



WORLD APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

A Biennial AAfH Anthropology for Humankind Event

29th–31st January 2026 | ICRISAT, Hyderabad

THEME:

**INTERWOVEN WORLDS: ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ENGAGEMENT WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION**

Organized by
**Anthropological
Association for Humankind**



Hosted by
ICRISAT Hyderabad



Knowledge Partners



हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय
University of Hyderabad



प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE
राष्ट्रीय अस्तरण, वैश्व मानक
National Needs, Global Standards



इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

कला यस्मिन् प्रतिष्ठिता:



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO
College of Arts and Sciences



WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the World Applied Anthropology Congress 2026 (WAAC-2026), it is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that we welcome you to this distinguished global gathering.

WAAC-2026 marks the Second Biennial Flagship Event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH)—a growing movement dedicated to advancing applied anthropology as a force for human flourishing and social transformation.

This year's theme, "Interwoven Worlds – Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration," invites us to confront two of the most defining challenges of our time. As the world faces mounting environmental disruptions and intensifying patterns of migration, anthropology offers an essential, human-centered lens—rooted in culture, ethics, and lived experience—to shape sustainable, just, and inclusive responses.

WAAC-2026 is not merely a conference—it is a space for co-learning, co-creation, and collective action. We are honored to host a rich and diverse community of ethnographers, Indigenous leaders, applied anthropologists, researchers, scientists, environmentalists, materiologists, ecologists, climate activists, policymakers, NGOs, engineers, technologists, and social scientists. Together, we aim to share insights, elevate underrepresented voices, and shape solutions that transcend disciplines and borders.

This Congress is committed to generating tangible, lasting outcomes: from community toolkits and policy briefs, to collaborative research projects and shared declarations. More than that, WAAC-2026 aspires to build a global, enduring network of engaged scholars and practitioners, united in their pursuit of ethical, impactful responses to the interwoven crises of our age.

We warmly invite you to participate with purpose—through presentations, workshops, dialogues, and informal exchanges—and to help shape the future of applied anthropology as a vital tool for change.

May WAAC-2026 be intellectually rich, socially engaging, and personally inspiring.

Welcome to the Congress. Welcome to the interwoven worlds of WAAC-2026.

With warmest regards,



Prof. N. K. Ambasht
Honorary Convenor



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
Convenor



Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde
Convenor



Dr. Ananda Gandikota
Co-Convenor



Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
Co-Convenor



Prof. Barnabas Danborn
Co-Convenor

STEERING COMMITTEE



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
Chairperson
President, AAfH
Professor of Anthropology at
Sri Venkateswara University,
Tirupati



Prof. Ravindranath Duggirala
Chairperson
Professor, Department of
Health and Behavioral Sciences,
College of Arts and Sciences,
Texas A&M University - San Antonio, USA



Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
Chairperson
Vice-President, AAfH
Department of Anthropology,
University of Kansas, USA



Mr. C. S. Reddy
Founder & Chairman,
APMAS, Hyderabad



Dr. S Ananda Babu
Founder & President
Disaster Management
Initiatives Convergence
Society



Dr. Padmaja Ravula
Principal Scientist,
ICRISAT, Hyderabad



Mr. T. Bala Subramanyam
Lead Engineer
Oil and Gas



Dr. Ananda Gandikota
Vice-President, AAfH
Anthropological Association
for Humankind (AAfH),
Hyderabad



Prof. Barnabas Danborn
Vice-President, AAfH
Department of Human Anatomy,
Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria



Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde
General Secretary & CEO,
Anthropological Association
for Humankind (AAfH),
Hyderabad



Prof. P. D. Satya Pal Kumar
Department of Anthropology,
Andhra University,
Visakhapatnam



Prof. S. B. Roy
Founder & Chairman, IBRAD
(Indian Institute of Bio-Social
Research and Development), Kolkata



Ms. Sarada Kalavapudi
CEO, Dharmavana Nature
Ark, Hyderabad



**Mr. Yarlagadda Harish
Chandra Prasad**
Founder & Chairman,
Malaxmi Group Pvt. Ltd.;
Co-founder, Dharmavana
Nature Ark; Former Chairman, CII
(Andhra Pradesh)



Prof. K. Anil Kumar
Head, Janapada Sampada,
Indira Gandhi National Centre
for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi



Prof. Amitabh Pande
Director,
Indira Gandhi Rashtriya
Manav Sangrahalaya
(IGRMS), Bhopal, M.P, India



Prof. A. Gangagni Rao
Department of Environmental
Engineering, IICT, Hyderabad



**Assoc. Prof. Gopala
Krishna Darbha**
Centre for Climate and
Environmental Studies,
IISER Kolkata



Dr. Hari Charan Behera
Associate Professor,
Sociological Unit,
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI),
Giridih Branch



Prof. Rama Krishna Nemani

Senior Earth Scientist & Advisor,
NASA Earth eXchange (NEX);
Ames Associate Fellow;
Founder, Niruthi Climate &
Ecosystem Services, USA



Prof. Ajaya Kumar Sahoo

Head, Centre for the
Study of Indian Diaspora (CSID),
University of Hyderabad



Prof. Kata Venkata Reddy

Founder & Chairman,
Institute of Tribal Development
Studies, Visakhapatnam



Dr. B. N. Rao

Assistant Professor,
School of Economics,
University of Hyderabad



Prof. Sumathi

Department of
Anthropology,
University of Madras



Prof. V. R. Rao

Former Director-in-Charge,
Anthropological Survey
of India



Dr. Vijay Varadi

Lead Data Scientist,
DSM-Firmenich, Bangalore



Dr. T. Damodar Rao

Senior Education
Consultant, Hyderabad



Prof. Anil Kishore Sinha

Joint Secretary AAfH
Department of Anthropology,
University of Panjab

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Prof. Arjun Appadurai



Prof. P. Venkata Rao



Prof. K. K. Mishra



Prof. Nawal Kishore Ambasth



Prof. A. Papa Rao



Prof. Vijoy S. Sahay



Prof. Subhadra Mitra Channa



Prof. Lorena Madrigal



Prof. Kari North



Associate Prof. Sunita Reddy



Prof. John Blangero



Dr. Lawrence J. Mandarin



Prof. Mike O'Brien



Prof. P. Vijaya Prakash



Prof. S. Gregory



Mr. G. Narottam Reddy



Prof. P. Sudhakara Reddy



Prof. Pradip Kumar Bhowmick



Dr. S. M. Sirajuddin



Prof. V. Gangadharam



Prof. V. R. Rao

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



Prof. Edward Liebow

Former Executive Director,
American Anthropological Association;
Department of Anthropology,
Washington University, USA



Prof. Jim Skea

Chair, Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change (IPCC),
Zurich, Switzerland



Prof. Vijay S. Sahay

Former Head,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Allahabad,
Uttar Pradesh, India



Prof. Amitabh Pande

Director, Indira Gandhi
Rastriya Manav Sangrahalay,
Bhopal, M.P., India



Mr. C. S. Reddy

Founder & Chairman,
APMAS, Hyderabad



Prof. Abhijit Guha

Former Head,
Department of Anthropology,
Vidyasagar University,
West Bengal, India



Dr. Ram Krishna Nemani

Senior Earth Scientist & Advisor,
NASA Earth eXchange (NEX);
Ames Associate Fellow;
Founder, Niruthi Climate &
Ecosystem Services, USA



Mr. Harish Chandra Prasad Yarlagadda

Founder & Chairman,
Malaxmi Group Co-founder,
Dharmavaram Nature Ark
Former Chairman,
Confederation of Indian Industry
(CII), Andhra Pradesh



Mr. Aditya Pundir

Director,
The Climate Reality
Foundation,
India & South Asia

Committees and Respective Co-Chairs

Steering Committee:

Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
Prof. Rabindranath Duggirala

Finance Committee:

Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
Prof. Rector Arya
Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde

Program Proceedings and Publication Committee:

Prof. Anil Kishore Sinha
Prof. P. D. Satyapal Kumar
Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde

Outreach and Communications Committee:

Prof. Barnabas Danborno
Prof. Sumathi Rajesh
Dr. Uday Kumar Doraboina
Dr. Priyanka Airi Goyal

Hospitality and Logistics Committee:

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sahoo
Dr. Praveen Hoogar
Dr. B. N. Rao

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Theme: *Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagement with Climate Change and Migration*

A Biennial AAfH Anthropology for Humankind Event

The World Applied Anthropology Congress (WAAC) is the biennial flagship event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH), serving as a premier platform for interdisciplinary engagement on pressing global challenges. WAAC-2026, hosted by ICRISAT, will focus on the intersection of climate change and migration—two defining issues of our time—through the lens of applied anthropology and allied sciences.

The World Applied Anthropology Congress (WAAC-2026), the biennial flagship event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH), is dedicated to advancing applied anthropological research and practice in response to the critical global challenges of our time. Under the unifying theme *Interwoven Worlds*, WAAC-2026 will emphasize anthropology's unique capacity to integrate the global and the local challenges, theory and practice, past, present, and future—through focused engagement to address the issues of climate change and migration.

Scheduled for 29–31 January 2026 at ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India, this Congress will bring together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and activists from around the world. WAAC-2026 is designed to foster transdisciplinary collaboration, generate actionable solutions, and showcase anthropology's potential in understanding and addressing human and environmental transformations.

WAAC-2026 will bring together anthropologists, policymakers, environmental scientists, economists, migration experts, and community leaders to foster a transdisciplinary dialogue on these critical issues. Through research presentations, policy discussions, and collaborative workshops, the congress will explore how anthropological insights can inform climate resilience strategies, sustainable adaptation models, and equitable migration policies. WAAC-2026 aims to be a transformative platform that goes beyond academic discourse to drive action-oriented solutions. By bridging global expertise with local realities, the congress will facilitate knowledge exchange, build policy recommendations, and foster collaborative networks to tackle climate change and migration challenges holistically.

Tracks & Sub-Themes:

Each track will be accompanied by a Plenary Session Speaker, fostering deep dives into interdisciplinary and applied conversations.

Climate Change-Related Tracks (1–7)

1. Climate Adaptation: Strategies, Policies, and Implementation

- Advancing inclusive and multi-sectoral strategies for climate adaptation
- Integrating diverse and equitable knowledge systems for climate adaptation

2. Climate Resilience: Strengthening Systems for a Changing Climate

- Systems-based approaches to climate resilience across sectors and scales
- Innovations, governance, and community strategies for strengthening climate resilience

3. Climate Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhancing Carbon Sinks

- Decarbonizing systems through renewable energy, sustainable practices, and circular economy models
- Innovative technologies and nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration and climate mitigation

4. Climate Action: Practical Implementation of Climate Solutions

- Multilevel governance, corporate strategies, and community engagement for climate action
- Technological innovation, energy transition, and impact evaluation of climate solutions

5. Climate Justice: Ethical, Social, and Human Rights Aspects

- Equity, rights, and representation in climate governance
- Integrating indigenous knowledge, gender, and justice in climate response

6. Climate Finance: Financial Mechanisms and Investments

- Innovative climate finance mechanisms and investment strategies
- Equity, accountability, and access in global and local climate finance

7. Climate Narratives & Visual Storytelling

- Narratives and media representations of climate change and migration
- Artistic, cultural, and community-based storytelling for climate engagement

Migration-Related Tracks (8–14)

8. Interwoven Histories: Archaeology of Migration and Climate Change

- Archaeological responses to environmental and societal stress
- Migration routes and cultural hybridity in material culture

9. Biocultural Transformations and Climate Stress

- Biological Anthropology, adaptation, migration, population genetics, and genetic epidemiology
- Biocultural health impacts of displacement

10. Cultural Dimensions of Climate and Migration – Diaspora and Identity

- Diaspora and identity
- Indigenous ecological knowledge and climate adaptation

11. Language, Communication, and Integration

- Linguistic anthropology in contexts of displacement
- Language revitalization, communication, and environmental storytelling

12. Technologies of Witnessing: Visual and Digital Anthropology

- Media, digital methods, and storytelling in climate/migration research
- Documentation, ethics, and new narrative forms

13. Anthropology of Policy and Governance

- Climate and migration governance through anthropological critique
- Participatory policy design and intersectionality

14. AI and Anthropological Futures

- Artificial intelligence in ethnographic research
- Algorithmic governance and the anthropology of prediction

We are calling for submissions of full panels, round tables, individual (or co-authored) papers, posters, and sessions of "rapid-fire talks" focused on a theme. All presentations and papers must be given in English.

To increase participation from around the world, presentations may be given virtually or in-person. Questions can be directed to waac2026@aaafh.org

IMPORTANT DATES

**ABSTRACTS
SUBMISSION PORTAL
OPENS**

01st July 2025

**CLOSING DATE FOR
SUBMISSION OF
ABSTRACTS**

30th September 2025

**NOTIFICATION OF
ACCEPTANCE OF
ABSTRACTS**

31st October 2025

**NOTIFICATION OF THE
PROGRAM SCHEDULE
WAAC 2026**

15th November 2025

**CLOSING DATE FOR
REGISTRATIONS**
29th January 2026

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In-person attendees	Amount
High-Income Countries	\$200
In-Person Faculty member	\$150
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$150
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$100
In-Person Student non-member	\$50
In-Person Student member	\$25

Other Countries	Amount
In-Person Faculty non-member	\$50
In-Person Faculty member	\$35
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$25
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$10
In-Person Student non-member	\$10
In-Person Student member	\$5

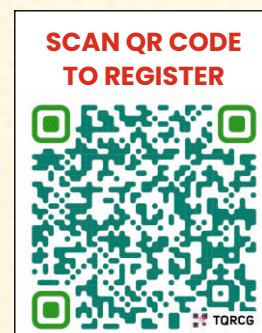
Virtual Attendees	Amount
High-Income Countries	
Virtual Faculty non-member	\$150
Virtual Faculty member	\$100
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$80
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$40
Virtual Student non-member	\$28
Virtual Student member	\$20

Other Countries	Amount
Virtual Faculty non-member	\$35
Virtual Faculty member	\$25
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$20
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$8
Virtual Student non-member	\$8
Virtual Student member	\$4

Notes

Online registration opens 1st July 2025 and should be complete by 15th January 2026. Registration closes on 15th January 2026.

Online Registration Opens 01st July 2025	Online Registration Ending 15th January 2026
--	--



WAAC-2026 VENUE



ICRISAT as the Venue for WAAC-2026

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad, India, is a globally renowned institution dedicated to agricultural research and development in dryland regions. Established in 1972, ICRISAT focuses on improving agricultural productivity, enhancing food and nutritional security, and promoting sustainable farming practices in the semi-arid tropics.

ICRISAT's Hyderabad campus offers state-of-the-art facilities suitable for hosting international conferences like the World Applied Anthropology Congress 2026 (WAAC-2026). The campus includes well-equipped conference halls, meeting rooms, and accommodation facilities, all set within a serene and green environment conducive to academic and professional gatherings.

Hosting Institution and Knowledge Partner

As the hosting institution and knowledge partner for WAAC-2026, ICRISAT brings extensive experience in organizing international conferences and workshops. The institute has previously hosted events such as the Inter Drought-V conference, which brought together over 900 delegates from 56 countries. ICRISAT's expertise in facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering collaborations makes it an ideal partner for WAAC-2026.

Conference Facilities

ICRISAT's main conference hall is designed to accommodate large gatherings and is equipped with modern audiovisual technology. The facility has hosted numerous high-profile events, providing a professional setting for keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops.





Congress Secretariat

Prof. Narayana Reddy

Convenor

Mob: +91 9000868636

Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde

Convenor

Mob: +91 9392702523

Dr. Anand Gandikota

Co-Convenor

Mob: +91 9731427457

Anthropological Association for Humankind

Regus - 8th Floor, SLN Terminus, Survey No: 133,
Beside Botanical Gardens, Gachibowli,
Hyderabad - 500032, Telangana, India,

Office Landline No: +914067933411

Email: waac2026@aaafh.org

Website: www.waac2026.com | Website: aaafh.org

Professional Conference Organizer & Travel Manager

Mr. Thirupathi Atkapuram

Founder & Director - Operations & BD

Mr. Venkatesh G

+91 8919819391

venkat.guntoju@meetyevents.com

Mr. Vinod Kumar

+91 8106632585

vinod.arala@meetyevents.com



Meety Events Private Limited

Office No. 207, 2nd Floor,
HITEX Trade Fair Office Building, Izzathnagar,
Hyderabad - 500084. meetyevents.com