Asian
Universities
Alliance

YEARBOOK
2024-2025

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Alliance

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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
Qatar University	QU	Doha, Qatar

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Peking University
Tsinghua University
Chulalongkorn University
Nazarbayev University
University of Yangon
The University of Tokyo
Seoul National University
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
University of Colombo
United Arab Emirates University
Universiti Malaya
Qatar University
National University of Singapore
King Saud University
Universitas Indonesia

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PREFACE

The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), a vibrant consortium of sixteen member universities, has continued to play a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of higher education in Asia. Looking back on the academic year 2024-2025, AUA continually acted as a driving force in fostering collaboration, innovation, and international cooperation among its community and beyond. This yearbook serves as a comprehensive record of AUA's progress from April 2024 to April 2025, highlighting its achievements, initiatives, and the collective efforts.

In 2024-2025, AUA celebrated its continuous growth and evolution with several significant milestones. Qatar University joined AUA as its first Associate Member in September 2024, further expanding the alliance's reach and influence. This addition brought in new perspectives and resources, enriching the collaborative environment within AUA and among the Asian region. The inaugural meeting of the AUA Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Network in November 2024 was another landmark event. It signified the official establishment of a specialized AUA network devoted to nurturing creative talents and promoting innovation, setting the stage for exciting developments in this crucial area.

Student mobility programs remained a cornerstone of AUA's activities, offering students invaluable opportunities to gain international experience, broaden their horizons, and develop a global perspective. The AUA Youth Forum on "New Perspectives on Drug Discovery and Personalized Medicine" was held at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in November 2024. It fostered interdisciplinary learning and international collaboration by providing practical workshops, industry visits, and in-depth discussions to students.

The AUA Asia Deep Dive Program held first online and then in Indonesia, from July 9th to 29th, 2024, allowed 27 students from 9 universities to immerse in Indonesia's rich culture, natural wonders, and scientific advancements. It not only provided academic knowledge but also enhanced students' cultural understanding and appreciation of diversity. The AUA Overseas Study Programs (OSP) covered a wide range of topics and provided member universities' students with various study abroad opportunities. Altogether, 82 students participated in OSP programs in the areas of climate change, innovation and entrepreneurship, and education.

Enhancing research collaboration and joint innovation is one of the AUA's significant approaches to achieve its mission. Seven AUA Academic Conferences in 2024-2025 covered diverse and critical topics corresponding to the AUA themes 2023-2026. The "Design for Society" conference hosted by Chulalongkorn University in May 2024 explored how design can contribute to societal development. The "Smart and Low-Carbon City" seminar hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in May 2024 focused on reducing carbon emissions in buildings and cities. Participants shared their insights and visited an experiment platform, leading to fruitful discussions and potential research collaborations. The conference titled "Application of Sustainable Life: Balancing Science, Technology, and Human Development", held by Universitas Indonesia, promoted research collaboration and global networking among universities and government agencies in fields of life science, environmental science, and earth science.

The AUA Postgraduate Academic Forums provided excellent platforms for doctoral students and young researchers. The 18th National Environmental Conference for Doctoral Students in conjunction with 2024 AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum at Tsinghua University in May 2024 received a large number of submissions and attracted participants from around the world. The 2025 AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum on Global Health in the Era of Digital Transformation hosted by Seoul National University in February 2025 focused on the impact of digital transformation on global health. Students from different member universities presented their researches and experienced local cultural activities. Universiti Malaya held the 2025 AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum on Planetary Health Early Career Researchers in February 2025, with the aim to integrated planetary health insights into policy and practice.

The 4th AUA Online Education Fair in December 2024 was a great success. Thirteen member universities participated, showcasing their educational offerings through featured web pages, promotional videos, and live broadcasts. The fair attracted thousands of attendees, providing them with detailed information about various academic programs, admission policies, and application procedures.

In the realm of pilot programs, the AUA Online Education Staff Exchange program, coordinated by the AUA Online Education Network, supported three participants from different member universities to exchange ideas and experiences. It significantly contributed to the development of more effective online education programs across the alliance.

Regular meetings and discussions among the leadership of member universities are essential for the smooth operation of the Alliance. The AUA Board Meeting in April 2024 reviewed the alliance's achievements and made important decisions for future development. The selection of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) to hold the AUA Executive Presidency for 2024-2025 and the appointment of Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri as the Executive President were significant outcomes of this meeting. The AUA Executives' Meeting in November 2024, held by IITB in a hybrid mode, reviewed various AUA programs and discussed opportunities for future development.

Higher education institutions in Asia are facing global challenges, such as the need for sustainable development, adaptation to new technologies, and the improvement of educational quality and equity. AUA member universities must continue to work together, leveraging their resources and expertise to address these challenges. The AUA community, through its member universities' collective efforts, can contribute to the development of Asia and the world, fostering innovation, promoting cultural understanding, and producing graduates who are well-equipped to face the challenges of the 21st century.

While this yearbook is a compilation of AUA's activities and achievements in 2024-2025, it is also a call to action for all member universities to continue their collaboration and work towards a brighter future for higher education in Asia. In contemplating the future, AUA will continue to grow and thrive, making even greater contributions to the academic and social development of the region and globe.

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AUA

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MISSION

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

HISTORY

2024
- **November** Launch of AUA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network
- **September** Qatar University admitted as an AUA Associate Member

2023
- **September** Launch of AUA Online Education Network
- **April** UAEU elected to hold AUA Presidency 2023–2026

2022
- **April** 5th Anniversary Celebration

2021
- **September–December** First AUA Lecture Series Program
- **September** First AUA Online Education Fair

2020
- AUA members combating the COVID-19 pandemic

2019
- **April** AUA Secretariat voted by members to be permanently hosted by Tsinghua University

2018
- **November** Release of the first Asian Higher Education Outlook Report
- **April** Launch of AUA Staff Exchange Program
- **March** Launch of AUA Scholars Award Program

2017
- **July–August** First AUA Overseas Study Program
- **April** Tsinghua University elected to hold the first AUA Presidency
- **April** Launch of AUA

2016
- **September** AUA Preparatory Meeting
- **March** AUA proposed by Tsinghua University

BOARD MEMBERS

Wilert PURIWAT
Chulalongkorn University

Nancy IP
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Shireesh B. KEDARE
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Abdullah ALSALMAN
King Saud University

TAN Eng Chye
National University of Singapore

Waqar AHMAD
Nazarbayev University

GONG Qihuang
Peking University

Honglim RYU
Seoul National University

LI Luming
Tsinghua University

Ahmed Al RAEESI
United Arab Emirates University

Heri HERMANSYAH
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 (2024-2025)

Ilesanmi ADESIDA
Nazarbayev University

Ghaleb AlHadrami ALBREIKI
United Arab Emirates University

Subhasis CHAUDHURI
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Bundhit EUA-ARPORN
Chulalongkorn University

Ari KUNCORO
Universitas Indonesia

AUA FRAMEWORK 2023-2026

Student Mobility

Research Collaboration

Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

Asian Civilisations

Public Health

Future Habitat

Strategy & Policy

Pilot Programs

THE AUA FRAMEWORK IS STRUCTURED IN TWO DIMENSIONS

Themes

Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

Asian Civilisations

Public Health

Future Habitat

&

Modules

Student Mobility

Research Collaboration

Strategy & Policy

Pilot Programs
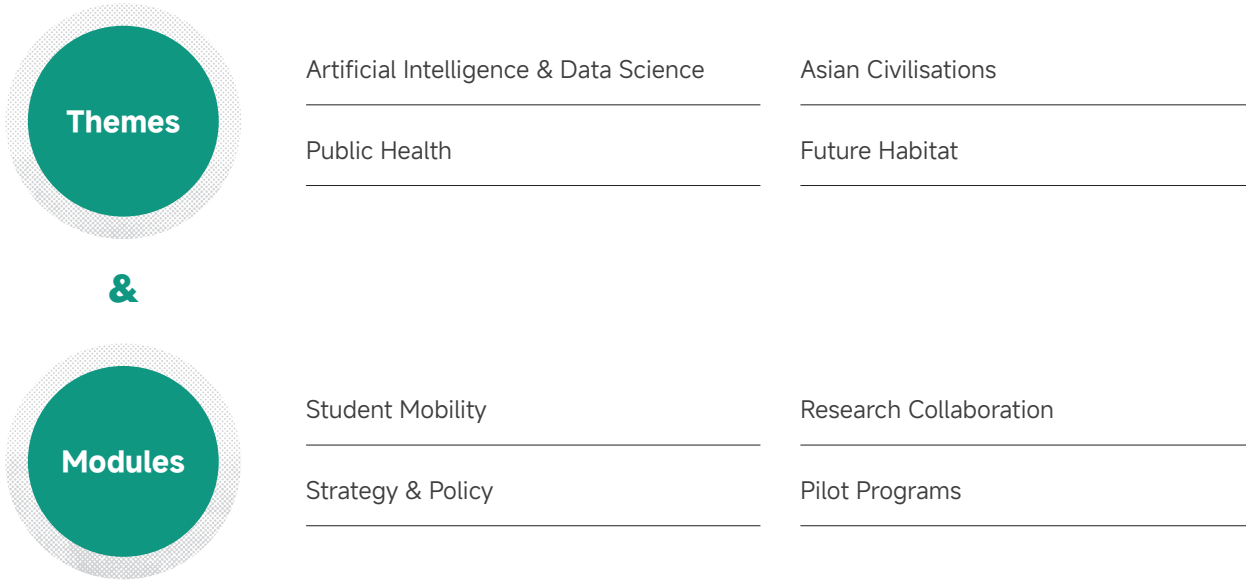
Student Mobility

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 have 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, Joint Lecture Series, Overseas Study Programs, and Arts, Sports and Culture Events.

AUA YOUTH FORUM

A Fresh Outlook to Drug Discovery and Personalised Medicine

From November 11th to 16th, 2024, the Asian Universities Alliance Youth Forum "A Fresh Outlook to Drug Diversity and Personalized Medicine" was successfully held at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. The forum organizers led the students to learn about systems biology methods, microfluidic organ-on-chip technologies, and 3D cell culture technology, also organizing visits to enterprises in the fields of 3D cell culture and bioprinting. This program attracted 40 students from 10 member universities of the alliance to participate.

The forum is rich in content, including practical workshops, brainstorming sessions, industry visits and other parts. The first day of the program focused on basic knowledge of cells cycle, and application of cell cycle indicator based on fluorescence ubiquitination in cell cycle visualization. Thereafter, program students discussed the effects of molecular regulation, the cell cycle regulation in cancer, and the importance of single-cell research in detail.

At the same time, the students visited the relevant laboratories, learned about the microfluidic organoids on a chip model and placenta on a chip model, discussing the needs and challenges of replacing animal experiments with organ on a chip. On the last day of the forum, program students focused their learning and discussion on the image and visualization of cell models and made in-depth visits to enterprise. Throughout the activity there is a strong emphasis on the combination of theory and practice, providing program students with valuable opportunities to understand personalized cancer treatment in depth. This activity also facilitates the construction of an interdisciplinary international collaboration network for young researchers.

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
40	10
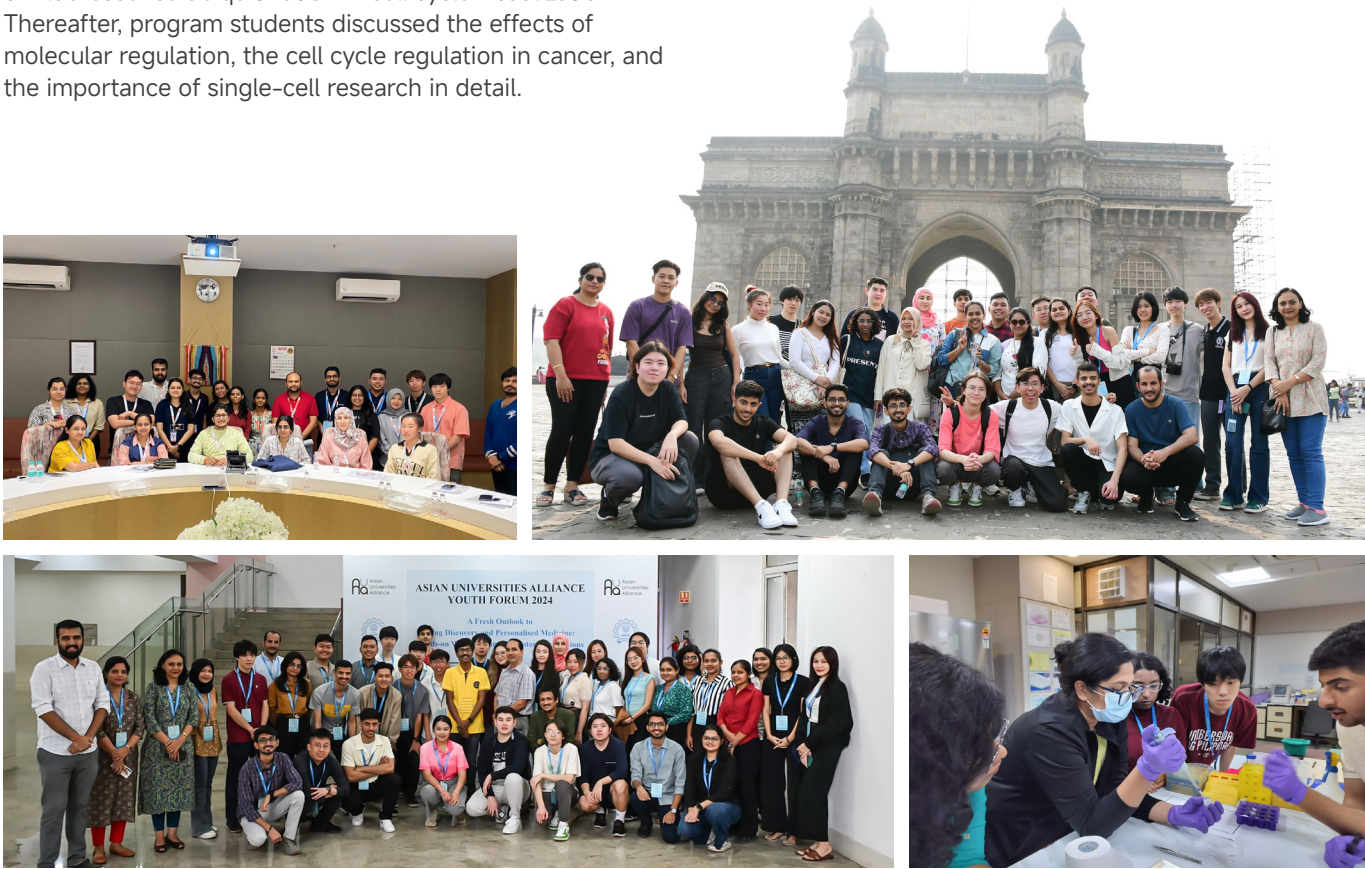
AUA ASIA DEEP DIVE PROGRAM

A Tapestry of Natural, Cultural, and Social Diversity in Indonesia

The Asia Deep Dive Program 2024, organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Universitas Indonesia, concluded its successful run from July 9th to 29th, 2024. The 3-week program was a blend of online and offline activities, offering a unique opportunity for cultural and scientific exploration across Indonesia's rich and diverse landscape.

The program attracted a diverse group of 27 students from 9 universities across the Asia region, including Universitas Indonesia, Universiti Malaya, Chulalongkorn University, Peking University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Seoul National University, The University of Tokyo, Nazarbayev University, and Tsinghua University. The initiative aimed to immerse students in Indonesia's vibrant culture, natural wonders, and scientific advancements.

From July 9th to 18th, the program offered an 8-day online lecture series for students to learn about geodynamics, volcano activities, earthquakes of Indonesia, history and culture of Java, conservation biology, biodiversity, and ethnobiology.

Following the online lecture's part, the Asia Deep Dive Program 2024 carried out a series of enriching experiences that delved into the heart of Indonesia's cultural and natural treasures. Students embarked on an adventure to the active Mount Merapi volcano, where they witnessed firsthand the government's real-time monitoring efforts, providing a unique perspective on the interplay between human vigilance and natural forces. Their journey continued with a visit to the Ullen Sentalu Museum, which served as a portal into the rich tapestry of Java's cultural and historical past. The exploration of Gua Pindul, a karst cave, allowed participants to marvel at the geological and speleological wonders shaped over eons, while a trip to the world-renowned Borobudur Temple offered profound insights into Indonesia's spiritual and artistic legacy.

The program culminated in a visit to Giriloyo Village, where the art of batik craftsmanship came alive through hands-on experiences, leaving an indelible mark on the students' understanding of traditional art forms. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the immersive experience and the opportunity to engage with local communities and experts in various fields.

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
27	9

AUA
OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAMS

Tropical Dynamics & Global Monsoon

The Asian Universities Alliance Overseas Study Program on "Tropical Dynamics & Global Monsoon" was held from June 17th to 21st 2024 at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Eighteen students from seven AUA Universities participated in this program.

The main objective of this program is to introduce the dynamics of tropical climate and different monsoon systems. The organizer of this program started with an introduction to monsoon theory and went on to discuss the coupled monsoon system, the large-scale structure of the monsoon in summer and winter, and its evolution. The program also explored how the characteristics of the monsoon system and circulation features (e.g., Hadley circulation, Walker circulation) have changed with the global warning and explained cloud microphysics and precipitation related processes.

One of the highlights of the program was that the organizers arranged a 3-hour practical session each day. During the hands-on sessions, students used Python to process climate data and were exposed to simple climate models, Large Eddy Simulations (LES), Direct Numerical Simulations (DNS), and Global Climate Models (GCMs). Through individual assignments and collaborative program, program students gained a better understanding of the characteristics of GCMs and gradually master how to process and analyze climate model data generated in the Phase 6 Coupled Model International Comparison Program (CMIP6) project, as well as conducted large eddy simulations through the use of direct numerical simulations.

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

Organized by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Entrepreneurship Center for the second time in two years, the AUA-HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp held on campus at HKUST from July 2nd to 8th, 2024, was a highly impactful and enriching experience for the AUA students. The 7-day program provided a comprehensive and immersive learning environment that fostered the development of entrepreneurial skills and mindset among participants, with the following key objectives:

· Improve entrepreneurship skills and knowledge of the participants, enabling them to launch a startup in Hong Kong or their home country
· Learn about the latest developments in innovation and technology in Hong Kong
· Gain valuable insights into the entrepreneurship ecosystem
· Learn how to present the startup idea including the market needs, business model and finance forecast

Below are some of the highlights from the bootcamp:

Warming Up:

To break the ice and foster a sense of camaraderie, the bootcamp kicked off with engaging welcoming games. Participants had the opportunity to meet and interact with each other and build lasting friendships for years to come.

Groupings:

After the games, participants were divided into groups based on their interests and backgrounds. These groups served as a platform for collaboration and teamwork throughout the bootcamp. Group members supported and motivated each other, creating a nurturing learning environment.

HK Startups Ecosystem and Design Thinking Workshops:

Delivered by Professor Carrie Ling, Director of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center, also an acclaimed expert in the Hong Kong startups ecosystem, the workshops were well received by the students. Participants gained invaluable insights into the local startups scene, emerging trends,

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
18	**7**

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
44	**14**

and strategies for business development. Professor Ling's expertise and interactive teaching style made the sessions informative and inspiring.

Visit to WEEE • PARK:

As part of the bootcamp program, a special visit was arranged to WEEE • PARK, Hong Kong's pioneering waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recycling facility. This visit was designed to educate about the importance of e-waste management and also to think about the untapped business potential in the e-waste ecosystem.

Visit to HKSTP:

The bootcamp included a visit to The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks (HKSTP), the local landmark and regional hub for innovation and technology development. Participants had the opportunity to explore the state-of-the-art facilities and interact with pioneering startups at the park. It was a fascinating experience that showcased the innovative and entrepreneurial energy of the region.

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Competition:

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Competition held on the last day of the camp was a culmination of the participants' learning and a platform for them to showcase their newly acquired knowledge and skills. The competition aimed to assess how effectively the participants had absorbed the concepts, strategies, and techniques taught throughout the bootcamp and how well they could apply them in a practical setting.

The AUA Bootcamp left a lasting impact on all participants, equipping them with valuable skills, knowledge, and connections, serving as a springboard for their entrepreneurial journeys, and providing a strong foundation for their future.

Tech-Wise, Future-Bright:
Nurturing Sustainable Tech-Driven Education

From December 2nd to 6th, 2024, the Asian Universities Alliance's short-term learning program "Tech Wise-Future Bright: Nurturing Suistable Tech Driven Education E-Training Program" was held online. Twenty students from five member universities of the alliance participated in the program. Hosted by Universiti Malaya, the program aimed to explore how to cultivate new types of talents for a world with rapid technological development. It encouraged participants to enhance their understanding of cutting-edge technologies and the sustainability of education with innovative thinking and a global perspective that transcends disciplines, and to consider which skills students should develop in a world where technology is booming.

This program was not only a reflection and experience on future education, but also a journey of transformation. With a comprehensive and integrated perspective, the program enabled students to deeply understand technological changes, educational sustainability, and the connection between these two. It emphasized the ethical considerations of technology and how to utilize technology to align education with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, especially in areas such as quality education (SDG 4), good health and well-being (SDG 3), industry innovation (SDG 9), and strengthening global partnerships (SDG 17).

📅 December 2024

🏛 Universiti Malaya

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
20	5

Research
Collaboration
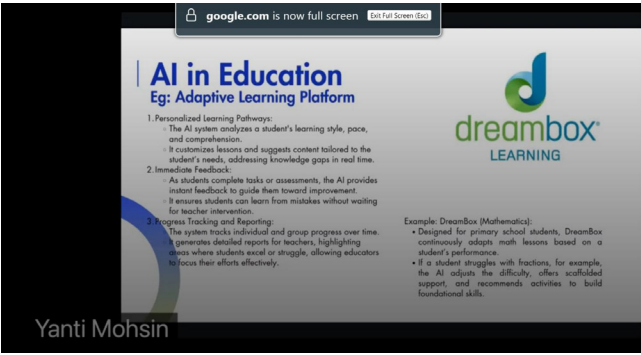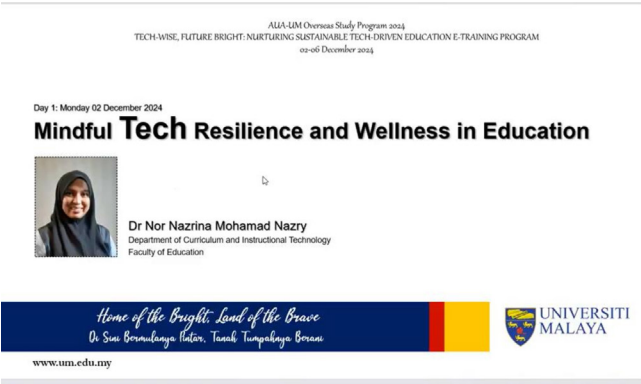
Since the founding of AUA, the member universities have continuously improved communication to foster research collaboration within the alliance. AUA Academic Conferences bring peer scholars of the AUA universities to meet, share and discuss the research of a particular academic domain, extending AUA's 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

Design for Society

From May 25th to 26th, 2024, the Faculty of Architecture of Chulalongkorn University hosted the AUA Academic Conference on "Design for Society." This event explored how design can contribute to and effectively meet the needs of society, promoting sustainable, inclusive, and harmonious growth. The conference strengthened and fostered collaboration and networking among AUA universities, providing a platform for scholars to form academic clusters and exchange cutting-edge research findings, methodologies, and case studies. Additionally, it helped identify emerging trends and challenges in design, laying the groundwork for future interdisciplinary research and discussing the role of design in addressing societal issues such as urbanization, climate change, and inclusivity.

The event included three keynote sessions. The first keynote lecture, titled "Proximity City," was given by Prof. Ezio Manzini, the Founder of Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability (DESIS) Network and Distinguished Professor on Design for Social Innovation at ELISAVA. The second keynote lecture, titled "Art of teamLab: The Concept and Technology Behind," was presented by Mr. Takeshi Yamada, Head of Recruitment at teamLab and the third keynote lecture, "Innovating Aesthetics and

📅 May 2024

🏛 Chulalongkorn University

Functionality through the Hybrid Design of Traditional Crafts and Material Interactions," was delivered by Prof. Dr. Yasuaki Kakehi from the University of Tokyo.

In addition to the keynote sessions, there was a Round Table Discussion on "Proximity City," featuring Associate Professor Dr. Apiradee Kasemsook, President of CDAST, Mr. Sanon Wangsrangboon, Deputy Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Mr. Yossapon Boonsom, Founding Director of Shma Company Limited. Furthermore, the conference included a special lecture on rural development titled "Design for Rural Life with Different Needs" by Prof. Lei Zhendong, the Dean of the College of Architecture at Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, China.

The parallel sessions encompassed more than 30 presentation topics. A total of over 70 participants had submitted papers to the conference.

All attendees were required to deliver their presentation in the allotted venues or participate in other sessions of interest.

Participants	AUA Participants	Universities	AUA Universities
74	49	27	9

Smart and Low-carbon City

Buildings and cities are a major energy consumer and carbon emitter. Substantially reducing carbon emissions from cities is critical to achieving our carbon neutrality goal. From May 31st to June 2nd 2024, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology hosted an AUA Seminar on Smart and Low Carbon City, inviting leading industry professionals and researchers from top Asian universities to share their research and to foster potential research collaborations on this topic.

To ensure a comprehensive discussion, the speakers were divided into eight different sessions, each tackling a specific aspect of the topic. The first day of the conference was primarily geared towards industry-related discussions. In the morning session, the concept of building-grid interaction was explored, with speakers examining how buildings can contribute to the integration of renewable energy sources into the power grid. In the afternoon, the focus shifted to energy-efficient data centers and the role of artificial intelligence in achieving high-performance, low-carbon buildings. The presenters delved into the potential applications of AI in optimizing energy usage and reducing the environmental impact of buildings.

In the morning of the second day, the speakers focused on the topic of smart buildings, exploring innovative technologies and strategies for creating intelligent and sustainable structures. The focus was expanded to include the broader concept of smart cities in the afternoon, specifically examining the application of Photovoltaic Integrated Green Roof technology, which aims to enhance the urban micro-climate and achieve significant carbon reductions on a city-wide scale.

The third day of the conference centered around the integration of the transportation and building sectors. The morning session on electric vehicles discussed their benefits, challenges, and potential solutions for their widespread adoption. The afternoon session explored user behaviors in electric vehicles, shedding light on how people interact with and utilize electric vehicles in their daily lives.

In addition to the panel discussions, the participants also made a field trip to the HKUST Photovoltaic Integrated Green Roof (PVIGR) experiment platform, which was located on the rooftop of the Academic Building at HKUST. Even though it was raining on the day of the field trip, the participants were actively engaged in passionate discussions.

With a total of 40 participants from 18 universities, research institutes, and enterprises, the seminar was quite fruitful. Prof. Adrian Chong from National University of Singapore found the discussions and presentations during this seminar "enlightening and inspiring", providing "new ideas and perspectives to further drive progress in the field of sustainable urban development." "The connections established and knowledge shared during this seminar will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the advancement of smart, low carbon cities," Prof. Lin Borong from Tsinghua University said.

📅 From May to June 2024

🏛 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Participants	AUA Participants	Institutions	AUA Universities
40	22	18	5

Application of Sustainable Life:
Balancing Science, Technology, and Human Development

From August 13th to 14th, 2024, Universitas Indonesia successfully hosted an AUA Academic Conference in conjunction with the 5th Life and Environmental Sciences Academics Forum (LEAF) 2024. The theme of the hybrid joint-conferences was "The Application of Sustainable Life: Balancing Science, Technology, and Human Development", the primary objectives being to acquire new and updated knowledge regarding life science, environmental science and earth science.

Over the course of two days, the conference included three panel discussions with 32 presenters and 43 participants representing 6 AUA universities (including Universiti Malaya, Chulalongkorn University, Universitas Indonesia, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, National University of Singapore, and The University of Tokyo) and various government agencies.

The AUA Academic Conference began with the opening ceremony, chaired by Dr. Yulia Mariana Tesa. Dr. Windri Handayani (Chairman of LEAF 2024) and Prof. Dede Djuhana (Dean Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Indonesia) both delivered the welcoming remarks. Following the opening ceremony, two keynote speakers addressed biodiversity conservation developments and challenges in Southeast Asia. Firstly, Prof. Dr. Rosli Ramli of Universiti Malaya gave a speech on "Issues and Challenges in Conserving Hornbills (Aves: Bucerotidae) in Malaysia". Secondly, Prof. Jatna Supriatna, Ph.D. of Universitas Indonesia gave a speech on "Wildlife Ecotourism in Indonesia: A Review on the Development and Regulation". Several more invited experts discussed related topics in earth science, environmental practices and biodiversity.

The second day of the conference went completely into the first-panel session with 7 invited experts introducing their research results and how it addresses environmental problems, such as assessing seismicity in relocated earthquake hypocenters, as well as new agricultural fertilizers, bimetals and their impact on CO_2 pollution, rock-mass classification in underground mining, etc.

This was followed by the second and third-panel session on the last day of the conference. During the second-panel session, the conference attendees were divided into two groups. Moderated respectively by Adeirma Elvira and Rezky Aditio, they mainly focused on the topic of biodiversity mitigation strategies in Indonesia. The participants also proposed several sustainable biodiversity practices for local communities. The third-panel session, moderated respectively by Andi Salamah, Twin Hosea Widodo Kristyanto of Universitas Indonesia and Tety Maryenti, delved into issues such as climate change policies, sustainable energy optimization, cultivation and land use change impacts on habitats.

For the closing ceremony, delivered by Dr. Windri Handayani, the best presenters specifically for "Life Science", "Environmental Science" and "Earth Science" were announced. For "Life Science", the best presenters were Afiatry Putrika of Universitas Indonesia and Dwi Murti Puspitaningtyas of the Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional (BRIN). For "Environmental Science", the best presenters were Malvin Subroto Pamudji of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Niken Siwi Pamungkas of Chulalongkorn University and Shinta Mayasari of Universitas Lampung, Indonesia. Lastly, for "Earth Science", the best presenters were announced as Twin Hosea Widodo Kristyanto of Universitas Indonesia and Arif Sakhbana of the Universitas Indonesia & Jakarta Groundwater Conservation Center.

In conclusion, the joint-conference was an overall success due to its development of further research collaboration, as seen in the outcomes of plans for joint research initiatives and an expansion of the AUA Staff Exchange Program and Student Mobility Program, which will strengthen ties amongst Asian higher education institutions. Additionally, the event promoted further global networking and collaboration amongst universities and government agencies, as seen in the presence of the Regional Research and Development Agency, Universitas Indonesia & Jakarta Groundwater Conservation Center and the Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional (BRIN). Participants agreed on the invaluable importance of further collaboration in the field of sustainable science and integrating human development, scientific research and technology into shaping a better environment.

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
43	6

Smart and Advanced Manufacturing

From November 27th to 28th in 2024, the AUA Academic Conference on Smart and Advanced Manufacturing was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Focusing on the latest developments in smart and advanced manufacturing, the conference aims to push forward the cooperation between Asian universities and industry community, thereby promoting innovation and development of manufacturing in Asia. More than 30 scholars from 8 member universities attended the conference.

The Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya Noor Azuan Abu Osman delivered a welcoming speech at the opening ceremony. Valluvan A/L Veloo, Director of the Department of Manufacturing, Science and Technology at the Ministry of Economy of Malaysia delivered the keynote speech "The Age of the Smart Factory—the Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing."

The agenda of the conference for the following two days included keynote speeches and several symposiums. On the first day of the conference, Ni Yijing, academician of the Singapore Academy of Engineering, and professor emeritus of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in National University of Singapore, was invited to give a keynote speech entitled "Strengthening Industry-University-Research Cooperation to Promote Future Excellence in Manufacturing." The sessions covered the fields of connectivity technology, material processing, design and manufacturing. Scholars shared their research progress on a number of cutting-edge topics such as smart factory pathways, industrial decarbonization, 4D printing technology, energy efficiency and carbon emissions. On the second day of the conference, Malaysian Aerospace Industries Association President Naguib Mohd Nor delivered a keynote speech entitled "The Role of Innovation in Shaping the Future of Manufacturing." The whole-day conference delved into topics such as material innovation, process optimization and smart manufacturing.

AUA Participants	AUA Universities
30	8

Women in Optics and Photonics in India-Asia

The AUA Academic Conference: Women in Optics and Photonics in India-Asia was held in Mumbai, India, from December 6th to 8th, 2024. A total of 244 scholars from six member universities as well as other universities, participated in the conference. The conference was dedicated to encouraging women's participation in the fields of optics and photonics, showcasing the outstanding work of women researchers, engineers and leaders, and inspiring more women scholars to join the field of optics and photonics. During the three days of the conference, the organizers have arranged a rich program of academic exchanges and seminars to promote knowledge and understanding of the field of optics and photonics, provide academic support for women scientists and help them build an academic network of friends across Asia.

The symposium part of the conference covered the fields of optical fabrication technologies, sensors, biophotonics, nanophotonics, etc. The organizers also showcased the achievements of successful women scientists in the field through a series of lectures, experience sharing by women scientists, and publication workshops, providing guidance to young women scholars in their research, teaching and development. The conference is not only a platform for academic exchanges, but also a friendly community that promotes women's innovation and growth in the field of optics and photonics, empowering women scholars and helping them better carry out scientific research.

Participants	AUA Participants	Universities	AUA Universities
244	13	15	6
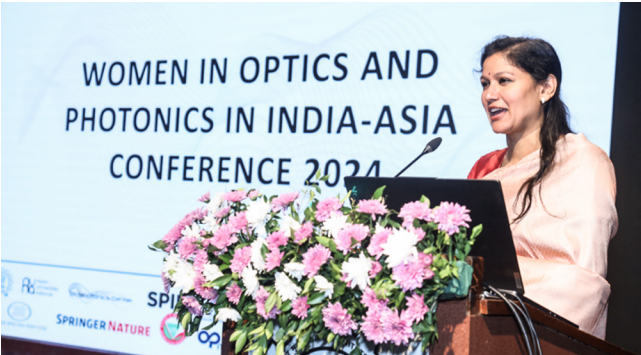
This AUA conference seeks to celebrate and amplify the voices of women in optics and photonics, driving forward a culture of inclusivity and excellence in science. By bringing together a diverse group of participants, this conference will pave the way for impactful research, meaningful connections, and a brighter future in STEM.

Building a Collective AI Ethics Education Platform in Asia: Consensus, Momentum and Strategies for Cooperation

From December 7th to 8th, 2024, an AUA Academic Conference themed "Building A Collective AI Ethics Education Platform in Asia: Consensus, Momentum and Strategies for Cooperation" was held at Tsinghua University. The conference was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Special Initiative on Science and Technology Ethics Education in Chinese Universities and the Center for Science, Technology, and Society Studies at Tsinghua University in collaboration with the Asian Universities Alliance.

The conference aimed to promote in-depth dialogue among AUA member universities, advancing broad consensus on topics related to AI ethics governance and AI ethics education. The conference brought together over 50 faculty and student representatives from AUA member universities, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Seoul National University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, National University of Singapore, Universitas Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates University, and Chulalongkorn University. The participants engaged in extensive academic exchanges on topics such as how to conduct AI ethics education in the context of Asia's diverse cultural backgrounds, how to integrate local cultural characteristics, build an education system that meets societal needs, and cultivate outstanding talents with social responsibility and ethical awareness.

AUA Secretary Jian Liu, also a professor from the School of Architecture at Tsinghua University, delivered a welcome speech at the opening ceremony. Professor Liu emphasized that while AI is reshaping the human world, it also brings ethical issues such as digital privacy and algorithmic bias. These issues require deep reflection, ample dialogue, and collective action. She pointed out that despite their diverse cultural backgrounds and academic experiences of the attendees, the participants shared a common goal—to establish a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary platform that facilitates dialogue and collaboratively shapes AI ethics education both within and beyond Asia.

Professor Zhengfeng Li, representing the Center for Science, Technology, and Society Studies at Tsinghua University and the Secretariat of the Special Task Force on Higher Education Technology Ethics, made opening
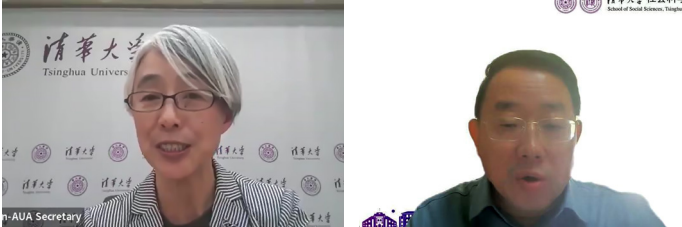
remarks. Professor Li shared his views on AI ethics education from three aspects: the development of AI and the deepening of human self-awareness, the challenges of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research in AI ethics education, and the promotion of multinational cooperation to build an AI ethics education platform in Asia. He highlighted that AI ethics education is not just a technical issue but also a matter of social responsibility and human values. Professor Li emphasized the need for joint participation from governments, businesses, and society to build broad consensus and drive the establishment of an Asian AI ethics education platform.

Professor Wei Hong, Deputy Director of the Center for Science, Technology, and Society Studies at Tsinghua University, set the stage for an engaging keynote session by introducing the Center's development and key initiatives. Dr. Huili Qiu from Tsinghua University opened the discussion with her insightful presentation, "Science and Technology Ethics Education in Chinese Universities in Action: Introduction to The Special Initiative," highlighting innovative approaches to ethics education in China.

📅 December 2024

🏛 Tsinghua University

Participants	AUA Participants	Universities	AUA Universities
53	47	12	8

Professor Volker Schmidt from the National University of Singapore followed with a thought-provoking talk, "Taming AI with Morals? Skeptical Notes," questioning the feasibility of regulating AI through moral frameworks. Associate Professor Haidan Chen of Peking University offered a fascinating ethical analysis in her presentation, "Does Brain-Computer Interface-Based Mind Reading Threaten Mental Privacy? Ethical Reflections from Interviews with Chinese Experts."

Associate Professor Xiaofeng Tang from Tsinghua University explored the transformative potential of AI in education with his presentation, "Empowering Engineering Ethics Education Through Generative AI." Associate Professor Masaru Yarime from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology provided a sectoral perspective with his talk, "A Sectoral Analysis of AI Development and Deployment: Implications for AI Ethics and Governance."

Mr. Gleb Papyshev, also from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, addressed challenges in academia with his presentation, "Ethical Challenges of AI Usage in Social Science Education and Research." Ms. Fangxin Yi from the same institution expanded on this theme with her talk, "Ethical Considerations and Governance in AI-Supported Decision-Making: Implications for Public Policy and Education."

Professor Minsu Ha and his team from Seoul National University showcased practical applications in their presentation, "AI Technology for Teacher-Led Descriptive Assessment: A Case Study of the SAAI System." Associate Professor Kyungmee Lee and her team, also from Seoul National University, offered a critical perspective with their presentation, "ANT in EdTech Studies: Methodological Possibilities, Limitations, and Dangers for Ethics in AI and Education." Finally, Associate Professor Yingqiu Xie from Nazarbayev University closed the session with a compelling call to action in his talk, "Urgency to Establish a United AI Ethical Education Association or Network for Education, Academic Integrity, and Equity."

At this conference, experts and young scholars from AUA member universities shared 22 academic presentations on topics such as AI ethics governance, application of AI in education, and AI risk management. On the evening of December 7th, a Youth Salon was held, and on the afternoon of December 8, a round-table forum took place. These sessions fostered in-depth dialogue and exchanges, helping to bring the participants closer together. Attendees expressed that the content and information shared at the conference expanded their knowledge, broadened their perspectives, and inspired deep reflection. More importantly, the two-day event allowed them to find their research collaborators. As the AUA Secretariat Chief Administrator Ms. Fang Yanhua commented, the conference established a strong foundation for developing an AI ethic education cooperation platform in Asia, and AUA will continue to support such efforts.

SAFE Reproductive Health

From February 25th to 26th, 2025, the School of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, in collaboration with the Asian Universities Alliance, successfully hosted the 2025 AUA Academic Conference and Workshops on "SAFE Reproductive Health". This event was supported by the Ministry of Public Health, the Reproductive Health Association of Thailand and the Chulalongkorn University's Office of International Affairs and Global Network. Held at the Bhumisiri Mangkhalanusorn Building, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, the event brought together more than 200 participants from over 50 institutions and 17 countries.

Themed around the acronym SAFE—Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Access to Comprehensive Healthcare, Freedom from Violence, and Equity—the two-day event highlighted the importance of reproductive health as a cornerstone of sustainable development and social justice across Asia. The conference also emphasized alignment with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The event opened with remarks by Prof. Wilert Puriwat, President of Chulalongkorn University, and Prof. Jian Liu, Secretary of AUA. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Moazzam Ali from the WHO, who discussed the transformative impact of contraception on women's health. The plenary sessions on Day 1 covered critical themes including fertility resilience, sexually transmitted diseases, cervical cancer elimination, postpartum haemorrhage, and the use of artificial intelligence in reproductive health care. These sessions featured experts from leading institutions such as Universitas Indonesia, Peking University, Tsinghua University, National University of Singapore, and Universiti Malaya.

In the afternoon, early-career scholars presented their research through oral and poster sessions, showcasing innovations and challenges in maternal health, adolescent reproductive behavior, digital health solutions, and gender-based violence. The day concluded with a welcome reception and formal conference dinner, fostering networking and regional engagement.

📅 February 2025

🏛 Chulalongkorn University

Participants	AUA Participants	Organizations	AUA Universities
209	74	62	8

Day 2 featured two parallel workshops: one focused on Violence Against Women (VAW) in Asia, and the other on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Challenges in Asia. Moderated by leading academics and WHO representatives, these sessions provided a space for dialogue, strategy-building, and exploring solutions grounded in local realities and global frameworks.

The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion moderated by Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn, the Organizing Chairperson, highlighting key insights, research collaborations, and future teaching initiatives. The final session featured an award presentation recognizing outstanding oral and poster presentations, followed by closing remarks from Assoc. Prof. Chanchai Sittipunt, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

The conference also featured a hybrid component, enabling global access through online platforms, and all sessions were recorded for further dissemination. With 83 abstracts submitted and wide institutional representation, the 2025 AUA "SAFE Reproductive Health" Conference successfully fostered interdisciplinary cooperation and paved the way for future innovations in policy, education, and practice.

AUA POSTGRADUATE ACADEMIC FORUMS

Environmental Sciences

From 10th to 13th May 2024, the 18th National Environmental Doctoral Conference in conjunction with 2024 Asian Universities Alliance Postgraduate Academic Forum was successfully held at Tsinghua University in a hybrid format. Co-organized by the Asian Universities Alliance, Tsinghua University, and the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, this event aimed to provide an outstanding academic platform for doctoral students in the field of environmental science and engineering. With 1,110 participants from 145 universities, the conference received 692 submissions. Among them, 218 were selected for offline oral presentations, 151 for online oral presentations, and 157 for poster presentations. The conference featured seven thematic sessions covering various aspects such as water pollution control, air pollution control, and solid waste pollution control.

One significant feature of this Postgraduate Academic Forum was the two lectures on academic development. Through expert presentations, roundtable discussions, and Q&A sessions, doctoral students had the opportunity to communicate with journal editors and gain better understanding of paper writing and publication.

After the conference, a questionnaire was distributed to collect feedback from 89 participants. The overall satisfaction rating of the conference was 4.29 out of 5, indicating a high level of recognition.

This AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum facilitated in-depth exchanges among doctoral students in the Asian region. This not only inspired scientific research thinking and stimulated innovative vitality but also enhanced the international influence of the conference. A record-high number of international students from over 10 overseas universities participated, including those from 7 AUA member universities and institutions from Switzerland, Germany, and Australia, sharing cutting-edge technologies and diverse perspectives on global environmental governance. The conference played a crucial role in promoting the development of environmental disciplines, cultivating research talents, and contributing to global environmental governance.

🗓 May 2024

🏛 Tsinghua University

Participants	AUA Participants	Universities	AUA Universities
1110	68	145	7

Global Health in the Era of Digital Transformation

The 2025 Asian Universities Alliance Postgraduate Academic Forum on "Global Health in the Era of Digital Transformation" hosted by the Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR) at Seoul National University (SNU) was successfully held on February 7th and 8th, 2025.

This two-day event centered around key theme of "Digital Transformation in Health," with selected students presenting either posters or oral presentations on related research. It attracted 25 students from 7 AUA member universities, including Tsinghua University, Nazarbayev University, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Universiti Malaya, Universitas Indonesia, Chulalongkorn University, and Seoul National University.

Prof. Sun-Young Kim from CGHR inaugurated the event by underscoring the profound influence of digital transformation on global health. Prof. Tae-Jin Lee, Dean of SNU's Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), extended a warm welcome to the participants, emphasizing the significance of interdisciplinary collaboration in the realm of digital health.

The forum presentations were categorized into three distinct sub-themes: Digital Health Innovation and Emerging Technologies, Policy and Governance in Digital Health Transformation and Case Studies in Digital Health: Lessons from the Field. During the keynote session, Prof. Ho Kim from SNU delved into the challenges presented by the digital age, while Prof. Seohyun Lee from Yonsei University offered valuable perspectives on conducting global digital health research.

Beyond its academic focus, the forum offered a wealth of cultural experiences. Participants toured SNU's campus, savored traditional Korean cuisine, enjoyed a captivating performance by the "Yeominrak" music club, and explored the National Museum of Korea, deepening their appreciation of Korean heritage.

Overall, the forum brought together students from diverse nationalities and backgrounds to discuss global health advancements in the digital era. It facilitated in-depth discussions on the opportunities and challenges of digital health, creating a warm and enthusiastic atmosphere among future global health leaders.

📅 February 2025

🏛 Seoul National University

AUA Universities	AUA Students
7	25

Planetary Health Early Career Researchers

The 2025 AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum on Planetary Health for Early Career Researchers (AUAPAF-PHECRs), hosted by Universiti Malaya, brought together postgraduate students and young researchers from six AUA member universities. The forum featured keynote addresses, roundtable discussions, and research presentations, focusing on integrating planetary health insights into policy and practice. This event served as a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to address global sustainability challenges.

📅 Feburary 2025

🏛 Universiti Malaya

AUA Universities	AUA Participants
6	12

Strategy & Policy

04

AUA provides opportunities for the member universities to discuss strategies, policies and administrative practices. Besides holding the AUA Presidents Forum (AUAPF) annually 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 the Strategy & Policy module.

AUA ONLINE EDUCATION FAIR

From December 2nd to 5th, 2024, the 4th Asian Universities Alliance Online Education Fair was successfully held, with participation of 13 member universities of the Alliance. Leading universities from across Asia, including Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, King Saud University, National University of Singapore, Nazarbayev University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, United Arab Emirates University, Universitas Indonesia, Universiti Malaya, University of Colombo, and The University of Tokyo, showcased their historical and cultural backgrounds, educational characteristics, advantageous disciplines, campus scenery, as well as undergraduate degree programs, short-term programs, and postgraduate degree programs through featured web pages, university promotional videos, and 27 live broadcasts.

December 2024

AUA Secretariat
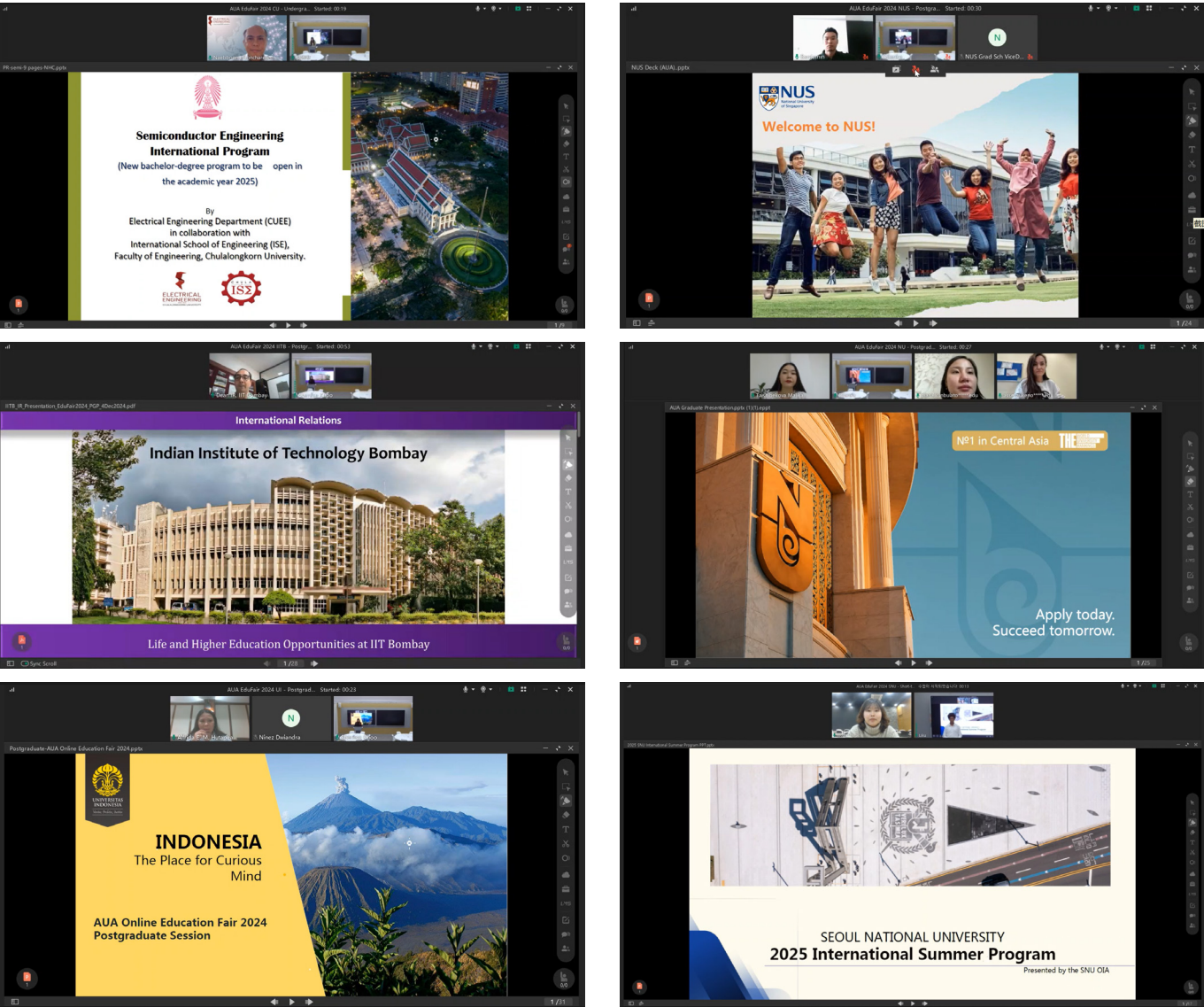
This event marked the fourth consecutive year that AUA member universities jointly organized an education fair virtually. It successfully attracted thousands of attendees, enabling them to discover and take advantage of various higher education opportunities. Admission officers provided detailed information regarding the admission policies and the application procedures. Students, parents, and educators from all around the globe participated in the virtual booths, where they interacted with admission officers, established connections, and delved into career exploration.

The AUA Online Education Fair 2024 showcased hundreds of academic programs that are open to international students. During this year's event, the undergraduate recruitment events took place on December 2nd. The short-term programs were introduced on December 3rd, and for postgraduate programs, participants attended the respective online events on December 4th and 5th.

The audience was able to access the virtual booths and collect crucial information on a wide range of topics related to various study programs, such as scholarships, fellowships, university campus services, student community, and research collaborations. By the end of each presentation, the participants also had opportunities to ask questions to university admissions officers and representatives.

Pilot Programs

05

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 two networks—one focusing on online education and the other on innovation and entrepreneurship, and co-organized "Climate x" Leadership Training Program with the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate.

AUA ONLINE EDUCATION STAFF EXCHANGE

The AUA Online Education Network, initiated by the Online Education Center of Tsinghua University, launched its first online and digital education staff exchange program in the autumn semester of 2024. This program aims to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among member universities of the AUA Online Education Network (OEN). Designed to enhance communication and cooperation within the network, this program offers participating institutions the opportunity to host exchange staff from other institutions and send their staff to immerse in other institutions, facilitating a deeper understanding of each other's programs, operations, and management.

The three selected participants of the first phase of the project are Ms. Rukti Arum Wismasari, a staff member of the Academic Development and Learning Resources Center at Universitas Indonesia, Ms. Aiza Bissaliyeva, Online Learning Multimedia Manager from the Center of Innovation in Learning and Teaching at Nazarbayev University (NU), and Mr. Chee Ann Yong, the senior manager of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology at the National University of Singapore (NUS). They respectively went to Nazarbayev University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and Tsinghua University for exchange and study.

During her visit to NU, Ms. Wismasari not only had in-depth communications with the NU staff on topics such as online resource development and teacher induction training and observed the weekly staff meeting, but also participated in the monthly staff learning and exchange session, sharing her understanding of artificial intelligence literacy with colleagues from other countries. Ms. Wismasari said, "A one-week program may seem brief, but it provides AUA OEN Staff Exchange participants with valuable insights and fresh ideas that can benefit their home organizations. These ideas have the potential to spark innovations in teaching and learning programs, ultimately contributing to the development of a more effective educational environment."

Ms. Aiza Bissaliyeva reflected, "The experience was both inspiring and informative, providing valuable insights into potential collaborations and shaping the direction of our future projects". After completing her exchange at HKUST, she returned to Nazarbayev University and delivered a face-to-face presentation to her colleagues, highlighting the key projects she observed and learned about at HKUST.

Similarly, Mr. Chee Ann Yong reflected, "The experience was invaluable and eye-opening. I gained significant insights and new teaching tool that I am eager to share and to explore with my colleagues at NUS."

AUA INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK

On November 4th, 2024, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) organized the inaugural meeting of the Asian Universities Alliance Innovation & Entrepreneurship Network. Representatives from departments of innovation, entrepreneurship and technology transfer of nine universities from AUA gathered together to discuss potential collaboration, and to jointly contribute to the cultivation of creative talents and promotion of innovation in Asian universities.

During this inaugural meeting, Ms. Yvonne Li, Head of Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs of HKUST, opened the meeting. She extended warm welcome to all delegates, and shared HKUST's efforts in international partnerships, highlighting its dedication in entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer over the years. Ms. Fang Yanhua, Chief Administrator of AUA Secretariat, expressed her hope that the inaugural meeting would serve as a strong foundation for collaboration among the innovation and entrepreneurship sectors of AUA universities. Prof. Carrie Ling, Director of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center delivered welcome remarks and presented the milestones and many initiatives of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center, including the One Million Entrepreneurship Competition, and the annual Entrepreneurship Bootcamp.

With unanimous consensus reached after an open discussion session, all delegates of participating universities jointly announced the establishment of the AUA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network. The participants also attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration on the establishment of

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Center.

On March 25th, 2025, the second meeting of the Asian Universities Alliance Innovation & Entrepreneurship Network was held online. Twenty-one representatives from 7 AUA member universities came together to delve deeper into discussions regarding the organizational structure, ongoing strategies, and the 2025-2026 annual activities plan of this network. Prof. Carrie Ling, the Director of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center, presided over the meeting and introduced the flagship events on innovation and entrepreneurship at HKUST. Ms. Xiaodan Cai presented the findings of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Network Questionnaires, which were designed to gauge the expectations and interests of network stakeholders following the inaugural meeting.

During the discussion session, Prof. Fan Li from Tsinghua University, Mr. Shaji Varghese and Ms. Sangita Kanjibillya from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Dr. Ching Shya Lee from Universiti Malaya, Dr. Ye Chan from the University of Yangon, and Prof. Maurizio Sobrero from the United Arab Emirates University each shared the innovation and entrepreneurship activities and practices in their respective universities. They also offered valuable suggestions for network construction and for further cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship research as well as event arrangements.

Participants	AUA Universities
40	9

# Governance

AUA
BOARD MEETING 2024

On April 17th, 2024, leaders and representatives from the 15 universities comprising the Asian Universities Alliance convened online for the annual board meeting. The session focused on reviewing the Alliance's achievements over the past year and deliberating on critical issues for future development.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from Prof. Ghaleb Albreiki, AUA President and Acting Vice Chancellor of United Arab Emirates University. He expressed his delight for the Alliance's growth, particularly in associate membership and corporate partnership, and emphasized the importance of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among member universities.

On behalf of Prof. Nancy Ip, the AUA Executive President 2023-2024 and President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Prof. Yang Wang, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement of HKUST, outlined HKUST's contributions when holding the Executive Presidency of AUA. He highlighted several programs organized under HKUST's leadership, which aimed at enhancing cooperation among member institutions and inspiring the youth.

The AUA Board selected the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) to hold the AUA Executive Presidency for year 2024-2025 and appointed Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director of IIT Bombay, as AUA Executive President 2024-2025. In his address, Prof. Chaudhuri expressed his pleasure and honor at IITB being chosen to hold the next AUA Executive Presidency. He also shared the recent developments of IITB and his insights on possible initiatives that AUA may consider to launch in the future.

At the meeting, AUA Secretary Dr. Zhang Chuanjie presented the work review of AUA and the financial statement for the year 2023-2024; and Ms. Fang Yanhua, Chief Administrator of the AUA Secretariat, took the stage to detail the planned programs and budget for 2024-2025. The Board reviewed and approved the financial statement for 2023-2024 and the budget for 2024-2025.
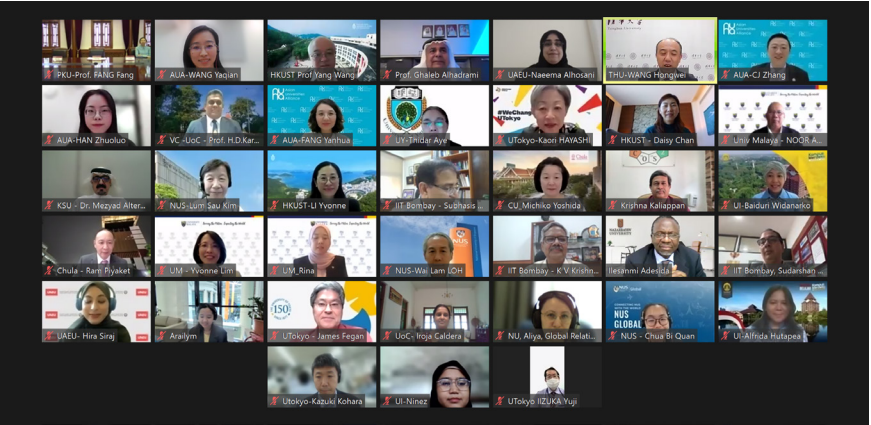
At the last session of the Board Meeting, Prof. Kaori Hayashi, Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo (UTokyo) presented a video message from Prof. Teruo Fujii, President of UTokyo, who extended cordial invitations to all member universities to attend the next AUA Summit, which will take place at UTokyo in the beautiful Japanese spring of 2025. After Prof. Fujii's video message, Vice Chancellor Prof. H.D. Karunaratne of the University of Colombo, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Noor Azuan Abu Osman of Universiti Malaya, Acting President Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida of Nazarbayev University, University Secretary dr. Agustin Kusumayatu of Universitas Indonesia, Vice President Prof. Fang Fang of Peking University, Vice President Prof. Pomthong Malakul of Chulalongkorn University, Deputy Director Prof. K.V.K. Rao of IITB, Pro-Rector (Academic) Prof. Thidar Aye of the University of Yangon, Vice President Prof. Wang Hongwei of Tsinghua University, Prof. Yang Wang of HKUST, Deputy Vice President of International affairs Prof. Sun Young Kim of Seoul National University, Associate Vice President for Global Relations Dr. Lum Sau Kim of the National University of Singapore, and President of Global Engagement Office Dr. Mezyad Alterkawi of King Saud University shared respective universities' development and expressed their strong support of AUA.

📇 April 2024

🏛 Online

AUA
EXECUTIVES' MEETING 2024

The eighth Executives' Meeting of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUAEM) was successfully held in a hybrid mode by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India from Nov 11th to 14th, 2024. The AUAEM is held annually with the aims of reviewing the programs, gathering thoughts and discussing the opportunities for future development.

At the engaging opening ceremony, the AUA Executive President and the Director of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Prof. Shireesh Kedare, warmly welcomed the AUA representatives to Mumbai, India. Prof. Abdullah Salman A. Alsalman, President of King Saud University, Prof. Yang Bin, Vice president of Tsinghua University, and Prof. Ayesha Aldhaheri, on behalf of Prof. Ahmed Al Raeesi, Acting Vice Chancellor, United Arab Emirates University, delivered inspiring addresses that highlighted the significance of AUA in promoting academic excellence and international cooperation. They expected AUA member universities to pool their wisdom and efforts for AUA sustainable development and to optimize the program structure via maximizing the utilization of resources for jointly promoting the stable development of AUA.

The session on AUA programs reports, chaired by Prof. Sun-Young Kim, Deputy Vice President of International Affairs, Seoul National University, was a showcase of diverse AUA program achievements in 2024. By covering multiple topics from online education staff exchanges to the establishment of the AUA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network, these intriguing programs represented a wide range of AUA academic conferences and overseas study programs.

On Nov 12th, Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost of Nazarbayev University, chaired the ninth meeting of AUA Working Group I on Financial Sustainability, and Dr. Mezyad Alterkawi, Director of the International Cooperation Department at King Saud University, chaired the ninth meeting of AUA Working Group II on Member and Observer Admission. The following day, Prof. Hayashi Kaori from the University of Tokyo led the report session of these two AUA working groups and moderated corresponding discussions.

📇 November 2024

🏛 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

In the closing session, concluding addresses were made by AUA member universities' leaders and representatives, including Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost of Nazarbayev University, Prof. Hayashi Kaori, Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo, Prof. Palanee Ammaranond, Vice President of Chulalongkorn University, dr. Agustin Kusumayati, Secretary to Universitas Indonesia, Prof. Upul Sonnadara, Dean of the Faculty of Science of University of Colombo, Prof. Kim Shin Cheul, Associate Vice-President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Prof. Sun-Young Kim, Deputy Vice President of International Affairs of Seoul National University, Prof. Lum Sau Kim, Associate Vice President of National University of Singapore, and Ms. Vigneshree King, Director of Strategic Global Alliances Division of Universiti Malaya's International Relations Centre. They expressed their enthusiasm for future cooperation and envisioned increasing student mobility opportunities and research collaborations across disciplines, aiming to enhance youth leadership and address global challenges. In his closing speech, Prof. Shireesh Kedare stated that the AUAEM will promote AUA to achieve greater accomplishments in aspects such as student mobility, research cooperation, and cultural exchanges. It is also expected that AUA can further facilitate the cooperation among its member institutions in fields such as climate change, online education, and artificial intelligence, promoting the enhancement of the quality and equity of higher education in Asia.

Asian Universities Alliance

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