

2023-2024

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YEARBOOK

2023-2024

AUA MEMBERS

NAME	ABBREVIATION	LOCATION
 Chulalongkorn University	CU	Bangkok, Thailand
 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST	Hong Kong, China
 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	IITB	Mumbai, India
 King Saud University	KSU	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
 National University of Singapore	NUS	Singapore
 NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY	NU	Astana, Kazakhstan
 Peking University	PKU	Beijing, China
 Seoul National University	SNU	Seoul, Republic of Korea
 Tsinghua University	THU	Beijing, China
 United Arab Emirates University	UAEU	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
 Universitas Indonesia	UI	Jakarta, Indonesia
 University of Colombo	UoC	Colombo, Sri Lanka
 Universiti Malaya	UM	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 The University of Tokyo	UTokyo	Tokyo, Japan
 University of Yangon	UY	Yangon, Myanmar



AUA OVERVIEW

2023-2024

1

**PRESIDENTS
FORUM**

5

**ACADEMIC
CONFERENCES**

11

**STUDENT
MOBILITY
PROGRAMS**

3

**EXECUTIVE &
ADMINISTRATION
MEETINGS**

800+

**STUDENT MOBILITY
PARTICIPANTS**

450+

**CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS**

PREFACE

The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), since its establishment in 2017, has been at the forefront of promoting academic collaboration, research cooperation, and student mobility across Asia. AUA is committed to addressing regional and global challenges in higher education, economic development, and scientific and technological progress. With 15 member universities from 14 Asian countries and regions, it serves as a robust platform for knowledge exchange and resource sharing.

As the world navigates persistent challenges—from climate urgency to technological disruption and the imperative of inclusive development—AUA's mission to strengthen regional and global cooperation has never been more vital. This annual report for 2023-2024 comprehensively showcases the alliance's multifaceted activities, achievements, and collaborations in shaping a resilient and interconnected future among Asian higher education.

Education lies at the heart of AUA's mission, and 2023-2024 saw unprecedented momentum in student mobility, with more than 800 participants engaging in diverse programs. The AUA Youth Forum 2024, hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, brought together 45 students from member universities to discuss sustainable habitat solutions. The AUA Joint Lecture Series, "Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow," brought together 11 universities and 48 students for interdisciplinary explorations of green technologies, bridging theory and practice. The Asia Deep Dive Program, co-hosted by Universiti Malaya and Universitas Indonesia, immersed 28 students in Asian civilizations, fostering cultural empathy with academic rigor. Overseas Study Programs, from "No-Code Artificial Intelligence" at IIT Bombay to "Sustainable Smart Materials" at Universiti Malaya, equipped learners with cutting-edge skills, reflecting AUA's focus on future-ready education.

Research collaboration flourished through five academic conferences, drawing almost 500 participants to address pressing issues from water technologies to maritime trade and cultural transmission. Conferences on topics like the Application of Artificial Intelligence and Data Sciences, Delay Differential Equations in Immunology, and Corpus Linguistics have provided platforms for scholars to share research findings, exchange ideas, and initiate new research collaborations. The AUA Scholars Award Program supported 60 scholars across 14 universities, forging long-term partnerships that transcend borders. These efforts—rooted in interdisciplinary collaboration—strengthen AUA's role as a catalyst for scientific progress.

In the realm of strategy and policy, a highlight of the year was the AUA Presidents Forum 2023, hosted by Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the theme "Shaping

Higher Education in an Evolving Asia: Creation, Integration, and Innovation". This landmark event, as the first in-person gathering of AUA university leaders since the pandemic, fostered critical dialogue on balancing tradition and transformation, enhancing academic mobility, and embedding sustainability. The Asian Conference on Higher Education- Student Volunteers and Community Engagement, organized by Tsinghua University, explored the role of student volunteer services in education. Additionally, the AUA Staff Exchange Program resumed in 2023-2024 with 15 participants admitted, facilitating exchanges among university staff to enhance cooperation and understanding.

Pilot programs, such as the "Climate x" Leadership Training Program and the establishment of the AUA Online Education Network, have been launched to explore new areas of collaboration. The "Climate x" program, co-hosted by the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate and AUA, empowered students to take action on climate change. The launch of the AUA Online Education Network further underscored AUA's initiatives to leverage digital innovation for equitable knowledge access, improve teaching quality and promote digital transformation in Asian higher education.

AUA continues to be a close-knit consortium with Board Meetings and Executives' Meetings held regularly. In 2023, the AUA Board Meeting at Nazarbayev University saw the election of the United Arab Emirates University as the AUA Presidency for 2023-2026 and the confirmation of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as the Executive Presidency for 2023-2024. These meetings also discussed program proposals, constitutional amendments, and future development strategies. Another milestone was the launch of the AUA Framework 2023-2026, a strategic roadmap that builds on past achievements while addressing emerging priorities, including four themes as Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Asian Civilizations, Public Health, and Future Habitat, as well as four modules as Student Mobility, Research Collaborations, Strategy and Policy, and Pilot Programs.

As reflected in 2023-2024, AUA's strength lies not only in impressive numbers, but also in cohesive unity. Looking ahead, AUA is committed to deepening collaboration among its members, expanding global partnerships, and amplifying Asia's intellectual voice. As AUA enters its seventh year, the alliance's continued efforts will not only benefit its member universities but also make a positive impact on Asian higher education.



CONTENTS

02	AUA MEMBERS
04	AUA OVERVIEW 2023-2024
05	PREFACE

10.

ABOUT AUA

Mission	12
History	13
Board Members	14
AUA Framework 2023-2026	15

16.

STUDENT MOBILITY

Student Mobility Programs 2023-2024

AUA Youth Forum

Building a Better Future: Inspiring Youth for Sustainable Habitat

AUA Joint Lecture Series

Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

AUA Asia Deep Dive Program

Asian Civilizations & Its Preservation

AUA Overseas Study Programs

An Introduction to No-Code Artificial Intelligence

Environmental Stewardship for Sustainable Urban Development

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

Shaping a Sustainable Future Through Application of Knowledge-Based Smart Materials

Asia Innovative Leader Challenge: The Role of Social Technology for Future Society

Empowering the Young Generation with Foundational Competencies for The Future World of Work

AUA Arts, Sports and Culture Events

AUA Photo Contest 2024—Neighborhoods of Asia

Traditional Thai Culture & SDGS 2024 Learning Camp & Practices: Eco-Friendly, Sustainable & Cultural Tourism

38.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

AUA Academic Conferences

Application of Artificial Intelligences and Data Sciences in a Modern Science for a Better Life	40
Delay Differential Equations and Applications to Immunology and Infectious Diseases	41
Corpus Linguistics: New Trends in Language and Linguistics Studies	43
Water Technologies	44
Maritime Trade and Cultural Transmission: Historical Archive, Port Networks and Knowledge Disseminations	45

AUA Scholars Award Program 2023-2024

40
41
43
44
45
46

50.

STRATEGY & POLICY

AUA Presidents Forum 2023

Shaping Higher Education in an Evolving Asia: Creation, Integration, and Innovation

AUA Education Fair

AUA Online Education Fair 2023

AUA Asian Conference on Higher Education

Student Volunteers and Community Engagement

AUA Staff Exchange Program 2023-2024

52
52
54
54
56
56
58

60.

PILOT PROGRAMS

“Climate x” Leadership Training Program 2023

62

AUA Online Education Network

65

66.

GOVERNANCE

AUA Board Meeting 2023

68

AUA Executives’ Meeting 2023

70

62
65

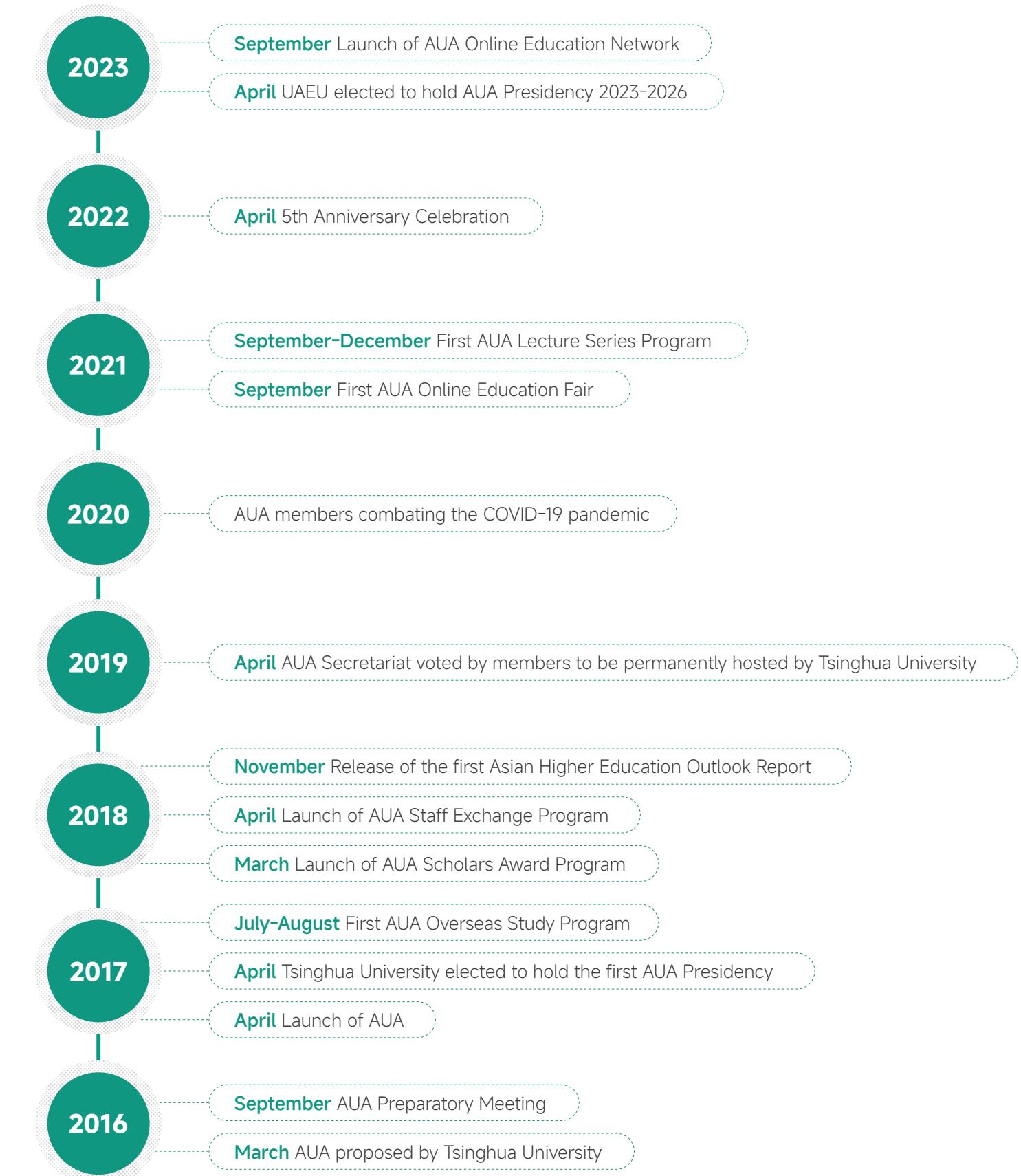
About AUA

MISSION

**JOINTLY ADDRESS REGIONAL
AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES,
SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC,
AND TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT,
BY STRENGTHENING
COLLABORATION AMONG
MEMBER INSTITUTIONS.**

ABOUT AUA

HISTORY



BOARD MEMBERS



Bundhit EUA-ARPORN

Chulalongkorn University



Nancy IP

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Subhasis CHAUDHURI

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay



Abdullah ALSALMAN

King Saud University



TAN Eng Chye

National University of Singapore



Ilesanmi ADESIDA

Nazarbayev University



GONG Qihuang

Peking University



Hong Lim RYU

Seoul National University



LI Luming

Tsinghua University



Ghaleb AlHadrami ALBREIKI

United Arab Emirates University



Ari KUNCORO

Universitas Indonesia



H.D. KARUNARATNE

University of Colombo



Noor Azuan Abu OSMAN

Universiti Malaya



Teruo FUJII

The University of Tokyo



Tin Maung TUN

University of Yangon

FORMER BOARD MEMBERS (2023-2024)



Badran A. ALOMAR

King Saud University



Shigeo KATSU

Nazarbayev University



Mohd. Hamdi Abd. SHUKOR

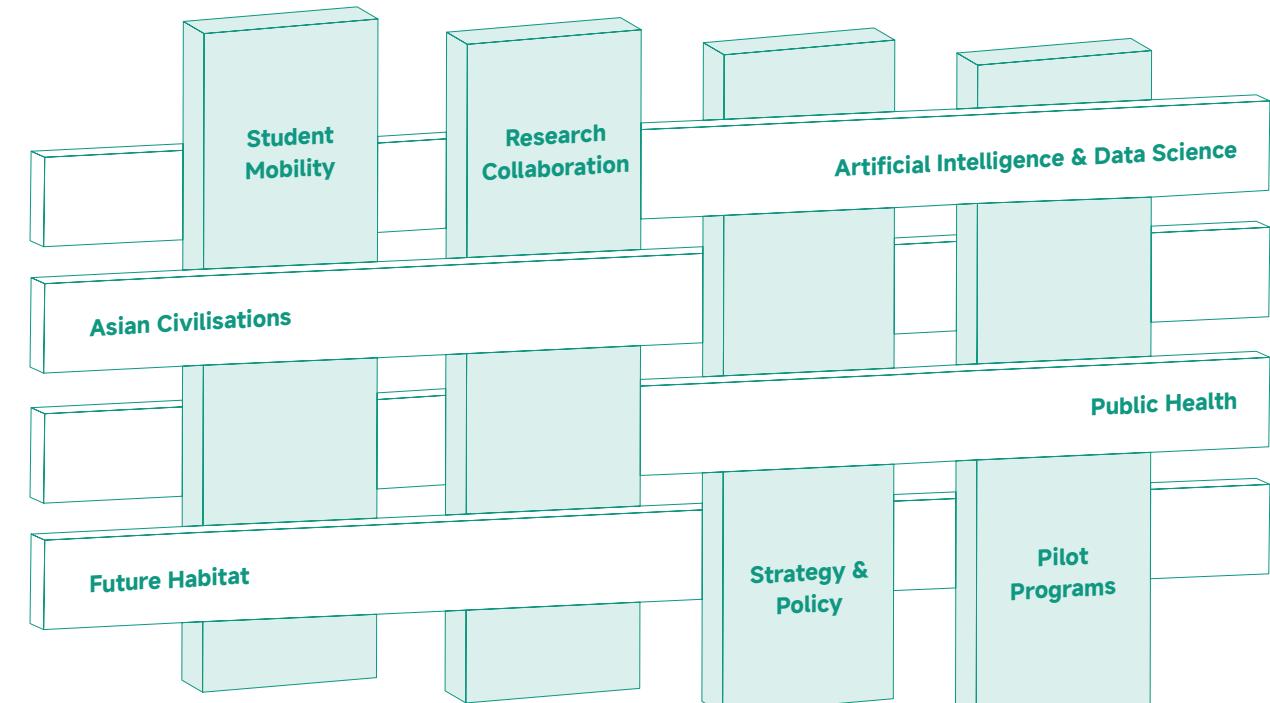
Universiti Malaya



WANG Xiqin

Tsinghua University

AUA FRAMEWORK 2023-2026



THE AUA FRAMEWORK IS STRUCTURED IN TWO DIMENSIONS

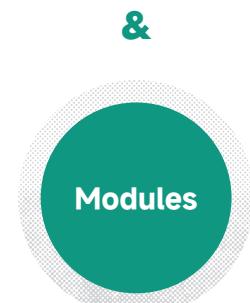


Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

Public Health

Asian Civilisations

Future Habitat



Student Mobility

Strategy & Policy

Research Collaboration

Pilot Programs

Student Mobility

AUA member universities have shown a strong willingness to increase the mobility of students. Throughout the years, AUA has implemented its primary function as a tie to connect members and share educational resources. Many AUA students had an opportunity to raise awareness of various contemporary challenges to mankind in the context of Asia. Given the valuable benefits of student mobility programs as well as the member universities' great enthusiasm for hosting such programs, AUA will continue to enhance student mobility by holding Asia Deep Dive Programs, AUA Youth Forums, Overseas Study Programs, and Arts, Sports and Culture Events.

STUDENT MOBILITY PROGRAMS

2023-2024

 STUDENT PROGRAMS

11

 HOST UNIVERSITIES

6

 AUA STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

535

AUA YOUTH FORUM

The AUA Youth Forum (AUAYF) is developed to be a flagship program organized by the Executive Presidency holder every year. In line with the mission of AUA, the AUAYF is dedicated to addressing developmental issues in the region, enhancing youth empowerment, and promoting cultural and academic exchanges among the AUA students. It aims to promote a vision of sustainability, innovativeness and collaboration through joint activities in a way that encourages the collective sharing of knowledge and the founding of cross-cultural friendships. Each AUAYF focuses on a specific topic and theme drawn from the AUA Framework.

JOINT LECTURE SERIES

The AUA Joint Lecture Series (JLS) is an academic program that brings together scholars from multiple AUA member universities to jointly deliver a series of academic lectures on a specific topic related to Asia, e.g., Asia's economies, new energy industry, sustainable development, etc. The JLS is a unique public education product developed by AUA in that it provides students with different facts, views, and perspectives on the same issue by scholars from different parts of Asia. The JLS is also an attempt by AUA toward developing a joint course delivered collaboratively by member universities.

ASIA DEEP DIVE PROGRAM

The Asia Deep Dive Program (ADDP) aims to provide an immersive learning environment for students who wish to gain deep knowledge and understanding of an Asian country or region over 14 days of study. The ADDP is, first and foremost, an education program, whose most valuable aspect is the opportunity for students to learn from scholars who are native to the area or have spent a significant amount of time working and living there. Such learning opportunity may be difficult to obtain in participants' home countries.

OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAMS

Overseas Study Programs (OSP) bring together students of similar academic interests to attend intensive short-term courses. Each program aims to broaden students' knowledge about a subject, raise their awareness and help students gain valuable insights through the exchange of academic ideas with peers and professors of different nationalities.

ARTS, SPORTS AND CULTURE EVENTS

Many universities in AUA have a vibrant arts and sports community. Artistic and sports education constitutes an important part of university education as well as campus life. Putting up artistic performances, producing fine art works and competing in sports games are regular activities in universities. Students are expected to grow into creative and independent thinkers through the nurturing of rich artistic experiences and sportsmanship. In addition, each member university is a good hub of culture education and has a strong vibrancy to promote and spread the best of Asian cultures. Based on this, AUA supports and encourages its members to hold arts, sports, and culture events that allow students to showcase talents and deepen cross-cultural understanding.

AUA YOUTH FORUM

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE: INSPIRING YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE HABITAT

 JANUARY 2024

 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



AUA STUDENTS

45



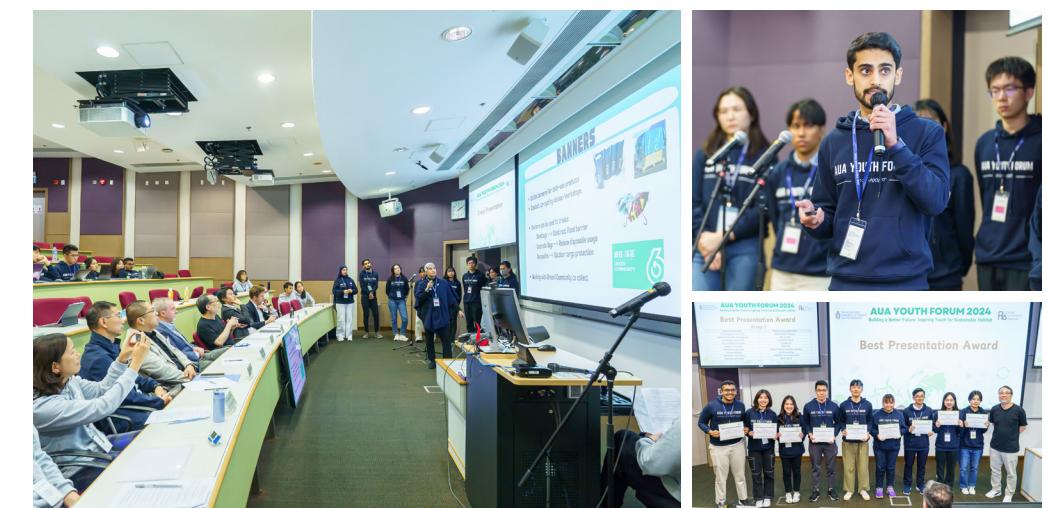
AUA UNIVERSITIES

14

Centered around the theme "Building a Better Future: Inspiring Youth for Sustainable Habitat", the AUA Youth Forum 2024 (January 6th to 12th, 2024) brought together 45 students from 14 AUA member universities across Asia to delve into the challenges, opportunities, and actions required for creating a sustainable future.

The forum offered a comprehensive program featuring keynote lectures, interactive workshops, thought-provoking panel discussions, and sharing sessions. These sessions, led by HKUST professors, sustainability experts, and entrepreneurs, focused on addressing pressing environmental challenges such as climate change, solid waste management, carbon neutrality, etc. The aim was to inspire the next generation of leaders to act and contribute to the creation of a sustainable living environment. Apart from the talks, lectures and group activities, participants also had the opportunity to engage in a guided tour of HKUST's sustainable campus, visit the South East New Territories Landfill to gain first-hand knowledge about waste management practices, as well as explore local culture through an eco-tour to Tai O. The highlight of the event was the students' group presentations, where brilliant young minds shared their creative and practical solutions towards reducing waste on campus. These proposals are expected to have significant impact not only on HKUST but beyond, inspiring others to adopt sustainable practices.

The AUA Youth Forum 2024 went beyond sustainability. It also offered the opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds and cultures across Asia to interact and exchange ideas with each other, providing a platform that nurtured cross-cultural understanding and promoted global citizenship. Youth is the cornerstone of our collective future, so the forum served as a catalyst for building connections and nurturing a network of future leaders committed to sustainable development and collaboration across borders.



AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS FOR TOMORROW

JANUARY TO MARCH 2024

AUA SECRETARIAT AND UNIVERSITI MALAYA

AUA STUDENTS

48

AUA UNIVERSITIES

11



The 2024 joint lecture series program, themed "Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow", began on January 8th and ran through March 15th (for 10 weeks), with three lectures per week and a closing session. It highlights the importance of materials in creating engineering marvels and high-end products.

THE 14 LECTURES WERE DELIVERED BY PROFESSORS FROM AUA MEMBER UNIVERSITIES AND CONSISTED OF TWO PARTS:

- A 50-minute public lecture;
- A 40-minute free design teaching session that included questions and answers, interviews, group discussions, and any other innovative interactive teaching methods.

AUA member universities nominated 48 students as regular participants in all lectures, and eligible participants included undergraduate and graduate students from any discipline interested in materials science and engineering from AUA member universities and other universities.

Of the students who participated in this lecture, 14 who met the project requirements received a certificate of completion, while 5 of them received an additional certificate of excellence for their outstanding papers.

Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Wong Yew Hoong explained the application of sustainable materials in nanoelectronic devices, from the historical evolution of materials to the innovative application of modern nanomaterials in gas sensing and MOS devices. The importance of integrating environmental practices in the design and manufacturing process was highlighted in order to improve energy efficiency of electronic devices and reduce environmental impact. Assoc. Prof. Lan Yin delved into the latest developments in transient electronic systems, particularly bioabsorbable electronics, highlighting the innovative applications of new bioabsorbable materials in healthcare and the future research opportunities for these materials to advance material science and enhance device performance. Prof. Dr. Toru H. Okabe discussed the supply challenges of rare metals and the importance of recycling, highlighting the impact of mining costs, smelting expenses, environmental damage, and resource, technical, and environmental constraints on the supply of rare metals, as well as used rare earth metals as an example to illustrate the advantages of recycling in reducing hazardous waste.

NANOSTRUCTURED THIN FILMS ON DEMAND

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

MARCH 7TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Professor Ho Won Jang
Department of Materials Science and Engineering Seoul National University

BOTTLENECKS IN RARE METAL SUPPLY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

MARCH 12TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Dr. Yin Maung Maung
Professor and Head of Department of Physics University of Yangon

WIDE BANDGAP SEMICONDUCTORS IN SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

MARCH 5TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Dr. Tan Chee Keong
Associate Professor Advanced Materials Thrust, Function Hub The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT NANOELECTRONIC DEVICE APPLICATIONS

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

JANUARY 9TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Associate Prof. Ir. Wong Yew Hoong
Department of Mechanical Engineering Faculty of Engineering Universiti Malaya

GREEN MATERIALS OF THE FUTURE

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

JANUARY 16TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Prof. Dr. Ir. Ahmad Herman Yuwono
Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Faculty of Engineering Universitas Indonesia

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS FOR TOMORROW

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

JANUARY 18TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Prof. Abdel-Hamid I. Mourad
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department United Arab Emirates University United Arab Emirates

CARBON NANOMATERIALS: SMALL MATERIAL WITH BIG POTENTIAL

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

JANUARY 30TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Prof. Dr. Anyuan Cao
School of Materials Science and Engineering Peking University

ENERGIZING TOMORROW- NEW INNOVATIONS IN ENERGY HARVESTING

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

FEBRUARY 20TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Asst. Prof. Dr. Gulnur Kalimuldina
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering School of Engineering and Digital Sciences Nazarbayev University

SMART USE OF MINERAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

FEBRUARY 29TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Dr. Dilushan R. Jayasundara
Department of Physics University of Colombo

THE CRITICAL NEED TO INTEGRATE MAGNESIUM BASED MATERIALS IN MAIN STREAM APPLICATIONS FOR GREENER EARTH AND HEALTH LIVING BEINGS

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

MARCH 8TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Prof. Dr. Manoj Gupta
Department of Materials Science Faculty of Science National University of Singapore

SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS IN TEXTILES AND FIBERS

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

FEBRUARY 27TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Dr. Orathai Boondamroen
Department of Materials Science Faculty of Science Chulalongkorn University

Biodegradable Materials for Transient Electronics

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

JANUARY 11TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Associate Prof. Lan Yin
School of Material Science and Engineering Tsinghua University

BOTTLENECKS IN RARE METAL SUPPLY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

JANUARY 20TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

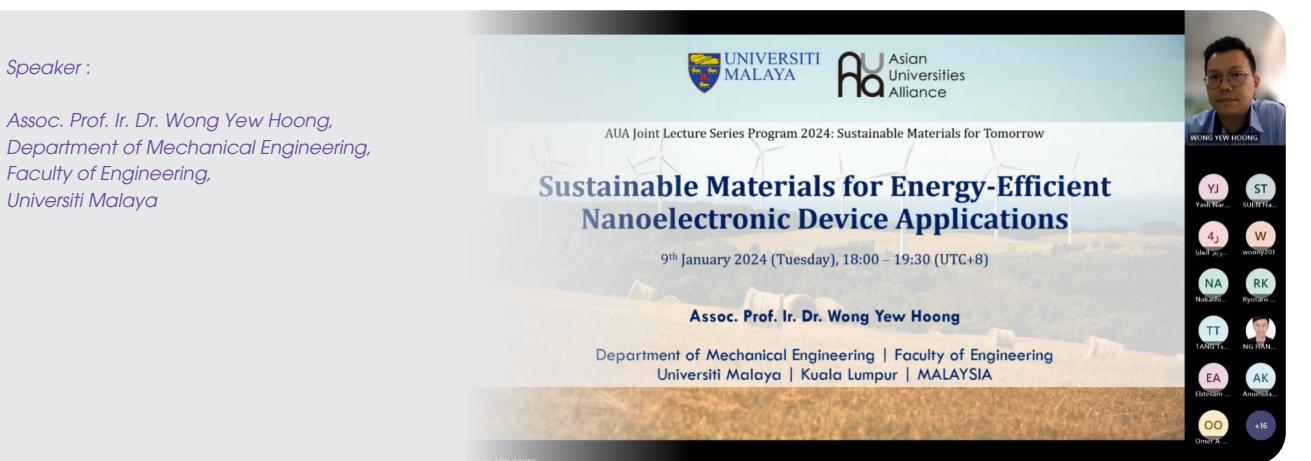
Prof. Dr. Toru H. Okabe
Director of General and Professor Institute of Industrial Science The University of Tokyo

NANOMATERIALS FOR ENERGY APPLICATIONS

AUA Joint Lecture Series Program 2024 Sustainable Materials for Tomorrow

MARCH 9TH
18:00-19:30 (UTC+8)

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rezaul Karim
Center of Excellence for Research in Engineering Materials (CEREM) Deanship of Scientific Research (DSR) King Saud University



Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Wong Yew Hoong, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Malaya

Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Wong Yew Hoong, Department of Mechanical Engineering | Faculty of Engineering | Universiti Malaya | Kuala Lumpur | MALAYSIA

Speaker:

Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Wong Yew Hoong, Department of Mechanical Engineering | Faculty of Engineering | Universiti Malaya | Kuala Lumpur | MALAYSIA

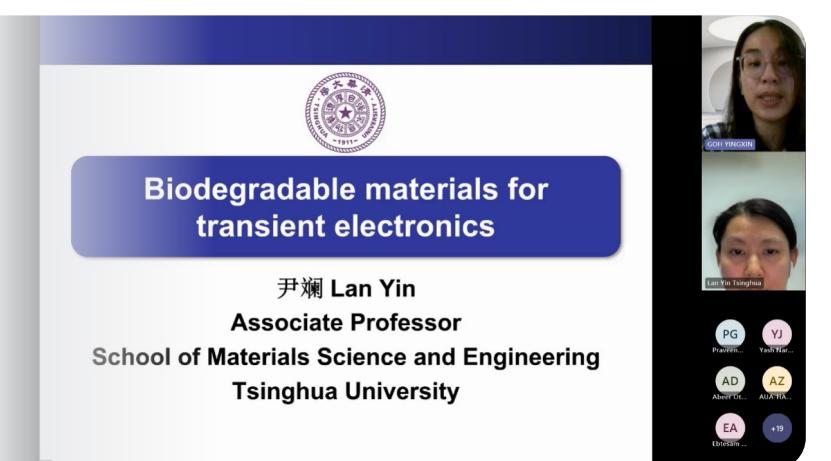
9th January 2024 (Tuesday), 18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

Sustainable Materials for Energy-Efficient Nanoelectronic Device Applications

Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Wong Yew Hoong, Department of Mechanical Engineering | Faculty of Engineering | Universiti Malaya | Kuala Lumpur | MALAYSIA

Prof. Dr. Ir. Akhmad Herman Yuwono discussed the future development of sustainable materials, in particular sustainable materials synthesis and processes using local materials in Indonesia, related environmental issues, material life cycles, application of green nanostructures, as well as research on energy harvesting and storage materials. Prof. Dr. Abdel-Hamid I. Mourad discussed the future applications of sustainable materials, including the recycling of carbon fiber composites in the aviation industry, the development of environmentally friendly materials in food packaging, and the potential of new zirconium glass alloys in the biomedical field. The key role of sustainable materials in driving environmentally friendly technological innovation and addressing global environmental challenges was especially highlighted.

Prof. Dr. Anyuan Cao discussed nanotechnology, especially carbon nanomaterials. Due to their excellent mechanical, chemical and electrical properties, these materials show great potential in many engineering fields. Asst. Prof. Dr. Gulnur Kalimuldina discussed innovative technologies for energy harvesting, including nanogenerators and tribometric materials, as well as their applications in sustainable energy solutions, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary research and technological breakthroughs for future energy development. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rezaul Karim discussed the synthesis methods and characterization techniques of nanomaterials and their wide range of applications in energy, environment, biomedicine and other fields, with special emphasis on the potential and importance of nanomaterials in energy-related applications.



Dr. Orathai Boondamnoen discussed sustainability aspects of textiles and fibers, including green alternatives to chemicals, ways to reduce water and energy consumption, biodegradability of biopolymers, and innovative waterless technologies in the textile industry. Dr. Dilushan R Jayasundara discussed the sustainable use of mineral resources in Sri Lanka, specifically economic and scientific sustainability, demand drivers, policy and technological advances, the sustainability of minerals such as thorite and graphite in the value chain, as well as the application prospects of graphene and titanium. Asst. Prof. Dr. Tan Chee Keong discussed the important role of wide band gap semiconductors in energy applications, power electronics, electric vehicles, photocatalysis and LED and their impact on the future of sustainable development.

Prof. Ho Won Jang comprehensively discussed the diverse applications and technological innovations of nanostructured films, including their key role in the fields of solar fuels, electronic noses, electronic tongues and memristors, as well as their potential for improving sensor performance and developing non-volatile storage technologies. Prof. Dr. Manoj Gupta highlighted the importance of integrating magnesium-based materials into mainstream applications, noting that magnesium plays a key role in driving environmental sustainability and improving human health, as well as its applications in areas such as defense, lightweight devices, biomedical implants, and composite technology and how it demonstrates significant potential and advantages. Dr. Yin Maung Maung discussed the synthesis of perovskite quantum-dot solar cells by ligand exchange, including their structure, synthesis methods, and potential applications and performance in the field of sustainable energy.



Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Toru H. Okabe
Institute of Industrial Science
The University of Tokyo

The 2024 joint lecture series program discussed sustainable materials and sustainable energy from various perspectives, covering topics such as carbon nanomaterials, biodegradable materials, energy harvesting, nanomaterials for energy applications and smart use of mineral resources. It greatly promoted the participants' in-depth understanding of environmentally friendly and resource-efficient materials.

AUA ASIA DEEP DIVE PROGRAM

ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS & ITS PRESERVATION

AUGUST 2023

UNIVERSITI MALAYA & UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA



AUA STUDENTS

28



AUA UNIVERSITIES

11

The AUA UI-UM Asia Deep Dive Program 2023 "Asian Civilization—Understanding, Appreciating & Celebrating Asian Heritage: Uniting Cultures, Inspiring Connections" was a cutting-edge academic program Universiti Malaysia launched in partnership with Universitas Indonesia in August 2023. The purpose of this program, which ran in two segments, first online, from August 7th to 11th in Universiti Malaysia and offline from August 13th to 19th in Universitas Indonesia, was to increase awareness and comprehension of the rich and complex tapestry of Asian cultures. With the participation of 28 student leaders from various universities under the Asian Universities Alliance, the program investigated the diverse range of cultures, societies, and historical advancements in Asia. The future development projection of the region was also delineated to provide a thorough comprehension of Asian civilization.

During the first phase of the program hosted by Universiti Malaysia, the framework was carefully thought out to encourage conversation and cultural interaction despite the limitations of a virtual setting. The program combined lectures, forums, and activities to explore the socio-economic aspects of the region, enhancing intercultural communication. Its objectives were to cultivate intercultural understanding, respect, and networking, with an eye on building partnerships around Asian civilization themes.

Emphasizing global citizenship, self-awareness, and personal growth, the initiative featured discussions on Asian civilization's essence, dialogues for peaceful coexistence, and showcases of Asian art diversity. It also addressed gender issues within the Asian context and contemplated an Asian Renaissance. The first phase of the program offered a rich mix of engaging and educational sessions aimed at nurturing cooperation, understanding, and a generation of informed, globally connected individuals.



Following the engaging online sessions hosted by Universiti Malaysia, the program transitioned into its second phase at Universitas Indonesia. The Center for Research on Society and Culture, Faculty of Humanities, held its continuation on-site from August 13th to August 19th, 2023, intending to solidify the prior foundation. With the participation of the same 28 student leaders from the AUA members, the program was designed to provide a comprehensive and immersive experience. Based on what they learned in the previous half, the primary goals focused on helping participants have a more nuanced understanding of the many Asian civilizations and cultures by diving into the region's complexity through a hands-on approach.

The week was jam-packed with educational events, such as lectures on "Islamic Civilization and Indonesia," "Indonesia and Chinese Civilization," "Empowering Youth Leadership for Civilizational Dialogue on Sustainability," and "Indonesian Culinary." There were also creative forums, cultural dialogues, podcasts, art workshops, and field trips to museums. Field trips to Museum Wayang, Museum Sejarah, and Museum Nasional were particularly memorable since they gave participants a close-up look at Indonesia's rich cultural legacy.

Additionally, hands-on activities introduced attendees to Indonesian arts and culture, including learning Javanese gamelan and practicing batik. Utilizing these exercises, the program aimed to motivate the participants, empowering them to envision a future in which cultural awareness and respect are fundamental, therefore fostering a feeling of global citizenship and interdependence amongst the following generation of leaders.

Yudai Onizuka from the University of Tokyo commented, "Through this online session, I felt that we can build a peaceful relationship no matter what religion and civilization the other party is. And I learned how to realize peaceful coexistence." Shahnaz from Universiti Malaya believes that the program allowed her not only to discover, but to also be more appreciative and respectful to others' cultures and beliefs.



AUA OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAMS

AN INTRODUCTION TO NO-CODE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

JUNE 2023

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

AUA STUDENTS

23

AUA UNIVERSITIES

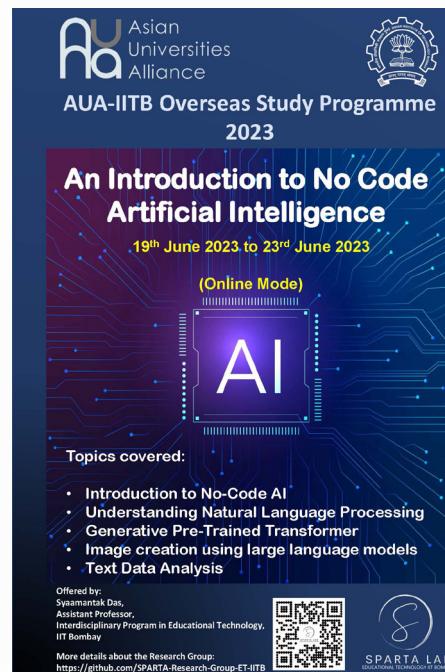
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From June 19th to 23rd, 2023, The Asian Universities Alliance in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) held The AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program (OSP) 2023 on No-Code Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) in an online format. The program attracted a diverse group of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students with intermediate to advanced computer programming skills.

The five-day intensive course was designed to introduce beginners to the world of AI without the need for extensive programming knowledge. Led by Syaamantak Das, Assistant Professor at IIT Bombay's Interdisciplinary Program in Educational Technology, participants delved into five key AI topics. These included Chatbot development using GPT (focusing on ChatGPT), AI-based image generation using Midjourney, Natural Language Processing (NLP) using MonkeyLearn and more.

Each day consisted of a 1.5-hour lecture and discussion session, followed by a 2-hour hands-on group activity. This structure enabled students to not only grasp theoretical concepts but also apply them in practical scenarios. By the end of the program, participants had built a strong foundation in NCAI and were equipped to address real-world problems using their newly acquired skills.

The event's success was evident in the active participation and positive feedback from the students in this AUA Overseas Study Program. The NCAI Program has played a significant role in promoting accessible AI education and fostering multilateral collaboration within the Asian academic community.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JUNE TO JULY 2023

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

STUDENTS

13

AUA STUDENTS: 10

AUA UNIVERSITIES

5

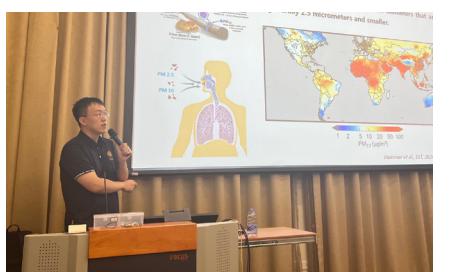
The Asian Universities Alliance-Tsinghua University Overseas Study Program 2023, organized by the Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS) Institute of Environment and Ecology (iEE), was successfully held in Shenzhen from June 29th to July 6th. The program's theme was "Environmental Stewardship for Sustainable Urban Development: Green Environmental Infrastructure, Ecosystem Conservation, and Resource-Efficient Actions." Students from Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, and Universiti Malaya as well as domestic students from Tsinghua SIGS participated in the program.

The opening ceremony of the program took place on the morning of June 29th with welcome remarks from Dr. Xiao Fu and Dr. Jong Mui Choo. In the afternoon, students participated in ice-breaker activities, fostering a warm atmosphere and building friendships with each other.

During the 8-day program, special lectures on frontier topics in environment and ecology were delivered by Dr. Bo Zheng, Dr. Hao Guo, Dr. Matteo Convertino, and Dr. Yuanchao Fan. These lectures covered various aspects such as air pollution, water resources, humans and ecosystems, and ecological system models, introducing the current environmental pollution issues and mitigation technologies to students from multiple perspectives.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP



In addition to classroom lectures, students participated in field visits to environmental enterprises, solid waste treatment centers, a reclaimed water treatment plant, and Guangdong Neilingding Futian National Nature Reserve under the guidance of professors Dr. Lin Lin, Dr. Si Chen, Dr. Wenlong Wang, and Dr. Ana Gouveia, respectively. During these visits, students gained further insight into China's environmental protection efforts, infrastructure construction, and natural ecological conservation. Students were also able to observe a variety of wildlife including mudskippers and tidal crabs on the mudflats in the mangrove forest and appreciate the natural scenery.

As part of the program, participants also had the opportunity to experience on-site learning at Tsinghua SIGS by conducting sludge and wastewater experiments, visiting iEE's experiment platforms and laboratories, and communicating with professors, current students, and platform engineers face-to-face. Through these experiences, they gained a deeper understanding of current research trends in their field.

The AUA-THU Overseas Study Program 2023 concluded on the afternoon of July 6th. Program participants and fifteen iEE students gave oral presentations and shared posters on environmental and ecological topics in groups. Professors from iEE were invited to serve as judges and presented participation certificates to all program students.

During the closing ceremony, Prof. Jian'e Zuo, the Associate Dean of Tsinghua SIGS and Deputy Dean of the Institute of Environment and Ecology, delivered the closing remarks and presented the "Best Oral Presentation" and "Best Poster" certificates to student winners.

JULY 2023

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AUA STUDENTS

34

AUA UNIVERSITIES

9

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp held on HKUST campus from July 4th—10th, 2023, was a highly impactful and enriching experience for AUA students. The program provided a comprehensive and immersive learning environment that fostered the development of entrepreneurial skills and mindsets amongst the participants.

The sessions, including seminars, workshops, company visits and a pitch contest, were thoughtfully structured to cover various aspects of entrepreneurship, including "ideation", design thinking, market research, business planning and financial management. The content for the camp was delivered by experienced industry professionals and academic experts who provided valuable insights and practical knowledge. The interactive nature of the sessions encouraged active participation and facilitated in-depth discussions and ideas exchange among the participants.

The program incorporated hands-on activities and real-world case studies, allowing participants to apply the concepts they learned into practical settings. The opportunity to work in diverse teams comprising students from different universities also fostered cross-cultural collaboration and enhanced the overall learning experience.

The bootcamp also offered valuable networking opportunities. The presence of successful entrepreneurs and mentors provided participants with important access to industry insiders and potential collaborators. The mentorship sessions and pitch competition allowed students to receive feedback and guidance on their business ideas, helping them refine their entrepreneurial ventures.

The location of the bootcamp in Hong Kong further added an extra dimension to the experience. Hong Kong's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and its status as a global financial hub provided a conducive environment for participants to gain exposure to real international business practices.

The entrepreneurship program proved to be an effective and valuable experience for the students. The well-designed curriculum, hands-on activities and networking opportunities all contributed to creating a transformative learning experience that equipped participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to embark on their respective future entrepreneurial journeys.



SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED SMART MATERIALS

AUGUST 2023

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

AUA STUDENTS
23AUA UNIVERSITIES
5

From August 20th to 26th, 2023, The AUA Overseas Study Program 2023 on "Shaping a Sustainable Future Through Application of Knowledge-Based Smart Materials" was successfully hosted by Universiti Malaya. The 23 participants came from five universities: Universitas Indonesia, Universiti Malaya, Chulalongkorn University, Peking University and Tsinghua University.

The program offered a unique and comprehensive exploration of knowledge-based smart materials and sustainable energy solutions. With a diverse range of expert speakers, engaging seminars, interactive forums, and hands-on workshops, this program equipped participants with the knowledge and insights required to address pressing global challenges in the field of sustainable energy.

The program included practical courses to equip participants with practical skills in smart materials and sustainable energy technologies. Through seminars, forums, and discussions with industry experts and academics, participants built valuable professional networks and relevant collaborations with experts and peers in the field.

Prof. Dr Ramesh Subramaniam delivered a compelling presentation titled "Integration between Electrodes and Electrolytes for Efficient Energy Devices," exploring innovative approaches to enhance energy efficiency. Following him, Prof. Wan Haliza captivated the audience with her lecture, "Let There Be Light," "shedding light" on the transformative potential of light in various new-energy applications.

Participants enriched their understanding of smart materials and their application in sustainable energy technologies through interactions with the speakers, and were motivated to contribute to the future of sustainable energy.

By the end of the program, participants had gained not only advanced insights into smart materials and sustainable energy technologies, but also a renewed inspiration to innovate and contribute to the global pursuit of sustainability. This initiative successfully empowered participants with the technical knowledge, professional connections, and motivation to make meaningful impacts in their respective fields.

ASIA INNOVATIVE LEADER CHALLENGE: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR FUTURE SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA

STUDENTS
104
AUA STUDENTS: 61

UNIVERSITIES
20
AUA UNIVERSITIES: 5



& Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for The Goals).

The event was structured into four phases: competition registration and a motivational video submission, followed by a leader camp webinar to develop foundational knowledge, where students sought guidance from experts to develop innovative solutions. The subsequent mentoring sessions helped refine the teams' proposals, culminating in a final "Leader Pitch", where solutions were presented to a panel of expert jurors.

The winners were announced in three categories. The "Solargrove" Team from Universitas Indonesia took first place in Energy and Sustainability. In the Asian Civilization category, first place went to "Penghijauan", also from Universitas Indonesia. Meanwhile, The "Thihasna" Team from General Sir John Kothalawala Defense University claimed the top spot in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

Participants of the leadership camp described it as an eye-opening, fun and helpful learning experience. They also found the mentoring sessions very useful by receiving a lot of feedback and valuable advice from the mentoring professors.

This event not only fostered collaboration and innovative thinking among the participants, but also expanded their networks, connecting them with other peers and experts across the Asian academic landscape. The successful outcomes of this challenge demonstrate the potent synergy of academia, practitioners, and government in driving meaningful social change.

EMPOWERING THE YOUNG GENERATION WITH FOUNDATIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR THE FUTURE WORLD OF WORK

MARCH 2024

UNIVERSITI MALAYA



STUDENTS

50

AUA STUDENTS: 22



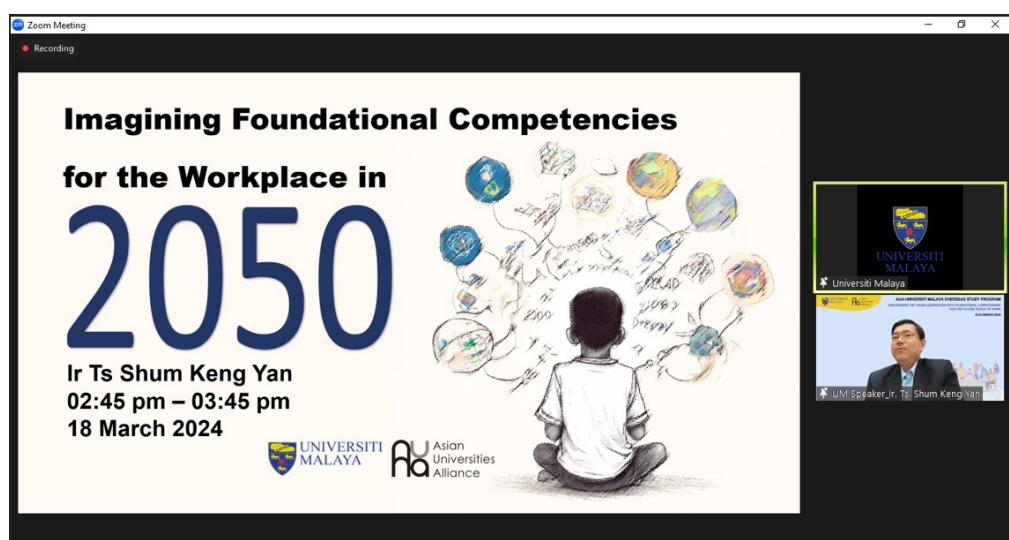
UNIVERSITIES

10

AUA UNIVERSITIES: 6

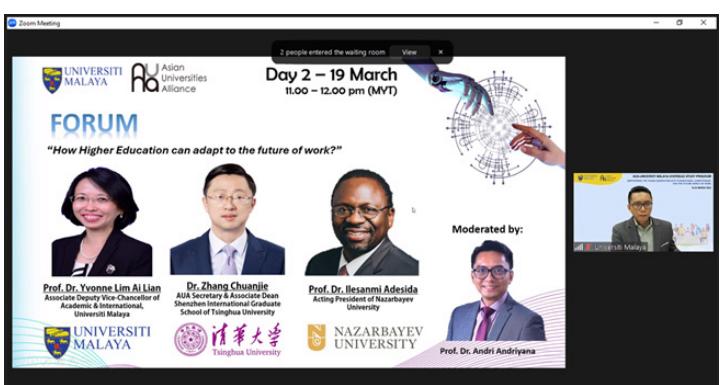
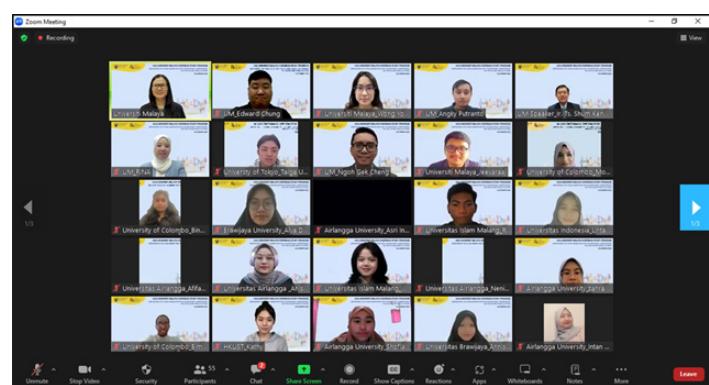


The program aimed to prepare the younger generation of participants for the challenges of the global workplace in 2050 by providing the knowledge and skills needed to adapt to the rapidly changing workplace environment through intercultural and multidisciplinary exchanges and to promote innovative thinking and solutions from multiple perspectives.

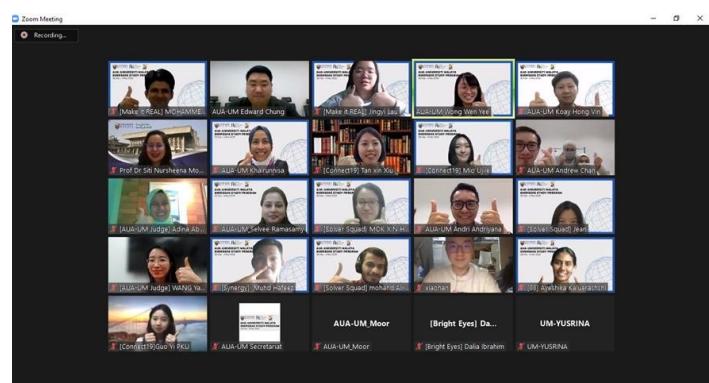
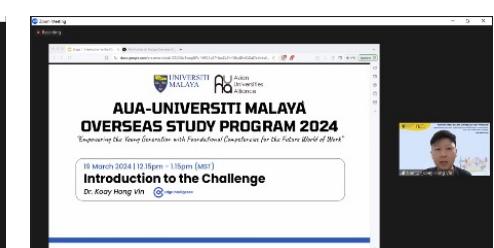
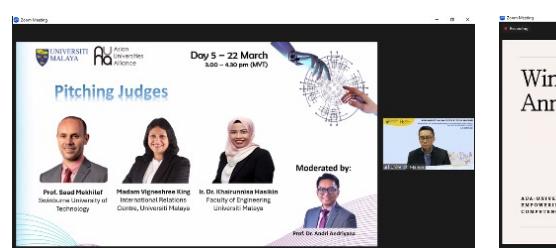


The event featured a diverse range of activities such as technical talks, workshops, bootcamps, and hackathon competitions. These activities were designed to enhance teamwork, communication, and cultural adaptability. Specifically, they aimed to increase awareness of the connections between workplace competency and public health, as well as the relationships among socio-economic factors and education. Moreover, the activities were focused on strengthening teamwork and communication skills, while also fostering mutual understanding and inclusion within diverse cultural settings.

The forum on "How Higher Education Can Adapt to the Future of Work" brought together distinguished academics to discuss the evolving demands of the global workforce on higher education. Panelists included Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic & International at Universiti Malaya; Prof. Dr. Ilesanmi Adesida, Acting President of Nazarbayev University; and Dr. Zhang Chuanjie, AUA Secretary and Associate Dean at Shenzhen International Graduate School of Tsinghua University. They highlighted the need for higher education to focus on technology integration, interdisciplinary approaches, and flexible learning models to equip students for the rapidly changing global work environment. This discussion provided participants with valuable international perspectives on higher education reform.



50 participants from 6 AUA member universities and 4 non-member universities were divided into 7 groups and 3 winning teams were selected for cash prizes. Under the guidance of their supervisor, Dr. Koay Hong Vin, each group overcame the challenges of online communication and successfully came up with a solution to the problem they undertook in just 3 days. These solutions demonstrated a high level of teamwork and innovation. Dr. Saad Mekhilef, Ir. Dr. Khairunnisa Hasikin and Madam Vighneshree King also gave comments and suggestions to provide the younger generation of participants with innovative decision-making and confidence.



This program not only succeeded in promoting a deeper understanding of AI and workplace change amongst the younger generation, but also empowered them with the ability to innovate to solve social, natural, national and global challenges through the empowerment of science and technology. The program effectively promoted cross-cultural communication and helped the participants build a framework for international perspectives and innovative thinking. This model of nurturing tomorrow's leaders provided long-term support for building a more responsible and resilient global society and inspired the next generation to take the initiative to create a positive social impact in the workplace of the future.

AUA ARTS, SPORTS, AND CULTURE EVENTS

AUA PHOTO CONTEST 2024 —NEIGHBORHOODS OF ASIA

JANUARY TO MAY 2024

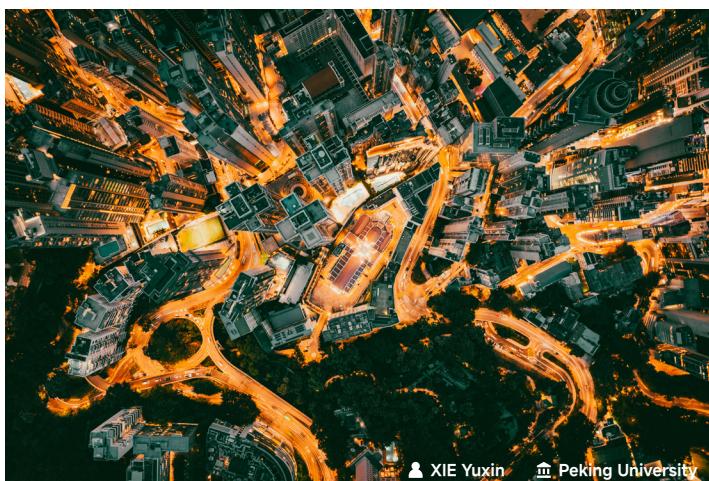
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

AUA STUDENTS

194

AUA UNIVERSITIES

15



TRADITIONAL THAI CULTURE & SDGS 2024 LEARNING CAMP & PRACTICES: ECO-FRIENDLY, SUSTAINABLE & CULTURAL TOURISM

MARCH 2024

CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

AUA STUDENTS

42

AUA UNIVERSITIES

8

The AUA-CU Traditional Thai Culture & SDGS 2024 Learning Camp & Practices, hosted by Asian Universities Alliance and Chulalongkorn University, concluded its first successful run from March 9th to 15th, 2024. The camp, which took place in Nan, Thailand, took students on a vibrant journey through Thailand's new sustainable agriculture industries, local Lanna culture and eco-tourism strategies.

Upon arrival, camp students first were introduced to basic Thai history & culture, (as well as experienced a traditional Thai children's game), before they delved deeper into the five local development sectors for the camp's theme: Government, Agriculture, Local Business, NGOs and Local Community.

A delegate from ESCAP presented "Towards A Carbon Neutral Destination: Innovative Sustainable Tourism Strategies" to the camp, emphasizing on the crucial need to build a more responsible tourism industry in Asia. A local art-endorsed community called Ghom Lanna hosted a craft workshop, teaching the students how to make "wind flowers" (dry bamboo strips woven into flowers), passing down an irreplaceable cultural heritage as well as promoting the use of natural materials.

The Head of the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Nan outlined their "City For All" Sustainable Approach to manage agricultural resources, as well as to increase local tourism by supporting Nan's local Lanna cultural crafts such as sarongs. Next, The Chairman of the Nan Coffee Association further elaborated on sustainable coffee cultivation taking place in Thailand, its challenges and accomplishments and the shared-work system of the association.



9 - 15 MARCH 2024

Next, The Hug Muang Nan Foundation showcased the integration of the local custom "forest ordination" or "Sueb Cha-ta" with conservation efforts in nearby marine ecosystems and forests and its support from the local community, youth and Buddhist monks. Continuing on local traditions, The Secretary of Baan Sao Luang Weaving Community also demonstrated Nan weaving crafts that use raw materials, the income of which goes directly to local communities.

Lastly, the Jintana Coffee Shop elaborated on sustainable energy being put into action through their own business practices. Corn is the main agricultural product in Nan Province, but is harmful to the topsoil and air pollution, whilst coffee does not use harsh chemicals and protects wildlife. Thus, The "Jintana-Coffee Shop For All" Mission was begun with the motto "one cup of coffee helps preserve one tree" and the goal of promoting alternative agricultural production and reducing the province's environmental pollution.

These local organizations not only preserve traditional Thai culture and improve the quality of life for Nan residents, but also displayed to the camp students how to apply sustainable development goals into real-world scenarios.

For the next segment of the camp, the students went forth on an extensive Nan City Tour. Guided by local high school students, they experienced the city's historical past at Nan National Museum, explored Buddhist temples Wat Changkum and Wat Phumin (home of Thailand's "Mona Lisa") with the monks, and visited the enshrined City Pillars as well as One Tambon Centre, all of which showcase Nan Province's cultural significance as one of the country's hidden gems.

The camp ended with a plenary session, aka final group presentations, where all of the students took what they learned and applied it in relation to the camp's three core themes, and then presented them in front of a panel of experts as well as their peers.

The AUA-CU Camp 2024 was an overwhelming success as it accomplished its primary goals to increase youth engagement in SDG endeavors, showcase the merging of agricultural resource management with local practices and culture, and provide invaluable opportunities for AUA member universities to network and dive deeper into their research.

Research Collaboration



Since the founding of AUA, the member universities have continuously improved communication to foster research collaboration within the alliance. AUA Academic Conferences bring peer scholars of the AUA universities to meet, share and discuss the research of a particular academic domain, extending AUA's impact in academic fields, encouraging academic communication and helping initiate academic clusters among the member universities. Postgraduate Academic Forums create a platform where postgraduates from AUA universities discuss research and establish academic connections with their counterparts from other Asian countries. AUA Scholars Award Program is launched with the purpose of building international academic connections and fostering collaborations among scholars from different member universities.

AUA ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES AND DATA SCIENCES IN A MODERN SCIENCE FOR A BETTER LIFE

AUGUST 2023

UNIVERSITI MALAYA & UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA



PARTICIPANTS

160

AUA PARTICIPANTS: 126



AUA UNIVERSITIES

6

Universitas Indonesia, in collaboration with Universiti Malaya, jointly hosted the 9th International Symposium on Current Progress in Mathematics and Sciences 2023 in conjunction with the 2023 AUA Academic Conference on the Application of Artificial Intelligences and Data Sciences in a Modern Science for a Better Life. The conference was held in Bali, Indonesia, on August 29th-30th, 2023.

This international conference encourages students, academics, and researchers to participate and present their research findings; exchange their views and experiences about their scientific research regarding the most recent innovations, interests, concerns, and practical challenges; as well as offer solutions in a stimulating respectful discussion.

The scope of the conference covered interdisciplinary fields of studies, including 1) Mathematics and Its Applications, 2) Theoretical and Applied Physics, 3) Chemical Sciences, 4) Biological Sciences, 5) Life and Environmental Sciences, 6) Geography, 7) Earth Sciences and 8) Geosciences.

The keynote and guest speakers were from AUA member universities including Universitas Indonesia, Universiti Malaya, The University of Tokyo, Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and United Arab Emirates University.



DELAY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS AND APPLICATIONS TO IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOVEMBER 2023

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY



PARTICIPANTS

120+



AUA UNIVERSITIES

5



The 2023 AUA Academic Workshop on “Delay Differential Equations and Applications to Immunology and Infectious Diseases” was successfully held on November 23rd and 24th, 2023, at UAE University.

Below is a brief report from Prof. Fathalla Rihan, Chair of the Organizing Committee:

“I am very proud to present to you the outcome and results of the 2023 Academic Workshop on Delay Differential Equations and Applications to Immunology and Infectious Diseases (DDEs-AIDs 2023), which was held on November 23rd and 24th, at the UAE University. This event attracted over 120 offline participants from AUA universities and many other universities as well.

The main objective of the DDEs-2023 workshop was to bring together mathematicians and life science scholars at AUA universities, as well as outside of AUA universities, to meet, share, illustrate and discuss mathematical models with delay differential equations and their applications to immunology and infectious diseases.

Indeed, the two days were buzzing with lively discussion and debate—not only during the interactive sessions, but also around the coffee tables!



POTENTIAL TOPICS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- DDEs mathematical analysis and biological interpretation
- Models of host-pathogen interactions
- Models of cancer immune response
- Models of immunological regulation
- Therapy and vaccination models
- Models of multiscale immunoepidemiology
- Optimal control with therapy
- Immune response, signaling pathways, and regulatory networks

The scientific program of the workshop included 50-minute plenary lectures, 30-minute invited lectures and 20-minute contributed talks. The selected papers will be published in the Special Issue *Delay Differential Equations and Applications to Immunology and Infectious Diseases of Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering*, published by AIMS.



CORPUS LINGUISTICS: NEW TRENDS IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS STUDIES

NOVEMBER 2023

UNIVERSITI MALAYA



AUA PARTICIPANTS

43

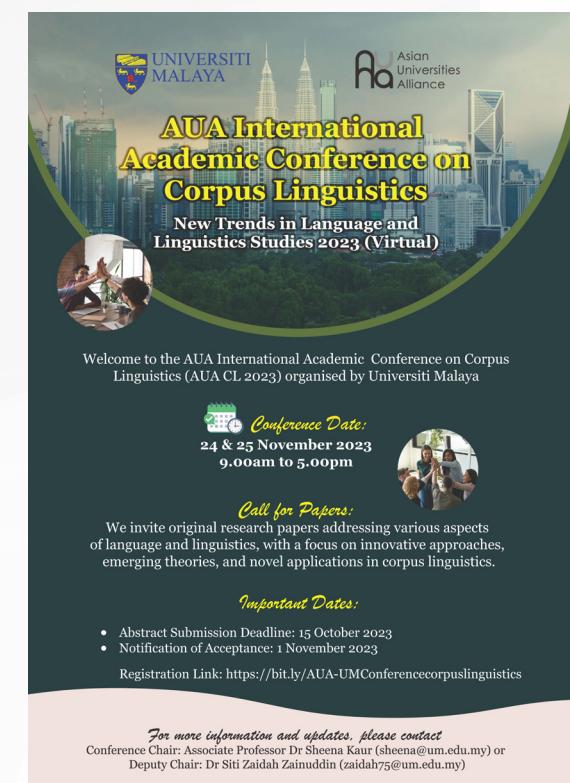


AUA UNIVERSITIES

9

The 2023 AUA Academic Conference on Corpus Linguistics was successfully convened online on November 24th and 25th, 2023. Organized by Universiti Malaya, this event aimed to spotlight the latest advancements in language and linguistics research, emphasizing the crucial role of corpus linguistics in revealing linguistic patterns and spurring progress in diverse fields.

The conference covered a wide range of key themes. In the area of Corpus Linguistics, it delved into leveraging large-scale language data and advanced methods for corpus building and analysis. Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing explored the application of computational tools and machine learning in language analysis. Sociolinguistics and Language Variation investigated language differences among social groups, while Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics focused on extracting discourse features. Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching examined how corpus-based approaches could enhance teaching and translation.



The event featured keynote and plenary speeches, parallel sessions, and workshops. Renowned scholars and researchers presented their work, sparking in-depth discussions. The conference also provided a platform for networking and knowledge exchange among participants.

Abstract submissions were peer-reviewed, and presenters had 20 minutes for their talks followed by 10 minutes for Q&A. Accepted papers had the opportunity for publication in an edited book.

With the participation of AUA members and scholars from around the world, the conference successfully achieved its goal of promoting the latest trends and innovations in corpus linguistics, paving the way for future research and collaboration in this dynamic field.

WATER TECHNOLOGIES

DECEMBER 2023

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY



AUA PARTICIPANTS

149



AUA UNIVERSITIES

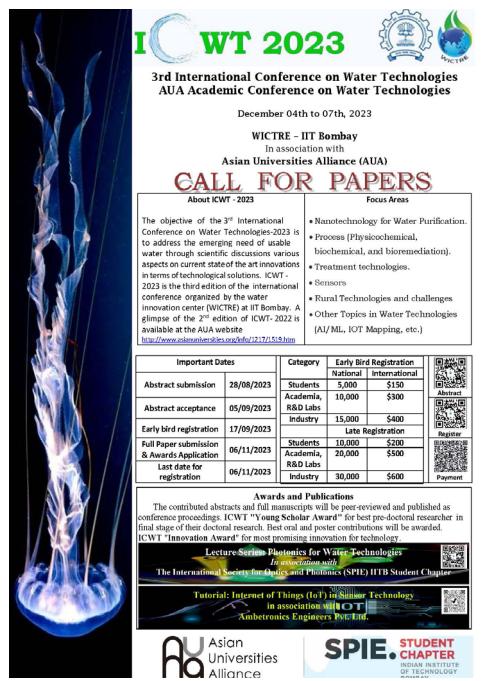
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From December 4th to 7th, 2023, The 3rd International Conference on Water Technologies (ICWT 2023) in collaboration with the Asian Universities Alliance was successfully held at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). The primary objective of this event was to address the pressing need for usable water by facilitating in-depth scientific discussions centered around technological solutions and innovations.

The conference encompassed a broad spectrum of focus areas, namely nanotechnology for water purification, diverse treatment processes, sensors, rural water technologies along with the associated challenges and emerging topics such as the application of artificial intelligence, machine studies in water technologies, as well as Internet of Things (IoT) mapping. This event drew the attention of participants from a wide variety of sectors, including academia, research & development laboratories, and industries.

Throughout the event, the submission and review procedures for abstracts and full-length papers played a crucial role. In addition, the conference featured an engaging lecture series on "Photonics for Water Technologies" in partnership with the SPIE ITB Student Chapter as well as an instructive tutorial on "Internet of Things (IoT) in Sensor Technology" in collaboration with Ambetronics Engineers Pvt. Ltd.

Awards constituted an essential part of the event. The ICWT "Young Scholar Award" was bestowed upon the most outstanding pre-doctoral researcher in the final stages of their doctoral research. Moreover, the best oral and poster presentations, as well as the most promising technological innovation, were recognized with the ICWT "Innovation Award."



By the conclusion of this four-day AUA academic conference, it had effectively established a platform for knowledge dissemination and collaboration within the field of water technologies. This event not only presented the latest research findings and innovations but also enhanced the network amongst professionals and researchers committed to tackling water-related challenges.

MARITIME TRADE AND CULTURAL TRANSMISSION: HISTORICAL ARCHIVE, PORT NETWORKS AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATIONS

MARCH 2024

PEKING UNIVERSITY



AUA PARTICIPANTS

12



AUA UNIVERSITIES

6

The AUA Academic Conference on Maritime Trade and Cultural Transmission: Historical Archives, Port Networks and Knowledge Disseminations was held at Peking University from March 9th to 10th, 2024. Thirty-eight scholars from 22 universities attended the conference, including 12 scholars from 6 AUA member universities.

The successful organization of this seminar not only provides a platform for academic exchanges among scholars from various countries, but also fully consolidates the consensus of experts in different fields. Everyone believes that the factors of excellent Asian civilization should be organically integrated and closely combined with the development of realistic civilization, so as to achieve creative development of diversity in Asian civilization. It is necessary to strengthen the exchange and application of Asian civilization, Asian values, and Eastern wisdom, drive common development and prosperity among all countries and regions, and promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.



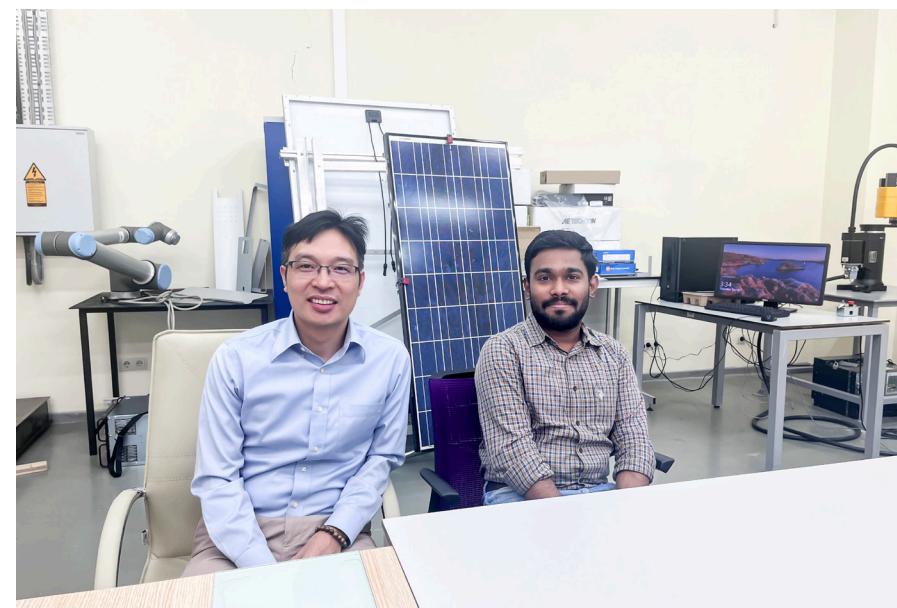
AUA SCHOLARS AWARD PROGRAM 2023-2024

 AUA PARTICIPANTS

60

 AUA UNIVERSITIES

14



The Asian Universities Alliance Scholars Award Program (AUASAP), since its inception in 2018, has emerged as a preeminent initiative dedicated to fostering international research connections and academic progress. The program enables AUA member universities to host scholars from other member institutions for two-week visits, during which the visiting scholars can engage in a wide array of activities such as course delivery, academic presentations, research undertakings, and field investigations. Over the years, AUASAP plays a crucial role in promoting long-term, in-depth, and frequent academic interactions among AUA community, contributing significantly to the innovation and collaboration within Asian higher education. It also aims to enhance the study and appreciation of Asia's rich and diverse cultural heritage, in line with AUA's mission and vision.



In the 2023-2024 cycle of AUASAP, a total of 176 applications were received. The results were announced on December 15th, 2023, revealing that 60 scholars hailing from 14 universities were selected for the program. As the AUASAP continues to develop and gain more competitiveness, it serves as a cornerstone for promoting academic exchanges, not only in research but also in cultural understanding and knowledge transfer, thus contributing to knowledge sharing, the cultivation of new-generation scholars, and the advancement of science and society.



AUA Scholar	Home University	Host University	Host Professor
Aly Hassan, Ashraf	UAEU	KSU	Abdulaziz Hussain Al-Anazi
Ariff, Mohamadariff Othman	UM	KSU	Hamsakutty Vettikalladi
Aziz, Muhamad Afiq	UM	SNU	Han Sang Yoo
Balakrishnan, Vishalache	UM	UoC	W.S. Chandrasekara
Bin Jamil, Asyraf Isyraqi	UM	KSU	Rashid Al-Abdulkareem
Buranasudja, Visarut	CU	NUS	Ho Han Kiat
Chakraborty, Shiladri	IITB	NUS	Sanjib Kumar Panda
Chan, Yoke Fun	UM	UTokyo	Moi Meng Ling
Cho Cho Thet	UY	CU	Songphol Kanjanachuchai
Chong, Wen Tong	UM	THU	Yan Da
De Silva, Hondamuni Ireshika Chathurani	UoC	CU	Tanatorn Khotavivattana
de Troullioud de Lanversin, Julien	HKUST	THU	Li Bin
Deng, Haifeng	THU	UM	Jason Chuah
Dong, Yanhong	NUS	PKU	Hong-Qiang Sun
Fatima, Sabiha	KSU	IITB	Rohit Srivastava
Gim, Tae-Hyoung (Tommy)	SNU	UTokyo	Fumihiko Seta
Hasanuzzaman, Md	UM	UI	Akhmad Herman Yuwono
Hewamanage, Wimal	UoC	IITB	C D Sebastien
Hwang, Seung-won	SNU	THU	Zaiqing Nie
Jia, Xizeng	THU	SNU	Yuri Lee
Kafshdar Goharshady, Amir	HKUST	IITB	S Akshay
Kapsalyamova, Zhanna	NU	HKUST	Deyu Rao
Karunaweera, Nadira	UoC	UTokyo	Jun Ohashi
Kazi, Mohsin	KSU	UM	Md Jasim Uddin
Khalifa, Hazim	UAEU	UM	Najihah Mohd Hashim
Khan, Azizuddin	IITB	UM	Selina Khoo Phaik Lin
Lau, Wee Yeap	UM	UAEU	Mohamed T. Madi
Lee, Hyewon	SNU	CU	Kasekarn Kasevayuth
Lee, Sang-Mook	SNU	IITB	Chandrasekhar Enamundram
Limpuangthip, Nareudee	CU	SNU	Jae-Hyun Lee

AUA Scholar	Home University	Host University	Host Professor
Loo, Chu Kiong	UM	HKUST	Zhou Xiaofang
Lu, Shuai	THU	NUS	Chao Yuan
Maddumage, Deepika Kumudini	UoC	UM	Che Aleha Binti Ladin
Majid, Siti	UM	NU	Zhumabay Bakenov
Maqsood, Sajid	UAEU	CU	Kitipong Assatarakul
Miss Laiha binti Mat Kiah	UM	UAEU	Ezedin Barka
Muhamad, Ahmad Shamsuri	UM	UI	Frieda Maryam Mangunsong Siahaan
Omar, Hasmahzaiti	UM	UI	Abi Abinawanto
Pelupessy, Dicky Chresthovier	UI	UTokyo	Naoya Sekiya
Rafeiro, Humberto	UAEU	NU	Durvudkhan Suragan
Rajasuriar, Reena	UM	NUS	Andrea Maier
Rather, Zakir Hussain	IITB	KSU	Majed Alotaibi
S. Akshay	IITB	HKUST	Amir Goharshady
Saeed, Nasir	UAEU	SNU	Byonghyu Shim
Satyanaga, Alfredo	NU	UI	Widjojo Adi Prakoso
Shao, Zhufeng	THU	HKUST	Fumin Zhang
Siddavatam, Ravi Prakash Reddy	IITB	NU	Ton Duc Do
Sivakumar, Bellie	IITB	UTokyo	Taikan Oki
Susilowati, Indri Hapsari	UI	NUS	Angelique Wei-Ming Chan
Ukwattage, Nadeesha	UoC	SNU	Jung Hun Seo
Vasa, Parinda	IITB	UTokyo	Kaoru Yamanouchi
Vijaya Kumar, Srineash	IITB	THU	Enhao Wang
Wan Mohtar, Wan Abd Al Qadr Imad Bin	UM	UAEU	Sulaiman Al Zuhair
Wang, Wei	THU	CU	Patcha Utiswannakul
Wang, Yanwei	NU	THU	Li-Tang Yan
Wijeratne, Vithana Pathirannehelage Indika Sandamali	UoC	PKU	De Tong
Xie, Kankan	PKU	NUS	Matthew Reeder
Yagiz, Saffet	NU	UAEU	Hasan Arman
Yergabulova, Aigerim	NU	SNU	Yves Gueron
Zhang, Yi	THU	NU	Alfrendo Satyanaga

Strategy & Policy

AUA provides opportunities for the member universities to discuss strategies, policies and administrative practices. Besides annually holding the AUA Presidents Forum (AUAPF) during which university strategies are presented and discussed, AUA also hosts Asian Conference on Higher Education, AUA Online Education Fair and AUA Staff Exchange Program under this Strategy & Policy module.

AUA PRESIDENTS FORUM

2023

SHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION IN AN EVOLVING ASIA: CREATION, INTEGRATION, AND INNOVATION

MAY 2023

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY

The Asian Universities Alliance Presidents Forum 2023 was held on May 12th at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, as part of The AUA Summit 2023. Panel sessions at the forum focused on the theme "Shaping Higher Education in an Evolving Asia: Creation, Integration, and Innovation." The event marked the first in-person reunion of AUA university leaders since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The forum comprised three sessions that tackled important opportunities and challenges related to Asian higher education. The first session, "The Modern University—Continuity and Change" was moderated by Yvonne Lim, Associate Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya. Panelists of the session were Sayasat Nurbek, Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ghaleb Alhadrami Albreiki, AUA President and Acting Vice Chancellor of United Arab Emirates University, Abdullah S. Al-Salman, Vice President of King Saud University, Kaori Hayashi, Executive Vice President of The University of Tokyo, Agustin Kusumayati, University Secretary of Universitas Indonesia, and Wang Xiqin, President of Tsinghua University. Panelists discussed topics including how universities can balance tradition and modernity, goals for the future, how social changes like demographics will affect the future of higher education, how COVID-19 prepared universities for future changes, and the impact of ChatGPT on higher education.



During the second session, moderated by AUA Secretary Zhang Chuanjie, panelists discussed academic mobility and talent attraction in Asia. Panelists Ning Qi, Vice President of Peking University, Mohd. Hamdi Abd. Shukor, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya, Vassilios Tourassis, Vice Provost of Nazarbayev University, and Wang Hongwei, Vice President of Tsinghua University, exchanged views on the incentives, obstacles, and best practices for attracting talent to Asian universities and the paths to mutual recognition of academic qualifications for students.



The third session on sustainable universities and student sustainability competence was moderated by Loretta O'Donnell, Vice Provost of Nazarbayev University. Guo Yike, Provost of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, H.D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo, Jae Young Kim, Executive Vice President of Seoul National University, Ponthong Malakul Na Ayudhya, Vice President of Chulalongkorn University, and K. V. Krishna Rao, Deputy Director of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, discussed how universities are working towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After the three sessions, President Katsu from Nazarbayev University, Provost Ilesanmi Adesida of Nazarbayev University, and AUA President Ghaleb Alhadrami Albreiki offered their reflections. Sharing his takeaways from the forum, Albreiki said, "We are living in an era where a 'good university' should not work alone. This alliance is the best thing we can do for universities in Asia and it makes us unique." Adesida commented, "It is by coming together and working together assiduously to progress, that we move forward and make great leaps."



Katsu offered concluding remarks: "I'm sure we are going to build a strong partnership, a further strong alliance. And in the future, we will be more inclusive and open." He continued, "The role of higher education institutions will be even more important than before. In some ways, our universities provide a safe place for young minds to explore, to develop, and to experiment. And only in that way, even by failing, will they become the future leaders."

AUA EDUCATION FAIR

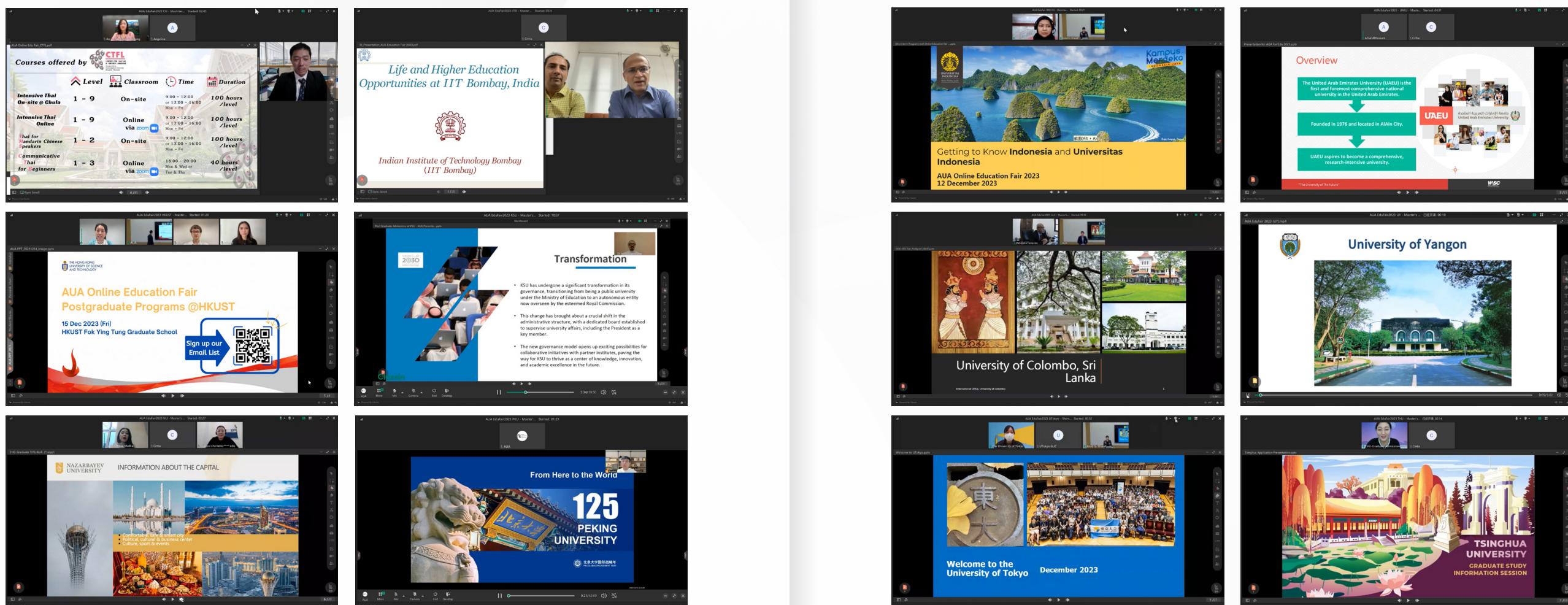
AUA ONLINE EDUCATION FAIR 2023

DECEMBER 2023

The annual AUA Online Education Fair was successfully held from December 12th to 15th, 2023.

This is the third year that the 15 AUA member universities have jointly organized the Education Fair, and on the official website of the fair, each university provides detailed information on admissions, including admission requirements, curriculum, scholarship opportunities, etc. This information is undoubtedly a valuable resource for students who are planning their future education path, enabling them to gain a clearer understanding of the characteristics and advantages of each university and make a more informed choice for their applications.

The AUA Online Education Fair 2023 had a total of 25 live presentations broadcast online. The short-term programs were introduced on December 12th and 13th, and the postgraduate program were presented on December 14th and 15th. The education fair also showcased "Glimpses of AUA Universities", showing the campus landscape, academic environment and student life of Asia's top



universities through photos and videos. The Asian Universities Alliance Education Fair 2023 was a bridge that connected students with the top universities in Asia through an online platform, breaking the constraints of geography and time zones to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Asian higher education. With the success of the exhibition, it is hoped that aspiring learners will achieve their academic goals in AUA universities.

AUA ASIAN CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2023

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

AUA PARTICIPANTS

40

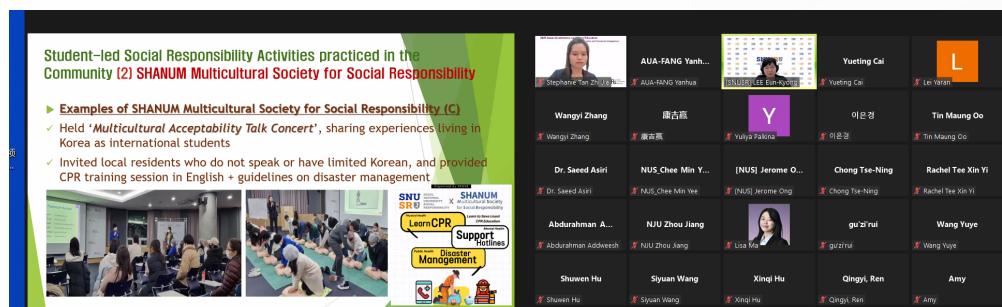
AUA UNIVERSITIES

10

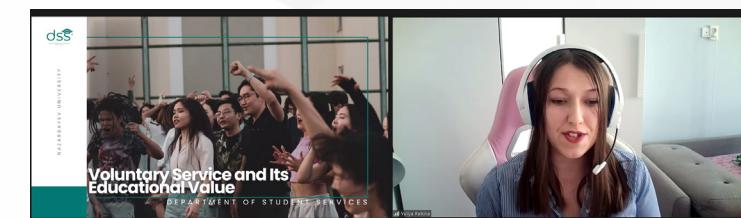
The "2023 Asian Conference on Higher Education—Student Volunteers and Community Engagement", a newly launched program category within the Asian Universities Alliance, was successfully hosted by Tsinghua University on September 23rd, 2023.

The conference focused on the organic integration of student volunteer service and education, particularly addressing how universities can develop volunteer education programs. Participants from various universities detailed the characteristics of campus volunteer project construction and shared successful case experiences. Simultaneously, in-depth discussions took place on the challenges faced in volunteer construction, such as incentive mechanisms and the effective operation of volunteer activities.

Yang Yegong, head of Organizing and Training Department of China Youth Volunteer Association, delivered a keynote address, providing insights into the work and development of the China Youth Volunteers Association, and the Western Volunteer Service Program for college students. He underscored the vital significance of international exchanges facilitated by volunteers to the development of various local communities. Teachers and students from different regions collectively explored the best practices and future directions of student volunteer services, sparking thoughtful discussions.



Dr. Saeed Asiri from King Saud University expressed his deep immersion and enjoyment at the conference. He learned diverse models for organizing university student volunteer activities from the sharing of different speakers and projects. He looked forward to future meetings between university staff or administrators to discuss potential collaboration and improvement measures that could impact future volunteer activities. Ms. Yuliya Palkina from the University of Yangon viewed the conference as a valuable experiment and provided suggestions and expectations for the development of the Asian Universities Alliance in volunteer activities. She advocated for the establishment of a platform for post-conference communication among participants and the organization of offline events to facilitate deeper exchanges.



AUA STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2023-2024

 AUA STUDENTS

15

 AUA UNIVERSITIES

12



Since its establishment in April 2017, the Asian Universities Alliance has been committed to enhancing mobility and exchange among member universities, an endeavor that has always been at the core of AUA's mission. AUA firmly believes that meaningful and frequent exchanges between university staff are essential to promote cooperation prospects, deepen understanding of existing projects, and increase awareness of member institutions' operational and management procedures. For that purpose, AUA officially launched the Staff Exchange Program (AUASEP) in April 2018. This initiative fosters professional interaction and collaboration among member institutions by facilitating one-week exchange visits for staff members to other AUA member universities or the AUA Secretariat.

The 2023-2024 round of AUASEP received 28 qualified applications. Fifteen candidates were selected, representing 12 member universities across the Alliance network. These exchanges have spanned a wide spectrum of university operations, encompassing key administrative areas including admissions offices, international affairs, public relations departments, and academic faculties.



SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES OF AUA STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2023-2024

NAME OF CANDIDATE	HOME UNI	HOME OFFICE	HOST UNI	HOST OFFICE
Al Darmaki, Fatima	UAEU	Provost Office	NU	Office of the Provost
Collins Chong, Yew Keat	UM	Office of the Registrar	UoC	International Office
Heng, Shu Bing Crystal	NUS	Medicine Dean's Office, International Relations	UTokyo	International Projects Promotion Group
Jamaludin, Ferlynda Fazleen	UM	Academic Development and Enhancement Centre	UI	Academic Development and Learning Resources
Miura, Mana	UTokyo	Office of International Students, School of Engineering	NUS	Global Relations Office
Patil, Yogesh Sonu	IITB	Hostel Coordinating Unit	UAEU	Admission Section
Pokle, Nagesh	IITB	Systems and Control Engineering	CU	Office of International Affairs and Global Network
Rattanapaeng, Sukwanchat	CU	Student Development Division, Office of Student Affairs	UM	International Relations Office
Rihhadatulaisy, Haniifah	UI	Public Relations	CU	Communication Center
Rijil, Anjali	IITB	Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering	UI	Directorate of Academic Development and Learning Resources
Sapobekova, Ainur	NU	Office of the Registrar	IITB	Office of the Registrar
Senin, Muhamad Khairul Anuar	UM	International Relations Centre	THU	Office of Global Affairs, SIGS
Shetty, Archana	IITB	Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering	CU	Faculty of Science
Song, Hyoryun	SNU	Office of International Affairs	HKUST	Office of the Vice-President for Institutional Advancement
Zhang, Fengjia	THU	Office of Academic Affairs, Tsinghua SIGS	UM	International Relations Centre

45

Pilot Programs

The Module of Pilot Programs was created as the fourth module of the AUA Framework 2023-2026 so as to allow AUA to remain open for new initiatives and explore the possibility of deeper collaborations among member universities. Under this module, AUA has established the online education network, and co-organized "Climate x" Leadership Training Program with the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate.

"CLIMATE X" LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

2023

JULY-AUGUST 2023

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY



STUDENTS

977

AUA STUDENTS: 329



UNIVERSITIES

392

AUA UNIVERSITIES: 13

The "Climate x" Leadership Training Program 2023, co-hosted by the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC) and the Asian Universities Alliance, aimed to empower the next generation to take innovative actions toward a net-zero future. By emphasizing the synergy between climate change and other UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the initiative adopted a 'Train The Trainer' approach through a combination of interdisciplinary lectures, diversified workshops, and engagement practices. This six-month program was open to university students globally, enrolling around 1,000 students from nearly 400 universities across 78 countries and regions, including 335 students from 13 AUA member universities.

In July 2023, students dedicated approximately five hours per week to complete a series of self-paced online coursework and interactive Q&A sessions. This module included Climate x' theme courses and leadership cultivation courses. Delivered by professors and researchers from world-class universities within GAUC and AUA, the theme courses enhanced participants' scientific ingenuity, deepened their understanding of global governance, and broadened their international perspectives. The leadership courses inspired the students to explore their potential and ignite their intrinsic drive for self-realization.



Several scholars from AUA universities contributed to the training program. Professor Aruna Napayalage from the United Arab Emirates University presented a session on tsunamis. Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe from the University of Colombo discussed climate-induced disasters and the role of youth in reducing risk. Professor Yoshimura Kei from the University of Tokyo lectured on changing water disasters due to climate change. Prof. Mannix P. Balanay from Nazarbayev University offered insight into a planetary prescription for climate and health. Professor Masahiro Hashizume, from the University of Tokyo, delved into the profound effects of climate change on human health. Professor Amasawa Eri, also from the University of Tokyo, provided a session on understanding sustainable fashion through life-cycle thinking.

AUA ONLINE EDUCATION NETWORK



From August to November, after completing the online training, program students were encouraged to organize three local offline or hybrid training practice events that were delivered in rich and diverse form, with their roles transformed from "trainees" to "trainers". In total, the students organized 300 events in their local communities, engaging nearly 30,000 people worldwide.

Following the success of the 2023 "Climate x" Leadership Training Program, a youth delegation for COP28 was organized. This delegation comprised 19 emerging leaders, including selected students from the program, 2022 GAUC Global Youth Ambassadors who served as youth mentors, and dedicated students from GAUC member universities. During their stay at COP28, they observed the climate negotiations, participated in side events, and organized their own workshops. The young delegates seized the opportunity to collaborate with youth and multi-stakeholders worldwide, contributing their share to a net-zero future.



SEPTEMBER 2023 TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

AUA PARTICIPANTS

20

AUA UNIVERSITIES

13

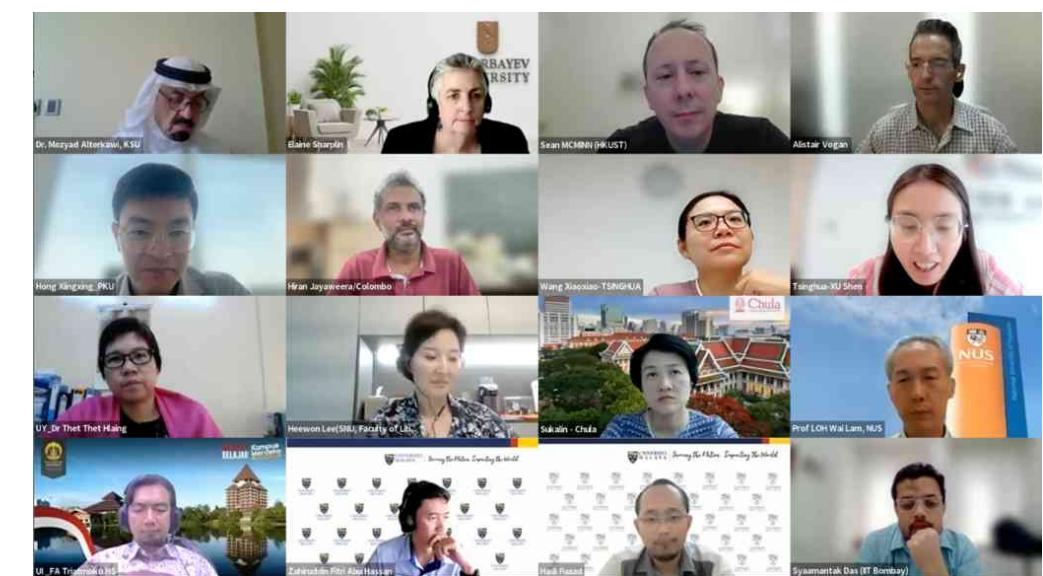
On Sept 15th, 2023, the AUA Online Education Network held its inaugural meeting online, with 20 participants representing 13 universities across Asia.

Peng Gang, Tsinghua University's Vice President and Provost, delivered an opening speech, while the meeting was chaired by Wang Xiaoxiao, Director of Tsinghua's Online Education Center.

In his opening remarks, Peng recognized the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, which is reshaping various fields. He outlined three expectations for the newly established online education network within the alliance. Firstly, leveraging digital tools to enhance teaching methods and the overall quality of education through initiatives such as global classrooms and student competitions. Secondly, facilitating the exchange of teaching staff to enhance their digital skills. Lastly, creating a platform for member universities to foster communication and idea exchange. This would involve organizing seminars and expert dialogues aimed at exploring the integration of AI and education.

Several collaborative initiatives were proposed, including dialogues among digital education experts, classrooms integrating global students, faculty development programs, and contests for digital learners.

During meeting discussions, participants delved into the content and significance of these projects. They emphasized the need to improve teaching methods, enhance educators' digital competencies, and establish effective communication platforms. All participants agreed on the critical role of AI in higher education and expressed the hope for increased collaboration to drive forward digital transformation and elevate the quality of higher education across Asia.



Governance

AUA BOARD MEETING 2023

MAY 2023

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY

The AUA Board Meeting was successfully held on May 11th, 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Hosted by Nazarbayev University, it was the first face-to-face summit since 2020 that brought together delegates representing fifteen member universities.

Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Shigeo Katsu, President of Nazarbayev University. He welcomed all the guests and emphasized that it was a great honor for Nazarbayev University to host a AUA Summit in Astana. "We are thrilled to host this year's important AUA Board Meeting 2023. It is so nice to be able to reconnect in person and together build our strong alliance," said Katsu.



Chaired by Katsu in session one, AUA President 2022-2023 Wang Xiqin welcomed new board members. Wang Hongwei, Vice President of Tsinghua University, presented a review of AUA 2017-2023. He also discussed various programs organized by AUA throughout six years. He noted that Tsinghua University will continue working with AUA member universities toward achieving the Alliance's mission.

During his address, President Wang Xiqin reflected on AUA's achievements and emphasized areas that need further development. "We should keep pooling and sharing our educational resources, for the purpose of launching and promoting a series of public education programs that have global impacts. Also, more work needs to be done in connecting AUA with universities and organizations outside the region in order to raise the global clout of AUA as well as Asian higher education."

Following the review, Wang Xiqin presented tokens of appreciation to holders of the AUA Executive Presidency from 2019 to 2023. Later, two progress reports by AUA working groups were presented by Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost of Nazarbayev University, and Pomthong Malakul Na Ayudhaya, Vice President of Chulalongkorn University. The Board members briefly discussed the outcomes of working group meetings and jointly agreed to strengthen collaboration among universities.



During session two, the Board members voted for the AUA Presidency and determined that United Arab Emirates University will hold the presidency for the term 2023-2026. AUA member universities also confirmed that The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology will hold the Executive Presidency for 2023-2024.

AUA Secretary Dr. Zhang Chuanjie presented AUA Program Proposals and Amendments to the AUA Constitution.

During session three, Yvonne Lim Ai Lian, Associate Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya, reported on dual degree program development between AUA members. Following her address, an open discussion took place, and delegates confirmed to enhance interdisciplinary education by promoting joint degree programs.

At the end of the Board Meeting, Ghaleb Ali Alhadrami Albreiki, AUA President 2023-2026, delivered closing remarks. He thanked AUA member universities for their unwavering support. "Together we can achieve great things and continue to make a positive impact on our community," said Albreiki. He said United Arab Emirates University was honored to hold the Presidency and encouraged all members to continue building a brighter future for all.

AUA EXECUTIVES' MEETING 2023

 NOVEMBER 2023

 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The seventh Executives' Meeting of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUAEM) was hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) from November 7th to November 10th, 2023. The AUAEM is an annual meeting to congregate, review the programs and discuss the opportunities for future development.

The AUA Executive President and the HKUST President Prof. Nancy Y. IP opened the meeting and welcomed the AUA representatives to the HKUST campus, following the AUA Presidents Forum 2019 that was also held in HKUST. She reiterated HKUST's commitment to strengthening collaboration with AUA and believed that "together, we can shape a future that is not only technological advanced, but also sustainable, inclusive, and harmonious."

The opening ceremony was graced with the address from Prof. Ghaleb AlBriki, the AUA President and Acting Vice Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU). He lauded the role of AUA in strengthening member universities. “The success of AUA, as it has matured into a thriving collaboration, stands as a testament to the potential of international academic associations to achieve what individual institutions cannot in isolation,” he said. The President of AUA recommended that the alliance should search into the critical topic of inclusiveness and explore its numerous advantages.



Prof. Kaori Hayashi, Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo, chaired the first two sessions, which reviewed the AUA programs hosted by member universities in the past few months. These included overseas study programs, Asia deep dive programs, academic conferences and several pilot programs.

Prof. K.V.K. Rao, Deputy Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, chaired the subsequent session on increasing inclusiveness of AUA programs, where several proposals were introduced and discussed. Prof. Ahmed Murad, Associate Provost for Research of UAEU, shared with the members the outcomes and future opportunities from the



UAEU-AUA joint research programs.

On the following day, Prof. Wang Hongwei, Vice President of Tsinghua University, chaired Session Four on discussions over proposals emerging from the working group meetings. Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida, Acting President of Nazarbayev University, reported on the seventh meeting of AUA Working Group I on Financial Sustainability, and Dr. Mezyad Alterkawi, Director of the International Cooperation Department at King Saud University (KSU), reported on the seventh meeting of AUA Working Group II on Member and Observer Admission.

In the fifth session chaired by Prof. Yang Wang, Vice-President of HKUST, the issue of executive presidency was discussed. University of Colombo Vice Chancellor Prof. Hettige Don Karunaratne chaired the wrap-up and closing session, in which KSU Vice President Prof. Abdullah AlSalman shared latest development of KSU, and Dr. Muna Bufaroosha of UAEU introduced the events UAEU would host during COP 28. In his closing remarks, Prof. Yang Wang referred to this meeting as “a very successful one” and

encouraged AUA members to play a greater role in tackling global challenges.

The unveiling ceremony of Asian Universities Alliance Limited was held on the second day of AUAEM 2023. Dr. Choi Yuk-lin, Secretary for Education of Hong Kong SAR, Prof. Nancy IP, Prof. Ilesami Adesida, Prof. Hongwei Wang, Prof. Ahmed Murad and AUA Secretary Dr. Chuanjie Zhang unveiled the plaque of the AUA company. As AUA President Prof. Albreiki commented, "This entity symbolizes a significant leap forward in financial management. Its advantages extend beyond geographical boundaries, facilitating seamless collaboration and investment for our members, partners, and stakeholders, thereby boosting our overall productivity and effectiveness."

On 8th Nov, the AUA delegates also joined a Leadership Forum hosted by HKUST, themed "Collaboration for a Sustainable Future". The forum emphasized the importance of partnerships for data collection and effective evaluation for sustainability initiatives in creating a prosperous shared future.





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