



**DAAD Regional Office New Delhi**

**DAAD Regional Office Jakarta**

## **Alumni for Sustainable Development Goals Web Talk Series 2024**

The DAAD Regional Offices in New Delhi and Jakarta are pleased to jointly invite you to participate in the upcoming International Web Talk Series on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - 2024.

This joint initiative aims to bring together Alumni of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) from South Asia and Southeast Asia regions who have been acting as catalyst for finding solutions to global challenges through their valuable contribution to science, research, technology, and academic excellence. Each web talk will thus enable exchange of innovative ideas and deliberations pivotal for implementation of the SDGs.

### **This year's web talk series will address the following SDGs:**

a. **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) – Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security:**

Sustainable agriculture and food security are two crucial areas of focus under the purview of SDG 2. The objective is to increase agricultural productivity, ensure access to nutritious food, promote sustainable farming practices, and improve quality food distribution and supply chains. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report 2021, there is a surge in undernourished individuals in Asia, escalating from 361.3 million to 418.0 million between 2019 and 2020, resulting in an increased prevalence of undernourishment from 7.9% to 9.0%. The 2022-32 International Food Security Assessment (IFSA) report estimates 514 million food-insecure individuals in Asia in 2022. With the region's rapid population growth and climate volatility, a 40% increase in food demand is projected by 2050, with over 40% of losses occurring in commodity supply chains post-harvest. Rural Asia is characterized by small farms, where despite new scale neutral agricultural technologies, access to high-quality inputs remains financially challenging. The imperative for a financially sustainable smart, and precision agriculture system is evident to propel circular development. Crucially, access to decent and nutritious diets is vital for sustenance, survival, and societal stability.



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This collaborative initiative seeks to harness collective expertise and discuss alternative solutions for the pressing challenges faced in South Asia and Southeast Asia, bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and practical application in sustainable agriculture and ensuring access to nutritious food through **soil health management, smart farming for sustainable development, Climate-resilient agriculture, green procurement, supporting small-scale farmers, efficient supply chain, and policies to promote agroecological farming practices.**

**b. SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) - Sustainable Urban Development:**

The aim of SDG11 is to make cities ‘inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable’. However, at the community level, issues such as urban poverty, affordable housing, water and sanitation, mobility, migration (including refugees and IDPs), governance, inequalities, and health have become increasingly pressing, with constraints on human, institutional, and financial capacities, currently, more than 55% (4.4 billion people) of the world’s population live in cities, and it is projected that a total of 5 billion inhabitants will be urban by 2030, when SDG implementation ends. With greater efficiency brought about by the concentration of population, talented human capital, and access to resources, cities significantly contribute to economic growth (estimated to be more than 75% of a country’s GDP) and offer most paid employment opportunities (UN-Habitat, 2024). This joint initiative aims to bring together and exchange innovative solutions through case studies and provide food for thought for awareness of the SDGs with a focus on various aspects like **resilient urban settlements, pollution free transport system, environment friendly waste management, urban governance, energy efficient urban management.**

**Alumni for SDG will serve as a platform for you to:**

- showcase your research work in the SDG field and to share it with a wider audience
- virtually connect with experts from all over the region and beyond
- explore a chance for future academic or research collaborations in your field



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**Who can submit proposals:**

Former scholarship holders of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) from South Asia region (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) as well as from Southeast Asia region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Timor Leste) including Vietnam can apply by submitting the entry.

**The Alumni for SDG aims to facilitate:**

- popular science amongst the network and beyond in an interdisciplinary approach
- exchange of ideas and initiate a dialogue in a particular SDG field
- strengthening of the network of subject-specific alumni groups in South Asia and Southeast Asia regions

**Format and Dates:**

This event will consist of two web talks (SDG 2 & SDG 11) in 2024 – each SDG web talk has two/three days dedicated to it (depending on the number of entries). The web talks are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

Web Talk on SDG 11: 11 – 12 June 2024

Web Talk on SDG 2: 11 – 12 November 2024

**To participate with your entry submission, please take the following survey by clicking on the link below:**

<https://www.daad.de/surveys/489213?lang=en>

**Application deadline is March 30, 2024**

The entries will be shortlisted by an expert committee. Submission of your entry/proposal is only via the survey link above. For related queries please write to:

DAAD India: [alumni.newdelhi@daad.de](mailto:alumni.newdelhi@daad.de) / DAAD Indonesia: [labudza@daad.de](mailto:labudza@daad.de)