

## International Universities Climate Alliance

### **Climate & Cities Conference** *The Asian region in a global context*

The International Universities Climate Alliance invites the submission of abstracts to present sessions at its 2021 virtual conference on the **28th and 29th of October 2021**. Please email all submissions and queries to the Climate Alliance Secretariat: [universitiesforclimate@unsw.edu.au](mailto:universitiesforclimate@unsw.edu.au)

#### **Summary**

The Climate Alliance's Asian Regional member universities are developing an online conference to share research on how cities are impacted by climate change and the opportunities to transform future cities towards a net zero economy ahead of the COP26 meetings in November 2021.

Urban environmental planning is an important consideration for the global transition towards a net zero economy and Asian cities are inherently an important part of this process:

- 70% of the world's largest cities create 80% of the carbon emissions globally.
- Tokyo is the world's largest city with an agglomeration of 37 million inhabitants, followed by New Delhi with 29 million and Shanghai with 26 million.
- 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050.
- By 2030, the world is projected to have 43 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants.

*Source: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

#### **About the International Universities Climate Alliance**

The Climate Alliance was formed in April 2020 by 48 universities across 21 countries to elevate the voices of key researchers by providing a platform for universities worldwide to communicate climate research with clarity and authority.

While climate change presents the world with an enormous challenge, it also provides an opportunity to collaborate, exchange knowledge and invest in our shared future. Communities around the world are calling for greater action from governments, business, and industry to do more to address climate change. The world's universities are uniquely placed to share knowledge and provide high-level expertise to policymakers, business and the global community on evidence-based means to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Climate & Cities Conference is organised by the Climate Alliance Secretariat with the following universities:

- Hokkaido University
- Nanking University
- National University of Singapore
- TERI School of Advanced Studies
- University of Hong Kong

## Conference Session Themes

<p><b>Session 1</b> - Initiatives toward zero carbon through collaboration between universities and the region</p>	<p>In this session, we would like to exchange the information of universities' research activities, and examples or ideas for collaborative works between universities and local governments, which is making full use of the characteristics of local environments, toward zero-carbon society.</p>
<p><b>Session 2</b> - Diversity in urban climate resilience and mitigation/adaptation strategies among regions</p>	<p>This theme aims to initialize the potential collaboration on urban climate resilience research among universities at regions, by sharing the research activities and experiences on tackling local environmental risks and vulnerabilities (i.e., air quality, heat stress, hydrology, extreme weather and disasters) in urban systems.</p>
<p><b>Session 3</b> - Natural and technological solutions to mitigating climate change in cities</p>	<p>This theme could include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon sources and sinks in cities</li> <li>• Technological potential to mitigate carbon emissions</li> <li>• Potential and the pathway to net zero emissions</li> <li>• Cost and benefit of a net zero carbon in cities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 4</b> - Coastal Cities</p>	<p>As the access to the ocean has been traditionally considered as an additional value, coastal cities include some of Asia's large metropolises, from Mumbai to Jakarta, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Tokyo. With the rapid increase in coastal populations, the value of the proximity to oceans has moved from the accessibility of food resources and maritime transport to challenges associated with land availability and over exploitation of resources and increasing pollution.</p>
<p><b>Session 5</b> – Climate Mitigation &amp; Adaptation</p>	<p>The balance between the natural and urban environments in our cities</p>

## Abstract Submissions

Deadline: **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Session format:

All sessions are 30 minutes long.

Oral Presentation	Panel Discussion
Focus: Aligned to a sub-theme, the presentation will focus on a case study, latest research or innovative management practices	Focus: Aligned to a sub-theme, the panel discussion will focus on exchanging ideas and experiences between researchers, industry experts and policy-makers.
Max length of presentation – 20 minutes	Max length of presentation – 20 minutes
Max no. of presenters - 2	Max no. of panellists – 4 including Chair/Facilitator
Q & A – 10 minutes	Q & A – 10 minutes

Abstract Information:

- Session title and abstract (max 100 words) – This may be used on the website and in promotion
- Full description (max 500 words)
  - Names, Contact Details, and Biographies of Proposed Speaker
  - Conference Subtheme Category
  - Session Learning Outcomes and “Take-aways”
- Audio-Visual Needs

Additional information

- Biographies may include presenters’ positions and major work accomplishments relevant to the presenter’s session topic.
- Proposals must be complete at time of submission – it is not sufficient to note “information to be added later.” Incomplete proposals will not be considered in the review process.
- Proposals submitted without an abstract, full description, or complete and correctly formatted bio information on all presenters listed will not be considered.
- Presenters may not present in or chair any more than three sessions.
- The Conference Committee reserves the right to recommend a different session format, combine sessions, and schedule sessions.
- Scheduled session times may not be changed.

## Selection Criteria

- Proposals will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee and evaluated with the following criteria foremost:
- Relevance to researchers, city planners and climate change researchers
- Connection/Applicability to the conference theme or subthemes.
- Originality and quality of the proposed session.
- Relevance to both the Asian region and international audiences.
- Presence of multiple perspectives.
- Diversity of Presenters (i.e., regional, institutional).
- Realistic allocation of time, including substantive time for discussion among session participants.
- Substantive issues discussed during the session with time set aside for discussion (with no promotion of services or products).
- Background, expertise and experience of presenters.
- Description aligns with selected session format.
- Experience of presenters with presenting virtually; ability of session to be flexible with in-person or virtual format.

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## Questions and contact information

For questions regarding:

- Conference Theme and Subthemes
- Session Format
- Guidelines for Submitting a Proposal
- Required Information on the Proposal
- How to Submit an Electronic Proposal
- Selection Criteria

Please contact: IUCA Secretariat: [universitiesforclimate@unsw.edu.au](mailto:universitiesforclimate@unsw.edu.au)