



# **THEVELI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025 - REPORT**

**“Evolving Paradigms: Merging Research, Evidence, and Practice”**

**18 - 20 August 2025**

# RDO TEAM



**DR. RAHEEMA ABDUL RAHEEM**

Deputy Vice Chancellor  
(Research and Enterprise)



**DR. MARIYAM SHAHUNEEZA NASEER**

Dean of Research



**DR. SHAZLA MOHAMED**

Senior Research Fellow



**DR. NADHIYA ABDULLA**

Senior Research Fellow



**DR. SHUAIB RASHEED**

Senior Research Fellow



**AISHATH SHAHEEN ISMAIL**

Research Fellow



**FATHIMATH AHLAM NIYAZ**

Research Fellow



**MARYAM UHAAMATH**

Research Assistant



**ISMAIL AZZAM WAJEEH**

Project Manager



**SHIHAAZ SHAMOON**

Senior Finance Officer



**AMINATH SHAHLA**

Research Fellow



**FATHIMATH EEMA IBRAHIM**

Senior Administrative Officer





# MEANING OF **THEVELI**

The meaning of the Dhivehi word, “Theveli” signifies the dispersion of rays on the sea when the sun or moon rises and sets. This conference serves as the platform which spreads the light rays of knowledge illuminating not only our nation but also the wider region and global community. Our aim is to bring together scholars and students from across the world and disseminate their invaluable knowledge through the proceedings of this conference.



# MAIN THEME...

**“Evolving Paradigms: Merging  
Research, Evidence, and Practice”**



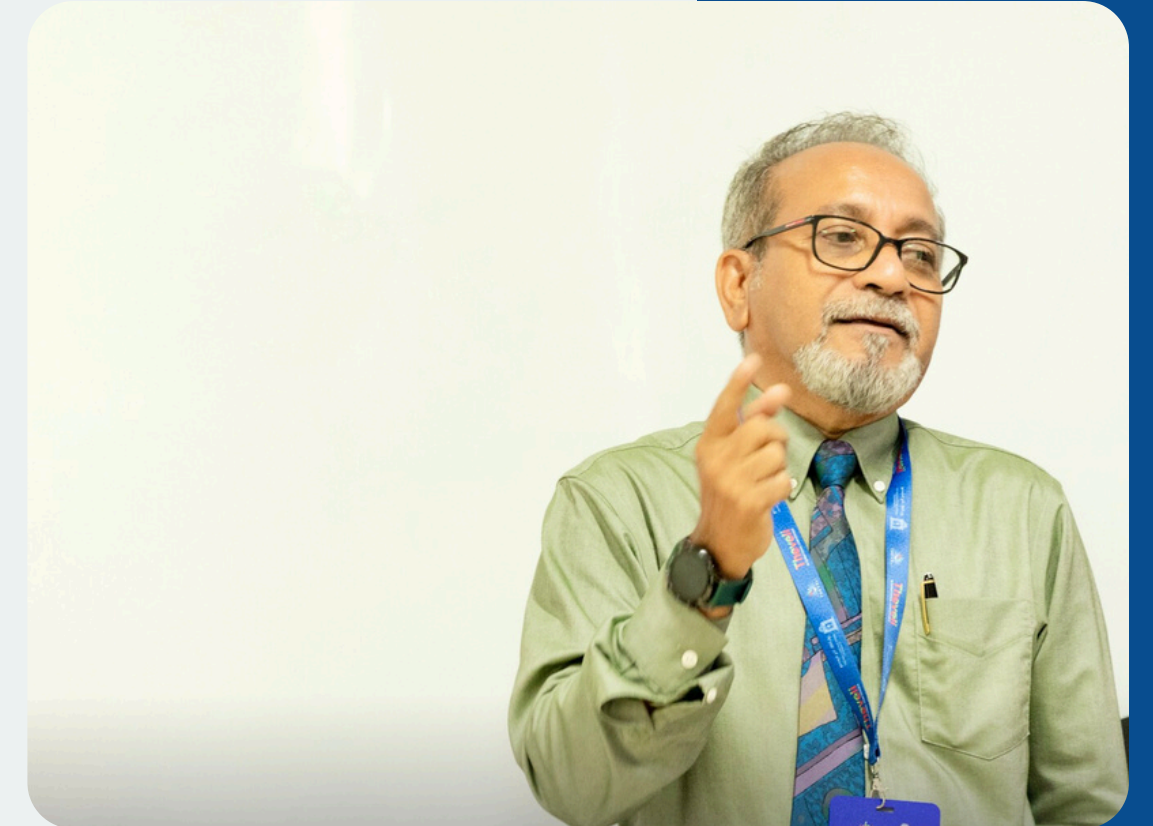


# SUB-THEMES

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The conference, which featured paper presentations and keynote speeches, was an important annual event organized by the Maldives National University and received significant attention. It provided participants with the opportunity to submit research papers across

**17 SUB-THEMES**





# SUB-THEMES

-  Ocean and Environmental Sciences
-  Theoretical Knowledge with Educational Practices
-  Integrative Approaches to Public Health
-  Clinical Expertise and Patient Centered Care
-  Human Development and Community Engagement
-  Artistic Creativity, Cultural Contexts and Linguistics
-  Sustainable Practices in Fisheries and Agriculture
-  Business and Organizational Management
-  Technologies with Practical Applications
-  Built Environment and Engineering Challenges
-  Tourism and Hospitality Practices
-  Maritime Technologies and Operational Practices
-  Legal Practices and Access to Justice
-  Media, Journalism and Digital Communication
-  Technological Advancement and Ethical Considerations
-  International Relations and Geopolitical Practice
-  Sports Psychology and Performance Enhancement







**TOTAL ABSTRACTS RECEIVED**

**239**

**TOTAL ABSTRACTS ACCEPTED**

**198**







**LOCAL 156**

**INTERNATIONAL 50**

**TOTAL COUNTRIES 17**

United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Germany, Malaysia, United States of America, Nigeria, India, Egypt, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, Palestinian Authority, Hungary, France, Australia and Bangladesh



# THE **FIRST-EVER** UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM IN THE MALDIVES

A dedicated Undergraduate Student Research Symposium was introduced on the opening day of the conference, providing a platform for undergraduate students across all bachelor's degree programmes at MNU to showcase their work. The symposium was designed to strengthen students' research capabilities, enhance their scientific writing skills, and develop their ability to present findings in line with academic standards.

As part of the event, two awards were presented: the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award and the Best Faculty Award, recognizing outstanding student research and faculty contributions.



**TOTAL ABSTRACTS RECEIVED 31**

**TOTAL ABSTRACTS ACCEPTED 29**



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN BUEGER**

Professor of International Relations  
Department of Political Science  
University of Copenhagen,  
Denmark



**HIS HONOUR JUDGE MALCOLM SIMMONS**

Judge of the Supreme Court of the  
Falkland Islands  
South Georgia and South Sandwich  
Islands and British Antarctic Territory



**ASSOC. PROF. DR. NURAZZURA MOHAMAD DIAH**

Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology & Anthropology,  
AHAS KIRKHS  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)



**DR. SCOTT G. BLAIR**

Sustainability Literacy in  
Higher Education Expert,  
Content Development Editor  
Sulitest Impact



# PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN BUEGER



## PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN BUEGER

Professor of International Relations  
Department of Political Science  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

## KEYNOTE TOPIC: TRANSLATING RESEARCH, MAKING PRACTITIONERS THINK

Christian Bueger is a professor of international relations at the University of Copenhagen and a research fellow at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). He is the author of *Understanding Maritime Security* (Oxford University Press, 2024, with Timothy Edmunds) and has explored questions of international security and global governance in more than 200 publications. He is a regular speaker at international maritime events, and has briefed the UN Security Council, the European Parliament among others. He holds a PhD from the European University Institute. Further information is available on his personal website

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# HIS HONOUR JUDGE MALCOLM SIMMONS



**HIS HONOUR JUDGE  
MALCOLM SIMMONS**

Judge of the Supreme Court of the  
Falkland Islands  
South Georgia and South Sandwich  
Islands and British Antarctic Territory

## KEYNOTE TOPIC: JUDICIAL EVOLUTION AND ITS PLACE IN CONTEMPORARY GOVERNANCE

His Honour Judge Malcolm Simmons is a UK-qualified lawyer and judge. Currently, he is Resident judge and His Majesty's Coroner of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands and the British Antarctic Territory. He is also a judge of the Supreme Court of St. Helena. Judge Simmons has served as an international judge for over 20 years. In 2004, he was appointed an international judge of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, assigned to the war crime and serious organised crime panels. In 2008 he was appointed an international judge of the Supreme Court of Kosovo and presided in many war crimes and serious organised crime cases. In 2014, he was appointed President of EU international judges. Judge Simmons has also served on judicial councils in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo. In addition to his judicial role, since 2017, Judge Simmons has been an international justice adviser and has worked in Maldives, Pakistan and Serbia. At the request of the Maldives Judicial Academy, Judge Simmons assessed the Judicial Training curriculum and advised on reform of judicial training and developed training modules and materials. Most recently, Judge Simmons developed and rolled-out a judicial performance evaluation scheme in the Maldives. In 2022, Judge Simmons was invited to lead the European Commission project, 'Supporting Justice Reform and Anti-Corruption' in Maldives. Following the successful completion of that project, he was requested by the European External Action Service to assist in designing the EU's continuing engagement with the Maldives judiciary. Judge Simmons is a judicial trainer at the Judicial Education Institute and has delivered training across the Caribbean.

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# ASSOC. PROF. DR. NURAZZURA MOHAMAD DIAH



**ASSOC. PROF. DR. NURAZZURA  
MOHAMAD DIAH**

Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, AHAS KIRKHS  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

## KEYNOTE TOPIC: INNOVATIVE LEARNING SPACES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING TRANSFORMATION

Dr. Nurazzura Mohamad Diah is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, AHAS KIRKHS, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). She received her PhD from the University of Western Australia, Perth in the field of Medical Anthropology. Later, she obtained her Diploma in Digital Entrepreneurship from LRN, UK. Prior to that, she has completed the Digital Entrepreneurship training with Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) and has been teaching Digital Entrepreneurship as part of the course syllabus since 2018. In 2022, she was appointed as the Head of Academic & Social Entrepreneurship in the Entrepreneurship Development Centre by the university and later received certification as entrepreneurial leader by the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT). She received several certifications like Google Educator, Cooperative Management, Risk Management. For record, she has trained more than 340 students in Digital Entrepreneurship at the department, coaching students in business pitching, skills, networking and planning. Currently, she trains entrepreneurs in the community.

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# DR. SCOTT G. BLAIR



## DR. SCOTT G. BLAIR

Sustainability Literacy in Higher Education  
Expert,  
Expert Content Development Editor  
Sulitest Impact

## KEYNOTE TOPIC: RAYS OF HOPE - ASSESSING & BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY KNOWLEDGE ACROSS HIGHER EDUCATION

Scott G. Blair, PhD, is Content Development Editor at Sulitest Impact, a social enterprise dedicated to assessing sustainability literacy in higher education. His recent roles include Director of Accreditation and Quality Assurance at AIAASC; Vice President of CANIE-Europe; and Affiliate at the Gateway International Group, LLC. He served on the faculties of the University of New Haven, the Institut National des Sciences Politiques, the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, and the American University of Paris. He was Resident Director at Boston College Paris and Director of Assessment & Sustainability at TEAN. His research appears in Frontiers, Routledge and Stylus publications and he is a regular speaker at educational conferences on learning outcomes assessment and international program design around sustainability literacy, ecopedagogy, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Blair holds a doctorate in history from the Sorbonne, an MA from Georgetown University, and a BA from Miami of Ohio.

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# POST CONFERENCE SESSIONS



# GLOBAL OCEAN POLITICS: HOW CAN WE CONNECT SECURITY, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND JUSTICE AGENDAS?



**PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN BUEGER**

Professor of International Relations  
Department of Political Science  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

## SYNOPSIS:

This workshop investigates the evolution of global ocean politics as a field of international relations. It pays particular attention to the developments after UNCLOS entered into force in 1994. We start in looking at the acceleration of maritime activities and the vulnerabilities these have spurred. We then investigate the agendas of blue economy, ocean health, maritime security and blue justice and how they problematize the oceans differently. The result is a fragmented picture, and we discuss how global policy makers and small island states can lead towards pathways streamlining ocean governance.

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# REMOTE COURTS AND THEIR ABILITY TO DELIVER JUSTICE



**HIS HONOUR JUDGE  
MALCOLM SIMMONS**

Judge of the Supreme Court of the  
Falkland Islands  
South Georgia and South Sandwich  
Islands and British Antarctic Territory

## SYNOPSIS:

The digital court, in its various iterations, has become increasingly common over recent decades. The COVID pandemic has increased and, to some extent, justified the use of remote courts. Defendants regularly appear via video link in criminal courts throughout England and Wales and in many other jurisdictions. While there can be no doubt that remote courts present significant logistical and cost advantages for the State, fundamental questions remain about the ability of remote courts to guarantee a defendant's fair trial rights, including, from an English perspective, those rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. This session considers the impact of remote courts on the perception and credibility of the remote participant, exploring nonverbal cues, audiovisual factors, and legal representation, and concludes that remote courts in a trial context breach a defendant's fair trial and ECHR rights.

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# BEYOND INCLUSION: EMPOWERING FEMALE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO LEAD DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



**ASSOC. PROF. DR. NURAZZURA  
MOHAMAD DIAH**

Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, AHAS KIRKHS  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

## SYNOPSIS:

This session will explore how classrooms can move beyond mere inclusion to become empowering environments that actively nurture disabled female students as leaders and innovators in the digital economy. Grounded in personal journeys and active advocacy, this session will highlight stories which reveals the victories they achieved in their pursuit of inclusive and equitable opportunity online. Digital platforms are framed not merely as business tools, but as instruments of enabling creativity and economic empowerment. The narrative introduces The 4X Model—Expertise, Experience, Excitement and Expectation—as a framework for supporting and uplifting disabled female students in digital entrepreneurship.

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# BRAINSTORMING IN REVERSE - GREENING CAMPUS, CURRICULUM, AND STUDENT LEARNING



**DR. SCOTT G. BLAIR**

Sustainability Literacy in Higher Education  
Expert,  
Expert Content Development Editor  
Sulitest Impact

## SYNOPSIS:

This workshop addresses the great challenge Universities faces today: how to foster the eco-literate knowledge, skills, and mindsets students need to understand and effectively respond to today's unfolding climate and biodiversity crisis. Premised upon embedding key concepts and issues of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across both the disciplines and the student learning journey, this workshop empowers educators to help students both meet the sustainability challenge of the 21st century and thrive professionally within it.

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# REVIEW SMART, CITE CONFIDENTLY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



**DR. RUKHSANA AHMED**

Pediatrician  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Child  
Nutrition

## SYNOPSIS:

This participatory workshop is designed to empower undergraduate and graduate students, academics, and researchers with essential skills to excel their academic writing. Through practical guidance and group activities, attendees will learn to critically review articles and synthesize information, search sources and apply citation styles correctly. The session will also address common academic pitfalls and equip attendees on ways to avoid plagiarism.

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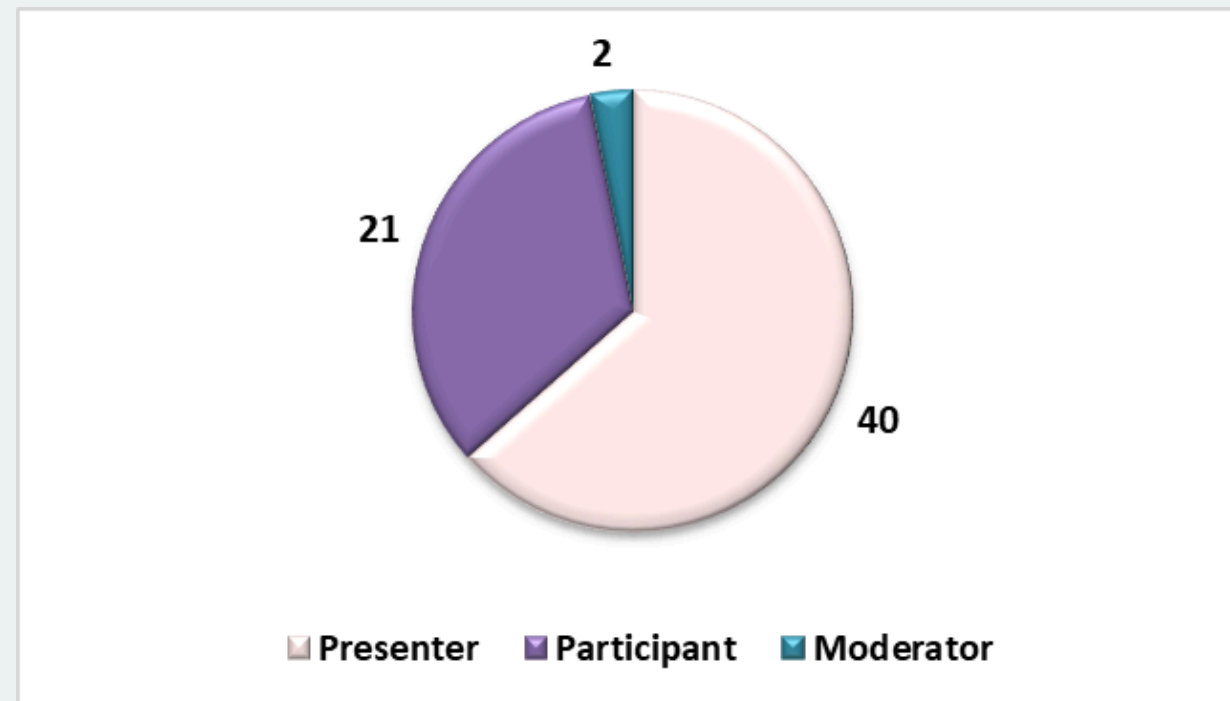
# PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK OVERVIEW



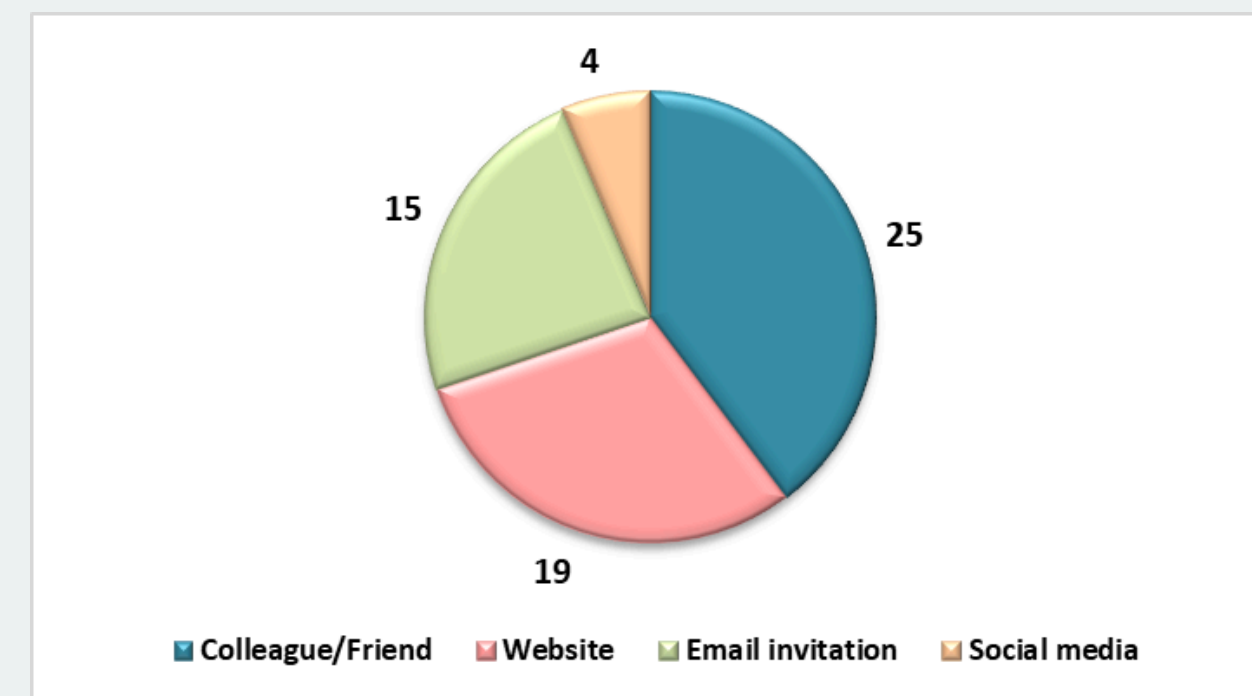
**TOTAL**  
**63**  
**RESPONSES**



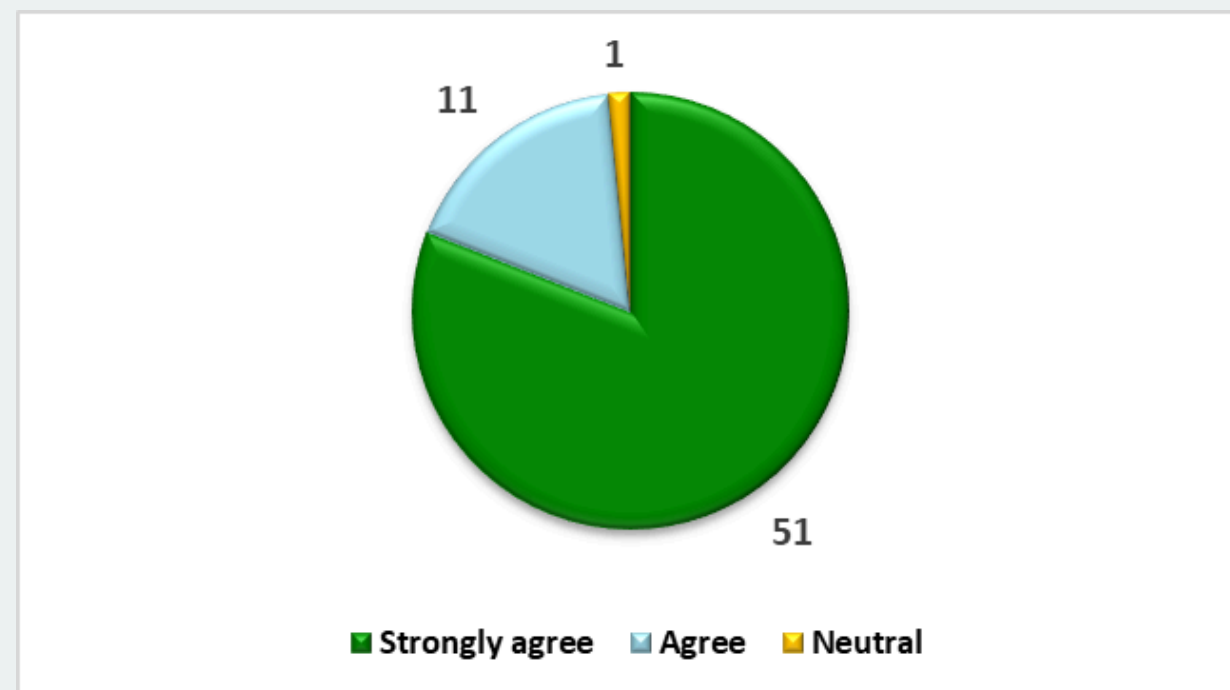
## ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE



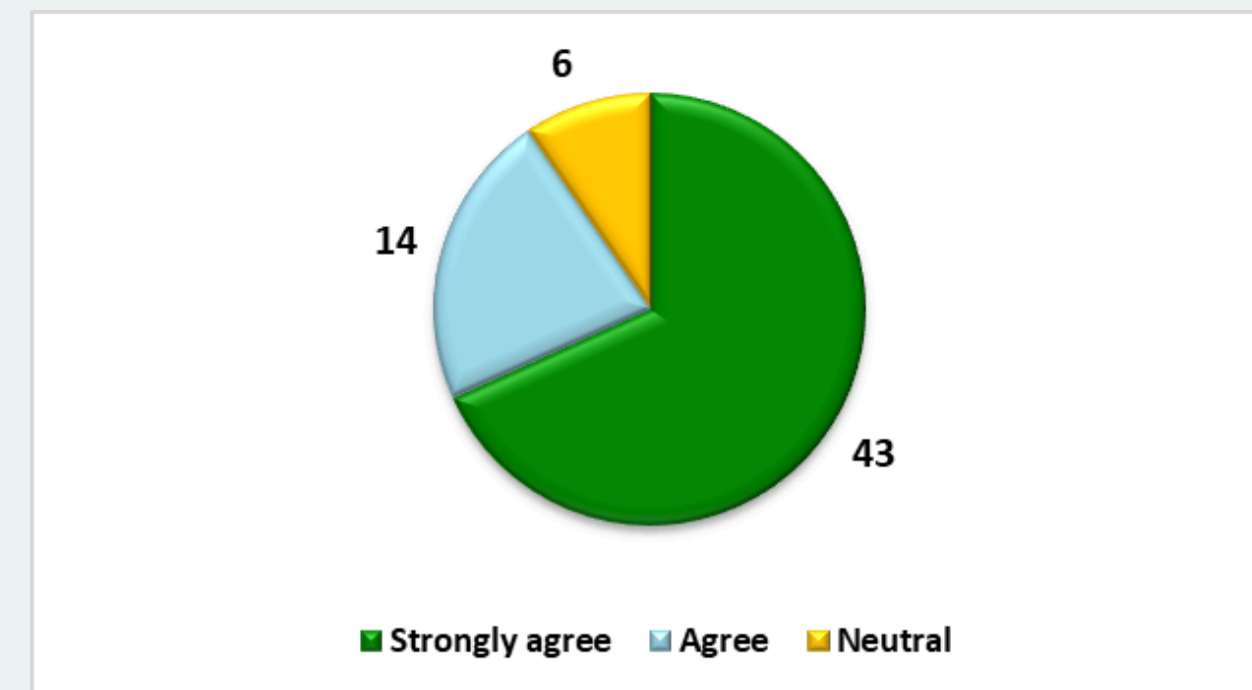
## HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE?



## THE SESSIONS WERE RELEVANT TO MY PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

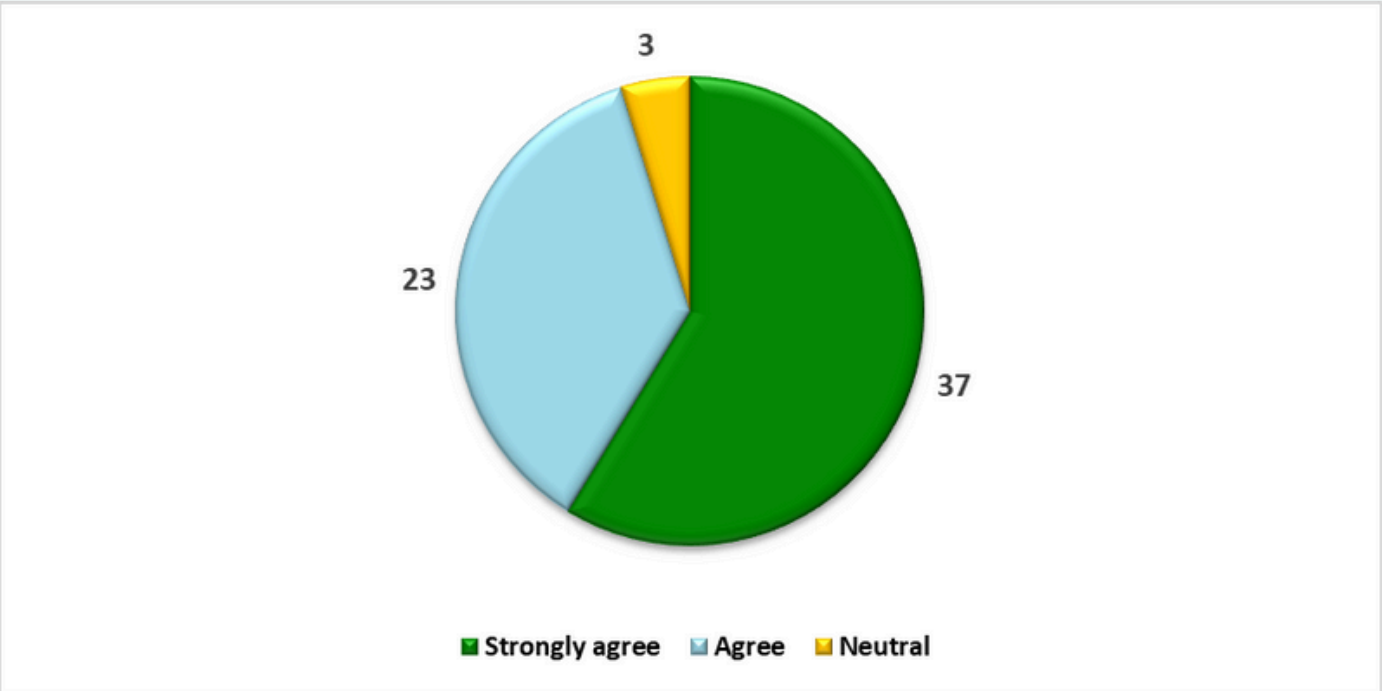


## THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ENGAGING

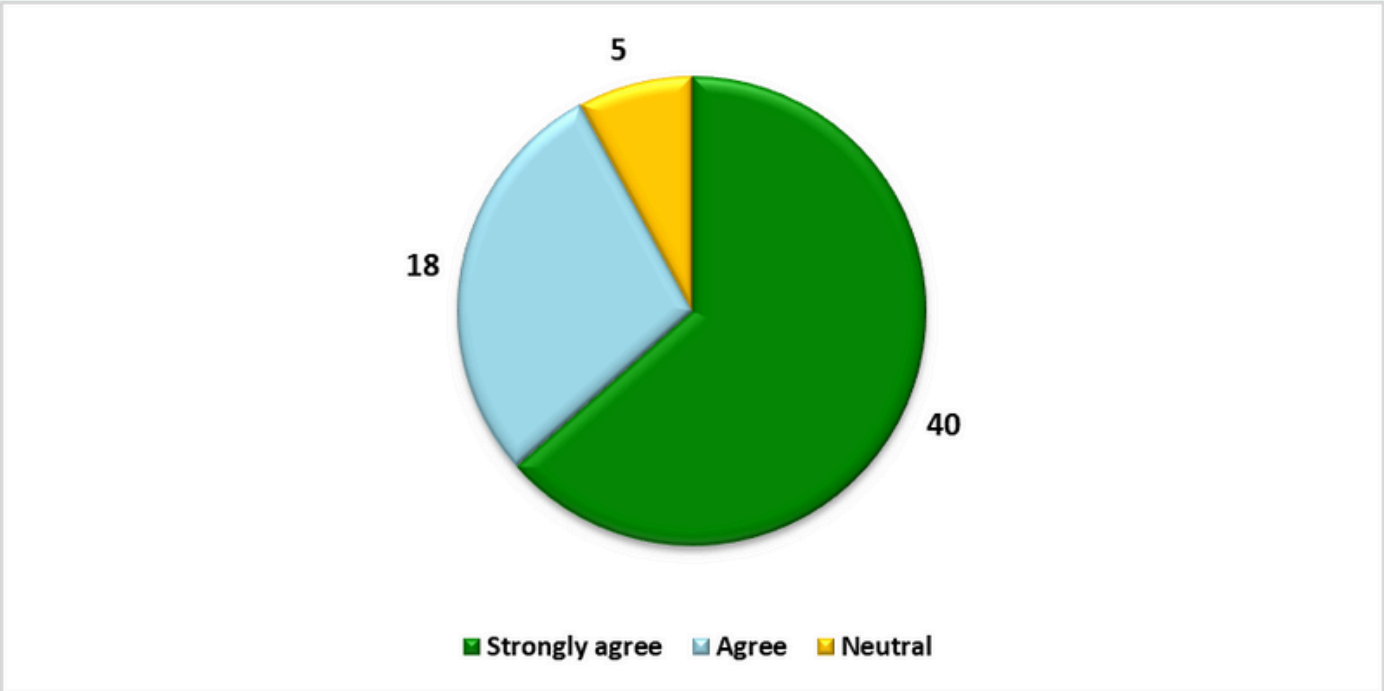




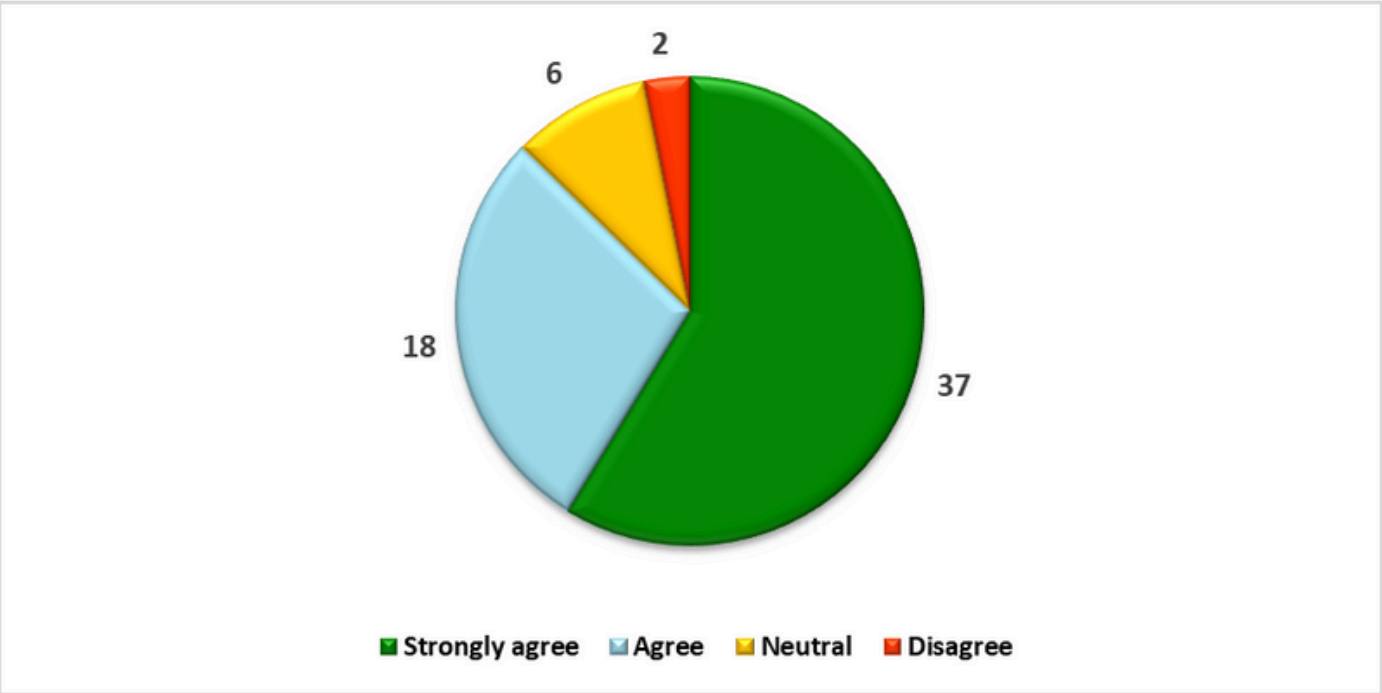
# THE CONFERENCE WAS WELL-ORGANISED



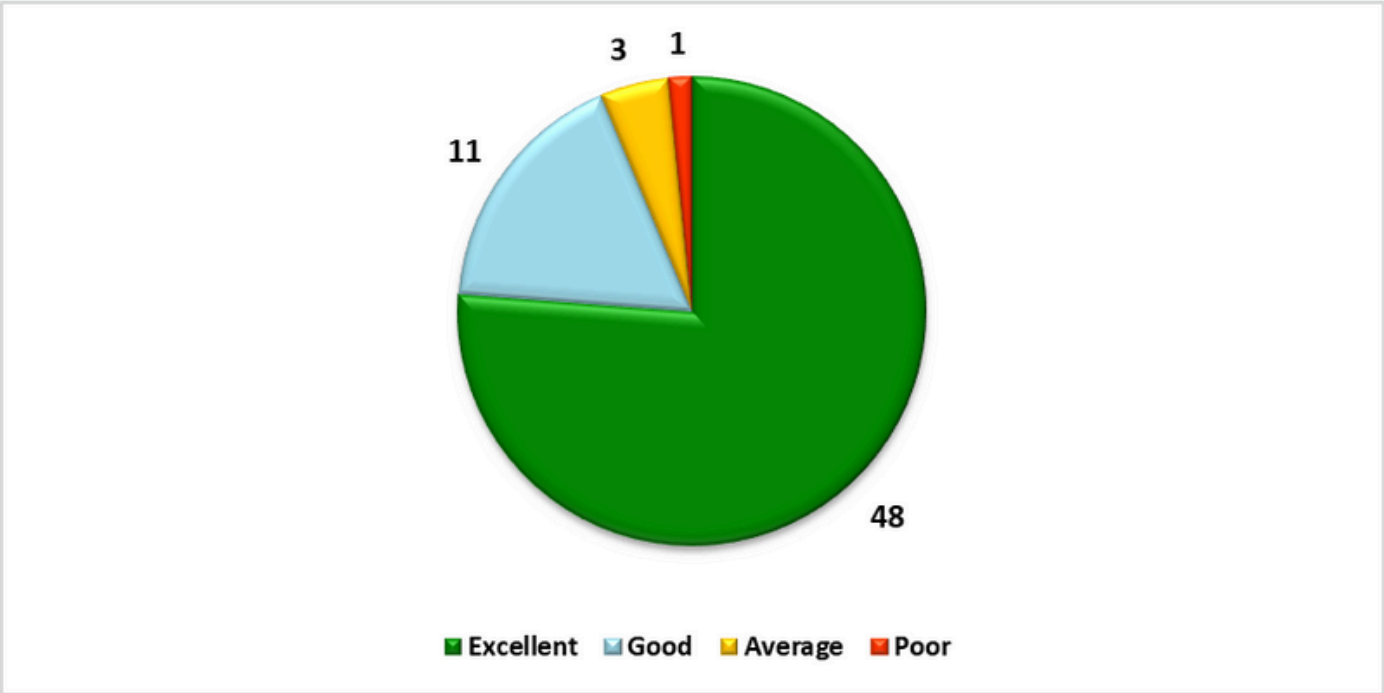
# THE VENUE WAS COMFORTABLE & ACCESSIBLE



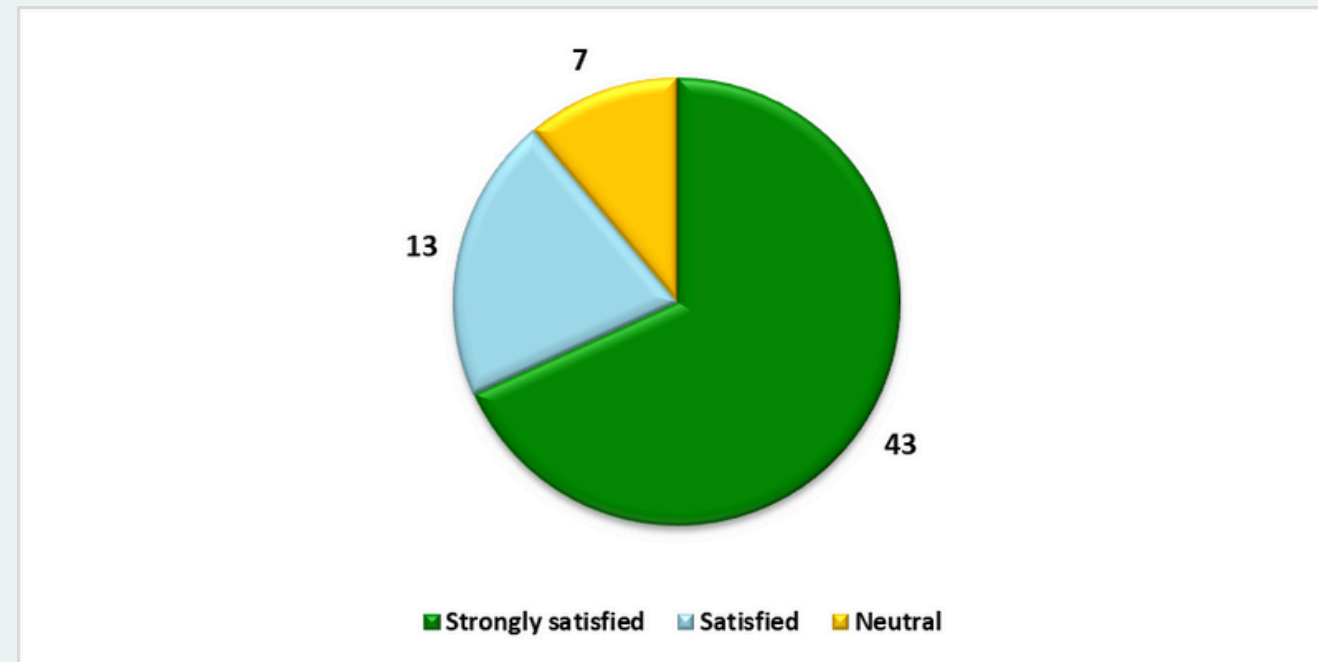
# THE ONLINE PLATFORM TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS WAS EASY TO NAVIGATE



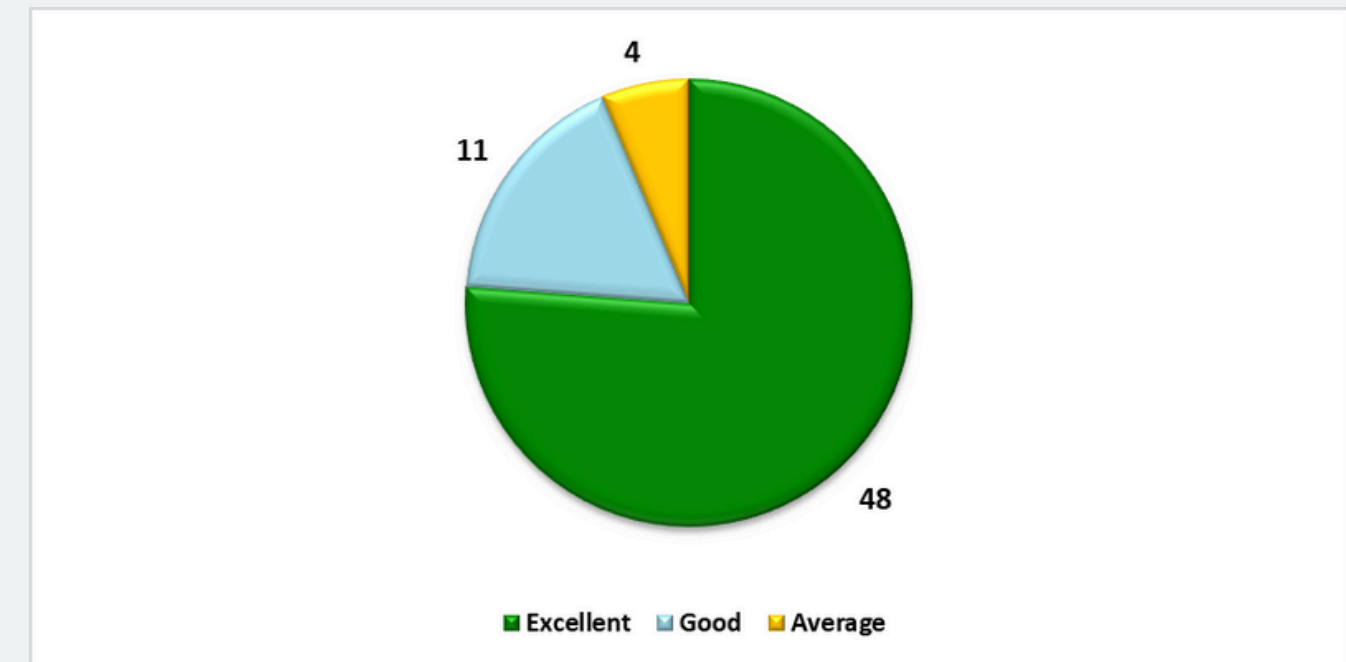
# THE QUALITY OF THE REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED DURING THE CONFERENCE?



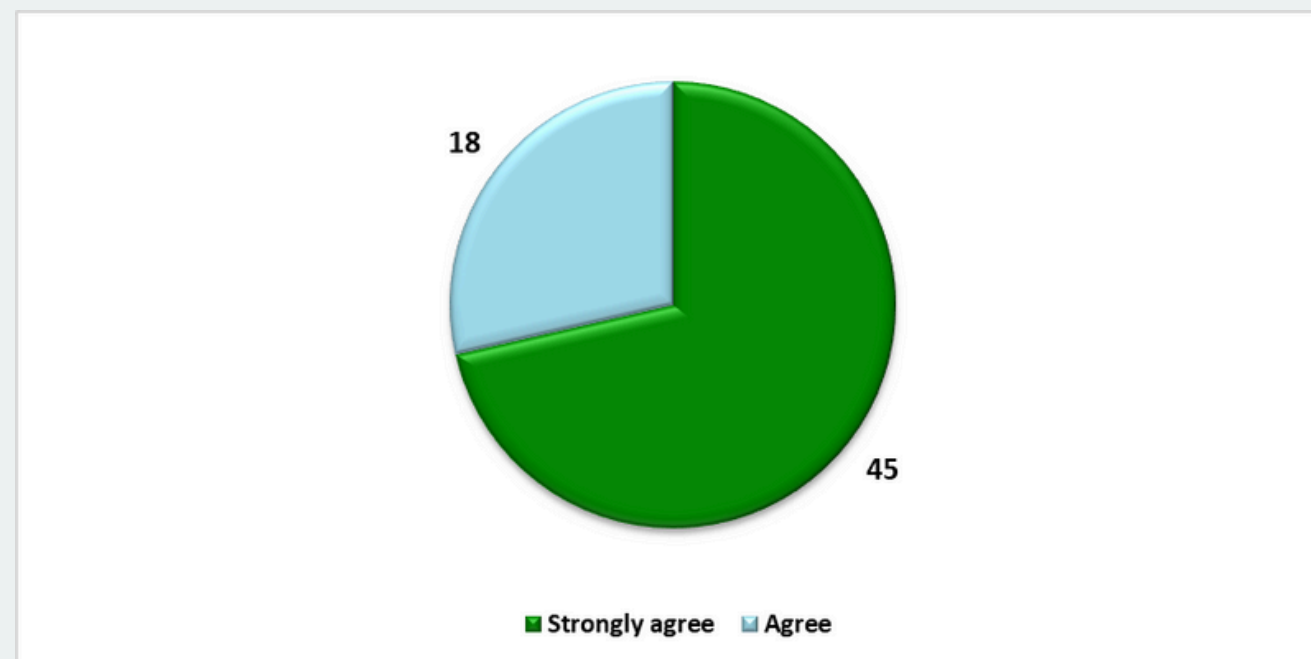
## HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE VARIETY OF THE REFRESHMENTS OFFERED



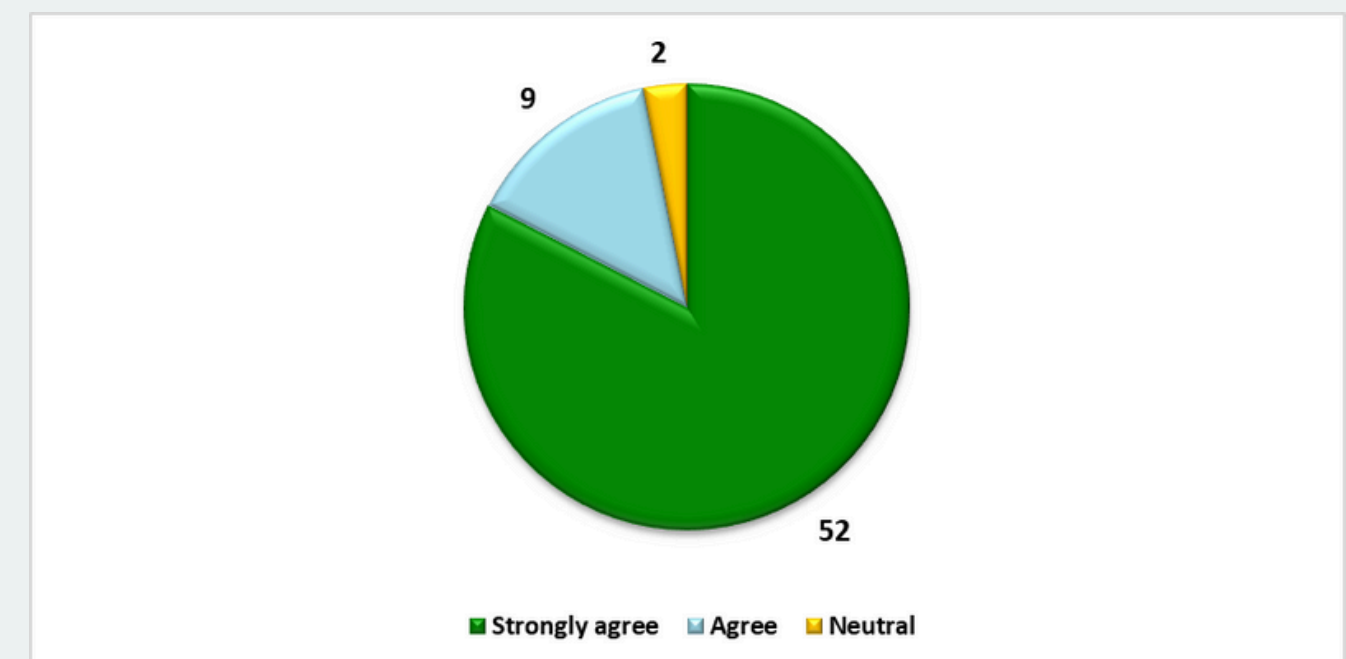
## HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE MEALS PROVIDED AT THE CONFERENCE (E.G., BREAKFAST, LUNCH)



## I AM SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE



## I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS CONFERENCE TO OTHERS





# WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE CONFERENCE FOR YOU?

 "The presentations"

 "Knowledge"

 "Sessions"

 "The shared knowledge"

 "The presented papers"

 "Being able to present our paper"

 "Seeing the work done by others, interesting research being done"

 "Connecting with other researchers"

 "Learning from others with similar projects, and being here to support my colleagues"

 "Presentation"

 "Meeting and learning from amazing people running amazing projects."

 "Opportunity to present our work"

 "Meeting new people and hearing them talk about their interest"

 "Technical sessions"

# Theveli

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025



MBU FVTS is an Associate  
Member of EHL's Network of  
Certified Schools

**#1 UNIVERSITY**  
in the Maldives

