



New Challenges for Higher Education, Cities and Regions: Addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in Changing Contexts

17th PASCAL conference, July 4th to 6th, 2024

The PASCAL Observatory is pleased to invite submissions for the 17th PASCAL International Conference to be co-organised and hosted with the University of Taipei, Taiwan University of Education, and Datong Community College from 4-6 July 2024 in Taipei at the [Howard Civil Service International House](#). The conference is also supported and sponsored by the Higher Education Reform (HER) network, and follows on from its own successful 17th conference in Glasgow in 2023, [Sustainable Development Goals: Their potential and relevance for higher education policy and reform](#). It is also supported by the [Centre for Research and Development in Lifelong Learning \(CR&DALL\)](#), at the University of Glasgow, host of the European Centre of PASCAL.

Under the general theme of the conference, **New Challenges for Higher Education, Cities and Regions: Addressing SDGs in Changing Contexts**, key issues will address both the larger international dimension of the mission of universities and colleges with the aim of contributing to the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), and their role for the development and well-being of cities and local communities.

The sustainable development goals have been an important benchmark for the development efforts of policy makers, academics and practitioners for almost a decade now. Yet, many structural changes and major shocks have altered their context since 2015 when they were first decided upon as a plan to be reached by 2030. The global COVID-19 pandemic brought traditional classroom-based face-to-face education to a sudden halt and sped up the process of online teaching and learning and, generally, the digitization of many other functions of society. Wars in Africa, Europe, and other regions, and the increasing waves of migration forced by wars, political repression, famines and environmental crises add to the list of challenges that societies and their education systems face. International co-operation is no longer the most obvious way forward.

Another challenge - not only for education and learning – is the artificial intelligence revolution. The launch of the latest ChatGPT algorithms, which have all the cognitive abilities indiscernible from human behaviour, yet still lack the human emotional and moral intelligence,

pose many challenges for learning, and the development of a world respectful to aims of the SDGs with their economic, social and moral dimensions.

At the Taipei conference we shall discuss what has been learned, and still needs to be learned in order to harness these challenges successfully as we move to 2030. Putting knowledge to practice means knowing more about how to implement change.

We invite submissions of papers, panels and posters concerning the following five sub-topics:

1. **Climate change** - its impact on growth, human rights, inequality and ecology, and the transformations that come with mitigation and abatement;
2. **Pandemics, natural and human-made disasters** – impacts on peace, human rights, migration and economic resilience;
3. **Diversity and social protest** in cities in relation to issues of inequality, human rights and economic development;
4. **Cities and regions** – changing economies and implications for employment, enterprise and entrepreneurship;
5. **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** – potential and risks related to learning, security and peace.

Initial Call for Papers

The organisers are committed to a conference that embodies constructive conversations that allow sufficient time for the participants to exchange experiences and identify lessons relevant for their own future practice.

We invite parallel session papers. The organisers and the sub-theme leaders will review and screen submissions based on criteria that ensures a balance of perspectives from policy, research and practice; a range of local stories that link to the global realities; the voices of different key players representing different institutions, ideas that provide a unique contribution to the conversations on the theme and sub-themes.

You will be asked provide in your submission:

- 1/ Presenter name(s), title(s) and organisational affiliation(s);
- 2/ Email address and a short biography of each presenter (max 100 words);
- 3/ A picture (headshot) of each presenter (JPG or PNG format, minimum size 180px x 180px);
- 4/ An Abstract which should indicate the following:
 - the nature of the paper, for example, whether it is a report of completed research, work in progress, ‘blue skies’ thinking, an analytical or discussion paper or a demonstration project;
 - the issues the paper raises;
 - the relationship of the paper to other literature and research;

- the approach to the topic, and where relevant an outline of methodology; and where appropriate your conclusions and recommendations.

Abstracts should not exceed **500 words** (English) or **1000 characters** (Mandarin) and be in Word format. The working languages for the conference are English and Mandarin.

5/ Lastly, please supply a list of up to five keywords (separated by commas) and the sub-theme that applies to your presentation.

Abstracts in English must be submitted to cradall@glasgow.ac.uk by no later than 4 March 2024 and will be peer reviewed. Contributors will be notified regarding acceptance of their papers by later than 8 April 2024, and normally within 4 weeks of submission. **Abstracts may also be submitted in Mandarin (with an English translation)** to Eugenia@datong.org.tw by 4 March 2024. These accepted papers may be presented in Mandarin at the conference.

Conference Fee and Registration

The standard fee for the conference for overseas delegates will be 11,000 Taiwanese dollars (NTS) (approx. US\$350) with an early bird rate of 9,000 Taiwanese dollars (NTS) (approx. US\$300), and will cover all lunches on Day 1, 2 and 3, a Welcome Banquet on Day 1, Conference Dinner on Day 2 and Field Visits on Day 3. Fees for Taiwanese nationals and residents will be covered by waivers provided by local government, though there will be a cost for certain dinners and banquets.

Registration is open already for early-bird registrations at this [Eventbrite](#) page.

Key Dates

- Opening of Early-Bird Registration: **21 November 2023;**
- Submission Deadline: **4 March 2024;**
- End of Submission Reviews and Notification to Authors: **8 April 2024;**
- Regular Fee Registration begins: **15 April 2024;**
- Final Registration: **3 June 2024**

Accommodation

Accommodation has been reserved at HOWARD CIVIL SERVICE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, No.30, Sec. 3, Sinsheng S. Rd., Da'an Dist., Taipei City TEL: +886 2 77122323 <http://www.howard-hotels.com.tw/en/civil-service/home/>

Room rates are: Single: NTS 2,000 per night; Semi-suite with living room for two: NTS 3,500 per night. A booking form for the hotel is available as a download.

Venue

All sessions will be held at the [Howard Civil Service International House](#) in Taipei. A full programme will be posted in mid-June 2024

Travel

Taipei is easily reached by air with direct flights from major cities.

Onward travel to the conference hotel and to the conference venue takes 90 mins by public transport and 60 mins by taxi.

Visas and Letters of Invitation

Nationals of many countries do not need a visa to visit Taiwan, but you should check at <https://www.boca.gov.tw/np-137-2.html> whether you are eligible for visa free entry.

Very importantly you must have 6 months validity from the day of entry in Taiwan for your passport irrespective of your nationality.

If you need a confirmatory invitation to attend the event, then contact Eugenia Chang:
[email: Eugenia@datong.org.tw](mailto:Eugenia@datong.org.tw)

Weather

During July in Taipei, the average temperatures are between 30° C and 35°C with relatively low amounts of rain. It is a perfect time to visit.