

## International Conference (17th ICERD) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



*The 17th International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development (17th ICERD), held at the Royal University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh from 26 to 29 March 2026, was organized by the International Society of Environmental and Rural Development (ISERD), the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), and the Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON)*

The 17th International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development (17th ICERD), organized by the International Society of Environmental and Rural Development (ISERD), the Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia (RUA), and the Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON), was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 26 to 29 March 2026. A total of 211 participants from more than 16 countries attended the conference, representing not only Asia but also Europe, North America, and Oceania.

On 26 March 2026, a pre-session for training research presentation and academic paper writing was conducted for young researchers. On the following day, the ISERD Council Meeting was held to discuss the Society's operational policies and future activities. During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Machito Mihara (former Secretary General) was elected as one of the Vice Presidents of ISERD, while Dr. Rival Valcin (Secretariat Manager of the Research Center, ERECON) was appointed Secretary General of ISERD. In addition, Prof. Dr. Barry N. Noller of The University of Queensland was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Environmental and Rural Development (IJERD). Furthermore, Dr. Somnath Ghosh was appointed Regional Vice President for India, and Prof. Dr. Sara Cardey was appointed Regional Vice President for the United Kingdom.

On 28 March 2026, the Scientific Sessions were held following the Opening Ceremony. A total of 134 presentations, including both oral and poster presentations, were delivered, generating active discussions among participants from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Following the Scientific Sessions, a banquet was organized to promote networking and strengthen relationships among ISERD members and conference participants. During the banquet, the International Society of Environmental and Rural Development (ISERD) presented several awards in recognition of outstanding contributions, including the Award of Excellent Paper, Award of Excellent Poster Presentation, Award of Sustainability Promotion, and Award of Outstanding Scientific Achievement. Certificates and commemorative prizes were presented to the award recipients in recognition of their academic and professional achievements.

The 18th International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development (18th ICERD) will be organized by the Organizing Committee of the 18th ICERD under the auspices of the International Society of Environmental and Rural Development (ISERD). We are currently discussing with Palawan State University, Philippines, the possibility of serving as the host institution and as a member of the Organizing Committee, together with the Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON). Tentatively, the 18th ICERD is scheduled to be held from 25 to 28 February 2027.