



The 7th International Conference on Smart Villages and Rural Development (COSVARD 2024)

Incorporating Smart Villages Poster Competition 2024
(see details in separate flyer)

09-10 December 2024

Smart Villages Program

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
Smartvillageslab.msd.unimelb.edu.au

University of Melbourne

Organising committee:

A/Prof Hemanta Doloi (Chair)
Prof Robert Crawford
Dr Hannah Robertson
Dr Gao Shang

IIT Madras

Local Support Committee

Prof Ashwin Mahalingam
Prof Koshy Varghese

Key Affiliating Partners

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
Smart Cities Research Institute (SCRI) -
Swinburne University of Technology,
Australia

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati



Key Dates

Expression of Interest (abstract): 15 May 2024
Full paper submission: 30 June 2024
Full paper acceptance: 30 August 2024
Camera-ready paper: 30 October 2024

Registration on or before: 30th Oct 2024

Conference date: 09-10 December 2024

Contact:

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Chair (COSVARD 2024)

In collaboration with IIT



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With over 40% of the world's population now living in rural areas, there is global interest in research associated with the creation of "Smart Villages" to counter the ever-growing "Urban-Rural Divide" and harmonise the living on the planet with new "Urban-Rural Share". Smart Village research being undertaken in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne is exploring rural community development, practices and relevant policies with a focus on community-centric planning of affordable housing, infrastructure, sustainable development and growth, community empowerment and other issues related to the creation of Smart Villages.

About the conference

This will be a peer-reviewed conference with a scientific committee comprising global leaders and experts. Full papers will be subject to a double-blind review before acceptance.

Themes

Conference themes include, but are not limited to:

Rural Housing

Housing affordability, low-cost housing, materials selection, energy and water solutions, sanitation, reusability and recycling of waste, skill development, environmental design, disaster resilience and other relevant topics.

Rural Infrastructure

Construction and maintenance of roads and other forms of infrastructure, access to education and healthcare, provision of services, including energy, potable water, waste and sewage management, creation of public spaces, ICT applications and operations, and other related topics.

Rural Economy

Building social capital, micro and community-led finance, income generation, farming support, crop selection and improvement, market access, pricing, various forms of tourism and other related topics.

Sustainability

Environmental, Social, and Economic sustainability, implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Smart Governance

ICT and data-driven solutions, machine learning applications, alternative forms of governance and other relevant topics.

Circular Economy

Framework for local manufacturing, local production, local consumption, use and re-use, repairing, refurbishing, re-cycling products and services including other relevant topics.

Social Procurement, Social Value and Value-for-Money

Models for promoting localised trades and contracts, evaluation of community specific social benefits, value-for-money assessments, alternative forms of procurement strategies and other relevant topics.

Rural Enterprises and Rural Entrepreneurship

Models for supporting people to build their entrepreneurial capability and capacity to leverage on new opportunities and empowering rural communities at large.

Rural Culture and Experience

A solid connection to land, agriculture, and nature characterizes rural culture and experience. They encompass the way of living, values, habits, and traditions of people living in remote or rural areas. There can be socio-cultural differences between regions, countries, and even communities.

Climate Change, Global Warming and Role of Rural Development (targeting the 40%)

Solutions for alternative, value-based, context-specific development models targeting the 40% global population who still live in rural but relatively in low-carbon footprints. The climate action undertaken among the 60% urban population will make sense only when the greenhouse gas emission is contained among the remaining 40% rural population. In the Smart Villages program, we strongly oppose the current practice towards closing the gap of "Urban-Rural Divide" but rather promote the harmonised "Urban-Rural Share" with a clearly defined and purpose-based lifestyle among both communities. Should we fail to contain the current 40% of rural communities in a climate-positive natural environment and allow the currently prevailing unsustainable practices in their modernisation spree, the damage to the planet will be completely irreversible.

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