5th Edition of Bringing Evidence to Public Health Policy (EPHP 2026): Asia Pacific Dialogue on Future-Focused Health Systems in a Changing Context

8th June to 10th June, 2026

About Bringing Evidence to Public Health Policy (EPHP):

To bring about a dialogue between the disjointed community of researchers and policy makers, the Institute of Public Health Bengaluru (IPH Bengaluru) in collaboration with national and global health partners, has organized four editions of a national convening in India: EPHP2010 – Five Years of the National Rural Health Mission, EPHP2012 – Strengthening Health Systems to Achieve Universal Health Coverage, EPHP2016 – Equitable India: All for Health and Wellbeing, and 2024 – and EPHP 2024: HSR2024 Asia Pacific Dialogue on Health Governance, Policy, and Institutional Frameworks for Just and Sustainable Health Systems.

Building on this legacy, EPHP 2026 will bring together experts from across India and the region to enhance our knowledge and understanding of health policy and systems reform, aligning with the themes of the upcoming Health Systems Research Symposium to be held in Dubai in November 2026.

EPHP 2026

In June 2026, the T.T. Narasimhan School of Advanced Studies at IPH Bengaluru, in partnership with Health Systems Global (Asia Pacific Region), The George Institute for Global Health (TGI), the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), and the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp (ITM), will host the fifth edition of EPHP. The conference will facilitate dialogue on the theme **"Future-Focused Health Systems in a Changing Context."** While derived from the Health Systems Research Symposium 2026 (HSR2026), the EPHP theme will bring a sharp focus to regional and national experiences, fostering exchange and generating insights to inform health system reform and research in India and the Asia Pacific region.

EPHP2026 sub-themes:

Health systems in the Asia–Pacific region, including India, face persistent disruptions, from conflicts at national borders, humanitarian crises, climate shocks, digital transformation, pandemics and shifting geopolitical alignments. These are further worsened by deep-seated structural inequities, including caste and ethnic discrimination, gender inequalities, precarious labour, and widening socioeconomic disparities intersect to worsen the vulnerability, undermining health systems' performance and equity. To respond, health systems must move beyond mere resilience strategies to bold, forward-looking approaches. These entail embracing adaptive leadership and system transformation, grounded in local knowledge and a commitment to justice. The following sub-themes offer an independent but also interconnected consideration of 'how' such future-focused health systems transformation may be achieved.

- Politics and Polycrisis: governance, financing, power, and equity in complex political contexts
- Plurality and Partnerships: engaging diverse actors, communities, and care traditions
- Platforms and Participation: digital, physical, and social infrastructures, trust, and accountability
- Pathways and Planet: climate justice, One Health, sustainability, and planetary well-being

Date: 8th to 10th June

Venue: Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)

Call for abstracts:

We invite contributions that examine how health systems can be reimagined and transformed through the above four themes:

Presentation formats:

1. Oral presentation: Approximately 12-15 minutes of formal presentation followed by 3-5 minutes of Q&A. Oral presentations are suited for full research findings, policy analyses, implementation studies, comparative reviews
2. Poster Presentations: Visual summary of research, project findings, policy analyses or program reports displayed on a poster board during designated poster sessions. Posters are ideal for preliminary or ongoing work, field studies, community-based practices, pilot projects, or projects better communicated visually.
3. Lightning Talks: A rapid, concise format to highlight key insights, early findings or conceptual reflections. Suitable for preliminary research, policy-practice reflections, pilot studies, and short reports.

What are we looking for?

- Research papers that address some of the above questions, aligned with the theme of the forthcoming HSR2026. We are particularly interested in papers that go beyond describing what is happening, and that attempt to explain why, how and for whom the change is occurring. Preference will be given to abstracts that address the above and provide solutions to these issues.
- Presentations by policy makers and implementers looking at the evidence and proposing pragmatic solutions.

Key dates:

- Last date for abstract submission: 28 January 2026
- Abstract acceptance notification: Late February
- Announcement of scholarships: Early March
- Last date of registration for presenters: Mid March

Review, acceptance, notification and final inclusion in the conference programme:

- Review: All abstracts will be peer-reviewed and judged based on a final decision by members of the EPHP Scientific Committee.
- Abstract acceptance and notifications: For oral/poster submission, the abstract's primary contact will receive an email notification indicating the abstract's acceptance or rejection.
- Final inclusion in the conference program: The primary presenter of accepted abstracts must be registered for the conference to confirm the final inclusion. Abstracts which do not fulfill this requirement will be withdrawn from the program.

Abstracts review and scoring criteria:

1. Appropriateness to the conference (sub)theme(s): The concept of the abstract should be appropriate to the conference theme(s). Articles not related to conference themes will be summarily rejected
2. Novel and innovative contribution: Abstracts with original and innovative ideas will be given a higher score, particularly those that develop or enhance novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies.
3. Scientific/ Methodological rigour: Abstracts reflecting research of high ethical and technical rigour will be given a higher score
4. Translational value: A focus on the applicability of the findings to real-world settings to mitigate public health challenges

Abstract submission guidelines:

Abstract must be in the English Language (use English (India) in MS Word), and should have the following structure: Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusion, Source of Funding and Conflict of Interest. The abstract should be no more than 600 words. Suggested lengths are indicated below

- Introduction (max. 100 words)
- Methods (max. 150 words)
- Results (max. 150 words)
- Conclusions (max. 100 words) – What is happening, in what context is it happening, how, why, and for whom is it happening? Some key recommendations based on your findings to reduce the magnitude and intensity of the problem.
- Funding Source (Name of funding agency, Grant number)
- Conflict of Interest Statement (If there are no conflicting interests, please say so)

Please also note:

- All abbreviations must be defined at first mention
- All numbers less than 1 should have a 0 in front, e.g. $p < 0.001$
- No Tables, Figures and Charts are allowed as part of abstracts

- No references allowed

Apply using the link: https://form.jotform.com/EPHP/2026

Conference Secretariat: For any further clarifications, please write to **ephp@iphindia.org**