



**Servas India**

## **Re: request for SICOGA participation funding**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Servas International Conference and General Assembly  
(SICOGA)**

**22–28 November 2022**

**Venue: Asia Plateau in Panchgani, India.**

April 12 2022

**Announcement about SICOGA 2022 #SIGA2022mailout4**

Dear Servas key persons worldwide,

Servas International (SI) will be providing travel and lodging subsidy for SICOGA 2022\* to delegates and volunteers who qualify.

You have received this message since you are a key person working as a volunteer for a Servas International member group that is currently entitled to vote via a delegate at Servas International General Assembly (SIGA) 2022 in November. To receive funding please send in your application before May 15<sup>th</sup>. The application form is attached at the end of this note.

Please find more information below.

Below you also find more information about Servas International General Assembly – the business and democratic meeting of SICOGA – as well as about the rest of the conference and about the venue where the conference will be arranged.

We look forward to meeting you at SICOGA!

Jonny Sågänger, SI President

[president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

On behalf of:

SI Exco

Servas India

SICOGA 2022 Conference and Program Committees

**Conference theme:  
Servas growth for a more peaceful world**



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### **1. Invitation to request SICOGA participation**

#### **Funding Subsidy for SICOGA 2022**

Servas International (SI) will be providing travel and lodging subsidy for SICOGA 2022\* to delegates and volunteers who qualify. To receive funding please send in your application before May 15<sup>th</sup>. The application form is attached at the end of this note.

#### **What will be covered?**

1. The entire registration cost – that includes food and stay at SICOGA 2022 November 22–28.
2. A portion of your travel costs (between 80% to 100% of lowest available fare to Pune, India)

#### **Who will be covered?**

All national delegates entitled to vote (typically, that is the national secretary) whose national groups cannot support their travel costs. A national secretary may nominate another office holder to travel in their place. Servas International would like to fund as many people as possible so we ask that you apply only for the amount you need. The following criteria must be met for a positive funding decision from SI's global board SI Exco:

- a. The member group has met all its financial obligations.
- b. The member group has submitted its annual report for 2021 by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- c. The profiles of the member group's individual members in SI's global membership system ServasOnline (MyServas on servas.org) are reasonably accurate and complete? A national delegate will be eligible for funding when at least 70% of the profiles contain the following information: Name, Occupation, Full contact Information, Host/Traveler status, and Interests.
- d. The Human Development Index (HDI) score of the member group has been identified as being below the cutoff level to qualify.
- e. The number of members in the country (member group) has been confirmed.
- f. The answer to this question is known: Has the person applying already been funded 2 times before?

In addition to national delegates, all volunteers who have worked for Servas International for the last three years as well as those who are providing services at SICOGA 2022 will receive invitations to apply.

An application form is attached at the bottom (Page 3). Please fill it up and send to [Treasurer@Servas.Org](mailto:Treasurer@Servas.Org) as soon as possible. We should receive your application no later than 15 May, 2022. Those who qualify will be informed after the SI Exco meeting at the end of May.

#### **How will the process work?**

1. All applications received by May 15<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed by SI Exco.
2. SI Exco will make the funding decision by May 31. All applicants should expect to receive information about the amount approved before June 10.
3. Applicants whose funding have been approved will be apply for the grant through a reimbursement request form that will be made available.
4. In order to request reimbursement, the applicant must first register for SICOGA 2022, purchase the tickets and get visas before applying for the refund. They will be required to provide evidence of ticket purchase and costs, and the visa.
5. On receipt of the refund application and the supporting documents, the funding grant will be directly transferred to your bank account. Money will only be paid through bank transfers. There will be no cash transactions. **DO NOT COME TO INDIA AND EXPECT TO BE PAID IN CASH.**

\* For more information about Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2022) go to <https://servas.org/en/international-conferences>. Read under the headline “Welcome to SICOGA 2022 – #SIGA2022mailout3”



APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – SICOGA 2022

Please fill up the following. All the information must be provided to be considered for funding. Please send to [Treasurer@Servas.Org](mailto:Treasurer@Servas.Org) before 15 May 2022.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: (MOBILE) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER GROUP (COUNTRY): \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU THE NATIONAL SECRETARY? YES/NO.

IF NOT THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, WHAT IS YOUR POSITION? \_\_\_\_\_

(A) WERE YOU NOMINATED TO TRAVEL ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY?

(B) WERE YOU INVITED TO APPLY?

AMOUNT OF FUNDING NEEDED (IF KNOWN): \_\_\_\_\_ (USD)

## **2. 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.

### 3. 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](mailto:vicepresident@servas.org)) and Kiat Y Tan ([generalsecretary@servas.org](mailto:generalsecretary@servas.org)).

Please write this in the subject line: SICOGA 2022: Program, social & fun activities

#### **4.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.*



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