



CALL FOR PAPERS



17TH SOUTH ASIAN MANAGEMENT FORUM

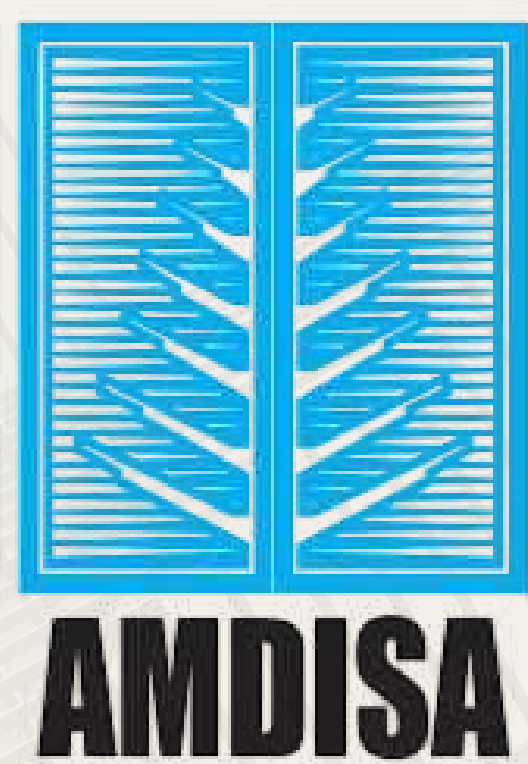
*Resilient Leadership and Innovation: Navigating South Asia's
Dynamic Governance Landscape*

11TH – 12TH MAY, 2026

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, THIMPHU, BHUTAN



Organized By



**ASSOCIATION OF MANAGEMENT
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS IN
SOUTH ASIA (AMDISA)**

Hosted By



**ROYAL INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT (RIM)
THIMPHU, BHUTAN**

INTRODUCTION

Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA) as organiser and Royal Institute of Management, Thimphu, Bhutan as host, are pleased to invite you to register and participate in the 17th South Asian Management Forum 2026. The Forum aims to provide a platform to bring together academicians, scholars, practicing managers and students of management and business to exchange views and experiences on the theme “Resilient Leadership and Innovation: Navigating South Asia’s Dynamic Governance Landscape”.

Papers are invited on all management topics with relevance to the conference theme. Priority will be given to papers focusing on management issues.

BACKGROUND

South Asia stands at a pivotal moment, shaped by technological revolutions, economic volatility, and shifting global currents. In this evolving landscape, the ability of organizations to remain resilient while fostering innovation has become a defining factor for success. This conference theme invites a deep dive into the qualities of leadership and organizational cultures that enable adaptability, foresight, and transformation in times of disruption.

From emerging startups in Bhutan embracing digital solutions to legacy enterprises in South Asia navigating global supply chain uncertainties, organizations face both shared and unique challenges. What connects them all is the urgent need to innovate not just products and services, but systems, structures, and mindsets.

This theme explores how adaptive leadership can foster agility and inclusiveness, ensuring responsiveness to both market shifts and societal needs. It considers the building of innovation ecosystems across government, corporate, and private sectors where creativity, calculated risk management, and continuous learning are embedded into the organizational DNA.

Equally, it is crucial to recognize that resilience is not cultivated in silos. It emerges through collaboration that cuts across sectors, borders, and disciplines. By bringing together scholars, policymakers, and business leaders, the South Asian Management Forum under this theme seeks to spark conversations and partnerships that translate into actionable insights for navigating today’s complexities and tomorrow’s opportunities.

By positioning leadership and innovation as shared imperatives across sectors, this theme underscores the need for a mindset shift where bureaucracies act entrepreneurially, and businesses operate responsibly. Resilient leadership and innovation are not merely traits to aspire to, but essential competencies for shaping a more responsive, inclusive, and forward-looking future.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The 17th South Asian Management Forum (SAMF) aims to foster cross-sectoral dialogue and thought leadership on how resilience and innovation can shape the future of governance, organizations, and societies in South Asia and beyond. The conference seeks to advance understanding and practice by achieving the following objectives:

- Promote collaboration among management institutions to address emerging governance and development challenges.
- Encourage applied research and dialogue that link leadership, innovation, and resilience across public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- Showcase regional best practices in adaptive management, policy innovation, and institutional transformation.
- Foster academic-practitioner partnerships for actionable strategies that strengthen governance and management capacity.
- Provide a knowledge-sharing platform for scholars and professionals to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth.

IMPORTANT DATES

Timeline Milestones	Dates
Submission of abstract of the paper	15 th December, 2025
Abstract acceptance notification	31 st December, 2025
Submission of final paper	1 st February, 2026
Final paper acceptance notification	14 th March, 2026
Last date for registration*	20 th April, 2026

*An additional late fee of USD 50 will apply to payments made after 20th April 2026.

SUBMISSION

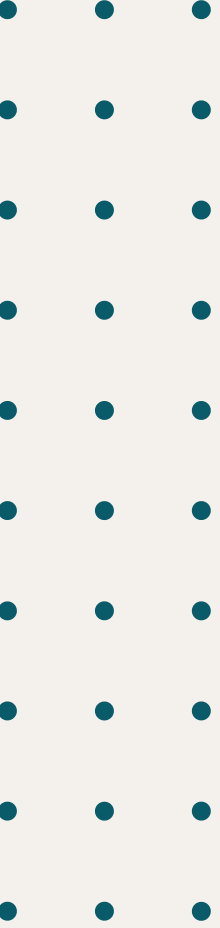
Abstract and final paper may be sent by e-mail to the following:
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FORUM PROCEEDINGS

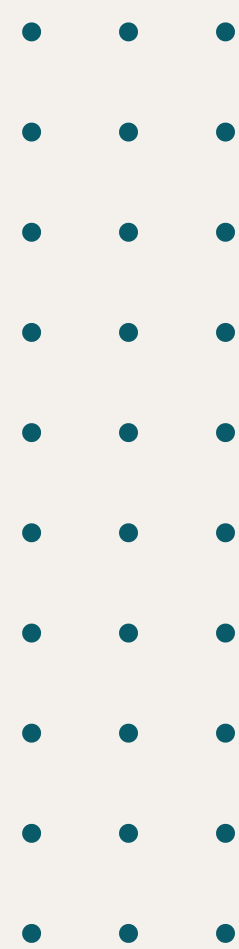
Papers submitted to the conference by paper writers registering for the conference will be reviewed. Papers accepted after review will be published in the Forum Proceedings and a soft copy of the same will be supplied.

REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee covers lunch, dinner, snacks, conference materials (on the days of conference) and soft copy of Forum Proceedings.



Participant Category	Fees
1. AMDISA Member Institutions	
a) Delegates	100 US \$
b) Research Scholars/Students	50 US \$
2. Non-AMDISA Member Institutions	
a) Delegates	150 US \$
b) Research Scholars/Students	75 US \$
3. From Bhutan	
a) Research Scholars/Students	1000 BTN
b) Academicians/Faculty Members	2000 BTN
c) Corporate Professionals/Others	3000 BTN



MODE OF PAYMENT

Relevant registration fee, as specified above, may be paid as per the invoice to be sent on receiving the registration form.

There is no provision for refund or cancellation of registration.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information on AMDISA and RIM, please visit their respective websites at www.amdisa.org and www.rim.edu.bt. For more information about the conference, please contact either of the following:

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Guidelines for paper submission are given in the Annexure-I

Paper writers are requested to write and present paper on any suitable topic pertaining to the theme and the sub-themes detailed in Annexure-II

GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

- 1. Final paper(s) must be 6 to 8 pages long, single-spaced.
- 2. The deadline for submission of full paper is 1st February, 2026 (postmarked).
- 3. At least one author **MUST** pre-register for the conference by 20th April, 2026. At least one author must present the paper at the conference.
- 4. The applicable registration fee for each person is payable as specified in the **Call for Papers**.
- 5. Participants will be required to fill the Registration Form online by clicking the following link:
<https://amdisa.org/17th-samf/registration/>

1. Preparing Final Manuscript

- i) Papers should be completed in Microsoft Word 2000 (or higher version) and typed on 8.5" by 11" paper, single-spaced.
- ii) The first page should have a spacing of 1.5 inch from the top edge and a 1 inch margin on both sides and bottom of the page. All other pages will have a 1 inch margin all around.
- iii) The title should be in bold capital letters, in Times New Roman 14-point font, and the names of the authors should be in Times New Roman 12-point font.
- iv) There should be a 0.25 inch (1/4 inch) space between the title and the names and affiliations of the authors.
- v) Abstracts (for full papers) should not exceed 200 words typed in Times New Roman Italics with 12 point font, and be placed 0.25 inch (1/4 inch) below the names and affiliations of the authors.
- vi) The first heading should be Times New Roman in Bold Capital letters, 12- point font, and 0.5 inch from the abstract. The second headings should be Times New Roman bold, 12-point font, with a 0.25 inch (1/4 inch) space from the text and the third headings should be Times New Roman bold and italics, 12-point font, with a 0.25 inch (1/4 inch) space from the text. All headings must be left aligned.
- vii) The text should be in Times New Roman 12-point font, paragraphs should be left-aligned with double space between paragraphs and references and notes should also be left justified.
- viii) Please include a brief (25 words) biographic sketch for each author at the end of the manuscript.
- ix) Tables, Figures, and Illustrations: Use the entire page width for tables and graphs, where required, then continue with text. All tables, figures, illustrations, etc. should be included in the text of the paper. Tables should be consistent with the text and facing the same direction. The endnotes should be consecutively numbered within the text, and substance of the endnotes should appear at the end, preceding the references.

Please note that the paper(s) that will not follow the guidelines will be returned to the author(s) for correction and resubmission.

2. Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

There will be a blind review process for evaluating the manuscript by at least one anonymous reviewer. It is recommended that authors have colleagues review their manuscripts prior to submission to the conference. The conference authority strives to provide decisions and constructive feedback to authors.

- a) Significance of the theoretical and methodological contributions;
- b) Degree to which the manuscript fits the theme of the conference;
- c) Appropriateness of the literature review;
- d) Adequacy of the design and execution of the study;
- e) Appropriateness of the analysis;
- f) Quality of the discussion and interpretation of the results;
- g) Clarity of presentation;
- h) Implications for practitioners, academicians and scholars.

3. Abstract and Keywords

Manuscripts must include an abstract of approximately 200 words that succinctly summarizes the key points. A list of five keywords should be included to identify the contents of the paper.

4. References

References should be complete in all respects with Authors' arranged alphabetically, following conventional citation styles. We request authors to follow the APA style developed by the American Psychological Association.

5. Copyright

The Copyright for all articles accepted and published in the Conference Proceedings rests with the Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA), Hyderabad, India, the publisher and may not be re-produced in any form without the written permission of the publisher, AMDISA.



Theme: *Resilient Leadership and Innovation: Navigating South Asia’s Dynamic Governance Landscape*

Sub-themes and Topics:

The Royal Institute of Management invites paper submissions on the following topics and sub-themes that align with the central theme:
(Note: The sub themes suggested are only illustrative and not exhaustive. Paper writers can contribute on other sub themes also which would largely fall under the core themes.)

A. Leadership, Ethics, and Institutional Resilience in Uncertain Times:

In a rapidly changing world, leadership is being redefined by uncertainty and complexity. This theme explores how empathy, ethics, and resilience can strengthen institutions and inspire people to act with purpose in times of disruption.

- Leadership for Uncertain Times: Adaptive and transformative leadership models for fast-evolving contexts.
- Ethics, Integrity, and Accountability in Leadership: Navigating moral responsibility and performance pressures.
- Crisis Management and Institutional Preparedness: Leadership lessons from pandemics, disasters, and global disruptions.
- Workplace Well-being and Organizational Culture: Creating psychologically safe, inclusive, and high-performing environments.
- Cultural and Values-Based Leadership: Harnessing local philosophies, ethics, and traditions to strengthen organizational purpose.

B. Governance, Innovation, and Public Value Creation in the Digital Era

As societies grow more interconnected and data-driven, the role of governance is evolving from control to collaboration. This theme invites reflections on how innovation and digital transformation can build accountable, responsive, and people-centered public systems.

- Innovation in Public Administration: Integrating entrepreneurial mindsets to drive agility and citizen-centered delivery.
- Governance and Institutional Reform: Rethinking policy frameworks, bureaucratic structures, and accountability mechanisms.
- Digital Transformation and Smart Governance: Leveraging technology and data analytics for transparency and participation.
- Financial Management and Public Value: Fiscal responsibility, financial reporting, and sustainable resource allocation.
- Policy Implementation and Service Delivery: Enablers and barriers to effective public policy outcomes in South Asia

C. People, Learning, and Organizational Transformation

Institutions thrive when people do. This theme focuses on the human dimension of organizational change — how learning, motivation, and leadership come together to build adaptive, innovative, and resilient systems for the future.

- Human Resource Management and Motivation: Examining employee performance, job satisfaction, and well-being.
- Organizational Learning and Knowledge Management: Building adaptive institutions through continuous learning.
- Education Leadership and Policy Innovation: Enhancing leadership and system resilience in education.
- Youth, Future of Work, and Employability: Reimagining skills, leadership, and education for next-generation resilience.
- Workplace Well-being and Organizational Culture: Cultivating inclusive, purpose-driven institutions that sustain performance.

D. Entrepreneurship, Inclusion, and Sustainable Development

Growth that excludes is growth that doesn't last. This theme examines how entrepreneurship, gender inclusion, and sustainable innovation can come together to create economic prosperity that is both equitable and environmentally responsible.

- Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Business Practices: Balancing innovation, profitability, and social responsibility.
- Gender and Inclusive Leadership: Promoting women's leadership and equity in decision-making.
- Cross-sector Collaboration and Public-Private Partnerships: Strengthening cooperation between government, business, and civil society.
- Sustainability and Climate Resilience in Governance: Integrating ESG principles into institutional strategies.
- Socio-Economic Transitions and Migration: Understanding the developmental impacts of mobility and demographic shifts.

E. Regional Cooperation, Policy Learning, and Future Governance Pathways

The challenges of today — from climate change to migration — transcend borders. This theme explores how nations in South Asia can learn from one another's experiences, share institutional innovations, and collaborate for a more resilient and inclusive future.

- Regional Cooperation and Policy Learning in South Asia: Sharing best practices for collective resilience.
- Policy Implementation and Service Delivery: Comparative experiences from regional and global contexts.
- Governance and Institutional Reform: Learning from inter-country institutional innovations.
- Sustainability and Climate Resilience: Collaborative frameworks for environmental governance.
- Energy Poverty, Energy Transition, and Energy Security in South Asia's Countries: Ensuring equitable access, sustainable growth, and regional energy resilience.
- Cross-sector Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange: Building cooperative policy ecosystems for inclusive growth.

