



28th Asia Pacific Social Work Regional Conference IFSW-AP & APASWE

Social Work Responses to Climate Change
and Other Environmental Issues

18th - 21st November 2025



Bandaranayke Memorial International Conference
Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka &
Taj Samudhra Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organized by
Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social
Workers (SLAPSW)
Collaboration with
National Institute of Social Development (NISD)

Website: www.slapswpa.lk
Conference email: apswc2025@gmail.com
Conference website: <https://ifswapap2025.slapsw.lk>

28TH ASIA PACIFIC SOCIAL WORK REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Join us at the Asia Pacific Conference on Social Work: Social Work Responses to Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues, held at the prestigious BMICH and Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from November 18-21, 2025.



This conference brings together social work professionals, academics, and advocates from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore and address the pressing challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation. Through a series of keynote presentations, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, participants will engage with innovative approaches and best practices in integrating environmental issues into social work practice.

This International Conference offers a unique opportunity to network with peers, share experiences, and gain valuable insights into how social workers can contribute to creating sustainable, resilient communities. Don't miss this chance to be part of a transformative dialogue on the intersection of social work and environmental justice.

30 minutes away from the conference inauguration - BMICH
10-15 minute away from the Hotel Taj Samudra
(From any hotel you are staying at that we have mentioned)



PARTICIPATING IN THE APSWC 2025 OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES

- **Networking with Professionals:** Connect with social work practitioners, academics, and advocates from across the Asia-Pacific region, building a network of contacts and collaborators.
- **Learning and Development:** Gain insights from leading experts on innovative approaches and best practices in addressing climate change and environmental issues within the field of social work.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Participate in workshops and panel discussions that provide practical skills and knowledge, enhancing your ability to integrate environmental concerns into social work practice.
- **Global Perspectives:** Explore diverse perspectives and strategies from various countries, enriching your understanding of global challenges and solutions in social work.
- **Contributing to the Field:** Share your experiences and research, contributing to the broader conversation on the role of social work in addressing environmental and climate challenges.
- **Professional Recognition:** Presenting at the conference can enhance your professional profile and provide recognition for your work in the field.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Experience the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka and engage in cross-cultural exchanges with peers from different backgrounds.

CONFERENCE SUB THEMES

- Social Work Ethics in Community Resilience Building
- Climate Change & Environmental Justice-Impact of Climate Related Extreme Weather Events on Vulnerable Communities and their Livelihoods
- Rights in the Climate Crisis: Social Work's Role in Environmental Justice
- Policy Advocacy and Legislative Action
- Strengthening Cross-Sector Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions Guided by the SDGs
- Education and Awareness Campaigns
- Cultural Competence and Indigenous Perspectives in Climate Actions
- Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Equity
- Empowering Hope: Psychosocial Interventions for Climate-Anxious Communities
- Wellness in Crisis: Integrating Health and Psychosocial Support for Climate-Affected Communities
- Disaster Response and Recovery
- Social work in Economic Crisis

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are calling for papers to bring together novel solutions to development issues through social work and social development practices related to the above sub themes. All kinds of innovations will be considered, whether theoretical, social, technological, policy, practice-based, or organizational and are of local relevance and/or have the potential for large-scale replication. Lessons learned from implementing evidence-based solutions, interdisciplinary approaches, and critiques of current solutions also will be considered on approval of abstracts.

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

We are now receiving abstract submissions. To apply, please fill out the following Abstract Submission Form.

Abstract Submission Link: [Click Here](#)
or Link : <https://forms.gle/FEVNqeiKUAjHeTfn7> .

Abstract submissions should include the following:
Title of the presentation, Name and affiliation of the author(s), 3-5 keywords

The abstract body (300 words) should follow as much as possible the below structure:

- Background/Context
- Research objective
- Methodology
- Main results and/or implications for social work education, practice and/or research
- Conclusion
- For more details visit the conference website: <https://ifswapap2025.slapsw.lk>

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Call for Papers (Abstracts): 5 January 2025**
- **Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 30 April 2025**
- **Announcement of Accepted Abstracts: 15th August 2025**
- **Deadline of the earlybird registration: 25th March 2025 (The Early Bird registration date has been extended to 30th June 2025.)**
- **Deadline of the final registration: 5th October 2025**

FOR QUERIES: CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Phone: +94772361190/+94702690666/
+94777649310
Email: socialworkerspa.lk@gmail.com
Conference email: apswc2025@gmail.com
SLAPSW Website: www.slapsw.lk
Conference website: https://ifswapap2025.slapsw.lk

Conference Venue - Hotel Taj Samudra

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION

Taj Samudra-Colombo (Conferance Venue)

(https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/hotels/taj-samudra-Colombo)

No 25 Galle Face Center Road, Colombo 30000
Phone: 0112 446 622
• Single room (USD-120-130)
• Double room (USD 135-145)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Categories	Early bird Registration *	Regular Registration
Non IFSW-AP or APASWE members	USD 475	USD 500
Members of IFSW-AP or APASWE	USD 400	USD 450
Developing countries Non-members	USD 300	USD 350
Developing countries members	USD 200	USD 250
Students - Foreign	USD 125	USD 150
Local Participants	LKR 15, 000	LKR 18, 000
SLAPSW members	LKR 10, 000	LKR 12, 000
Student Local	LKR 5, 000	LKR 7, 000

*Early Bird End Date : 25th March 2025 (The Early Bird registration date has been extended to 30th June 2025.)

Inclusion : Conference registration fee, conference kit and conference meals.

Account Name - Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers

Account Number - 93708994

Bank - Bank of Ceylon (7010)

Branch - Kollupitiya Super Grade (034)

Swift Code - BCEYCLKX

Galle Face Hotel (https://www.gallefacehotel.com)
3, 2 Galle Rd, Colombo 00300
Phone: 0117 541 010
• Single room (with BF USD 145)
• Double room (with BF USD 160)

Cinnamon Grand Colombo (https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/cinnamongrandcolombo)
77 Galle Rd, Colombo 00300
Phone:+94 11 2 497 361 / +94 77 3 956 326
• Single room (USD 135-140)
• Double room (USD 135-145)

Hotel Cinnamon Red, Colombo (https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/cinnamonredcolombo)
59, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo-03
Phone: 0112 145 145
• Single room (USD 80-100)
• Double room (USD 80-120)

Renuka City Hotel (https://www.renukacityhotel.com)
q No : 328, Galle Road, Kollupitiya, Colombo 04, Sri Lanka , Phone: 0112 573 598
• Single room (USD 53-68)
• Double room (USD 53-85)

Granbell Hotel Colombo (https://granbellhotel.lk)
282/5, Kollupitiya Road, Kollupitiya, Colombo -03, Phone: 0112 397 397
• Single room (USD 80-101)
• Double room (USD 110-131)

Marino Beach, Colombo (https://www.marinobeach.com)
590 Marine Drive, Colombo 00300
Phone: 0112 375 375
• Single room (USD 80- 92)
• Double room (USD 80-120)

Budget Accommodation facilities (Government)

Sri Lanka Foundation
N0: 100 Independence Square, Colombo
+94 -11 3071209 / +94 -11 268458
Fax: +94 -11 2679686
Email: bdu@slf.lk
• Single room (with BF USD 33)
• Double room (with BF USD 45)

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)

No: 28/10, Malalasekara Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.
Email: info@slida.gov.lk
Phone:+94-11-5980200
• Single room (with BF USD 45)

SUMMARY PROGRAMME (tentative)

DAY 01 : 18TH NOVEMBER 2025

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Venue: Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo -07
1.00 PM – 4.30 PM Inaugural Ceremony
2.50 PM- 3.20 PM Keynote Address by Professor Manohara Pawar - BA, MASW and PhD, Prof. of Social Work, School of Social Work and Arts, Charles Sturt University, Australia.
"The Role of Social Work in Environmental Justice and Resilience"



DAY - 02 : 19th NOVEMBER 2025

VENUE: HOTEL TAJ SAMUDRA, NO. 25 GALLE FACE CENTER RD, COLOMBO 03

8:00AM-9:00 AM Conference Registration

9.00 AM-12.30 PM Parallel Scientific Session

- **Venue: Crystal Ballroom:** Social Work Ethics in Community Resilience Building
- **Venue: Samudra Ballroom:** Climate Change & Environmental Justice-Impact of Climate-Related Extreme Weather Events on Vulnerable Communities and their Livelihoods
- **Venue: Grand Crystal Ballroom:** Rights in the Climate Crisis: Social Work's Role in Environmental Justice

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM Morning Tea/Coffee Break

Annual General Meeting of IFSW - AP & APSWE

12.30 PM-1.30 PM Lunch Break

1.30 PM- 4.00 PM Parallel Scientific Session

- **Venue: Crystal Ballroom:** Policy Advocacy and Legislative Action
- **Venue: Samudra Ballroom:** Strengthening Cross-Sector Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions Guided by the SDGs
- **Venue: Grand Crystal Ballroom:** Education and Awareness Campaigns

4.00 PM-4.15 PM Evening Tea/Coffee Break

7.00 PM-10.00 PM Gala Dinner

- **Venue: Samudra Ballroom,** Taj Samudra, Colombo 03 (Only for foreign participants)



DAY 03 : 20th NOVEMBER 2025

VENUE: HOTEL TAJ SAMUDRA, NO. 25 GALLE FACE CENTER RD, COLOMBO 03

8.00 AM - 8.30 AM Attendance

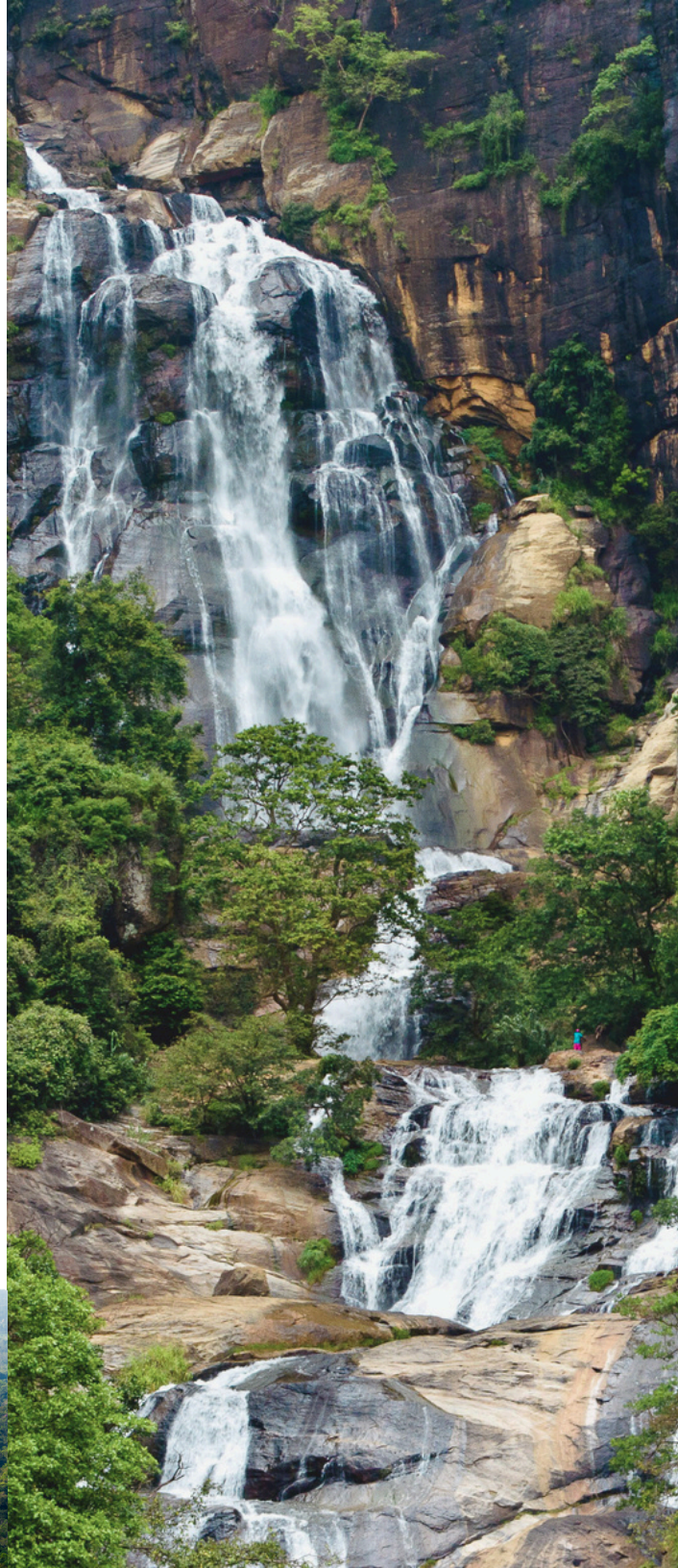
8.30 AM - 12.30 PM Parallel Scientific Session

- **Venue: Grand Crystal Ballroom:** Cultural Competence and Indigenous Perspectives in Climate Actions
- **Venue: Crystal Ballroom:** Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Equity
- **Venue: Samudra Ballroom:** Empowering Hope: Psychosocial Interventions for Climate-Anxious Communities

10.15 AM - 10.30 AM Morning Tea/Coffee Break

- **Venue: Samudra Ballroom:** Wellness in Crisis: Integrating Health and Psychosocial Support for Climate affected communities
- **Venue: Grand Crystal Ballroom:** Disaster Response and Recovery
- **Venue: Crystal Ballroom:** Social Work in Economic Crisis

12.30 PM - 1.30 PM Lunch Break



Venue : Evening Sessions for all the participants at The Grand Marquee Hall

1.30 PM- 1.50 PM Presentation by the invited speaker

1.50 PM- 2.35 PM Panel Discussion- The Role of the Social Work Workforce in Tackling Climate Change and Environmental Issues.

2.35 PM-2.45 PM Cultural Dance

2.45 PM- 3.00 PM Jane Honey Sales & Auction 2025

3.00 PM- 3.15 PM Group Cultural performance

3.15 PM- 3.25 PM Announcement of Next Host Country

3.25 PM- 3.45 PM Official Closing Ceremony

3.45 PM- 3.50 PM Vote of Thanks

3.50 PM- 4.30 PM Refreshments& Networking

DAY 04 21ST NOVEMBER 2025

6.30 AM-3.00 PM- Study Tour to Kandy



STUDY TOUR (KANDY VISIT)

A Study Tour Committee will be formed to organize a post conference study tour for the delegates. Social work academics, social workers, and volunteers will be accompanying the delegates to selected agencies which provide specialized services and for ancient historical places where delegates will have an opportunity to learn about Sri Lankan heritages.

A separate fee of 60 USD for the Study Tour is payable at conference registration. To facilitate planning, please confirm your participation in advance

