



Communication about SICOGA 2018

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



June 2018

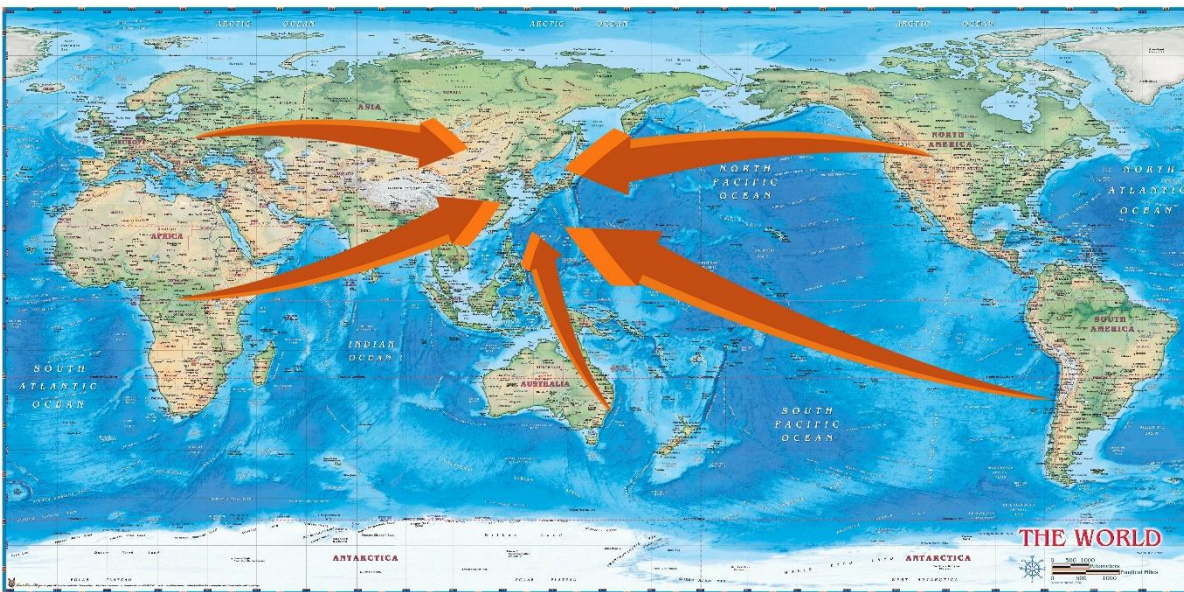
Dear Servas members worldwide,

We're getting closer to Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2018) in Seoul in October 13 to 20 – our most important event during the mandate period 2015–2018.

I am – on behalf of SI Exco and the SICOGA 2018 Organising Team (OT) – happy to present up-to-date information about the upcoming conference. In this communication you will find a conference status report, an overview of the programme, a description of the democratic process and lots of other useful information.

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

We look forward to meeting you there!



Jonny Sångänger, 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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1. SICOGA 2018 status report

Servas International's global board, SI Exco, decided at its June 2018 meeting to close registration for SICOGA 2018 on June 10, 2018. The budgeted target is to host approximately 170 participants during the conference at the venue which is the International Youth Center/Youth Hostel located west of Seoul in the Mount Gaehwa area. The venue can accommodate almost 200 people, however, going higher than 170 can cause difficulties for other aspects of the conference.

Those people needing visas are told about the rules and that they should apply in mid-July. A special communication will be sent during the month of June to those needing visas.

There's an ongoing planning process about how the conference will be covered by online coverage via social media and documented for the future. Persons who would like to help with the documentation are encouraged to send an application to president@servas.org.

The SI Nominations Committee, SINc, is calling for nominations for the next SI Exco, SI committees and other positions that will be elected at SICOGA. Send your proposals to nominations@servas.org

SI Exco has during the first half of 2018 made a commitment to make a determined and feasible effort to minimise the ecological footprint of SICOGA 2018. One of the concrete actions is to use digital conference documents as much as possible instead of printed material.



2. Conference programme

The Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, is generally held every three years. As part of the conference there will be a Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) of National Servas Member Groups (read more about the SI GA 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.

Since the theme for the meeting is "Connecting people and cultures for Peace", the focus in the programme will be on the development of Servas International as a peace and hospitality organization. The workshops and presentations focus on peace, youth, making connections and regional development, in addition to some specialized topics such as the ServasOnline System, interviews processes, SI archives and other matters of topical interest.

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, Travel peacefully and walk lightly on the earth, 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.

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. More information about the social programme will be available closer to the conference.

3. SI GA democratic process – motions and SWGs

The Servas International Conference 2018 (SICOGA) includes the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA). SI GA is the business part of the conference. During the GA 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 for the coming mandate period of three years.

Everyone attending the conference will be able to observe these sessions, but only one delegate per National Servas Member Group will be able speak and vote.

The decisions that will be made during SI GA are based on proposals that have been submitted for consideration by the General Assembly. The proposals are called motions and were submitted by National Secretaries or by the Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco).

All the motions that were received by SI Exco six months before the start of the SI GA have been published on this webpage on servas.org:

<https://servas.org/sicoga2018/general-assembly-motions.php>. In many cases, more details related to the motions will be published. By July 14, 2018, the final motions and agenda for the SI GA 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 General Assembly. The intention of this discussion is to make best use of the SI GA 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.

You will receive more information about the SWGs in July.

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

4. Servas International Peace Riding (SIPR)

Just after the Servas International Conference and General Assembly, starting on October 21, there will be a Servas International Peace Riding (SIPR). The bicycle tour will go along the Han River in Korea. The group will depart from the SICOGA 2018 hostel venue in Seoul on October 21st, and returns on October 24th. The group will travel a distance of 300 km. The bike riding portion is 188 km and the train ride portion is 112 km. The estimated number of participants is 40. The bike ride is open to conference participants and others.

More information on how to register for the tour can be found here: <https://servas.org/en/events-meetings>

5. SICOGA 2018 Organising Team (SICOGA 2018 OT)

The following persons are members of the SICOGA 2018 Organising Team (SICOGA 2018 OT):

Servas Korea: Mr. Byung Wan Choi, National Secretary and Project Manager, Ms. Annie NamHee Kim, Venue, Mr. Kyuok Kim, Communications, Mr. Seakeun Song, Servas Korea Finance, Ms. Junghee Park, Registration, Mr. Dongwhan Song, Visas and SIPR

Servas International: Mr. Jonny Sångänger, SI President and Communication, Ms. Penny Pattison, SI General Secretary and Project Manager, Mr. Amir Levy, SI Registration, Mr. Radha Radhakrishna, SI Treasurer, Ms. Gulsen Elyak, SI Finance.

6. 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.

* If you have any questions, please contact the SICOGA2018 Organising Team (SICOGA 2018 OT) by email to sicoga2018@servas.org. Please make sure to write your full name, registration UID if you have one, country and a clear message in the email's subject line/title field.



Photography by Paul Sutherland, New Zealand

Participants at SICOGA 2015 in New Zealand.