



# 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Smart Villages and Rural Development (COSVARD 2022)

Incorporating Smart Villages Poster Competition 2022  
(see details in separate flyer)

**12-13 December 2022**

## Smart Villages Program

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

## University of Melbourne

### Organising committee:

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

## Assam Engineering College

### Organising Committee:

Prof Atul Bora (Co-Chair)  
Prof Jayanta Pathak, A/Prof Bipul Talukdar,  
Dr Sasanka Borah, Dr Pradip Baishya,  
Prof S. K. Deb, Dr Plabon Kakoti,  
Dr Manjuri Hazarika, Dr Purobi Patowary

## Key Affiliating Partners

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



### Key Dates

Expression of Interest (abstract): 15 May 2022  
Full paper submission: 30 June 2022  
Full paper acceptance: 30 August 2022  
Camera ready paper: 30 October 2022

**Registration on or before: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022**

Conference date: 12 -13 December 2022

### Contact:

A/Prof Hemanta Doloi (hdoloi@unimelb.edu.au)  
Chair (COSVARD 2022)



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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 address the ever growing urban-rural divide. 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.

#### Location

*Situation permitting, COSVARD 2022 may have been held in a hybrid mode with the face-to-face component being held in the city of Guwahati, in the North-Eastern Indian state of Assam and the venue is the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara. Guwahati is the capital of Assam and contains the famous "Kamakhya Temple", as well as the world's smallest habitable island "Umananda" and many sites of archaeological significance.*

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