

From Circular Economy to Ecological Sanitation:

Re-centering Nature in Urban Water Systems

As water and sanitation challenges grow more complex, this conference seeks to revisit the concept of EcoSan (ecological sanitation) and explore how it can shape climate-resilient urban futures.



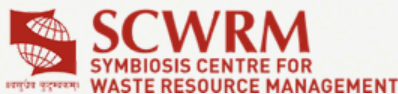
9-10
OCTOBER 2026



**Sandipani International
Convention Center,
SIU, Lavale, Pune**



Organised By



Supported By



SuSanA
sustainable
sanitation
alliance

Department of Civil Engineering
SYMBIOSIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PUNE

RETHINK RESTORE RECONNECT
FOR A WATER-SECURE TOMORROW

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Reposition Ecological Sanitation: as a foundational framework within contemporary global sustainability discourse, rather than a legacy term subsumed under newer branding.

Bridge disciplines and generations: bringing academia, practitioners, urban planners, engineers, policymakers, and young professionals into direct, structured dialogue rather than parallel, disconnected conversations.

Showcase real implementation: case studies that demonstrate ecological and circular approaches working at municipal scale, not just in pilot or demonstration settings.

Enable cross-learning: creating a dedicated platform for Global South practitioners to exchange context-specific lessons that rarely travel through Global North-centric conference circuits.

Set a forward agenda: developing a concrete, forward-looking agenda for climate-ready urban water and sanitation systems, culminating in a public declaration and policy brief that outlive the event itself.





Core Themes



Closing water and nutrient loops in urban systems



Decentralized wastewater management and reuse



Climate adaptation and mitigation through sanitation



Nature-based and ecosystem-integrated solutions



Governance and institutional models for circular sanitation



Urban resilience in the Global South



Target Participants



Urban planners and municipal officials



Civil, environmental, and water engineers



Researchers and academicians



Development practitioners and NGOs



Climate and sustainability professionals



TENTATIVE AGENDA

DAY ONE



9:00 - 10:00 Registration



10:00 - 11:00 Inaugural Ceremony

- Chief Guest Address: Dr. Sanjay Dahasahasra (MoHUA)
- Welcome Address: Dr. Dayanand Panse (Ecosan Services Foundation)
- Address on Ecological Sanitation to Circular Economy: Dr. Johannes Heeb (Seecon)
- Address on Climate-Ready Cities Begin With Ecological Sanitation:
Ms. Santha Sheela Nair (IAS Officer, Retd. & Former Chairman of Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission)



11:00 - 11:40 Keynote Address

Dr Arne Raj Panesar, Former Sr. Country Manager, South Asia Division, GIZ



11:40 - 12:00 Tea/Coffee Break



**12:00 - 13:30 Plenary Session (Context Setting):
From Infrastructure to Ecosystems: Reframing Urban Water Systems**

- Mr. Nitya Jacob (SuSanA, India)
- Ms. Regina Dube (GIZ, Germany)
- Mr. Shrikant Vishwanath (Biome Environmental Solutions)
- Mr. Ajay Popat (Ilon Exchange Limited) - TBC



13:30 - 14:30 Lunch



14:30 - 16:00 Session: Scaling Ecological Systems: From Pilots to Policy

- Ms. Rishika Jaiswal (Kohler, Pvt. Ltd.)
- Dr. Kunvar Vijay Durg (Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat)
- Ms. Alexandra Hoehne (German Toilet Organization)
- Prof. Heinz-Peter Mang (University of Science & Technology, Beijing)
- Mr. Anand Shekhar (Water Aid, India)



16:00 - 16:30 Tea/Coffee Break



**16:30 - 18:00 Panel Discussion:
Are We Truly Circular? Questioning the Circular Economy Narrative in Urban Sanitation**

- Mr. Subburaman M (SCOPE)
- Prof. Petter Jenssen (Norwegian University of Life Sciences)
- Mr. Pravinjith KP (Ecoparadigm Pvt. Ltd.)
- Dr. Arno Rosemarin (Stockholm Environmental Institute)
- Mr. Rajeev Munankami (SNV) - TBC



18:00 - 18:15 Closing Session



19:30 Gala Dinner & Networking

TENTATIVE AGENDA

DAY TWO



9:30 - 10:00

MoU signing with Academia & Industry for SENSEI Program



10:00 - 11:15

Parallel Session: Evidence from the Field: Closing Loops in Practice

Sub-themes:

- Decentralized wastewater treatment and reuse
- Nutrient recovery innovations
- Institutional and financing models

- Dr. Pawan Labhasetwar (IIT Madras)
- Dr. Lucas Dengel (EcoPro)
- Mr. Arumugam Pillai Kalimuthu (WASH Institute)
- Ms. Jheelum Sarkar (Water For People, India)



10:00 - 11:15

**Parallel Workshop: Climate resilient wastewater systems:
A systems approach for advancing human and environment health**



11:15 - 11:45

Tea/Coffee Break



11:45 - 13:00

Parallel Session: Evidence from the Field: Closing Loops in Practice

Sub-themes:

- Climate adaptation case studies
- City sanitation planning experiences

- Ms. Sreevidya Satish (Dhiway)
- Mr. Depinder Kapur (NIUA)
- Mr. Arun Rayavellore (Energy & Environment Resource Group Inc.)
- Ms. Bedoshruti Sadukhan (ICLEI)



11:45 - 13:00

Parallel Workshop (Topic TBD)



13:00 - 14:00

Lunch



14:00 - 15:15

**Climate Crisis, Water Stress, and Urban Futures:
Why Ecological Sanitation is Non-Negotiable**

- Mr. Siddharth Desai (Kishore Pumps)
- Ms. Neelima Thota (UNICEF, Maharashtra)
- Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni (ACWADAM)
- Mr. Valentin Post (FINISH Mondial)
- Prof. Zifu Li (Centre for Sustainable Environmental Sanitation, University of Science and Technology, Beijing)



15:00 - 15:45

Tea/Coffee Break



15:45 - 16:30

Valedictory & Closing Ceremony