

Call for Papers for 2nd Coastal Water Convention

August 2019, Khulna

Strengthening governance, enhancing private sector engagement, protecting eco-system and adapting to climate change impact

The organizing committee of the 2nd Coastal Water Convention invites researchers, academicians, policy makers, social workers, students and other actors to send original abstracts of research papers and case studies. The convention will be held on 1-2 August 2019 in Khulna, Bangladesh under the theme - “Strengthening governance, enhancing private sector engagement, protecting eco-system and adapting to climate change impact”.

Over 134 million people still do not have access to improved drinking water in South Asia. It is estimated that more than 70 million people in Bangladesh are affected by climate change, many of whom live in coastal areas. Absence of clean water and safe sanitation facilities poses a serious threat to Bangladesh’s future and to the children under 5 suffering from chronic malnutrition. This is partially caused by the lack of access to clean water and safe sanitation. The coastal population faces increasing risks from rising sea levels, saline intrusion and arsenic contamination in the ground water, which cause insecurity of safe and affordable drinking water. Throughout the world, an estimated 2.4 billion people lack basic sanitation (more than 32% of the world’s population). The theme is interdisciplinary in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and broad enough to cover a range of disciplinary areas such as agriculture, nutrition, environment, disaster risk reduction, climate change to name a few.

In this backdrop, more than 40 organizations, forums and networks working in the south west of Bangladesh have taken initiative to organize 2nd Coastal Water Convention having four thematic sessions including inaugural and concluding sessions. A Khulna declaration will be made on the basis of the findings from the technical sessions besides inaugural and other side events.

The theme of technical sessions for abstract:

- **Governance for access to safe drinking water in the coastal area:** This theme will inquire political, economic and administrative authority with regard to water governance at all levels. The convention will create a common platform to discuss, debate and work side by side involving major actors of good governance to ensure effective water governance in the coastal districts.
- **The role of private sector for assuring safe drinking water to coastal communities:** CBOs are playing an important role over the years for the operation and maintenance of the water points facilitated by NGOs. There are evidences of private investment for ensuring water supply under business mode. It is observed that private investors lack interest for water business due to absence of incentives, regulatory framework and investor-friendly guideline. The theme will focus on business model and learning-sharing about water business model through private sector engagement.
- **Appropriate and affordable sanitation technology for vulnerable communities in light of SDG:** Though overall progress seemingly appears good, the country is far away from achieving SDG target. Situation of vulnerable communities in the Southwest of Bangladesh is critical, because they do not have climate resilient sanitation technology.

This theme will draw both public and private actors in WASH sector to take initiative for Research and Development (R&D) on climate resilient sanitation technology.

- **Protecting eco-system and adaptation to climate impact:** Climate change has severely affected ecosystem, agricultural practices, potable water crisis, livelihood security, and health status in the southwest of Bangladesh. Soil salinity has exponentially increased after cyclone Sidr in 2007 and Aila in 2009. This theme will draw possible solutions from academic and practitioners for realistic adaptation to climate change.

Important Dates for the Presenters

Submission Deadline: July 12, 2019

Acceptance Decisions: July 16, 2019

Attending Conference: August 01 – 02, 2019

Your abstract will undergo a double-blind peer review by a technical committee formed for this convention. The results of the review of abstracts will be sent to the authors by 17 July, 2019. The technical committee and convener of the convention serves the authority for providing final decision about the selection of abstracts. If your abstract is accepted, you will be invited to register for the 2nd Coastal Water Convention. Please note that a single registration permits only one person to attend the convention. If the co-authors would like to attend the convention, the cost should be made independently.

Convention Venue

Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh

Abstract Publication:

The selected abstracts will be published for this convention in advance of the event. The organizers will decide whether the detailed paper will be published following the convention.

Abstract Submission Instructions and Timeline:

The abstract should limit within 700 words. The language is flexible, either in Bangla or English is acceptable. For abstract guidelines, concept note of the convention, detail description of the technical sessions and other related information, please reach out to Professor Dr. Dilip Kumar Dutta by email: dkd_195709@yahoo.com or Nirmal Sarker by email: Nirmal_Sarker@wvi.org. Abstracts submitted after 12 July 2019 will not be accepted for the convention. For submitting abstract, please mention “Coastal Water Convention 2019” in the subject line. The organizers will bear travel and accommodation related expenses for the presenters.

For further info about the convention, you also can reach out to the Convener of the Convention, Mohammed Norul Alam Raju by email: mohammed_norul_alam@wvi.org.