



Welcome!

**32nd Servas International Conference and General Assembly
(SICOGA)**

22–28 November 2022

Venue: Asia Plateau in Panchgani, India.

April 2022

Communication about SICOGA 2022 #SIGA2022mailout3

Dear Servas members worldwide,

In these times of increasing unrest caused by armed conflicts on many continents, climate change, lingering pandemic and other destructive powers there's a need to get vitalized with positive energy and actions.

Therefore the peace and hospitality organization Servas is more relevant than ever.

SI Exco – the global board of Servas International – and Servas India is moving forward with the plans to arrange a Servas International Conference and General Assembly 2022 (SICOGA 2022).

We urge you to save the date 22nd to 28th November 2022 and make plans to attend SICOGA in the State of Maharashtra in India.

In this communication you will find a conference status report, an overview of the program, a description of Servas International's democratic process and other useful information for your preliminary planning.

We hope you will take this opportunity to prepare yourself for the important and joyful meeting in India.

We look forward to meeting you there!

Jonny Sägänger, SI President

president@servas.org

On behalf of:

SI Exco

Servas India

SICOGA 2022 Conference and Program Committees

SICOGA 2022 Conference Managers:

Kiat Y Tan, SI General Secretary (generalsecretary@servas.org) & Carla Kristensen, SI Vice President

(vicepresident@servas.org)

Conference theme:
Servas growth for a more peaceful world

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1. SICOGA 2022 status report

Servas International's global board, SI Exco, and Servas India are in close cooperation planning to arrange the event Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2022) on November 22–28 2022 with Asia Plateau – MRA Center Panchgani as venue.

The budgeted target is to host approximately 130 to 200 participants at the venue during the conference.

SI Exco on March 20 decided that the participation fee for SICOGA 2022 will be \$720 USD. This is the same fee as the SICOGA 2018.

The current plan is to make part of the conference available with extensive digital/virtual access for all Servas members around the world.

There's an ongoing planning process about how the conference will be covered by online coverage via social media and documented for the future. SICOGA 2018 was documented with a daily newsletter, a social media wall and through other communications channels. Persons who would like to help with the documentation of the conference are encouraged to send an application to express interest to president@servas.org.

SI Exco and Servas India is hoping to welcome a large number of participants at SICOGA 2022 both physically in person as well as virtually.



Participants at SICOGA 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

2. SI Exco's current to-do-list

SI Exco is currently busy working with the preparations for SICOGA 2022 and these are some of the main tasks:

- Finalize the SICOGA 2022 budget.
- Create the conference program in cooperation with Servas India and Servas volunteers from around the world (read more below).
- Establish websites for registration and documentation of the conference.

Please look at the websites from previous SICOGAs here:

SICOGA 2018

<https://servas.org/sicoga2018/index.php>

SICOGA 2015

<https://servas.org/sicoga2015/index.php>

- Finalize the timetable for SI General Assembly on November 25–26 (read more below).

3. About the venue in India

SICOGA 2022 will, according to the current plans, take place in India.

The venue will be Asia Plateau in the Western hills of the Indian state of Maharashtra at Panchgani, 100 km from Pune.



Asia Plateau is located in the western hills of India and overlooking the Krishna Valley.

The venue:

Asia Plateau is the training and conference center owned by a Trust. It's a centre for introspection and dialogue.

Asia Plateau MRA Center Panchgani describes the centre on its website:

The location:

Asia Plateau is a 68-acre campus situated at an altitude of 1,300 meters in Panchgani, just a 100 kms. away from Pune, and 248 km from Mumbai. It is advisable to bring some warm clothing and walking shoes. Pune is the nearest railway station and airport. Frequent buses and taxis are available from Pune to Panchgani (buses take 3 hours and taxis 2 hours). Direct buses are also available from Mumbai to Panchgani.

The conference center:

Over the past four decades ordinary men and women of all classes, races and religions have experienced here, a change in attitude, motivation and behaviour causing ripples in their personal lives, families, workplaces, communities, and sometimes much beyond.

Asia Plateau is used for holding the training programmes and conferences of Initiatives of Change.

A leading Indian newspaper called Asia Plateau "a beacon of hope", according to Asia Plateau MRA Center Panchgani.

Read more about Asia Plateau MRA Center Panchgani and the conference center here:

<https://in.iofc.org/AsiaPlateau>



Asia Plateau is situated in Panchgani, 100 km from Pune, and 248 km from Mumbai in the Indian State of Maharashtra.

4. Minimize ecological footprint of SICOGA 2022

An event like a SICOGA inevitably puts pressure on natural resources and creates negative impact on Mother Earth, because it involves travels with national and international air flights, other means of transportation, and the use of electricity as well as other resources.

SI Exco has during the SICOGAs in 2015 and 2018 therefore made steps to minimise the ecological footprint of the event and to raise the awareness about travels and tourism with conscience.

Some of the concrete actions has been the use of digital conference documents as much as possible instead of printed material, reduced use of disposables and vegetarian meals on one of the conference days.

5. Conference programme (preliminary)

The Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, has generally been arranged every three years. Due to the covid-19 pandemic it was postponed from 2021 to 2022.

One of the core activities during the conference is the SI General Assembly (SIGA, read more about it below).

During the conference there is also a programme with workshops, discussion groups and training sessions on a wide range of topics where all the conference participants will be able to contribute to the debate about the future of Servas.

Excerpts from the program which is now being formed and hopefully will materialize:

- Workshop to create action plan: Servas to reach more people around the globe. How to make Servas grow in numbers and revenue? How to develop the process to facilitate for new Servas members? Possible workshop about innovative ways to do informative talk, what used to be called the “Servas interview”.
- Servas role in times of armed conflict. The example Ukraine.
- Climate’s changing: This is how Servas contributes – positive and negative.
- Workshop. Around the Belgian report SERVAS: GETTING INVOLVED AS LOCALS IN TOURISM
- Workshop: SWOT analysis (Servas Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis).
- Women travelling with Servas. Servas a safe alternative for female travellers.
- Theme: philosophy of welcoming people: "How to make a Servas traveller feel welcome" "How a Servas traveller make a host feel comfortable when visiting".
- ”Travelling for Peace as a way to break down prejudices”
- UN Representation, CSW, Human Rights.
- Youth of Servas. Families and Servas.
- What’s new in Servas? Virtual events and new experiences
- What’s new in ServasOnline 2.0:
 - Admin perspective
 - Individual perspective
- Virtual Travels

Social activities (preliminary)

- Yoga
 - Everybody is encouraged to make presentations, perform dances, singing – anything that makes audiences appreciate the cultural attributes they bring from their own country and culture – every contribution is appreciated and welcome!
- Any suggestion, creative idea, and offer how to make the fun and informal part of the conference rich and enjoyable will be warmly welcomed. Please send your input and/or additional ideas for the non SIGA programme to SI Vice President Carla Kristensen (vicepresident@servas.org) and Kiat Y Tan (generalsecretary@servas.org).
- Please write this in the subject line: SICOGA 2022: Program, social & fun activities

6. Servas democracy – SI General Assembly

The Servas International General Assembly (SIGA) of National Servas Member Groups is the business part of a SICOGA. SIGA 2022 will take place on November 25–26.

During the SIGA sessions voting delegates from National Servas Member Groups will make decisions about the running and financing of Servas International as well as the planning for the future direction of the organisation. SI officers and committees will also be elected and appointed for the next mandate period, which usually is three years.

Everyone attending the conference will be able to observe these sessions as observers, but only the delegates from the National Servas Member Groups will be able speak and vote.

The decisions that will be made during the business meeting are based on proposals that have been submitted for consideration by the SIGA. The proposals are called motions and were submitted by the member group’s National Secretaries or by the Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco).

All motions must be submitted six months before the SIGA. The deadline for motions for SIGA 2022 is therefore May 24, 2022.

Please find more information about the process to write and submit motions, and the form to write a motion on the website <https://servas.org/en/international-conferences> under the headline “SICOGA 2022”:

#SIGA2022mailout2 - SI member group SIGA & motions preparations
[MOTION FORM FOR SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022](#)
[SHORT GUIDANCE FOR PREPARING A MOTION FOR SIGA 2022](#)
[SI Member Group SIGA 2022 Preparations](#)

All the motions that were received by SI Exco six months before the start of the SIGA will be published on the conference website which is now being constructed.

During the second half of 2022 the final motions and agenda for the SIGA will be published on the website and sent to all National Servas Member Groups.

All motions will be organized into Subject Working Groups (SWGs) – in other words, they will be grouped together based on what they are about. There will be a volunteer coordinator for each of these SWGs, and any Servas member is welcome to join in discussions of these motions in the months leading up to the SIGA. The intention of this discussion is to make best use of the SIGA plenary sessions by clarifying the motions, ensuring that they do not overlap or contradict each other, and to prepare the member groups as much as possible before voting.

There will be more information SWGs and the democratic process of Servas during the year.

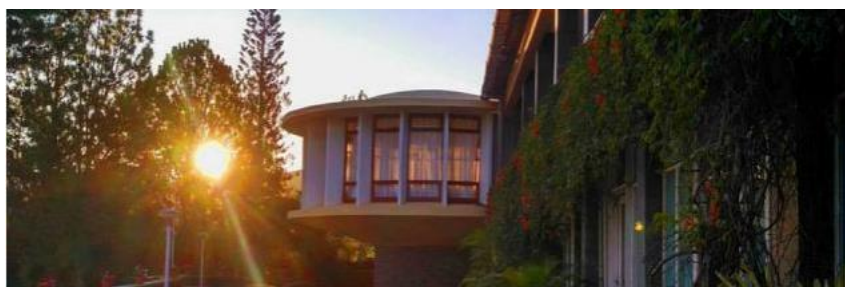
At the conference in November there will be sessions set aside for face-to-face meetings of the SWGs, before the motions are taken to the plenary sessions at the business meetings of SIGA 2022.

7. Call for nominations

The SI Nominations Team, SI NT, is calling for nominations for the next SI Exco, SI committees and other positions that will be elected at SIGA 2022. Please send your proposals to nominations@servas.org

8. About visa requirements

If you're making plans to attend SICOGA 2022 please check as soon as possible which visa requirements there are between your home country and India. Apply for visa as early as possible to avoid time consuming and expensive last minute solutions.



**SI Exco and Servas India look forward to meet you in India
in November!**