

sustainable sanitation alliance

Meeting Minutes SuSanA Advisory Board Meeting

July 14, 2025
15:30 – 17:00 CET
Microsoft Teams

Minutes taken by: SuSanA Secretariat
Meeting called by: SuSanA Secretariat

Participants:

Name	Organization
Advisory Board Members	
Belinda Abraham	Viva Con Agua
Bella Monse	Global WASH in Schools Network
Christian Zurbrügg	EAWAG
Daniele Bemfica	IWA
Dr. Om Prasad Gautam	WaterAid UK
Dzifa Agbefu	IWMI
Francis de los Reyes	North Carolina State University/Gawad Kalinga USA
John Sauer	PSI
Kavita Wankhade	IIHS
Laura Kohler	WaterAid
Nitya Jacobs	Coordinator, SuSanA India Chapter
Patrick Ronoh	IWA
Rajesh Pai	WASH Institute
S Narayan Abishek	EAWAG
Sarah Dickin	Uppsala University
Sareen Malik	ANew / SuSanA Africa Chapter
Suresh Rohilla	University of Bradford
Susmita Sinha	Freelance Consultant/ retired
Thilo Panzerbieter	German Toilet Organization (GTO)
Vishwanath Srikantaiah	Biome Environmental Trust
Global Steering Committee Members	
Arwa Abdelhay	German Jordanian University

Carla Liera	SEI
Secretariat	
Arne Panesar	SuSanA Secretariat
Bettina-Sophie Heinz	SuSanA Secretariat
Fanni Zentai	SuSanA Secretariat
Maren Heuvels	SuSanA Secretariat
Moritz Schulze	SuSanA Secretariat

	Agenda Item	Presenter/Moderator
1.	Welcome and Tech Check	Bettina-Sophie Heinz
2.	Meeting Objectives and Ground Rules	John Sauer
	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights and ideas on strategies to re-ignite the Advisory Board (AB) membership • Learn what AB members might want to work on (as individual or group) 	
3.	Looking Back and Update from the Secretariat	Arne Panesar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Resilient Sanitation Coalition (CRSC) on the SuSanA-Portal • Ongoing growth in SFDs database (especially in Bangladesh and Nepal, & nearly 40 SFDs up-coming from South Africa) • Recovery Toolbox developed by SEI • The Stronger Together Coalition is gaining momentum with Hilton Foundation confirmed funding support • Continued emphasis on post-2030 Agenda and global frameworks 	

4.	KII Results	John Sauer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SuSanA remains relevant and recognized as a knowledge anchor • Strong interest in revitalizing activities • Suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging the Global South and young professionals • Shifting focus from institutions to people 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizing thought leadership and showcasing best practices • Curating knowledge spaces and university partnerships • Exploring maker/creative spaces • Diversifying funding and partners • Modernize the Hubs • Establish KPIs and understanding of roles 	
5.	Breakout Discussion and Reporting	
	<p>Group 1: Enhancing Global South and Regional Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Linkages between IWMI Innovation Hub activities and SuSanA (Dzifa) • SuSanA could help convene knowledge sharing sessions among practitioners with Indian Institute of Human Settlements (Kavita) • African Knowledge Dissemination (Sareen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring African knowledge to the global stage and amplify women’s voices ○ Sareen did several webinars on knowledge dissemination with African Union and supporting AMCOW in KM ○ Opportunity for SuSanA regional chapter to improve orientation and give guidance • Discussion on South-South exchange and how to foster ground level participation (Kavita, Sareen) 	
	<p>Group 2: Fostering Innovation, Collaboration and Professional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one self-selected into this group 	
	<p>Group 3: Knowledge Curation; Thought Leadership and Dissemination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Linkages (Sarah & Om): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sanitation can be linked to climate, biodiversity, oceans or health to explore, foster synergies and leverage financing ○ Collaborate with the health sector for instance: Address AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) by highlighting prevention since organizations like GAVI only focus on drugs • Influence & Dissemination (Francis): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern over SuSanA’s limited impact on decision-makers and other actors 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion: position papers, stakeholder outreach, targeted lobbying ● SFD Publications (Suresh): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working on national-level SFD publication (Lancaster University, IWA, Bradford University involved) ● Audience Clarity (Christian): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to define key audiences and provide clear, synthesized summaries of research on SuSanA ● Thought Leadership (Abishek): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SuSanA seen as a major platform and volunteers can produce white papers and collaborative opinion pieces ● Reactivation Post-COVID (Susmita): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SuSanA engagement has dropped; suggest curated knowledge collections (e.g. groundwater recharge) and outreach via varied platforms and networking ● Climate Integration (Rajesh): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India's sanitation projects lack climate focus. ○ Recommends developing tools and evidence to guide policy, especially in small towns. 	
	<p>Group 4: Modernizing Knowledge Management and Outreach and Digital Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video & Podcast Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop video podcasts and multimedia content to translate research into practical action (Laura and Vivi) ○ Promote circular sanitation via YouTube and multimedia content (Vivi) ○ Create a centralized content hub (Patrick) ● Tech & AI Solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use AI and machine learning to improve database search and automate document creation (Nitya) ● Identified Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information overload and complexity limit accessibility ○ Unclear document audiences need clarification ○ Centralized content creation limits collaboration; aim for a more open approach ● Strategic Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shift from single-organization dominance to collective expert engagement ○ Align content strategy with water-climate linkages ● Possible Future Directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blend conventional and sustainable sanitation approaches ○ Use multimedia platforms (podcasts, social media) to enhance engagement 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on context-specific, bottom-up solutions rather than uniform templates 	
	<p>Group 5: Strategic Governance, Partnership, and Future Visioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding & Financial Stability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions on how navigate the current funding situation ● Conference Participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In-person event attendance declining due to cost and preference for virtual formats ○ A shift to localized events and stronger national presence could help to maintain engagement ● Strengthening Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek more alignment to avoid confusion and overlap across organization (Example: IWA Priorities align with SuSanA in Sanitation, post 2030, capacity development or climate) ○ Scarce funding makes overlapping work sustainable ○ Strengthen coordination and collaboration with national governments and partners ● Knowledge Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SuSanA Library actively used by WinS to disseminate resources 	
6.	Sector Events	
	<p>Upcoming Events & Representation of SuSanA AB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stockholm WWW: Thilo/GTO, John, Sarah, Om, Belinda (with Chris Wiebe); Sareen, ... ● UNC Conference: Om, Francis ● COP30 Brazil ● WOPs Congress Bonn: Thilo/GTO ● IWA Congress Bangkok: Suresh, Patrick ● AfricaSan: Status unclear ● Dakar Meeting: Thilo/GTO ● All Systems Connect Kigali ● UN Water 2026 UAE: Thilo/GTO 	
7.	Next Steps and Closing	
	<p>Next AB Meeting: Sunday 24th of August, face to face meeting in Stockholm. Please register here: https://www.susana.org/advisory-board-meeting-swww-2025</p>	