

42nd WEDC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ONLINE: 13 –15 September 2021

**Equitable and Sustainable WASH Services:
Future challenges in a rapidly changing world**

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – UPDATE

We invite you to participate in the 42nd WEDC International Conference. The conference is a valued and respected platform for reflection, debate and exchange of knowledge and ideas that are rooted in practice.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the conference in 2021 will take place entirely online.

Our title this year recognises that the the world faces a future that is uncertain, and as we face the global challenge of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are challenged too by climate change and the impact it has on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

For fifty years, WEDC has sought to develop the knowledge and capacity of both individuals and institutions across the world working to meet the challenges of WASH in low- and middle-income countries. WEDC International Conferences continue to be key to supporting learning and sharing, which is critical for progress towards global goals and aspirations. To this end, we encourage open and honest exchange and debate of experiences of WASH within our changing environment.

The conference comprises three days of online presentations and interactive discussions of peer-reviewed content; agency events from international organizations working in the sector; online exhibitions; and the opportunity for delegates to meet and network in our virtual rooms. Typically attracting more than 400 participants from research, practice and policy communities across more than 40 countries, this is truly a unique international event.

We hope to see you online in September when we will also be celebrating 50 years of WEDC!

Our programme includes the following options for contributions

Presentations

Throughout the conference, a variety of papers, grouped thematically, will be presented and discussed.

Presentations may be direct accounts of projects or programmes that aim to share successes and failures of approaches and field experiences including lessons learnt, or they may introduce new knowledge developed with clear rigorous methodologies and analysis.

This year, we invite authors to submit 'extended abstracts' of their chosen topics using the template provided on our website. The abstract should not exceed two pages and should closely address an aspect of one of the themes listed below.

Theme Leaders and External Reviewers will select the most relevant abstracts for each theme and invite the authors of these abstracts to prepare a presentation for inclusion in the conference programme. Authors of abstracts not selected may be invited to submit an espresso slot presentation or a poster for display in the online Poster Gallery.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 March 2021.

Authors will be informed of the outcome of the first review by 30 April 2021.

The deadline for re-submitting an amended abstract (if required) is 15 May 2021.

Authors will be informed of the outcome of the second review by 31 May 2021.

See the *Guidance for Authors and Presenters* document and select the extended abstract template from [My WEDC](#).

Preparing presentations

An author who is invited to submit a presentation should prepare a *narrated* PowerPoint using the PowerPoint template provided. A presentation should last no longer than 10 minutes.

When complete, the PowerPoint should also be exported as an mp4 video file and submitted online through the WEDC Conference System. During the conference sessions, the video files will be streamed and followed by a live interactive question and answer discussion with the authors. (See *Guidance for Authors and Presenters* for further details.)

Presentations should be submitted by 15 July 2021. They will be checked to make sure they meet the requirements for submission.

The author will be informed by **31 July 2021** if amendments are required. If this is the case, the file must be re-submitted by **12 August 2021**.

Espresso slot presentations

A number of the discussion sessions are dedicated to mixed topic 'espresso' slot presentations that also address at least one of themes of the conference. This innovative and popular format allows authors to present a five minute recorded presentation.

Videos are reviewed beforehand (as above) and will be included in the online *Conference Proceedings* on the condition that authors are available to answer questions during the live interactive discussion sessions.

Posters

Posters are summaries of relevant topics or projects. These will be prominently displayed in the online Poster Gallery and feature in the online *Conference Proceedings*.

Posters should be submitted for review by 31 July 2021. See the *Guidance for Authors and Presenters* document for further details.

Exhibitions

Exhibitors will enjoy a unique and valuable opportunity to showcase their cutting edge developments, products, services and approaches in the exhibition area with direct links to their product websites.

Visit the website for further details and a booking form to be submitted by **15 June 2021**.

Agency events

An agency event is a 1.5 hour slot integrated into the event programme. International agencies, programmes or projects share results, introduce new approaches, or consult with the conference audience on emerging topics in the sector through live interactive presentations and discussions. We aim to include an exciting variety and balance of topics in our agency event programme.

These events are in high demand, so we ask conveners to download the proposal form from the conference website and apply for these by **15 June 2021**.

Themes

You are invited to submit abstracts which specifically contribute to discussions within the following themes:

1. **Climate change:** weather extremes (e.g. floods and droughts) and water resources management, including but not limited to topics related to fundamental understanding, remote sensing, modelling and management strategies
2. **Integrating disaster risk management into WASH interventions**
3. **Sanitation systems and services** e.g. household and peri-urban approaches and faecal sludge management
4. **Rural water supply** e.g. approaches to sustainability and serving the hardest to reach communities and households
5. **Groundwater resources**
6. **Innovations and advances in biowaste, wastewater treatment and waste to energy technologies** e.g. anaerobic digestion, composting, thermochemical processing, resource recovery and circular economy concepts; and end-use applications
7. **Urban water management**
8. **Institutional development and programme management**
9. **Data analytics, machine learning/AI applications in WASH**

Deadlines

It is vital that the deadline dates for submissions given above are met to allow time for reviewers to assess the papers, to give authors opportunity to make corrections, and to ensure the inclusion of presentations in the online *List of Abstracts*.

Conference Proceedings

Accepted presentations and posters to be presented at the conference will appear in the *Conference Proceedings*. Authors and other contributors should note that a condition of submission of a presentation will be that they consent to these appearing online as items in the Proceedings. The Proceedings will be stored in Loughborough University's Institutional Repository indefinitely, as a publicly accessible resource.

All delegates should note that live discussions and chats will also form part of the Proceedings. Contributors and other delegates will be asked on registration to accept these terms and conditions. However, you may participate without featuring in the Proceedings provided that you are not a presenter or contribute to the session discussions.

Registration

To register for the conference visit [My WEDC](#).

Authors, presenters, exhibitors, and agency staff are required to register for the conference by **12 August 2021**.

The registration deadline for all other delegates is **27 August 2021**.

Important

Please note that all delegates should have access to a reliable internet connection. The Conference will be launched and run from [My WEDC](#).

Time zones

Every attempt will be made to schedule presentations during local daytime hours.

Registration and provisional programme

Friday 27th August	Registration deadline for delegates. (Please note that the registration deadline for authors and presenters is 12 August.)
Monday 13th September	Plenary Session / Celebrating 50 Years of WEDC and WASH Presentations and discussion sessions, agency events, poster displays, exhibitions
Tuesday 14th September	Presentations and discussion sessions, agency events, poster displays, exhibitions
Wednesday 15th September	Presentations and discussion sessions, agency events, poster displays, exhibitions

Fees

Authors resident in low or lower middle-income countries*	Residents in low- and middle-income countries / Students	Residents in other countries
Free	£50	£75

Contacts

Conference Manager/Editor: Rod Shaw (R.J.Shaw@lboro.ac.uk)
Conference Finance Administrator: Karishma Joshi (K.Joshi@lboro.ac.uk)

* Authors of accepted abstracts and presentations who are resident in low or lower middle-income countries as listed in the [UN World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2020](#) (also available from My WEDC) will be exempt from charge.

How to join the conference

Visit [My WEDC](#), our gateway to finding and managing your participation in events such as our international conferences. Signing-up and creating a user profile is free and will grant you access to all other areas of the My WEDC website. You can find the [Terms and Conditions](#) here, prior to signing up.

Once you have signed up, you will find the *Guidance for Authors and Presenters* document and the templates and/or forms for participation in the conference, including the abstract template; the poster template; and application forms for agency events and exhibitions.

The My WEDC Conference System, also available from My WEDC, is where you upload your submissions, register and purchase your admission to the conference and enter the online venue in September, so we recommend that you bookmark [My WEDC](#).



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