

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



The Research for Development Impact Network (RDI Network) and The University of Queensland (UQ) invite you to submit abstracts for presentations at a two-day international conference to be hosted online on the 1-2 July 2021. Submissions are to contribute to the conference theme of **Pathways through disruption – the future of sustainable development and recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia**.

## KEY DATES:

<b>Abstract submissions open</b>	15 December 2020
<b>Abstract submissions close</b>	22 February 2021
<b>Notification to authors of acceptance</b>	15 March 2021
<b>Early bird registration closes</b>	30 April 2021
<b>Full papers due*</b>	24 May 2021
<b>Conference</b>	1-2 July 2021

\* *Optional, for consideration for a compilation to be published following the conference.*

## BACKGROUND

First held in 2009, the **Research for Development Impact (RDI) Conference 2021** is the 8th in a series of conferences previously known as the ACFID University Network Conference. These conferences have become anticipated events in the development community, bringing together participants from across Australia and overseas who are working in humanitarian aid and sustainable development. The main purpose of the conference is to share insights and promote collaboration and partnerships among NGOs, universities and other actors within the development and humanitarian research community. Particular attention is paid to ensuring a diversity of speakers and providing equal opportunities for practice-based and academic contributions.

In 2021, for the first time we will be holding an online conference, so you can join from anywhere in the world. The RDI Conference will be digitally delivered via the Whova app and Zoom. Our integrated online solution will create an authentic event experience for every attendee. It will be a seamlessly interactive 2-day conference and Student Forum with personalised options for creating your agenda, participating in Q&A, polling, competitions and networking. You will still be able to meet with other attendees, exhibitors and sponsors.

## CONFERENCE THEME

### Pathways through disruption – the future of sustainable development and recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia

The 2021 RDI Network Conference aims to showcase research, initiatives, and innovations, that could inform the future of sustainable development and socio-economic recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia regions. The focus on recovery refers to the impacts created by recent major disruptions (both positive and negative ones) at regional and global scale (not limited to COVID-19), and the innovation and opportunities emerging from those disruptions. The conference will facilitate action-oriented and future-focused discussions on building a sustainable future for the Pacific and Southeast Asia in the face of recent and anticipated future disruptions. The conference seeks to explore these issues through:

- sharing relevant research, experience and ideas between academics, development and humanitarian practitioners, government agencies and private sector organisations; and
- exploring and debating the new sustainable development challenges, ideas and collaborations which are likely to be of importance to the sector.

The conference will bring together humanitarian and development practitioners, private sector representatives, government representatives, consultants, academics, and students in the sector from Australia, the Pacific, and Southeast Asia regions.

Some of the **sub-themes** we will explore during the conference include<sup>1</sup>:

- ***Pathways to Sustainable Development***  
From disruption to achieving integrated sustainable development through intersectional, localised, and transformative action.
- ***Pathways to Improved Response and Recovery***  
The future of emergency and disaster preparedness, coordination, response and recovery.
- ***Forging Pathways Through Collaboration and Partnerships***  
Collaborating and learning for improved practice, and the implementation of sustainable development and emergency response.
- ***Pathways to Enhanced Climate Change Adaptation***  
Towards sustainable biodiversity and environmental management with reference to livelihoods and adaptation of livelihoods.

Three cross-cutting themes will bridge across this year's conference sub-themes.

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<sup>1</sup> NB We are not suggesting the conference is necessarily structured in this way. The thematic structure of the conference will be confirmed after we have analysed the abstracts submitted.

- **Future orientated:** Taking a future-orientated or inter-generational approach to envisioning development initiatives and humanitarian actions, exploring multiple future scenarios, and understanding the forces driving change and their implications. This includes strategic foresight and ‘futures thinking’ approaches, and other approaches to future-orientated collaboration and decision-making.
- **People-centred:** Approaches to development and humanitarian action with people, communities and culture at their core. This includes equity, traditional knowledge, capacity building, co-design and implementation and other approaches for ensuring technical solutions are driven by communities and suitable to their social/cultural context.
- **Intersectionality:** Considerations of the impacts of humanitarian aid and development on the interconnected nature of people; including considerations of gender, disability, social inclusion, and sexuality, as well as feminist approaches; queering of development; sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), among other potential themes.

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite abstracts from:

- Academics and university staff with interest in international development, humanitarian action, and gender equity;
- Staff and practitioners from government agencies, non-government organisations, community-based organisations, private sector with interest in or who are from the Pacific and Southeast Asia;
- Individual consultants or consulting companies in the sector;
- Post-graduate students and young professionals with interest in international development, humanitarian action, future and solution-focused thinking, and innovation.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

The RDI Network is looking to offer scholarships to support emerging **early career researchers, evaluators, and practitioners** from low and middle-income countries in the Asia-Pacific region to participate in RDI Conference 2021. **To apply for a scholarship, you must complete a separate form.** Please email [rdi@acfid.asn.au](mailto:rdi@acfid.asn.au) to find out more. As a scholarship applicant, you **do not** need to make your abstract submission through the link provided below.

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## AUSTRALIA AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Australia Awards recipients currently studying at universities in Australia are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract **using the form accessed via this link**. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will cover the costs of a limited number of Australia Awards recipients to attend the conference - more information will be available soon.

All abstracts will be reviewed by members of the RDI Conference organising committee, and notifications of acceptance will be made by **15 March 2021**.

Abstracts must address the conference theme, and fit into one of the following **session categories**:

- Individual papers (15-20mins presentation)
- Pre-organised panels of 3-4 papers on a similar theme (45 min);
- Roundtables on a particular issue (i.e. 4-5presenters 5 mins each and 45 mins to one-hour 'hosted' discussion;
- Presentations or 'lighting rounds' for 5-10 minute about research findings, proposals, or innovations; and
- Workshops-facilitated processes to explore particular issues and share ideas (60-90 minutes)

Submissions for side events can include:

- Music, performance, photo exhibitions or arts sessions designed to stimulate thinking and emotional responses to questions of sustainability and other things related to the theme
- Longer workshops

**Submissions must include the following details:**

- ❖ Abstract/Session Title
- ❖ Name of author/s and organisational affiliation/s (including lead contact point)
- ❖ If you would prefer to present online via Zoom, or in-person in Brisbane (in the case of multiple speakers list the names and preferences of all speakers and/or participants)
- ❖ Session category (selected from the list above)
- ❖ Sub-theme (see list above)
- ❖ Abstract:
  - Papers, presentations or pitches: **Max. 300 words**
  - Roundtables, Panels, Workshops: **Max. 600 words**
  - Side events: **Max. 600 words**
  - Must include an explicit link to theme and sub-theme/s
  - Must include a description of the session's target audience, and how they will benefit

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*Optional:* Authors of accepted abstracts for papers and panel presentations will be invited to contribute a draft paper (approx. 2,000-3,000 words) in advance of the conference for a peer-reviewed collection of conference papers. Further details and guidance will be provided.

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## HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Abstracts must be **submitted by COB 22 February 2021**.

**Abstracts must be submitted online using the [RDI Conference 2021 Abstract Submission Form](#). If you are an Australia Awards recipient, please submit your [RDI Conference 2021 AA Submission Form here](#). If you have trouble completing any of the above forms, please email [rdiconference2021@uq.edu.au](mailto:rdiconference2021@uq.edu.au)**

**As part of the abstract submission you can either paste the abstract content in the online form or attach relevant documents to your submission. Documents should be in Word or PDF format.**

*Please do not email your submissions to individual organising committee members.*

For further information, please visit the [Conference Website](#) or contact us via email at [rdiconference2021@uq.edu.au](mailto:rdiconference2021@uq.edu.au)