

Call for Papers for the 10th International Water Conference 2025

Geopolitics of Water and Oceanic Futures

As a pioneer in promoting water justice and indigenous rights to rivers, ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) is organizing the 10th International Water Conference 2025 titled 'Geopolitics of Water and Oceanic Futures.' The conference will take place in January 2025, building upon the previous nine International Water Conferences organized since 2016.

Dates: January 2025

Modality: Hybrid; in-person in Bangladesh with online joining options

Background

The country's complex and fundamental relationship with water streams provides AAB with a uniquely comprehensive understanding of the matter, which leads to recognise the importance of focusing this year's conference's discourse on 'Geopolitics of Water and Oceanic Futures. Challenges and solutions related to this topic are not, in fact, limited to the national or regional contexts, but extend to all over the world. It is, therefore, by scaling up the reach of these conversations that AAB wishes to engage regionally and internationally, exploring a diverse range of topics and involving diverse voices. AAB aims to lead this conversation by providing a platform through the International Water Conference for youth, researchers, academicians, water practitioners, and river experts to identify and spread breakthrough ideas critical to addressing water-related concerns.

Therefore, AAB is opening its call for papers for the 10th International Water Conference. Participants can contribute with research papers and innovative ideas, that fit within one of the broader themes, which can be found here below, along with the submission link.

Themes of the Conference

1. Water Discourse in the Age of Multipolarity: The Futures of Teesta & Transboundary Rivers

In the age of multipolarity, water discourse surrounding the futures of the Teesta and other transboundary rivers has gained significant prominence. This era is characterized by a shift from unipolar dominance to a multipolar world where multiple nations and regions wield considerable influence. Effective governance and equitable resource distribution are crucial for regional stability and sustainable development. As global power dynamics evolve, fostering collaboration and dialogue among riparian nations becomes essential to address shared challenges and ensure the equitable utilization of transboundary water resource.

2. Climate Change and Local Innovations

Climate change exacerbates water crises, necessitating innovative local water management solutions to secure and conserve this vital resource. Communities facing water scarcity are developing and implementing diverse strategies to adapt to changing conditions to address the water crises.

3. Water Finance and Hydro-politics

Water finance involves investments in infrastructure, technology, and management systems to ensure efficient and equitable water access. Hydro-politics, on the other hand, refers to the political strategies and power dynamics that emerge around the control and management of water resources, particularly in transboundary contexts where water bodies cross national borders. The section focuses on the nation's response and role to balance competing demands and ensure sustainable water use, highlighting the intricate interplay between financial strategies and political diplomacy in addressing global water challenges.

4. Engendering Water: Feminist Theorizing of Climate Change and Climate Politics

To examine the constructions that dominate climate politics, feminist theory highlights the gendered dimensions of water scarcity and management. By integrating feminist insights, this aims to foster equitable and inclusive policies that address the intertwined challenges of climate change and water management, ultimately promoting social justice and sustainability.

5. Intersectional Insights: Critical Feminist Perspectives on Climate Change and Power Dynamics

Through an intersectional lens, this reveals how various individuals and communities experience and respond to climate change differently based on their unique positions within intersecting systems of power and oppression. By examining the complex interplay between race, gender, class, and other social factors, critical feminist theory illuminates the unequal distribution of both the impacts of climate change and the resources available to mitigate them.

6. Engendering Water Discourse: from Rivers to Sea

By examining how gender intersects with other social factors across different water bodies—from rivers and lakes to oceans and seas—this discourse aims to uncover inequalities and advocate for more inclusive and equitable water policies and practices on both local and global scales.

7. Mainstreaming Water Education

By incorporating lessons on water conservation, management, and sustainability across disciplines such as science, geography, social studies, and even arts and humanities, mainstreaming water education ensures that learners of all ages develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become informed stewards of water resources.

8. Climate Futures and the Role of Hydro-Diplomacy

As global warming alters precipitation patterns and exacerbates water scarcity, the competition over limited water supplies intensifies. Hydro-diplomacy offers a framework for facilitating cooperation and resolving conflicts among nations that share transboundary water resources.

9. Geopolitics of Cooperation and Oceanic Futures

In exploring oceanic futures, understanding the geopolitics of cooperation becomes imperative. As nations grapple with escalating maritime disputes and the environmental challenges posed by climate change, cooperation emerges as a crucial avenue for ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of ocean resources.

Deadline for applications: 30 June 2024

Guidelines

Abstract of the research paper

- It should be on research you have conducted that is relevant to any of the above themes
- The file should not be more than 350 Words (max)
- Mention the author's name and affiliation during the submission

Innovative Idea

- The innovative idea proposed should be related to the themes mentioned above
- The idea can be a rough drawing, photo story, mind map, model, poster or anything that represents you and your creativity
- If you submit an illustration, please make sure there is 100-200 words brief outlining the idea behind it.

To Register and Submit the Idea/Abstract

Link: <https://forms.gle/TDtHMZFQZbWn67Uz7>

For queries please contact: Tanzia.Anjum@actionaid.org