



## EXPLORATION: AN INDO-GERMAN PARTNERSHIP

IITB x TUM WINTER SCHOOL 2024 , INDIA

# From Policy to Practice: Innovative Pathways to Sustainable Environmental Services in the Global South



Dates: December 5-15, 2024

Location: Mumbai and Kerala, India

We are excited to announce the 3rd Indo-German Partnership (IGP) Winter School, building on the success of previous winter schools in India and the recent summer school in Munich. Winter School 2024 explores transformative approaches to bridging policy and practical implementation for sustainable environmental services in a climate-changing world. Participants will benefit from a unique combination of theoretical learning, practical exposure, and hands-on fieldwork, providing them with valuable insights into the specific challenges and tailored solutions for pressing environmental issues across the Global South.

### Program Overview:

#### December 5: Arrival in India

*Participants arrive in Mumbai and check-in at IIT Bombay Campus*

#### December 6-7: International Public Policy Network (IPPN) Conference

*Participants will attend the [5th IPPN Conference](#) at IIT Bombay, which will focus on "Policy Processes in the Global South." This event will explore evolving public policy dynamics, emphasizing innovative approaches to understanding policy processes, actors, and methodologies in diverse Global South contexts.*

#### December 8: Mumbai City-tour

*A guided tour of Mumbai, offering participants a firsthand view of the climate change and urban planning challenges faced by one of India's largest megacities.*

#### December 9: Travel to Kerala

*Fly from Mumbai to Cochin Airport and arrive in [Allepey](#).*

#### December 10-14: Field exposure with IIT Bombay's Allepey Living Lab and TAGS Forum

*Participants will engage in hands-on fieldwork with ongoing projects at the [Allepey Living Lab](#), a pioneering initiative by the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS), IIT Bombay, transforming the town into a testing ground for sustainable environmental services. Additionally, participants will engage with [TAGS Forum](#), a startup by IIT Bombay students, which actively supports the lab's initiatives by facilitating collaboration and ensuring the practical implementation of solutions.*

#### December 15: Departure

*Drop-off at Cochin Airport by 6 PM, after which participants are free to proceed with their own plans.*

## Field Immersion in Kerala – IIT Bombay's Living Lab Initiative

Environmental services like solid and liquid waste management (SWM and LWM) pose significant challenges in the Global South, as evidenced by the deteriorating state of urban water bodies. Current approaches to SWM and LWM are highly centralized, capital- and energy-intensive, resulting in high operational and maintenance costs and requiring substantial capacity. Consequently, such services are typically limited to large cities with the financial and institutional capacity to support them. This disparity leaves behind a vast number of small towns—over 5,000 in India alone—where the delivery of basic services is severely hampered. The impacts of climate change further compound these challenges, exacerbating the vulnerability of these towns.

Recognizing this critical gap, the *Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS)*, IIT Bombay has been spearheading a project in Alleppey, Kerala, since 2017, focusing on developing scalable and replicable solutions for smaller towns. This initiative has evolved into the *Alleppey Living Lab*, a groundbreaking project that uses the town as a practical environment to develop and test sustainable solutions for environmental services. The lab is guided by the principles of participatory research, co-production of knowledge, and community engagement to generate actionable insights that are tailored to the local context. The Living Lab offers a unique platform for innovation, where researchers, policymakers, ‘student-citizens’ and community stakeholders collaborate to create practical, sustainable solutions that can be adapted to similar contexts across the Global South.

Participants will engage in hands-on fieldwork within the Living Lab, gaining practical experience in addressing environmental service issues in small towns. The program includes:

- **Direct Fieldwork:** Engage with ongoing projects in the Alleppey Living Lab, which focuses on developing and testing sustainable solutions for waste management and other environmental services. Participants will observe and contribute to real-time problem-solving efforts.
- **Interaction with Stakeholders:** Meet and collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders, including local government officials, community leaders, researchers, and policymakers. This interaction provides insights into the complexities of implementing sustainable solutions and highlights the roles of various actors in the process.
- **Exposure to Governance and Policy:** Learn about different tiers of governance and their impact on environmental service delivery. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how policies are shaped and implemented in a real-world context.
- **Collaboration with TAGS Forum:** Work alongside TAGS Forum, a startup by IIT Bombay students that supports the Living Lab's initiatives by empowering Local Self Governments (LSGs) to implement sustainable solutions. TAGS leverages a transdisciplinary approach to connect decision-making bodies and communities, ensuring that innovative strategies are effectively put into practice to address local needs.