

**NETWORK OF ASIA PACIFIC SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE (NAPSIPAG)
9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2012**

12-14th December, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Concept Note and Call for Papers

**Development Challenges in the Asia Pacific: Millennium
Development Goals and Beyond**



**PROPOSALS
DEADLINE
EXTENDED to
14 JULY**

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) is pleased to call for paper proposals for the 2012 NAPSIPAG Conference to be held on 12-14 December, 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in partnership with the Department of Management, Monash University, Australia and NAPSIPAG.

CONFERENCE THEME

In 2000, for the first time in development history, 189 member countries of the United Nations made a solemn commitment to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger, illiteracy, environmental degradation and inequality to a significant extent by 2015. The realisation of these 'Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) required greater cooperation between developed and developing countries. In 2010, member countries reiterated their commitment in accelerating the realisation of these goals.

However, after a decade since the first commitment was made, the MDG progress report in 2011 indicated that significant shortfalls still remained in achieving these goals across the board. The situation has deteriorated due to the recent global financial crisis, terrorism and international conflicts, soaring food and oil prices, and on-going climate change. With only three more years until the targeted year of achieving these goals, countries need to review their development progress and formulate their national policies towards successful goal attainment. If the obstacles undermining the progress are identified, those could be addressed through sound, evidence-based policies and practices that are likely to work in individual countries. In this regard, the mechanism to strengthen regional, national and local capacities to be more resilient over the longer term is becoming the centre piece of the development dialogues around the world.

Given this scenario, NAPSIPAG 2012 aims to provide a forum for academics, researchers and practitioners alike to come together and contribute to widening and enriching the knowledge base on MDG programs and progress in the Asia Pacific Region. The Asia Pacific region represents a large proportion of the world's population and economic output, and over two thirds of the world poor. Therefore, it is the region at the top of the agenda in achieving MDG goals. Effective and efficient government systems promote sound policy implementation and keep countries on track to reach desired development goals. National governments must collaborate and cooperate with private and civic sectors in order to

achieve the targets set by MDGs. In this context, good governance practices, strong institutional capacities, human resource development and innovation, and effective leadership could play key roles.

Accordingly, there is a need for continuous review and monitoring of the progress achieved by each country. Opening up dialogues and debates between the parties responsible for steering countries towards materialising the MDGs is a prerequisite for understanding and evaluating the effectiveness of the paths taken by each member state. This year's conference sets the stage for participants to discuss and share their knowledge, experience and expertise regarding the achievements made within individual nations and the way forward. The questions that need to be addressed include:

- 1) What are the lessons learned in following this development path?
- 2) What were the challenges faced and the mechanism to overcome them?
- 3) What are the success stories that can inspire and motivate other nations to undertake similar actions?

Such a discussion becomes essential at a time when the world is approaching the threshold of the target year of 2015.

In order to promote research and dissemination of knowledge on the above theme, and for the future development of public administration and governance, NAPSIPAG invites papers under the following themes:

Democracy, Geopolitics and Good Governance

- Democracy and governance: Democratic transitions in the Asia-Pacific region
- Peace and national security as prerequisites to achieving good governance and development goals

Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Meet Regional Development Challenges

- Issues of ethics and integrity in institutions of governance
- Responding to crises as obstacles to achieving multiple MDGs
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) as strategies to deliver better, cheaper projects and services
- E-governance as a tool to achieve MDGs

The Role of Effective Leadership in Policy Reforms

- Balancing social support with higher economic development
- Participatory development to alleviate poverty
- Empowering women in the Asia Pacific
- Education and gender equality: Emerging issues and evolving approaches

Human Resource Development

- Trends in global labour mobility in the Asia-Pacific region
- The contribution of human resource development in the public sector to productivity
- The public sector's role in creating equality and sharing the benefits of development

International Development Partnerships

- International development assistance and national priorities
- Obstacles for national and sub-national level project implementation
- Aid effectiveness: the challenges for effective implementation of development projects and improving national aid absorption capability

Disaster Management and the Environment

- Disaster management capacities and responses
- Reducing environmental impacts of climate change and climate change adaptation.

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The objective of a conference presentation is to contribute to the field of knowledge in cross-country research and training in the Asia-Pacific governance systems and public administration initiatives. This, in turn, is expected to find home-grown models and innovative methods specifically related to unique contextual factors in the Asia Pacific which could speed up progress towards achieving MDGs by 2015.

Papers are invited on any of the sub-themes of the conference. Contributions can be in the form of a paper or a panel presentation. Authors are requested to submit abstracts fulfilling the following standards. Abstracts will be judged against the following criteria: (a) originality, (b) theoretical foundations, (c) strength of methodology, (d) perceived contribution to advancing knowledge in the field of public management and governance.

1. Papers should follow the APA style guide.
 2. The length of the paper should not exceed 5000 words.
 3. Abstract (not more than 500 words) and 3-5 key words need to be incorporated at the start.
 4. The title must clearly indicate the Conference sub-theme being addressed.
 5. The author's introduction should be given in not more than 50 words (only providing the name, designation, institutional affiliation, postal and email addresses).
 6. Submission Deadlines:
 - Abstracts and panel proposal must reach the conference secretariat electronically at napsipag2012@slida.lk by ~~30 June 2012~~ **14 JULY (EXTENDED DEADLINE)**.
 - Acceptance would be announced on the 14 of August, 2012
- Completed papers should reach the conference secretariat by the **30th of September** to help with timely peer review and disbursement of funds for the selected paper presenters.
7. All submissions will be subject to blind review by two independent reviewers.
 8. Selected papers will be considered for publication in a special issue in the *International*

Journal of Public Administration or the *Journal of Administration & Governance*.

REGISTRATION

All accepted presenters will be required to register for the conference and pay a conference registration fee. *The conference registration fee is automatically waived for paid NAPSIPAG members.* Those selected for presentation of papers will be listed in the conference program only upon satisfactory and on-time submission of conference papers. Foreign Participants will have the opportunity to stay at the conference hotel, free of charge, with shuttle transport to and from the conference venue at SLIDA.

REGISTRATION FEE:

Free: NAPSIPAG members only
USD 110: Non-members

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission deadline for abstracts 30 June 2012
- Notification of acceptance 31 July 2012
- Submission deadline for full papers with funding requests 30 September 2012
- Confirmation of participation with funding outcomes 15 October 2012

ACCOMMODATION

Boarding/lodging is free for all foreign participants.

CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR TRAVELLING

A limited number of travel support grants will also be provided.

Please note that applying for funding will not automatically make someone eligible for funding. Given the availability of limited amount of fund, full or partial funding will be granted based on quality of the paper and the actual need of the individual participants. Participants are also requested to find the funding for their travel.

MAILING ADDRESS

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration,
No: 28/10, Malalasekara Mawatha,
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94-11-2582181 - 5
Fax: +94-11-2584406
E-mail Address: mail@slida.lk

For more details, please visit (<http://www.napsipag.org/> or <http://www.slida.lk/>) For other inquiries, please email the Program Committee Co-Chairs Dr Ramanie Samaratunge at ramanie.samaratunge@monash.edu or Associate Professor Ken Coghill at ken.coghill@monash.edu or Dr Jayantha Samarasinghe at Jayantha@slida.lk

We look forward to reviewing your conference paper proposals.

Ramanie Samaratunge and Ken Coghill
On behalf of the Organising Committee

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Ramanie Samaratunge, Department of Management, Monash University, Australia
Associate Professor Ken Coghill, Department of Management, Monash University,
Australia

P. B. Abeykoon, Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration & Home Affairs, Sri Lanka

B. Wijayarathne, Director, SLIDA, Sri Lanka

Dr Jayantha Samarasinghe, SLIDA, Sri Lanka

Dr Sepali Sudasinghe, SLIDA, Sri Lanka

Dr. I. H. K. Mahanama, Senior Consultant, SLIDA, Sri Lanka

Dr H. M. A. Herath, Head, Department of Public Administration, University of Sri
Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka

Professor Lalitha Fernando, Department of Public Administration, University of Sri
Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka

Dr Bhadra Arachchige, Department of Human Resource Management, University of Sri
Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka

Professor Sudatta Ranasinghe, Department of Management Studies, Open University, Sri
Lanka