WASH and health and education sectors e.g. integrated programming, and cross-subsidies and incentives

10. Achieving SDG6 in Pacific Island Countries

- Achieving climate-resilient WASH systems that are affordable for government and communities
- Approaches to leverage or synergise efforts to meet immediate WASH needs, emergency WASH and climate-resilient WASH
- Collaboration and coordination across country contexts
- Community engagement in integrating WASH and water resources management
- WASH with remote and small populations
- WASH in rapidly urbanising, multicultural populations
- Working within resource and capacity constraints

ABSTRACT FORMAT

- Abstracts should be submitted online at: www.washfutures.com/abstracts
- Please use the abstract template available from www.washfutures.com/abstracts to prepare your abstract.
- Save the abstract with file name: WASHFutures2018_Last Name First Initial.doc (for example: for John Citizen save as WASHFutures2018_CitizenJ.doc)
- You will be required to (i) copy and paste your abstract details into the online abstract submission form (ii) upload your abstract document to the online abstract submission system.
- Your abstract submission should clearly state which type of presentation you would like to make: oral or poster presentation
- Only submissions made online using the provided template will be considered.
- **Abstract submission deadline: 15 June 2017.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

Abstracts will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to WASH topics and broader conference theme of 'collaboration for universal WASH'
- Clarity of presentation description
- Contribution of new knowledge or practical models to improve WASH
- Demonstrated awareness of previous work related to the topic
- Demonstrated awareness of relevance of work to other WASH practitioners and/or policymakers.



SUBMISSION TYPES

Oral presentations (5-6 March 2018)

- The abstract should clearly describe the process / approaches used to achieve the work, achievements or findings to-date as well as critical reflections on challenges faced, lessons learned and implications for the sector.
- Maximum abstract word count: 300 words.
- Presentations must be made in person and presenters should be identified at the time of submitting the abstract.
- Presentations are anticipated to be between 10-20 minutes long, and will be delivered alongside 2-4 other presentations about similar topics in a session. Presenters will be advised of specific details for the duration of their presentation upon release of the conference program. The sessions will be designed and facilitated to allow for delegate questions about specific presentations as well as open discussion on the session topic.
- Presenters may use PowerPoint or other presentation tools (not required). A presenter's guidelines and PowerPoint template will be provided to accepted conference presenters. 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 assist in developing cohesive sessions and ensure a high quality of presentations and sessions is achieved.

Poster presentations (5-9 March 2018)

- Posters will be prominently displayed at the conference, including during a dedicated poster showcase event.
- 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.
- Guidelines for Posters will be provided to accepted poster presenters. 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.
- Prizes will be awarded for the Most Popular, and Best Posters.

CONDITIONS OF PRESENTING

- All presenting authors must register by 30 November 2017 to attend at least one day of WASH Futures 2018 conference and must have paid their fee in full prior to the event.
- All travel and accommodation for presenting authors is at their own expense.
- 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 and made available on the website www.washfutures.com along with audio visual after the conference.



Abstracts for training and workshops

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

- **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 topics, or other relevant topics. Collaborations between organisations are encouraged, as are teams of trainers/workshop presenters, to enable a diversity of experiences from conceptual/academic to practice.

The Conference Committee will review abstracts and work in partnership with selected training/workshop 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 delivered in durations between three-quarters to two days
- 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 50 participants

ABSTRACTS SHOULD

- Be submitted in the approved template (available from www.washfutures.com)
- Summarise the subject of the training and its importance
- Summarise expected learning outcomes for participants
- Summarise training methods or approach, including the proposed duration (3/4 day to 2 days)
- Summarise the training team including their experience both of the subject matter and in training
- Not exceed 500 words

SELECTION CRITERIA

Abstracts will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of training workshop/topic to WASH sector needs
- Clarity of training/workshop description
- Appropriateness of approach for the training/workshop (including participant interactivity)
- Experience of proposed training/workshop leaders
- Builds upon previous work related to the topic
- Addresses applicability to other WASH practitioners

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

You will be notified by email by 31 August 2017 if your application for a presentation and/or poster 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 you carefully check the edited abstract for grammar, spelling and technical correctness.



General Information

PUBLICATIONS

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

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.

WASH FUTURES 2018 PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Monday 5 March	Conference: Plenaries & concurrent sessions Poster display (including presentation session) Trade exhibition
Tuesday 6 March	
Wednesday 7 March	Training and Workshops Poster display
Thursday 8 March	
Friday 9 March	

AWARDS

A range of awards will be presented during the conference dinner, for individuals and organisations. For further information about applying for awards, please visit www.washfutures.com.

EXHIBITION OF ORGANISATIONS IN WASH

An exhibition of organisations active in water, sanitation and/or hygiene will be convened for the first two days of the conference. For more information about opportunities to exhibit organisational materials and interact with conference delegates, please contact Danielle at LOUD Events danielle@loud.events.

KEY DATES

Abstract submission closes: **15 June 2017**

Expected notification of acceptance: **31 August 2017**

Deadline for acceptance by authors: **15 September 2017**

Deadline for registration for presenting authors: **30 November 2017**

Early bird registration closes: **20 December 2017**

ENQUIRIES

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