



Communication about SICOGA 2018

31st Servas International Conference and General Assembly
13- 20 October 2018
International Youth Center Youth Hostel, Seoul, Korea



September 23 2018

Dear Servas members worldwide,
I hope that your preparations for the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2018) in Seoul is going well.
This will be the last communication before some of you will have the opportunity to meet during the conference.
Until then – all the best to all of you!

Jonny Sågänger, SI President

president@servas.org

On behalf of:

SI Exco

Servas Korea

SICOGA 2018 Organizing Team sicoga2018@servas.org

Penny Pattison SI General Secretary & SICOGA 2018 Conference Manager

generalsecretary@servas.org



Conference theme:
Connecting people and cultures for Peace

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STILL POSSIBLE TO NOMINATE FOR SI POSITIONS 2019-2021

A number of elections are to be held in October 2018 at the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) during the global Servas conference in the Republic of Korea. The Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for positions for the years 2018/2019–2021 on the next SI Executive Committee (the global Servas board) and for elected SI officers in the Youth Committee, Conflict Resolution Committee, Audit Committee, Development Committee, and other positions.

Nominations will remain open until immediately before the elections, which take place during the SI GA and conference in October.

National Servas groups have for almost a year – in SI News Bulletin – been encouraged to consider possible nominations well before the SI GA, so active Servas members can come forward, even though they may not be able to attend the General Assembly in person.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate for one of the positions or would like to nominate someone else, please completed a Nomination Form, which is reviewed by the Nominations Committee, before they become a candidate.

You find the Nomination Form on this website <https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly-elections.php>

Please don't wait until the conference, as this makes the process much more complicated for you and the Nominations Committee to get your nomination form prepared and posted.

You can contact the SI Nominations Committee by email on nominations@servas.org. Susanne Thestrup (Denmark) is the convener of the Nomination Committee, and she working together with Norma Nicholson (Australia) and Jean Seymour (Great Britain).

Please go to the webpages you find below and you will find a

The voting procedures, the Nomination Form for your own or others nominations, Job Descriptions et cetera you can find on this website:

<https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly-elections.php>

The Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) is part of the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) held every three years. SICOGA 2018 takes place October 13–20 in Seoul. For more information about SICOGA 2018 <https://servas.org/sicoga2018/>

ABOUT SI NOMINATIONS – SO FAR

The SI Nominations Committee, SI NC, has so far received one application with a nomination for a SI position. The application is supported by five members of the board of Servas Sweden. The five board members nominate Jonny Sågänger for the position as SI President.

SI NC has also received information that the following person is interested in positions in Servas International during the mandate period 2019–2021:

SI Treasurer (1 position): William D'Souza

For information on positions refer to *job descriptions* at <https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly-elections.php> .

This status report was written on September 19.

THE SERVAS DELEGATES FROM 48 COUNTRIES

During this year's SI General Assembly (SI GA) – which is the business part of the triannual Servas global conference SICOGA – delegates from 48 countries will gather to make decisions about the future of the organisation. One delegate from each country participates in the decision making.

These are the Servas countries and the first name and family name initials of the persons who are delegates at SI GA 2018 in October in Seoul:

Argentina: Maria G.

Australia: Derek C.

Bangladesh: Mohd K.

Belgium: Benedicte De B.

Brazil: Isabela C.

Britain: Ruth A.

Canada: Julie C.

Chile: Javier H D.

Colombia: Ana F.

Croatia: Jerina M.

Czech Republic: Vladimir R.

Denmark: Jan D.

Finland: Leena J.

France: Erick L.

Georgia: Marianna Z.

Germany: Conni G.

Guatemala: Adela S.

Hungary: Gabor M.

India: Abhay S.

Indonesia: Amin S.

Iran: Zahra K.

Ireland: William F.

Israel: Ishai A.

Italy: Antonia C.

Japan: Ogata T.

Kazakhstan Talgat O.

Korea: Byungwan C.

Kyrgyzstan: Gulzat K.

Malawi: Demelza B.

Malaysia: Kiat T.

Mexico: Salomon L.

Nepal: Shiva S.

New Zealand: Derek C.

Panama: Julissa A.

Poland: Joanna M.

Portugal: Claudina M.

Russia: Mikhail K.

Rwanda: Fidele R.

Spain: Jose Gabriel L N.

Sweden: Eva H J.

Switzerland: Marc P.

Taiwan: Serena T.

Thailand: Narinpon P.

Turkey: Gulsen E.

Uganda: Maggie N.

United States: Phyllis C.

Venezuela: Victor G.

Vietnam: Nga V.

The working language at the SI GA is English. The Delegate sessions, also called plenary sessions, are run using rules called Roberts Rules of Order. There is a Neutral Moderator who runs each plenary session. Speakers have voting paddles which have the flag of the country on one side, and a "?" on the other side. If a delegate does not understand what is happening, or what someone says, they raise their paddle with the "?" facing the neutral Moderator. Discussion is stopped until the delegate understands. If a delegate wishes to speak, they raise their paddle, and their country is added to the speakers list.

Please find more information about the SI GA 2018 on this website:

<https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly.php>

VEGETARIAN DAY AT SICOGA ON OCTOBER 15

Out of the lively discussion on a motion on Climate change in one of the Subject Working Groups, came the suggestion from a member of the group that we have a Vegetarian Day at SICOGA.

Indeed the issue of climate extends far beyond the impacts of travel. If Servas is to become a more climate conscious organisation, this climate consciousness should be reflected in all our activities. Food choices and lifestyle are not neutral. Consumption of meat products also leads to environmental degradation. Our food habits can cause enormous damage to climate. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation has estimated that meat production accounts for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to show our commitment to protecting the climate, Servas Korea, EXCO and the SICOGA Organizing Team have made arrangements to observe a meatless day on October 15.

Please enjoy and thanks to everyone who made this possible !

Danielle Serres, SI Peace Secretary

BE PREPARED FOR SICOGA 2018 SERVASONLINE TRAINING

There will be ServasOnline training sessions for all participants at SICOGA 2018. The details of the sessions will be different, depending on the status of ServasOnline in the participant's country. Therefore, it is very important that every participant knows the status of ServasOnline in their country, and gives this information to the ServasOnline Team at the conference.

For those countries with a delegate attending, the delegate is responsible for informing all of the conference participants from their country of the status of ServasOnline in their country.

For those who are attending the conference without a delegate, they are each responsible for finding out from their National Secretary or Main Contact what the status of ServasOnline is in their country.

BRING YOUR LAPTOP – IF YOU HAVE ONE

All delegates and others who are planning to take active part during SICOGA 2018 and have a laptop and memory sticks are advised to bring this kind of equipment to the conference. Most of the working documents digital and they will be handled using digital media.

It is part of SI Exco's commitment to make a determined and feasible effort to minimise that ecological footprint of SICOGA 2018 to – where possible – digitize conference documents and have as few as possible on paper.

SUBJECT WORKING GROUP INTERIM REPORTS POSTED

The 5 Subject Working Groups (SWGs) have been hard at work reviewing the Motions that have been submitted for the General Assembly. Many people participated in the discussions, including people who are not attending the conference, and some excellent discussion has been seen.

Interim reports have been posted on the SICOGA 2018 website Motions page, at <https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly-motions.php>. Everyone is encouraged to read the reports, and the motion templates that are posted there.

Discussion will continue until the end of September, when a report of the discussion in each SWG will be written and published. To ensure that there is no confusion about different versions of the motions while people prepare to arrive in Korea, the wording of the motions will be frozen at the end of September. The latest versions of the motions will be on the website.

At the conference, there will be more discussion and last minute changes can be made.

The objectives for September 30, 2018 are:

- that each motion is clear,
- that each motion is in a form that can be voted 'For' or 'Against', and
- that any motions that have costs associated with them will have the estimated costs included in the motion template that is posted on the website.
- Information about the motions and SWGs, and the people to contact if you wish to join one, is on the conference website at <https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly-motions.php>.

In peace,

Penny Pattison, SI General Secretary

UPDATED CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

During the Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, there's 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.

These are some of the specific topics that are proposed but not yet finally decided for the SICOGA 2018 programme for non SI GA activities:

- * A vision for the future of Servas: Models for a new structure for Servas
- * Youth and families: Engaging families in Servas, Servas Youth Language Experience (SYLE), Building young people's networks in Servas, future youth meetings.
- * Development: focus on regional development, using Servas in Africa as an example
- * Servas on the web and Servas IT systems development: the ServasOnline System, including technical
- * Peace: National Peace Secretaries role and peace activities, Servas at the United Nations, Servas promoting ethical travel, Concern for the environment and human rights, Bob Luitweiler legacy, Servas Code of Ethics and Behavior and a Conference on Gandhi.
- * Making Connections: How to develop Making Connections as a hub for connecting host and travelers. Does Making Connections need a member's only area on servas.org?
- * Future of the SI Archives
- * Interviews process: Possible workshop about innovative ways to do interview/informative talk.
- * Speakers Corner
- * Youth presentation about EYE in Strasbourg at the European Parliament.
- * *The Dialogue or Crossing Borders* (one of these documentary films will be shown) followed by a discussion. By: Crossing Borders Education and Jonny Sågänger, Servas (to be confirmed).
- * Hostmanship: the art of making people feel welcome. By: Hostmanship Group and Jonny Sågänger, Servas (to be confirmed).
- * CISV & Servas: shared values, shared goals – should we know more about each other. By: Jonny Sågänger and Childrens' International Summer Villages, CISV (to be confirmed).

Special social activities

- * Yoga – daily 6 to 7 am led by Abhay Shaha
- * Sports using centre's facilities. May be initiated by young people.

In addition there will be a social program for all the conference participants and a chance to enjoy additional activities.

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 SI GA programme to SI Peace Secretary Danielle Serres (peacesecretary@servas.org) and SI Vice President Ann Greenhough (vicepresident@servas.org).

Please write this in the subject line: SICOGA 2018: programme, social & fun activities

During the week there will also be a group excursion to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which is the one and only in the world.

Danielle Serres, SI Peace Secretary

Ann Greenhough, SI Vice President

ACTIVITIES FOR SI GA OBSERVERS

All participants will take the SICOGA 2018 group tour on Wednesday Oct. 17, 2018. We plan to visit DMZ and extended tour to Paju city and Seoul

Servas Korea has planned some optional activities for people who are attending the 2018 Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA and do not have a particular role at the conference. For the first 2 days of the conference, there will be workshops which we are sure that everyone at the conference will find interesting and stimulating as members of Servas.

It is expected that all delegates and funded participants will be attending the General Assembly sessions or doing other volunteer duties, and will not apply for the tours.

October 14th, Sunday: Huh Joon Festival(11:00 - 17:00) A delegation of 30 members will be participating in this local festival which commemorates the revered Korean traditional medical doctor and author of historic medical encyclopedia, Huh Joon from Chosun Dynasty. This event will be held in Guam Park, Gangseo-Gu district where our venue is located.

There will be lots of events for experiencing Korean traditional culture including kimchi making using medicinal herbs, medicinal herb-cutting contest, tightrope walking, making rice balls with herbs, and archery experience. COST: 4 USD

The following optional tours have been arranged on Tuesday Oct 16, Thursday Oct 18 and Friday Oct 19, scheduled from 9am to 5pm, with a maximum of 20 participants on each tour.

- * Tour A : Gyeongbokgung Palace, BukchonHanok Village, Insa-dong Street, and Gwangjang Market

Not available on October 16 (Tue.) Cost: 7 USD

* Tour B : Changdeokgung Palace UNESCO World Heritage, Cheonggyecheon stream, Seonjeonneung Royal Tombs and The War Memorial of Korea Cost: 9 USD

Tour C: NamsangolHanok Village(traditional Korean houses), Myeong-dong Street & Cathedral, Sungnyemun Gate (Korea's No. 1 Treasure) and Market. Cost: 5USD

Tour D: Bongeunsa Temple & Temple Stay (www.bongeunsa.org), COEX (www.coex.co.kr), and Jamsil Lotte Tower and Itaewon International Street. Cost: 9 USD

THESE ARE THE SICOGA PARTICIPANTS

As for September 12 2018 the SICOGA 2018 Organizing Team (OT) has gathered the following statistics:

Number of participants: 164

Gender: Male 66, Female 98

Age: Between 18 and 77.

Languages spoken: 160 of the participants understand English. Most of them also speak English.

The SICOGA 2018 participants have the following roles:

Delegates: 47

SI Executive Committee (SI Exco) members: 6

International roles: 14

Youth: 13

Moderators: 2

Logistic Volunteers: 9

Observers: 73

WHATSAPP A SICOGA COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

The SICOGA 2018 Organizing Team has started to send some information to conference participants via WhatsApp (WA) as well as via email, for those who wish to use it. WA will also be used for communication during the conference.

SICOGA 2018 EVENT IS CLOSED TO VISITORS

SICOGA 2018 is a working conference, and the whole week-long schedule has been designed for the participants only.

Therefore, it was decided many months ago by the SICOGA 2018 Team (Servas Korea and SI Exco) that participation is only for the full 7 days. Shorter stays, including day visits or people dropping in for a few hours, will not be accepted. This information was included as part of the terms of participation for the conference.

We have already received about 20 requests for a short visit or stay nearby and visit for a short while. I would, with this message, gently but firmly request anybody who is making such plans to refrain from such visits. These visits will cause challenges for both the organizers and those who plan to come.

If Servas members wish to meet participants, or if participants wish to meet with friends who are not attending the conference, this will need to happen outside the conference location or before or after the conference.

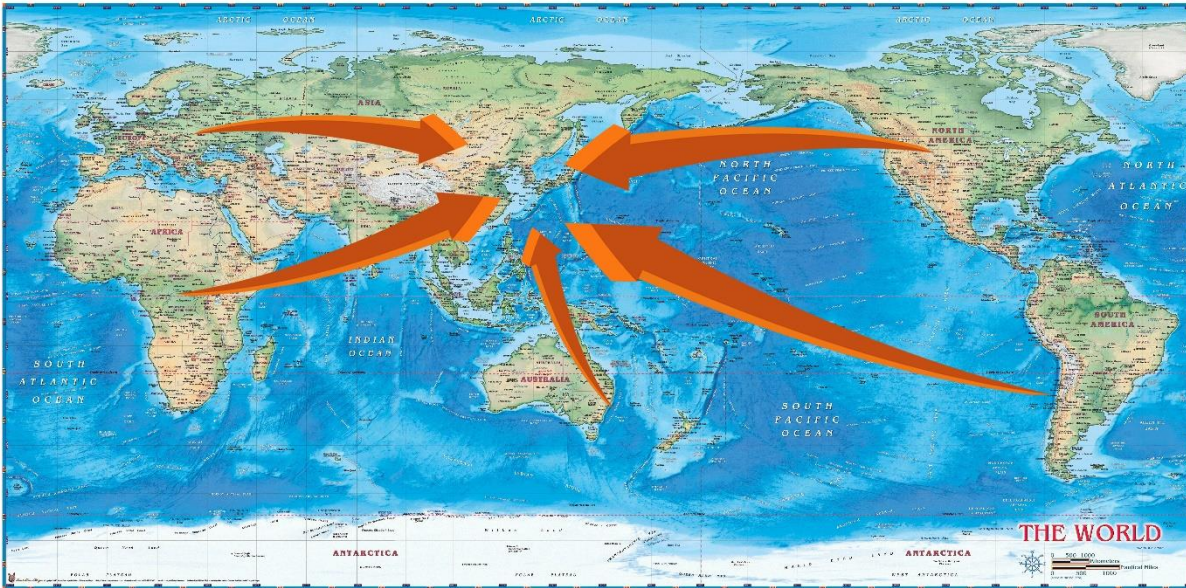
Ideally in the future we will have more inclusive SI conferences, open to everyone via a physical auditorium or via Internet transmission, but at this moment we don't have that possibility and that's a fact we have to accept.

Jonny Sångänger

SI President

MISCELLANEOUS SICOGA 2018 INFORMATION

* More information about SICOGA 2018 can be found at <https://servas.org/sicoga2018/> which will give the most up-to-date information about planning for the conference.



Members of Servas from all over the world will gather for SICOGA 2018 in Seoul in October.