

Climate resilience pathways: Water security and WASH in Asia Pacific

29 April – 1 May 2025

CALL FOR POSTERS

About the conference

Water security, WASH, and climate resilience are deeply interconnected, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, where climate challenges such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and water scarcity are becoming more severe. This conference will explore how ensuring inclusive access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and effective water management is not only critical for health but also foundational to building resilience for all in the face of a changing climate.

The Australian Government has played a significant role in advancing climate-resilient, inclusive water security and WASH in the Asia-Pacific region. The Water for Women Fund, in particular, has generated valuable experience and lessons in these areas. Working collaboratively with regional partners, Water for Women and its partner, the International WaterCentre, are hosting this conference as a platform for professionals, practitioners, and development partners working in water, WASH, climate, and gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) to share best practices and integrated approaches to delivering SDG 6—a fundamental pillar of climate resilience.

Over its seven-year program, Water for Women partners have demonstrated the critical role of water security and inclusive WASH in climate adaptation and resilience, while also showing that effective adaptation is central to achieving water security. This open event provides a timely opportunity to share lessons and insights on key challenges and enablers with other actors across the network working to strengthen climate resilience through the lens of water management and WASH. It also offers collaborators, such as ADB, Sanitation and Water for All, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank, the chance to share their experiences and perspectives.

The conference is supported by key DFAT programs, including the Water for Women Fund, the Australian Water Partnership, and the Mekong Australia Partnership, among others. It represents a key opportunity for the lessons learned from these initiatives to be shared and discussed with a broader audience across the water and climate sectors.

Participants will gain insights from innovative projects and share actionable strategies that bridge local practices with policy, paving the way for sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient water systems. Join us as we work together to build stronger, more secure futures for communities across the region.

Conference theme

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) represents a global commitment to ensure safe water and sanitation for all. This ambitious goal encompasses the sustainable management of water resources, water supplies, wastewater, and water ecosystems, while guaranteeing universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. However, achieving SDG6 faces significant challenges, particularly from the growing impacts of climate change. Realising this goal demands unwavering commitment to effective policy and practice.

Water management and WASH are deeply interconnected with other critical development priorities, such as economic growth, livelihoods, health, education, gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), energy, and food security. Climate change, shocks, and disasters increasingly threaten development progress, directly impacting water resources, WASH services, and water ecosystems. These disruptions also hinder advancements in health, education, energy, social inclusion, and food security due to their strong interdependencies with water management and WASH.

Adapting to climate change and achieving progress on these interconnected goals requires recognising and addressing these cross-sectoral links. A systems change approach is essential to effectively leverage these synergies, ensuring that interventions in one area amplify positive outcomes in others. By designing policies and programs that harness these connections, we can maximise impact and resilience. The *Climate Resilience Pathways* conference seeks to strengthen this critical work by fostering the exchange of practices and insights, enabling more effective and integrated approaches to water security and WASH in the face of climate challenges.

Conference topics

- Understanding and programming in response to climate risks
- Linking WASH (including wastewater), water management and climate change
- Inclusive and climate resilient water and sanitation safety planning
- Mitigation and adaptation for climate-resilient sanitation and the sanitation service chain
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation and/or Nature-based Solutions for water and WASH
- Environmental health risks from sanitation
- Groundwater for climate-resilient WASH
- WASH, water management and food security/agriculture
- Water, WASH and energy
- WASH Circularity in support of climate resilience
- Monitoring climate-resilient water supply and sanitation
- From coping to adaptation in rural water and sanitation
- Advancing rural and remote water supply including professionalisation
- Self-supply water security – risks and opportunities
- Improving WASH access and behaviours in institutional settings
- Menstrual health and climate resilience
- Peace, conflict and water
- Linking WASH with greater community resilience
- Climate resilience through gender-transformative approaches in WASH
- The intersectionality of climate vulnerability and WASH and meeting the needs of marginalised people
- Gender-based violence and WASH access in a changing climate
- WASH, extreme heat and inclusion
- Partnering with rights holder organisations including disability groups
- Human rights and WASH systems strengthening
- Locally-led water management and WASH and decolonisation
- Advocacy and influencing strategies to support SDG6
- Strengthening leadership for climate resilience and inclusion in WASH
- Financing and investing in WASH, including climate financing and life-cycle costing
- Source-to-Sea: water and WASH crossing boundaries in Asia
- WASH in the Pacific in the context of climate change and disasters
- Linking catchment water management to community WASH in the Pacific
- Managing climate impacts on water resources and WASH in the Pacific
- Water and WASH enabling/governance systems in the Pacific, including decentralisation
- Water security, WASH and COP - opportunities for collaboration

Conference format

The 2025 conference will take place in two sub-regional hubs: Bangkok, Thailand and Suva, Fiji.

A common (cross-hub) plenary program will unite the two hubs to discuss critical, universal issues.

This will be complemented by an in-person program of sessions in each hub addressing issues and opportunities relevant to the sub-region. The in-person programs also include a Poster and Networking session.

Plenary sessions will be jointly delivered by both hubs simultaneously. There will be online streaming of plenaries for online delegates. All other sessions will be in person only. These topic sessions will be locally delivered in person with multiple sessions delivered in parallel. There will be 3-5 streams of sessions, depending on interest and capacity.

Call for posters

We are calling for abstracts for Posters

- Every poster must have an author in attendance, onsite at the conference location. Poster presenters are able to select whether they display their poster and attend the Suva, Fiji, or, the Bangkok, Thailand conference location.
- Posters will be prominently displayed at the conference, including during a dedicated poster showcase event.
- During the dedicated Poster & networking session, poster authors are required to be located close to their poster, to allow conference participants to discuss the poster.
- 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. The poster should provide the audience with sufficient information to understand the process and outcomes of the research or practice being described.
- Preparation and printing of suitable posters will be your own responsibility and will be at your own cost.

Poster Abstract format

- Proposals should be submitted online at <https://forms.office.com/r/kKwdBL76w7> (this link is also accessible via www.watercentre.org/washconference)
- To submit an abstract, you will be required to type your proposal details directly into the online proposal submission form.
- Only submissions made online using the form provided will be considered.
- Online form fields:
 - Conference location author will attend
 - Contact details, and author details
 - Title
 - Key topics addressed (as listed in this Call for Posters)
 - Summary of main content (background, approach, outcomes)

Selection Criteria

1. Relevance to nominated conference topic and the broader conference theme of 'Climate resilience pathways for water security and WASH in Asia Pacific'.
2. Attention to one or more of the following cross-cutting issues:
 - Climate resilience
 - Sustainability and scale (as key requirements for resilience)
 - Gender equality, disability and social inclusion
3. Contribution of new knowledge, ideas or experience
4. Relevance and likely interest to a broad international audience

Abstract submission deadline: please check the website www.watercentre.org/washconference .

Conditions of presenting

- All poster presenters must register by 31 March 2025 to attend the 2025 conference and nominate which location they are attending (note, registrations are limited, so ensure your spot we recommend you register as soon as possible) -please register as a speaker.
- All speakers must intend to make their poster presentations in-person at a conference location.
- All travel and accommodation for presenters is at their own expense.
- All speakers/poster presenters must accept the conditions in the Speaker Consent information during registration.
- Any poster without at least one registered author will be withdrawn from the program unless there an email explaining the reasons for this is provided and the Secretariat accepts this reason.
- A poster display board will provided by the conference.
- Material presented must be based on the authors' own original material, or acknowledge copyright and intellectual property appropriately.

Selection and Notification Process

Poster contacts will be notified by email by 14 March 2025 if their application for a poster presentation is accepted, or if submitted after this date, within a week of submission.

Key dates

- Poster abstracts close: please check www.watercentre.org/washconference
- Expected notification of acceptance of posters: 14 March 2025 (for abstracts submitted by 9 March 2025)
- Deadline for confirmation by poster presenters, and conference registration: 31 March 2025

Further information: crp@griffith.edu.au