

# YEARBOOK

2025-2026





# YEARBOOK

2025-2026



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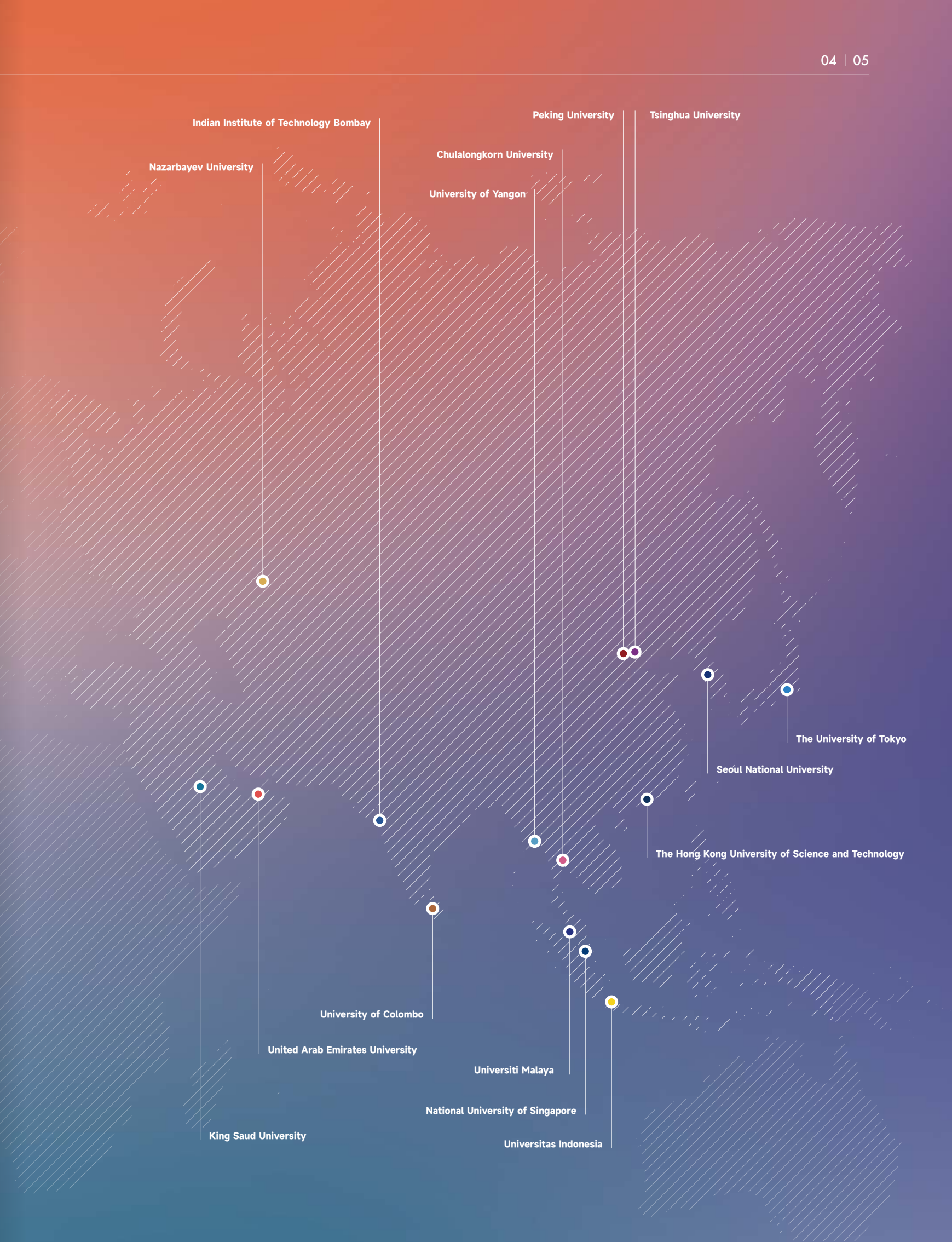
AUA EXECUTIVES’ MEETING 2025

66

# AUA MEMBERS

as of April 2026

| 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         |
|  NUS National University of Singapore                                        | NUS          | Singapore                    |
|  NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY                                                      | NU           | Astana, Kazakhstan           |
|  北京大学 PEKING UNIVERSITY                                                    | PKU          | Beijing, China               |
|  서울대학교 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY                                           | SNU          | Seoul, Republic of Korea     |
|  清华大学 Tsinghua University                                                  | THU          | Beijing, China               |
|  UAEU جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University       | UAEU         | Al Ain, United Arab Emirates |
|  UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA Veritas, Probatum, Institutio                       | UI           | Jakarta, Indonesia           |
|  ශ්‍රී ලංකා විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය ශ්‍රී ලංකා විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO | UoC          | Colombo, Sri Lanka           |
|  UNIVERSITI MALAYA                                                         | UM           | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia       |
|  UTokyo                                                                    | UTokyo       | Tokyo, Japan                 |
|                                                                            | UY           | Yangon, Myanmar              |



# AUA OVERVIEW

## 2025-2026

5

STUDENT MOBILITY  
PROGRAMS

229

STUDENT MOBILITY  
PARTICIPANTS

5

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES  
AND FORUMS

58

EXCHANGE  
SCHOLARS

2

GOVERNANCE  
MEETINGS

587

CONFERENCE AND  
FORUM PARTICIPANTS

# PREFACE

The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) has continued to serve as a key platform for academic collaboration, research innovation, and shared progress in higher education across Asia during the 2025–2026 period. Comprising leading universities from the region, the AUA remains dedicated to addressing pressing regional and global challenges, including sustainable development, technological advancement, and public health. This yearbook offers a comprehensive record of the Alliance’s major initiatives, achievements, and collective efforts from April 2025 to April 2026, reflecting the unity and shared vision of its member institutions.

The past year marked a pivotal phase in AUA’s strategic evolution. At the AUA Summit 2025, hosted by The University of Tokyo, the Alliance formally identified four frontier thematic priorities as its themes from 2026 to 2029: AI & Digital Innovation; Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability & Future Habitat; Public Health; and Innovation & Entrepreneurship. During the AUA Presidents Forum 2025, university leaders engaged in in-depth discussions on AI applications in higher education, the role of universities in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and strategies for campus-to-startup innovation, laying a solid foundation for targeted cooperation. Meanwhile, the smooth transition of the AUA Executive Presidency to Seoul National University ensured stable and efficient governance for the Alliance. The AUA Executives’ Meeting 2025, convened by Seoul National University, reviewed annual achievements, advanced financial sustainability planning, mapped out membership expansion, and facilitated the smooth handover of the AUA Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) Network convenorship from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to Tsinghua University.

Student mobility remained a core pillar of AUA’s mission, empowering young talent across Asia. The AUA Youth Forum 2026, held at Seoul National University under the theme of sustainable cities and living heritage, brought together 42 students from 11 member universities. The Asia Deep Dive Program 2025, hosted by Tsinghua University, immersed 27 students in sustainable development and youth leadership practices. The Joint Lecture Series in 2025 and 2026 promoted transdisciplinary dialogue on engineering innovation and sustainable governance, with the 2026 series being AUA’s first program eligible for credit recognition at participants’ home universities. The AUA-CU Arts & Culture Workshop 2026 explored creative responses to population aging through artistic expression and cross-cultural engagement.

Research collaboration thrived through high-quality academic exchanges. A series of academic conferences and postgraduate forums focused on AI governance, sustainable development, and global health, facilitating knowledge sharing and the initiation of joint research projects. The newly launched THU–AUA SDG Fellowship Program supported 58 young scholars from 11 member universities, promoting bilateral academic visits and interdisciplinary research aligned with the SDGs.

In pilot innovation, the AUA Online Education Network saw AUA members’ courses win Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance (GMA) Awards. The AUA Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Network nurtured young innovators and enhanced innovation collaboration among the Alliance via various activities such as entrepreneurship bootcamp and high-impact innovation-themed events.

AUA’s strength has always resided in solidarity and collaboration. With a new 3-year framework to be implemented in 2026, the Alliance will continue to deepen cooperation, expand global partnerships, and nurture future-oriented talents to tackle shared challenges. This yearbook is both a retrospective of a fruitful year and a call to collective action—toward a more connected, resilient, and prosperous future for Asian higher education.

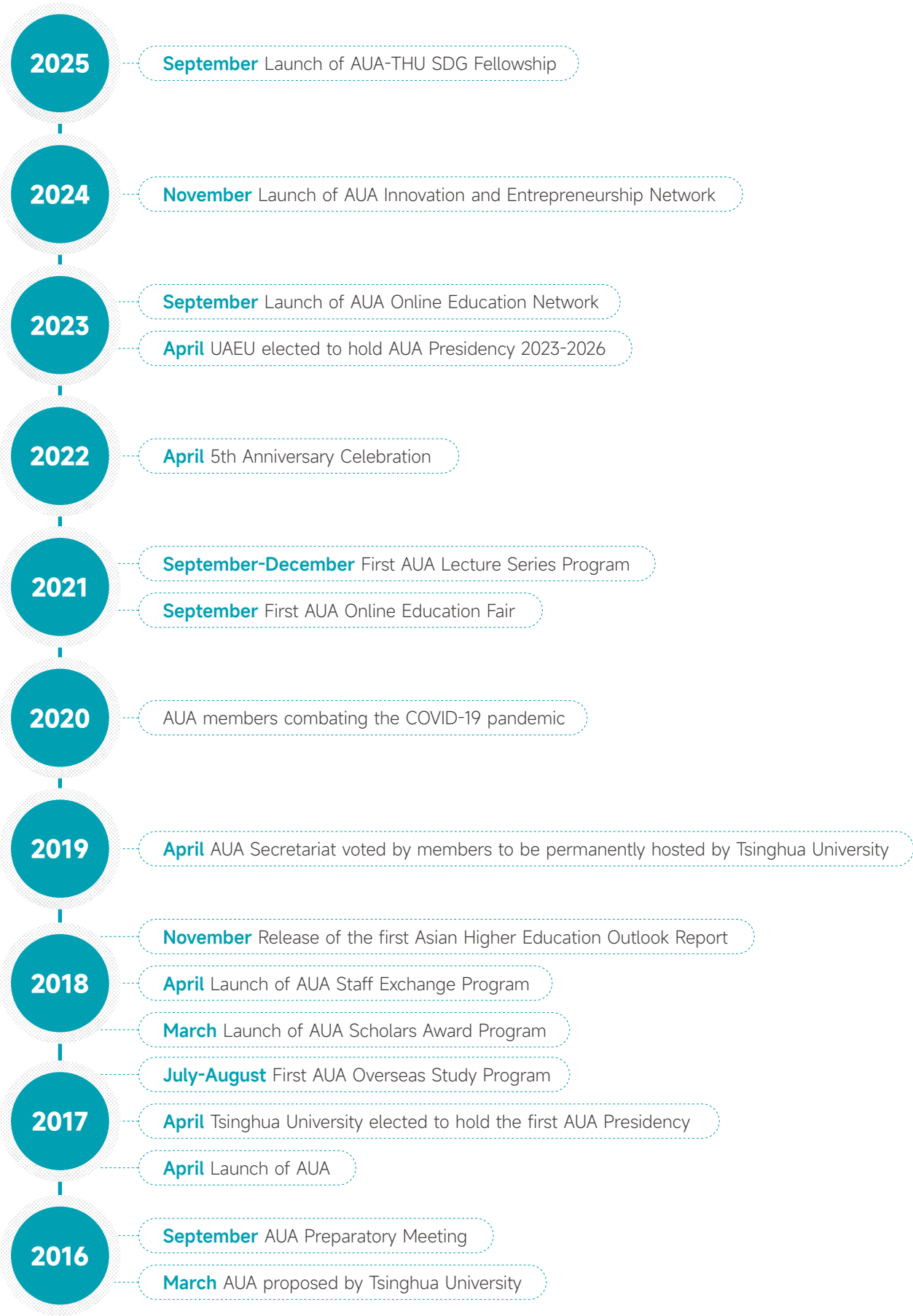
01

# 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.

# HISTORY



# CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

as of April 2026

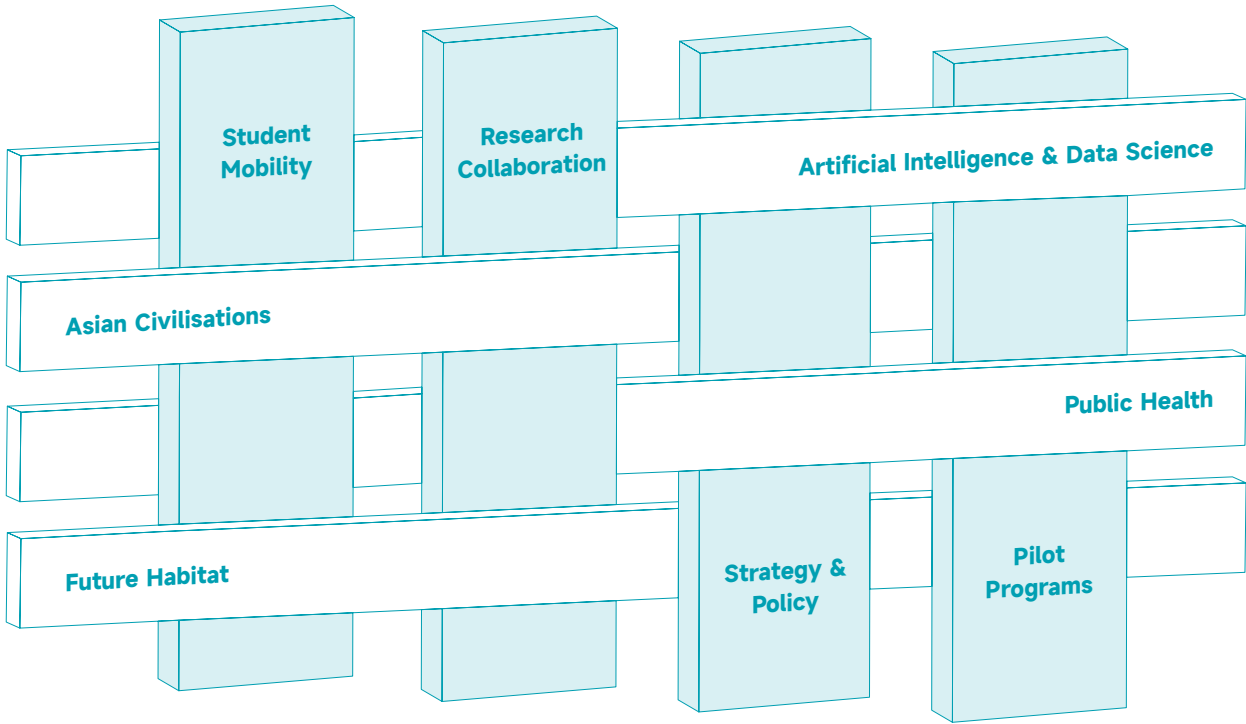
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Wilert PURIWAT</b></p> <p>Chulalongkorn University</p> |  <p><b>Nancy IP</b></p> <p>The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</p> |  <p><b>Shireesh B. KEDARE</b></p> <p>Indian Institute of Technology Bombay</p> |  <p><b>Ali M. MASMALI</b></p> <p>King Saud University</p>   |  <p><b>TAN Eng Chye</b></p> <p>National University of Singapore</p>  |
|  <p><b>Waqar AHMAD</b></p> <p>Nazarbayev University</p>       |  <p><b>GONG Qihuang</b></p> <p>Peking University</p>                              |  <p><b>Honglim RYU</b></p> <p>Seoul National University</p>                    |  <p><b>LI Luming</b></p> <p>Tsinghua University</p>         |  <p><b>Ahmed ALRAEESI</b></p> <p>United Arab Emirates University</p> |
|  <p><b>Heri HERMANSYAH</b></p> <p>Universitas Indonesia</p> |  <p><b>Indika Mahesh KARUNATHILAKE</b></p> <p>University of Colombo</p>         |  <p><b>Noor Azuan Abu OSMAN</b></p> <p>Universiti Malaya</p>                 |  <p><b>Teruo FUJII</b></p> <p>The University of Tokyo</p> |  <p><b>Tin Maung TUN</b></p> <p>University of Yangon</p>           |

## FORMER BOARD MEMBERS (2025-2026)

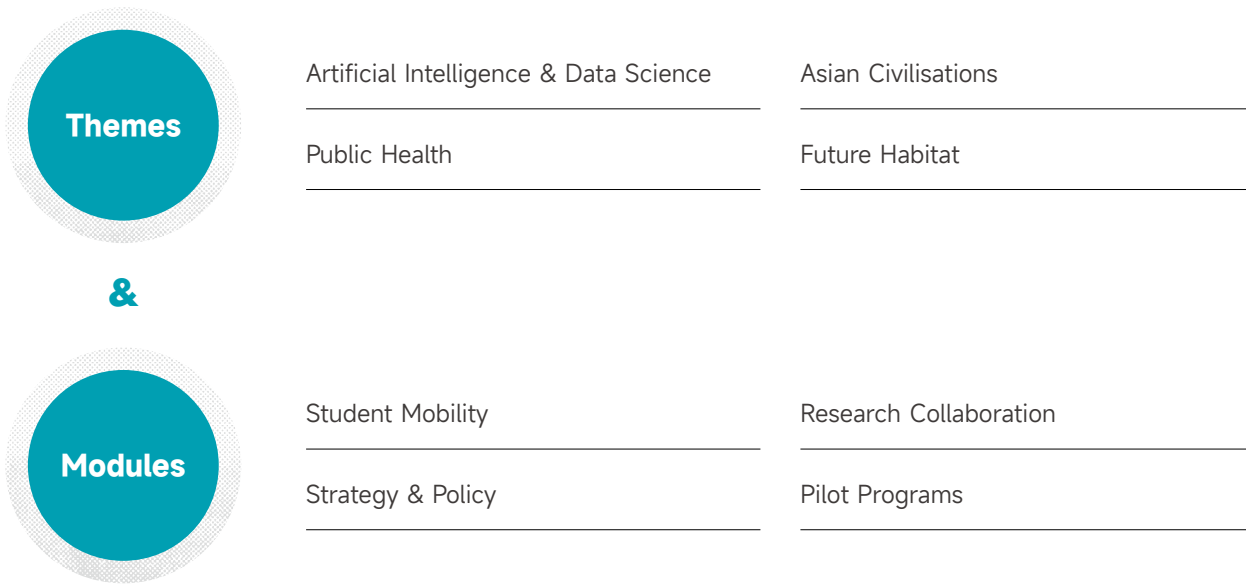
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Abdullah ALSALMAN</b></p> <p>King Saud University</p> |  <p><b>H.D. KARUNARATNE</b></p> <p>University of Colombo</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# AUA FRAMEWORK

## 2023-2026



### THE AUA FRAMEWORK IS STRUCTURED IN TWO DIMENSIONS



# Monthly Highlights

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# AUA MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

2025

APRIL

4

2025

## AUA BOARD AGREES ON FUTURE ACADEMIC FOCUSES

The AUA Summit 2025, consisting of the AUA Board Meeting, the AUA Presidents Forum, and other side events, were hosted by The University of Tokyo on 17 and 18 April 2025. The AUA Board Meeting held on the first day of the Summit fully demonstrated the alliance’s robust governance and forward-looking leadership. Bringing together over 50 representatives from member universities, the meeting delivered decisive academic planning focuses. The AUA Board confirmed four frontier thematic priorities for AUA programs from 2026 to 2029. They are AI & Digital Innovation; Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability & Future Habitat; Public Health; and Innovation & Entrepreneurship. With this strategic decision, the AUA Board solidified AUA’s leadership role in shaping Asia’s higher education landscape and addressing regional and global challenges through collaboration.

Held on April 18, the AUA Presidents Forum showcased the collective leadership of presidents and senior leaders of AUA member universities. Through three productive panel sessions, participants built strong consensus on critical agendas, including AI in higher education, universities’ contributions to the SDGs, and campus-to-startup innovation strategies. Senior leadership from AUA member universities engaged in in-depth exchanges and constructive discussions centered on AUA’s priority thematic areas, laying a solid foundation for deeper, more targeted collaboration across the alliance and sustained academic prosperity in Asia.

MAY

5

2025

## LANDMARK CROSS-ALLIANCE CONFERENCE BY AUA & AP-PPN

The AUA & Asia Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN) Conference on Public Policy was hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, standing as a landmark cross-alliance academic event co-organized by AUA and AP-PPN. Drawing 200 attendees from 50 institutions across 17 countries, with 65 delegates from 9 AUA member universities as the core participants, the conference fully exemplified AUA’s resource-sharing and collaborative mechanisms underpinned by its member universities.

This cross-alliance academic exchange not only charted new directions for AUA member universities in their research on technology-driven policy solutions, but also further advanced interdisciplinary development and international research collaboration among the alliance’s members. It has unlocked more diverse international academic resources for AUA, and greatly enriched the academic conference ecosystem of AUA through such cross-alliance cooperation.

JUNE

6

2025

## FROM REGIONAL HACKATHON TO GLOBAL STAGE: ACTION OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES WITH TRAINING SESSIONS

The inaugural Asian Youth Student Climate Change and Health Innovation Hackathon (ACTION), initiated by Tsinghua University and supported by AUA, WMO, and WHO, attracted enthusiastic participation from students and scholars across AUA member universities. Focused on Asia’s climate-related health challenges, the event gathered diverse academic insights, fostered youth innovation, and strengthened transnational collaboration on sustainable development and public health.

Following its training sessions in June 2025, the hackathon achieved two landmark milestones that amplified its impact and global reach. First, it rigorously selected five top-performing teams to participate in a professional roadshow in Hong Kong in October, offering young innovators from AUA member universities a high-profile platform to present their climate-health solutions, exchange ideas with industry and academic experts, and refine their projects through targeted feedback and cross-institutional collaboration. Second, these five outstanding teams were officially invited to showcase their work at the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in November in Belém Brazil. This achievement not only elevated Asian youth innovation to a premier global stage but also strengthened the alliance’s international influence in climate action, public health, and sustainable development, demonstrating the collective strength and forward-looking vision of AUA’s academic community.

JULY

7

2025

## FLAGSHIP INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK EVENT CONNECTS ASIAN YOUNG INNOVATORS

As the inaugural convenor of the AUA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology hosted a 7-day innovation and entrepreneurship summer camp from July 6 to 12. This event brought together students from AUA member universities and other global universities to explore Hong Kong’s vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. The camp featured a diverse array of activities, including theoretical lectures, policy briefings and industry visits, with students engaging in themed seminars, team brainstorming, enterprise visits and sand table simulations. Through in-depth exchanges with experienced entrepreneurial mentors and industry leaders, participants gained practical insights into Hong Kong’s strengths in financial support, research commercialization and market development, while experiencing its open and inclusive entrepreneurial atmosphere firsthand.

This summer camp created a dynamic cross-cultural communication platform for young people from different countries and professional backgrounds, who transcended cultural and linguistic differences to share entrepreneurial ideas and establish sincere friendships. It not only imparted systematic entrepreneurial knowledge and practical skills, but also enhanced students’ teamwork and cross-border communication capabilities through rich cultural exchange.

AUGUST

8

2025

## AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025 DRIVES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025 explored how engineering can drive sustainable development while embracing transdisciplinary collaboration to address complex, interconnected challenges in Asia. It featured 14 lecturers from six AUA member universities, who delivered lectures and received highly positive feedback from attendees for their profound insights, diverse perspectives, and practical relevance. Two core highlights distinguished the AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025. First, it centered on sustainable development, addressing Asia’s most pressing environmental and societal challenges, such as climate change, resource scarcity, and green economic transition—by integrating cutting-edge engineering innovations and forward-looking policy frameworks. Second, it emphasized interdisciplinary collaboration, breaking down barriers between engineering, economics, management, and other fields, while facilitating meaningful cross-cultural dialogues among students and scholars from diverse backgrounds.

SEPTEMBER

9  
2025

AUA-THU SDG FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
BOOSTS SCHOLARLY MOBILITY

Initiated by Tsinghua University, the AUA-THU SDG Fellowship Program strengthened academic connections among the alliance by promoting in-depth exchanges among young scholars and laying a solid foundation for joint research collaboration. Centered on sustainable development, the program facilitated short-term academic visits, knowledge sharing and joint innovative research.

In the 2025-2026 cycle, 58 outstanding young scholars from 11 AUA member universities were selected, enabling vibrant two-way academic exchanges between Tsinghua and other AUA member universities. The initiative sees broad participation from multiple departments and disciplines, covering engineering, architecture, humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary fields. Drawing on the core Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the program has focused on three key development directions: environmental sustainability (SDGs 7, 12-15); equitable social development (SDGs 4, 10, 11); and innovative and inclusive economic growth (SDG 9). Looking ahead, AUA will foster interdisciplinary research collaboration to develop localized, context-specific solutions that address Asian realities across these critical SDG domains.

OCTOBER

10  
2025

AUA ASIA DEEP DIVE PROGRAM 2025 GENERATES IMMERSIVE  
CROSS-CITY LEARNING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The AUA Asia Deep Dive Program 2025, hosted by Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School, revolved around the theme of Sustainable Development & Youth Leadership. The two-week immersive initiative gathered 27 young students from 10 AUA member universities, integrating academic exchanges, field studies, enterprise visits and cultural experiences. Participants explored development practices across Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Beijing, deepening their understanding of China’s achievements in innovation and sustainable development, and uniting Asian youth to advance global Sustainable Development Goals.

Highlighting the integration of academia, practice and culture, the program featured approximately 17 keynote lectures from interdisciplinary experts, covering urban development, climate ecology, robotic sensing, pollution control and smart architecture with localized practical cases. Combined with field trips and events including the Tsinghua Model United Nations, the program facilitated in-depth dialogue and consensus building among young talents.

NOVEMBER

11  
2025

AUA EXECUTIVES’ MEETING 2025 SHAPES THE FUTURE  
FRAMEWORK

The AUA Executives’ Meeting 2025 was hosted by Seoul National University from November 26 to 27, with 48 delegates from 15 member universities across 14 countries and regions. The meeting centered on reviewing 2025 program achievements, discussing financial sustainability, mapping membership development, and formulating the AUA Framework 2026-2029. Key milestones included the handover of the AUA Innovation & Entrepreneurship Network convenorship from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to Tsinghua University, alongside substantive discussions on global talent strategies and the future of degree programs during the AUA Special Forum.

The meeting reaffirmed AUA’s strengths as a platform built on deep partnership and mutual trust among its members. With Asia’s growing global prominence, AUA continues to enable its member universities to achieve collectively what no single institution could accomplish alone. Discussions on financial sustainability and membership development reflected a shared commitment to ensuring that the alliance remains resilient and open to strategic expansion. The formulation of the AUA Framework 2026-2029 further demonstrated the collective resolve to maximize educational and research impact in the years ahead, positioning AUA as a model of cross-border collaboration and a driving force for higher education in Asia and beyond.

DECEMBER

12  
2025

COURSES OF AUA MEMBERS  
WIN 2025 GMA AWARDS

In 2025, the AUA Online Education Network (AUA OEN) focused on strengthening collaboration among AUA member universities and leveraging high-quality academic resources amid the digital and intelligent transformation of higher education. Invited by AUA OEN, three outstanding courses offered by AUA member universities won accolades at the 2025 Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance (GMA) Awards. *Ayurveda Basic Principles* from the University of Colombo and *Canine Injection & Venipuncture* from Chulalongkorn University received the GMA General Awards, while *Robots for Rehabilitation* from Nazarbayev University earned the GMA Special Recognition in AI. These achievements mark a milestone in the development of high-quality online courses under AUA collaboration.

To further enhance cross-institutional collaboration on AI-enabled higher education reform, AUA member universities actively participated in major global academic events and expert exchanges. Representatives from Nazarbayev University, The University of Tokyo, and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology delivered keynote speeches at the 2025 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference in Mexico City. They also participated in a series of online education dialogues to share insights in digital transformation. These efforts have further consolidated AUA’s global partnerships, advancing an open, intelligent, and interconnected higher education ecosystem.

2026

JANUARY

1  
2026

AUA YOUTH FORUM 2026  
DESIGNS SUSTAINABLE CITIES

From January 19 to 25, 2026, the AUA Youth Forum 2026, themed “Sustainable Cities and Living Heritage”, was held at Seoul National University, bringing together 42 students from 11 AUA member universities. The program combined thematic lectures on global development agendas, housing, heritage conservation, and urban transportation with hands-on workshops and field visits to Seoul’s key urban sites, including the National Museum of Korea, Bukchon Hanok Village, and the Seoul Metropolitan Government’s intelligent transport management center. Students applied their learning through collaborative team projects, analyzing sustainability challenges in cities and presenting research findings on topics from informal settlement upgrading to climate change adaptation.

The forum exemplified the value of cross-border student mobility in cultivating the next generation of leaders equipped to address complex urban challenges. By combining academic rigor with immersive activities, participants broadened their perspectives of sustainable development while forging lasting connections across cultures. The week-long exchange fostered deeper cooperation among AUA member universities and demonstrated AUA’s commitment to providing students with meaningful opportunities to engage with real-world issues, building a network of young leaders dedicated to creating more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities worldwide.

FEBRUARY

2  
2026

AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2026 ACHIEVES  
NEW BREAKTHROUGHS

From January 20 to February 27, 2026, the AUA Joint Lecture Series 2026 on “Navigating the Future with Sustainable Practices and Ethical Governance” was hosted by Universitas Indonesia. Centering on global sustainable development and governance system construction, the program gathered 10 senior experts and scholars from AUA member universities and leading global institutions, attracting more than 80 students from AUA member universities with diverse disciplinary backgrounds. It covered multiple cutting-edge topics such as human resource management, institutional governance, ethical governance, digital innovation and global finance, delivering insights to advance sustainable development and governance systems in Asia and globally.

A standout achievement was the first-time implementation of credit granting for AUA programs, creating a more standardized curriculum resource platform and opening new possibilities for the joint curriculum development and talent training across member universities in the future. The series also expanded academic diversity by inviting distinguished scholars from Australia and other non-AUA institutions, enriching program resources, broadening participants’ global horizons, and further strengthening cross-border and cross-institutional academic exchange and cooperation within the alliance.

MARCH

3  
2026

AUA ARTS & CULTURE WORKSHOP 2026 EXPLORES SILVER  
ARTS IN ASIA AND EMBRACES ACTIVE AGING

Chulalongkorn University (CU) successfully hosted the AUA-CU Arts & Culture Workshop 2026 from March 18 to 24 under the theme “The Art of Aging: Creative Expression and Cultural Engagement in Later Life,” gathering youth from AUA member universities in Bangkok. Addressing the pressing issue of population aging in Asia, the week-long workshop combined expert academic sharing, immersive art practice, on-site cultural excursions, and in-depth community engagement, using art as a universal language to build cross-generational connections between students and the elderly. The event not only enhanced participants’ awareness of the spiritual and emotional needs of Southeast Asia’s elderly, but also embodied AUA’s commitment to exploring interdisciplinary solutions to major demographic challenges through university collaboration.

Led by research experts and the director of Thai elderly education institutions, the workshop empowered participants to explore the positive role of painting, music, dance, and storytelling in promoting well-being through hands-on sessions and collaborative creation. Through field visits to Thai cultural landmarks and exchanges with the local community, participants co-created art projects reflecting intergenerational emotional bonds and proposed feasible paths for cultural engagement in elderly care during the final presentations. This co-hosted event established a valuable practical blueprint for AUA member universities to conduct aging-related social research, injecting humanistic care into the promotion of active aging while expanding the alliance’s practice at the intersection of art, culture, and social development.

APRIL

2025.4



MAY

2025.5



JUNE

2025.6



JULY

2025.7



AUGUST

2025.8



SEPTEMBER

2025.9



OCTOBER

2025.10



NOVEMBER

2025.11



DECEMBER

2025.12



JANUARY

2026.1



FEBRUARY

2026.2



MARCH

2026.3



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.

# Student Mobility

# AUA YOUTH FORUM

## Explores Pathways to Sustainable Cities and Living Heritage

From January 19 to 25, 2026, the AUA Youth Forum, themed “Sustainable Cities and Living Heritage”, was held at Seoul National University (SNU). The forum brought together 52 students from 11 AUA member universities for a week of academic exchanges, cultural immersion, and collaborative learning.

The forum kicked off with a warm welcome ceremony in Seoul. Participants were divided into nine groups and attended an opening dinner, which helped foster early connections and set the stage for the entire week's activities. The official program commenced with an orientation session on the topic of Global Development Agenda, which traced the evolution from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and underscored the pivotal role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in advancing sustainable development.

Throughout the week, participants took part in a series of thematic lectures and hands-on workshops. Renowned professors delved into critical topics including safe and affordable housing, heritage conservation through adaptive reuse, carbon-neutral urban transportation, and digital simulation in urban planning. These sessions integrated theoretical frameworks with real-world case studies from Seoul and other global metropolises, encouraging participants to examine sustainability challenges from both local and international perspectives.



January 19-25, 2026  
 Seoul National University



Classroom learning was complemented by a series of field visits, which offered tangible insights into Seoul’s urban development landscape. Participants visited the National Museum of Korea and Bukchon Hanok Village to observe how traditional architecture coexists with modern urban fabric. A trip to the Seoul Metropolitan Government showcased the city’s green retrofit projects and its intelligent transport management system (TOPIS), highlighting how technological innovation and policy design converge to enhance urban resilience and livability. During these site visits, each of the nine groups was tasked with creating original stories based on the photos they took along the way.

A key highlight of the forum was the intensive collaborative teamwork, where students applied the knowledge and insights gained to analyze urban sustainability challenges in cities including Mumbai, Abu Dhabi, Jakarta and Yangon. On the final day, each group presented their research findings, addressing a diverse range of topics from informal settlement upgrading to climate change adaptation strategies. Detailed feedback from the faculty and in-depth reflective discussions helped synthesize the week’s core learnings, and emphasized the importance of context-sensitive and inclusive solutions for urban development.



The forum drew to a close with a formal closing ceremony, where every participant shared personal reflections on their cross-cultural dialogues and collective learning experiences. By integrating rigorous academic learning with immersive experiential activities, the AUA-SNU Youth Forum 2026 not only enriched attendees’ understanding of sustainable urban development, but also forged a strong international network of young leaders from AUA member universities dedicated to building more resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities worldwide.

# AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES

## Engineering Innovations and Transdisciplinary Perspectives for Sustainable Development in Asia

Co-organized by Universiti Malaya and the AUA Secretariat, the AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025 was held from August 19 to September 24, 2025, under the theme “Engineering Innovations and Transdisciplinary Perspectives for Sustainable Development in Asia.” This flagship academic program brought together a distinguished lineup of 14 professors from 6 AUA member universities, who delivered insightful lectures, and enrolled 46 enthusiastic students from diverse academic backgrounds. Upon the conclusion of this program, 19 students earned program certificates for their active engagement and completion of requirements, while 6 outstanding participants were honored with awards in recognition of their exceptional essays, marking a fruitful convergence of knowledge sharing and talent development.

The lecture series was organized into several sub-themes, offering a comprehensive exploration of sustainable development, each sub-theme strategically designed to delve into critical facets of sustainable development by integrating cutting-edge engineering expertise with transdisciplinary methodologies. Every lecture offered a unique lens to examine how innovative solutions and collaborative strategies can effectively address the pressing sustainable development challenges in Asia, with renowned professors leading each lecture to share their in-depth specialized knowledge and practical insights.

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA**

**Asian Universities Alliance**

**JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**19 AUGUST - 24 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**LECTURE TOPICS**

- Engineering Innovations for a Sustainable Future: Bridging Academia, Industry, and Society
- Circular Economy Principles in Building Design
- Climate Adaptation Strategies
- Climate Resilient Infrastructure
- Ethical Considerations in Engineering and Emerging AI challenges in Engineering applications
- Waste Materials in Pavement
- Smart City Technologies
- AI-powered Solutions for Road Safety: From Asia to the World
- Social Impact and Community Engagement
- Integrated navigation satellite based technology for real time urban traffic and air quality monitoring application
- AI, Faith, and Youth: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Sustainable Digital Societies
- Urban, Settlements, Infrastructure Development to Achieve SDGs Goal
- The Role of Agriculture Insurance in Combating Extreme Natural Disasters in Indonesia: A Case Study of Asuransi Jasa Indonesia
- Solar Energy as a Source of Clean Hydrogen Production
- Sustainable water resources management and engineering

**★ WHY JOIN?**

- ✓ Gain insights into sustainable engineering and innovation
- ✓ Learn from leading experts in sustainable development.
- ✓ Connect with peers across Asia.
- ✓ Apply your learnings to real-world sustainability challenges.
- ✓ Receive a Certificate of Completion and stand a chance to win the Best Reflection Essay Award.

**CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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August 19 - September 24, 2025  
Universiti Malaya and AUA Secretariat

## Redesigning Sustainable Systems: Macro and Life-Cycle Perspectives

Two pivotal lectures focused on reimagining sustainable systems from a holistic macro and life-cycle standpoint. Prof. Abdul Aziz Abdul Raman of Universiti Malaya emphasized the imperative of bridging the gap between academia, industry, and society. He argued that such collaboration is the cornerstone for driving impactful sustainable innovation, as it aligns theoretical research with real-world industrial needs and societal demands. Prof. Ferhat Karaca from Nazarbayev University approached sustainable innovation from an economic lens. He specifically applied circular economy principles to building design and illustrated how to optimize resource use and reduce waste.

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**21 AUGUST 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Prof. Dr. Kensuke Fukushi**  
Environmental engineer and sustainability scientist  
University of Tokyo Institute for Future Initiatives (FI)

**LECTURE TOPIC: CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES**

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**24 AUGUST 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Prof. Dr. Ranjana Udaya Kumara**  
Physicist  
Professor in Hydrogeology  
Department of Environmental Technology  
Faculty of Technology  
University of Colombo

**LECTURE TOPIC: CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE**

## Addressing Climate Adaptation: Building Resilience Against Climate Impacts

Another key aspect of the program sessions was centered on strengthening both societal and physical resilience to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Prof. Kensuke Fukushi from the University of Tokyo kicked off this module by discussing overarching strategies for climate adaptation. He covered topics such as policy formulation, regional cooperation, and the integration of climate risk assessment into long-term development planning, providing a broad framework for addressing climate-related challenges. Building on this, Prof. Ranjana Udaya Kumara Piyadasa from the University of Colombo delved into the technical aspects of climate adaptation. He detailed the engineering of climate-resilient infrastructure, including the design of flood-resistant buildings, drought-tolerant water supply systems, and heat-resilient urban landscapes, offering practical engineering solutions to enhance the ability of infrastructure systems to withstand extreme climate events.

## Sustainable Management of Critical Resources: Water, Energy, and Waste

The sustainable management of vital resources—water, energy, and waste—formed a core pillar of the lecture series, reflecting their significance in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). Prof. Faridah Othman from Universiti Malaya focused on sustainable water resources management—a topic closely aligned with SDG 6. She explored innovative approaches to water conservation, wastewater recycling, and equitable water distribution, addressing the growing water scarcity issues faced by many regions in Asia. Dr. Muhammad Tahir and Dr. Suhana Binti Koting both contributed valuable insights into resource utilization. Dr. Tahir from the United Arab Emirates University discussed the potential of solar energy as a clean and renewable source for hydrogen production, highlighting its role in transitioning to a low-carbon energy system. Dr. Koting from Universiti Malaya, on the other hand, explored the innovative use of waste materials in pavement construction, demonstrating how repurposing industrial and construction waste can reduce landfill burden and promote a circular economy in the construction sector.

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**19 AUGUST 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Raman**  
Chemical Engineering Department  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Malaya

**LECTURE TOPIC: ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: BRIDGING ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY, AND SOCIETY**

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**20 AUGUST 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhat Karaca**  
School of Engineering and Digital Sciences  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Nazarbayev University

**LECTURE TOPIC: CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN BUILDING DESIGN**

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Dr. Muhammad Tahir**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Chemical & Petroleum  
United Arab Emirates University

**LECTURE TOPIC: SOLAR ENERGY AS A SOURCE OF CLEAN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION**

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**28 AUGUST 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Dr. Suhana Binti Koting**  
Department of Civil Engineering  
Universiti Malaya

**LECTURE TOPIC: WASTE MATERIALS IN PAVEMENT**

**ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**23 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**18:00 - 19:30 (UTC+8)**

**Prof. Dr. Faridah Othman**  
Department of Civil Engineering  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Malaya

**LECTURE TOPIC: SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ENGINEERING**

AUA Students

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AUA Universities

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Technological Innovation and Smart Solutions for Urban Management

The series also shone a spotlight on the transformative role of technological innovation and smart solutions in enhancing urban management and sustainability. Prof. Mohammed Ali Berawi from Universitas Indonesia provided a comprehensive overview of the role of smart city technologies. He stressed that smart features and services should serve as part of Smart City initiatives which require the development of three forces: hardware, software, and brainware. Dr. Deeksha Arya from the University of Tokyo presented AI-powered solutions specifically tailored for enhancing road safety. Prof. Lin Yola from Universitas Indonesia introduced satellite-based technology for real-time urban monitoring, highlighting its applications in tracking urban sprawl, monitoring air quality, and managing natural disasters. Expanding the perspective further, Dr. Lita Sari Barus from Universitas Indonesia linked technological innovation in urban infrastructure development to the achievement of SDGs. She emphasized that smart urban planning and infrastructure projects must be aligned with SDGs to ensure that urbanization contributes to sustainable development rather than exacerbating environmental and social challenges.



Dr. Deeksha Arya  
Project Assistant Professor  
The University of Tokyo Japan

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

3 SEPTEMBER 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: AI-POWERED SOLUTIONS FOR ROAD SAFETY: FROM  
ASIA TO THE WORLD**



Dr. Lin Yola  
Associate Professor at the School of  
Strategic and Global Studies  
Universitas Indonesia

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

9 SEPTEMBER 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: INTEGRATED NAVIGATION SATELLITE BASED TECHNOLOGY FOR  
REAL TIME URBAN TRAFFIC AND AIR QUALITY MONITORING APPLICATION**



Dr. Lita Sari Barus  
Senior Lecturer, School of Strategic  
and Global Studies,  
Universitas Indonesia

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

11 SEPTEMBER 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: URBAN, SETTLEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT  
TO ACHIEVE SDGS GOAL**



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Berawi  
Faculty of Engineering  
University of Indonesia

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

2 SEPTEMBER 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: SMART CITY TECHNOLOGIES**



Dr. Jogymol Alex  
Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
Education  
United Arab Emirates University

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

4 SEPTEMBER 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



Dr. Sukhsh Yuliatiningtyas  
Senior Lecturer, School of Strategic  
and Global Studies,  
Universitas Indonesia

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

10 SEPTEMBER 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: AI, FAITH, AND YOUTH: A TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH  
TO SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL SOCIETIES**



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Waleed Ahmed  
Department of Mechanical  
Engineering  
United Arab Emirates University

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS AND  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

**AUA JOINT LECTURE SERIES 2025**

27 AUGUST 2025  
18:00 – 19:30 (UTC+8)

**LECTURE TOPIC: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ENGINEERING AND  
EMERGING AI CHALLENGES IN ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS**

Ethics, Governance, and Transdisciplinary Collaboration: Beyond Technical Aspects

In a bid to provide a holistic understanding of sustainable development, three professors transcended technical discussions to explore the critical non-technical dimensions of ethics, governance, and transdisciplinary collaboration. Dr. Jogymol Alex from the United Arab Emirates University stressed the importance of social impact and community engagement in sustainable development initiatives. She aimed to show how education, particularly mathematics education, builds the human infrastructure necessary for sustainability. Dr. Waleed Ahmed from the United Arab Emirates University delved into ethical considerations in engineering and AI, discussing how codes of ethics could guide principles for engineers and promote sustainability in engineering. Dr. Solikhah Yuliatiningtyas from Universitas Indonesia emphasized the power of cross-disciplinary collaboration by proposing a transdisciplinary approach that integrates AI, faith, and youth.

The AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025 received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, who praised the depth, diversity, and practical relevance of the topics covered. Dong Haoran, a second-year student from Tsinghua University who was awarded the “Best Essay” prize, shared his reflections: “This lecture series has significantly broadened my understanding of how economic policies and engineering innovations can synergize to advance sustainable development in Asia. It has made me realize the necessity of breaking down disciplinary barriers and combining the ‘soft power’ of economic management with the ‘hard power’ of engineering to deliver effective, comprehensive solutions.” He also commended the AUA program for its inclusivity and excellent organization, noting that it facilitated meaningful cross-cultural exchanges and interdisciplinary dialogue among participants from different countries and academic backgrounds.

Overall, the AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025 served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building. It fostered a deeper understanding among participants of how engineering innovations and transdisciplinary collaboration can be harnessed to address Asia’s most pressing sustainability challenges. With renewed insights and actionable approaches, attendees helped elevate the AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025 into an achievement that significantly advanced AUA’s mission of strengthening academic collaboration and sustainable development throughout Asia.

Full recordings of all sessions are available on the AUA official website: <http://www.asianuniversities.org/lectureseries/>

Navigating the Future with Sustainable Practices and Ethical Governance

The AUA Joint Lecture Series 2026, organized by Universitas Indonesia, brought together 10 prominent scholars and over 80 AUA students to examine pressing issues in sustainable development, governance, and innovation. The six-week program, held from 20 January to 27 February 2026, featured a carefully curated sequence of lectures addressing both regional priorities and global challenges in navigating the future with sustainable practices and ethical governance. Structured around four core lecture topics, the series integrated academic perspectives with practical insights, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of the forces shaping the future of Asia and the wider international community.

TOPIC 1: Corruption and Economic Development in Indonesia

Exploring the relationship between institutional quality and economic outcomes, this topic examined the case of Indonesia through multiple analytical perspectives. In the lecture “Corruption and Economic Development in Indonesia,” Dr. Yohanna Magdalena Lydia Gultom from Universitas Indonesia examined how public policy and governance structures shape local economic development. Complementing this perspective, Dr. Elisabeth Kramer of the University of New South Wales applied a structured “what-why-how” framework, offering a systematic lens for understanding corruption and its broader implications.

Together, these sessions underscored the importance of institutional integrity in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, while providing evidence-based insights into strengthening governance capacity.

TOPIC 2: Sustainable HRM in Asia: Challenges and Future Directions

Amid rapid socio-economic transformation across the region, this topic advanced discussions on people-centered approaches to sustainability in human resource management (HRM). Two lectures delivered by Dr. Riani Rachmawati and Dr. Nayunda Adhika Sari, both experts from Universitas Indonesia, addressed the foundational landscape and future directions for sustainable HRM in Asia.

Particular emphasis was placed on the concept of “Common Good Human Resource Management,” highlighting the alignment between organizational performance and broader societal well-being. The discussions examined key challenges while identifying strategic pathways for developing resilient, responsible, and future-oriented human resource systems.



Asian  
Universities  
Alliance

**AUA  
JOINT LECTURE  
SERIES 2026**

**“Navigating the Future with  
Sustainable Practices and Ethical  
Governance”**

**January – February 2026**

**LECTURE TOPICS:**

- TOPIC 1 -  
**Corruption and Economic Development in Indonesia**  
Session 1: Corruption and Economic Development in Indonesia  
Session 3: Corruption and Economic Development in Indonesia
- TOPIC 2 -  
**Sustainable HRM in Asia: Challenges and Future Direction**  
Session 2: Sustainable HRM in Asia: Setting the Landscape and Key Challenges  
Session 4: Sustainable HRM in Asia Moving Forward: Opportunities
- TOPIC 3 -  
**Biodiversity Reporting: Standardization, Materiality, and Assurance**  
Session 5: Biodiversity Reporting: Standardization, Materiality, and Assurance  
Session 6: Biodiversity and ESG: Positioning Biodiversity in Sustainability Assessment
- TOPIC 4 -  
**The Future of Ethical Finance: Exploring the Growth and Digital Transformation of Islamic Finance**  
Session 7: Digitalisation and Ethical Finance  
Session 8: Emerging Financial Technologies  
Session 9: Strategy, Implementation & Future Directions  
Session 10: Innovation in Islamic Finance

**Contact For More Information**

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January 20 - February 27, 2026

Universitas Indonesia

AUA Students AUA Universities

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TOPIC 3:  
Biodiversity Reporting: Standardization, Materiality, and Assurance

Reflecting growing global attention to environmental accountability, this topic explored biodiversity reporting as a critical component of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks. Through lectures by Prof. Mi Sun Park of the Seoul National University and Prof. Desi Adhariani of Universitas Indonesia, participants engaged with both foundational principles and evolving applications in sustainability reporting.

The lectures offered a structured exploration of key characteristics shaping effective biodiversity disclosure, including standardization, materiality, assurance, and the positioning of biodiversity within broader sustainability assessment



frameworks, among others. These discussions emphasized that biodiversity is not a peripheral concern, but an integral element of corporate accountability and long-term value creation.

By linking ecological responsibility with institutional and financial decision-making, this topic highlighted the need for more rigorous, transparent, and context-sensitive reporting practices, alongside credible mechanisms for assessment and assurance.

examined structural shifts in financing models alongside the growing importance of ethical governance.

The series further extended this discussion to emerging issues at the intersection of technology and law. In his lecture on AI and Copyright Law, Dr. Jose Berengueres of Nazarbayev University analyzed the legal challenges posed by generative artificial intelligence, including questions of authorship, ownership of AI-generated outputs, and intellectual property disputes related to training data. This perspective underscored the growing importance of aligning technological innovation with robust legal and ethical frameworks.

The AUA Joint Lecture Series 2026 provided a rigorous and forward-looking academic platform that effectively bridged multiple domains, including HRM, sustainability, finance, and digital transformation. Through its structured design, the series facilitated meaningful intellectual exchange and broadened participants' understanding of complex regional and global challenges.



TOPIC 4:  
The Future of Ethical Finance: Exploring the Growth and Digital Transformation of Islamic Finance

Focusing on the evolution of financial systems in an increasingly digitalized world, this topic focused on ethical finance with particular attention to Islamic finance and its future trajectory. Across multiple sessions, four lecturers explored key dimensions including digitalization, emerging financial technologies, strategic implementation, and sectoral innovation.

Dr. Ashish Singh from IIT Bombay analyzed how digital transformation and fintech integration are accelerating growth. Dr. Dony Abdul Chalid from Universitas Indonesia highlighted the role of Islamic finance in promoting greater financial equity, while Prof. Mehmet Asutay from Durham University



More notably, for the first time, the AUA Joint Lecture Series has secured official credit recognition. This milestone not only builds a more standardized platform of curricular resources for faculty and students across AUA, but also opens up broader prospects for future collaborative course development and joint talent cultivation among member universities.

By integrating theoretical analysis with practical perspectives, the program broadened academic horizons, and reinforced the importance of sustainable practices and ethical governance. It further strengthened collaboration among AUA member universities and contributed to the development of globally engaged talent.

# AUA ASIA DEEP DIVE PROGRAM

## Sustainable Development & Youth Leadership



Hosted by Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS), the Asia Deep Dive Program (ADDP) under the auspices of AUA has brought together 27 students from 10 AUA member universities. During the two-week immersive learning and exploration journey, 27 young students from 10 AUA member universities participated in the program focused on the core theme of "Sustainable Development & Youth Leadership". Through academic exchanges, field trips, company visits and cultural experiences, they deepened their understanding of China's development practices and pooled together the consensus and strength of Asian youth to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

As one of the key initiatives of Tsinghua SIGS to deepen educational cooperation in the Asian region, the program revolves around a three-dimensional integration of academia, practice and culture. It has built a learning and exchange platform with both depth and breadth for Asian youth. Participants conducted their studies in three cities—Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Beijing, gaining a comprehensive experience of China's development landscape featuring the coexistence of tradition and modernity, as well as the parallel advancement of innovation and sustainability.



At Tsinghua SIGS and Tsinghua University's main campus, experts and scholars from various fields delivered 17 keynote lectures. The topics covered cutting-edge areas such as urban development trends, ecosystems and the future of climate, robotic sensing technology, air pollution control and smart architecture. These lectures closely integrated theories with China's practical cases, helping participants gain an in-depth understanding of how technological innovation drives sustainable development.

Participants also visited companies, gaining first-hand insights into China's innovation ecosystem and sustainable development practices. From Shenzhen, the window of reform, to Guangzhou, the capital of Lingnan culture, and then to Beijing, the political and cultural heart, they gained an intuitive understanding of the diverse aspects and strong momentum of China's development. Meanwhile, by integrating international activities such as the Tsinghua Model United Nations, the program provided a platform for Asian youth to engage in equal dialogue and ideological exchanges, and consolidated their consensus on jointly promoting regional development.

The program enhanced participants' understanding of China's sustainable development achievements and cultural heritage, while reinforcing a shared commitment among Asian youth to advancing regional cooperation.

October 7-20, 2025

Tsinghua University

AUA Students AUA Universities

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# ARTS, SPORTS AND CULTURE EVENTS

## The Art of Aging: Creative Expression and Cultural Engagement in Later Life



The Office of Student Affairs at Chulalongkorn University, in partnership with AUA, successfully concluded the AUA-CU Arts & Culture Workshop 2026. Held from March 18 to 24, this year's program centered on the poignant theme: "The Art of Aging: Creative Expression and Cultural Engagement in Later Life."

The workshop served as a vibrant platform for pan-Asian collaboration, bringing together a diverse cohort of students and academics from eight leading institutions across the continent: Nazarbayev University, Seoul National University, Universitas Indonesia, The University of Tokyo, Tsinghua University, Universiti Malaya, the University of Yangon, and the host, Chulalongkorn University.

 March 18-24, 2026  
 Chulalongkorn University



## A Week of Cultural Immersion and Academic Insight

The journey began with dynamic ice-breaking sessions and a cultural tour of Chulalongkorn University's historic campus, providing a localized context for how urban spaces can foster active aging. This was followed by an expert sharing session titled "The Melody of Well-Being," led by Dr. Rachun Charoenkaensai from Roi Et Rajabhat University, who illustrated how Thai traditional music serves as a powerful catalyst for senior health.

The second day took participants to the majestic Grand Palace and Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram, followed by a hands-on visit to the Yannawa Elderly School. Under the guidance of Director Mr. Likhit Limrotrauai, participants collaborated with local seniors on art projects reflecting intergenerational relationships.

The mid-week curriculum balanced traditional wisdom with practical design. Participants explored the medicinal potential of Thai herb inhalers (Ya-Dom) in a workshop by the Center of Learning Network for the Region before entering intensive simulation phases to design their final presentations effectively.

A highlight of the week was a deep dive "Sharing Session" with Ms. Kobkul Kwangsuan from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, where delegates learned directly from the life experiences and wisdom of the elderly.

## Final Showcases: Innovation for Aging Societies

On the final morning, the atmosphere was filled with excitement as teams presented their creative solutions. Representatives from the Yannawa Elderly School joined as special guests to provide authentic feedback on the following projects:

- Group 1:** A holistic health project combining Tai Chi movements with the traditional craft of Myanmar lotus silk and batik making.
- Group 2:** A "Silver Fashion" initiative, empowering seniors to express their identities as both designers and runway models.
- Group 3:** An art exhibition titled "Young Eyes, Wise Eyes," showcasing contrasting perspectives of youth and seniors through a collaborative mural workshop.
- Group 4:** A storytelling-through-art program where seniors' life narratives were transformed into artworks, integrated with English vocabulary lessons.



## A Night of Celebration and Cultural Unity

The workshop culminated in a grand closing ceremony and farewell dinner. Assistant Professor Dr. Narapong Srivisal, Assistant to the President for Student Affairs, delivered a heartfelt closing remark, emphasizing that "undergraduates, as a youth power, are at the leading edge of global innovation."

Certificates of completion and special awards were presented to the delegates, recognizing their dedication and innovative spirit. The night concluded with a dazzling array of cultural performances, as representatives from the eight participating countries showcased their national heritage through music and dance, solidifying the bonds of friendship and regional collaboration formed throughout the week.

This AUA Arts & Culture Workshop successfully transitioned "aging" from an abstract statistical concept into a series of vivid, creative life narratives. Through this experience, students from AUA member universities gained effective communication skills and a deepened sense of social responsibility toward the elderly. This interdisciplinary and cross-cultural initiative offers a valuable model for addressing demographic challenges across Asia, fostering a spirit of humanistic care in the pursuit of a sustainable and inclusive society.

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.

# Research Collaboration

# AUA ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

## Innovating Governance: AI and Data Science in Public Health and Urban Development

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) convened the 2025 AUA Asia Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN) Conference on Public Policy from May 21 to 23, 2025. The event brought together 200 participants from 50 institutions across 17 countries, including 60 participants from 11 AUA member universities. This milestone conference featured three days of intensive discussions on innovative governance models, technological advancements, and policy challenges shaping the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference commenced on May 21 with an orientation tour of HKUST’s advanced public policy and AI research facilities. This was followed by a well-received “Meet the Editors” workshop, where academics refined their research publication strategies with journal editors. On Day 2, the conference opened with a keynote speech by Professor Benjamin Cashore from the National University of Singapore, who explored AI’s transformative potential in climate policy.



May 21-23, 2025  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

This set the stage for parallel sessions focusing on AI-driven healthcare solutions and smart city development. In the afternoon, a groundbreaking roundtable on data-driven urban futures was held. On the final day, Professor Wilson Wong from the Chinese University of Hong Kong addressed the regulatory challenges in AI-powered urban transformation, while Professor Kira Matus from HKUST led critical discussions on AI ethics and data privacy. The conference concluded with a wrap-up session that identified key policy recommendations and future research directions.



The AUA AP-PPN Conference underscored the significance of AI and data science in governance and inspired future research on technology-driven policy solutions. It yielded significant policy outcomes, including frameworks for ethical AI in healthcare and sustainable urban models.



| Institutions | Participants | AUA Universities | AUA Participants |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| 50           | 200          | 11               | 60               |

# AUA POSTGRADUATE ACADEMIC FORUMS

## Cross Cities, Beyond Borders: Tsinghua SIGS Hosts AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum on Asian Vision for Sustainable Development

From December 19 to 21, 2025, the AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum in conjunction with the Greater Bay Area Nanshan Academic Forum, took place at Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS). Under the theme "Asian Vision for Sustainable Development: Innovation and Cooperation for the Future," the event brought together over 220 experts and emerging researchers, including 32 postgraduate students from five overseas AUA member universities. The forum served as a dynamic platform for cross-cultural and interdisciplinary dialogue aimed at addressing global challenges.

The three-day program featured plenary talks from distinguished scholars, including Professor Xiaoping Zhang and Associate Professor Bo Zheng, who offered forward-looking perspectives on embodied intelligence and carbon emission governance. Participants engaged in profound academic exchanges across two core sub-forums: "AI Empowering Sustainable Development" and "Sustainable Development: Economy, Society & Ecosystem." Through 38 oral presentations and an interactive poster session, young scholars showcased cutting-edge research on artificial intelligence applications, green economic transformation, and environmental ecology. In a video address, AUA Secretary Professor Jian Liu encouraged attendees to act as bridges connecting diverse voices through collaborative innovation.



Beyond rigorous academic pursuits, the forum incorporated curated cultural activities to foster mutual understanding and camaraderie among Asian youth. An evening reception celebrated cultural diversity with a blend of traditional Chinese music, classical dance, and regional performances. Participants also experienced the spirit of teamwork through a campus dragon boat training session and gained insights into China's modernization during a visit to the Shenzhen Museum, where they explored the city's remarkable trajectory of reform and innovation.

The forum concluded successfully on December 21 with a closing ceremony that honored outstanding academic contributions through the "Excellent Poster," "Best Oral Presentation," and "Excellent Paper" awards. Professor Jiane Zuo, Chair of the Forum and Associate Dean of Tsinghua SIGS, commended the delegates for their innovative spirit and interdisciplinary collaboration. He reaffirmed Tsinghua University's commitment to deepening educational and research partnerships with AUA member universities, working collectively to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and build an open, inclusive, and sustainable higher education ecosystem in Asia. The forum not only underscored Asian universities' dedication to the SDGs but also harnessed the innovative energy and collaborative spirit of young scholars.

AI-Powered Insights:  
The New Era of Data-Driven Intelligence

From April 17 to 18, the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) at Universiti Malaya successfully hosted the 2026 AUA-UM Postgraduate Academic Forum in Selangor, Malaysia. Held in a hybrid format under the theme “AI-Powered Insights: The New Era of Data-Driven Intelligence,” the forum aimed to bring together postgraduate students, researchers, and academics from across Asia to share professional knowledge, present recent research progress, and exchange views on the latest developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and data-driven intelligence.



The two-day forum attracted 103 participants from seven AUA member universities, providing an inclusive platform for regional academic cooperation, professional networking, and interdisciplinary learning. The event featured a comprehensive academic program, including keynote speeches and in-depth parallel research presentations. The sessions covered core areas of AI such as machine learning, intelligent systems, data analytics, AI applications in healthcare, education, and industry, as well as AI ethics, governance, and the development of trustworthy AI systems.

Four distinguished speakers from renowned universities and leading industry institutions delivered keynote addresses, each offering unique insights and forward-



📅 April 17-18, 2026

🏛️ Universiti Malaya

looking perspectives. Professor Dr. Wisnu Jatmiko from Universitas Indonesia addressed explainability, reliability, and ethics in AI research. Professor Dr. Mohan Kankanhalli from the National University of Singapore focused on advances in trustworthy multimodal models. Professor Ir. Dr. Chan Chee Seng from Universiti Malaya discussed translational AI that bridges academic research with societal and industrial applications. Madam Zafirah Bahiyyah Zulkifli, Chief Executive Officer of Petronas Innovation Garage, shared an industry perspective on human-centered leadership in the AI era.

The parallel presentation sessions offered postgraduate participants a valuable opportunity to present their original research, receive professional feedback from experts and peers, and engage in in-depth academic exchanges.

At the closing ceremony, Best Presenter Awards were presented to outstanding participants in recognition of their excellent performance in research presentation, academic innovation, and research quality. Attendees praised the forum for its excellent organization, high-quality and relevant academic content, and the valuable networking opportunities it provided.



The 2026 AUA-UM Postgraduate Academic Forum has effectively strengthened regional academic cooperation in AI, enhanced the research capacity of postgraduate scholars, and deepened institutional partnerships among AUA member universities. Upholding the spirit of regional academic collaboration, the forum has played an important role in cultivating outstanding AI research talents across Asia and advancing the sustainable development of data-driven intelligence.

| AUA Participants | AUA Universities |
|------------------|------------------|
| 103              | 7                |

# AUA-THU SDG FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## Bridging Minds, Advancing Sustainability: AUA-THU SDG Fellowship Program

To advance multilateral academic cooperation and deepen collaborative innovation among AUA member universities, Tsinghua University (THU) initiated the AUA-THU SDG Fellowship Program in April 2026. Driven by a shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this flagship research collaboration initiative promotes short-term, high-impact academic exchanges among outstanding young scholars across AUA. By facilitating cross-border knowledge sharing and joint research, the program empowers researchers to transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries and address Asia's complex sustainability challenges.

Throughout this fellowship program, these fruitful interactions have naturally manifested in several distinctive dimensions. The exchanges highlighted the crucial role of adapting advanced technologies to diverse local environments while strengthening sustained academic networks. Furthermore, scholars gained valuable insights by engaging directly with frontline industrial practices and public governance across the region.

### Contextualizing Advanced Technologies for Asia's Local Environments

A key priority of the fellowship was to explore how cutting-edge technologies can be adapted to specific regional climates and resource endowments. Instead of relying solely on theoretical models, scholars engaged with local conditions to assess the real-world feasibility of technical solutions. During her visit to Universiti Malaya, Dr. Wang Yifan from Tsinghua University conducted an industrial survey on the local biodiesel supply chain. By visiting palm oil refinery clusters and engaging with industry regulators, she explored the potential of utilizing Tsinghua's proprietary enzymatic biorefining technology to process Malaysia's non-traditional biomass feedstocks, such as palm oil mill effluent and empty fruit bunches. Reflecting on the visit, she noted, "This has laid a solid foundation for future technological cooperation with Universiti Malaya and the transfer of Tsinghua's scientific and technological achievements."



April 2026- March 2027

Tsinghua University

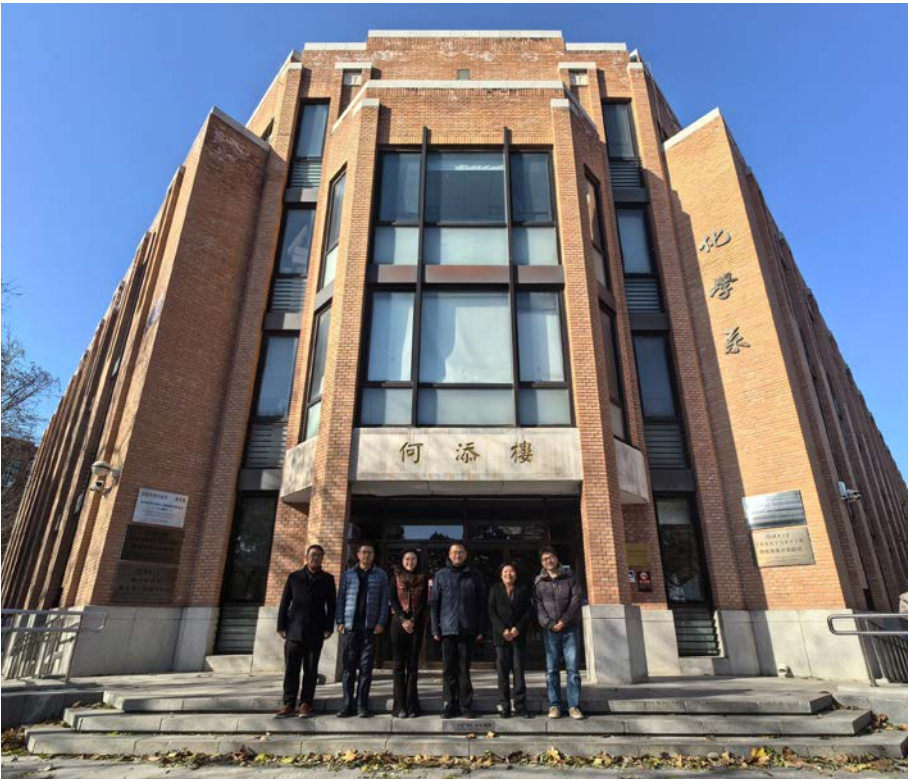


This emphasis on local adaptability and cross-boundary integration was also evident when Prof. Asma Perveen from Nazarbayev University visited the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Tsinghua University. She focused on laser additive manufacturing and its critical post-processing technologies. By seamlessly incorporating data-driven modeling and machine learning algorithms into mechanical simulation, she explored new solutions to minimize structural defects in the metal additive manufacturing process. This pragmatic exchange accelerated the transition of advanced material processing from experience-driven to data-driven paradigms, contributing vital regional wisdom toward sustainable industrial development and green manufacturing in Asia.

### Fostering Sustained Academic Networks through Knowledge Sharing

The program was designed to serve as a catalyst for ongoing institutional dialogue and reciprocal learning, rather than isolated visits. Prof. Woi Pei Meng from Universiti Malaya exemplified this during her stay at Tsinghua's Department of Chemistry. She championed the concept of "learning from nature" through specialized seminars on biomimetic electrocatalysis inspired by natural hydrogenases and explored the construction of transition metal-based nanocomposites for sensing technologies. Evaluating her experience, she remarked, "My academic visit successfully achieved its core goals: strengthening academic exchange, deepening technical expertise, and building foundations for future research collaboration in nanomaterials, sensing, and bioanalytical chemistry."

Similarly, Dr. Yu Yi from Tsinghua University visited Seoul National University in South Korea to explore global educational governance frameworks and comparative peace education. By engaging with local research groups on interdisciplinary curriculum design and delivering a guest lecture titled "Peace Education and Distributive Justice in the Age of Innovation," she shared valuable empirical insights from China and the Global South on bridging the digital divide. This top-tier academic collision successfully catalyzed an international co-authoring framework for comparative institutional research and established a long-term mechanism for mutual academic visits, injecting sustained intellectual momentum into regional educational development.



Engaging with Industrial Practices and Public Governance

Beyond academic theory, the fellowship encouraged scholars to observe practical applications in municipal engineering and public administration, fostering a meaningful exchange of governance experiences. While visiting Tsinghua University, Prof. Sansfica Marlyn Young from the University of Colombo conducted field assessments of the Lujiashan Waste Incineration Plant and Beijing Shougang Ecological Technology Co. Observing China's large-scale "Waste-to-Wealth" industrial practices, such as converting municipal waste into clean electrical energy and recycling residual bottom ash into eco-friendly building materials, provided her with a practical template for addressing Sri Lanka's solid waste management challenges. She expressed deep appreciation for the exchange, stating, "This was an extremely rare opportunity that allowed me to meet a group of warm-hearted and unstinting fellow scholars."



Concurrently, Dr. Huang Minxuan from Tsinghua University visited the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore to examine top-level designs for digital government and collaborative public administration. By analyzing Singapore's "Smart Nation" strategy, unified digital identity frameworks, and e-government operational mechanisms, her visit provided valuable comparative benchmarks in computational politics, deepening the understanding of how digital transformation can optimize public governance and enhance urban efficiency.



2025 Program Cycle Overview

58

A total of 58 young scholars from 11 AUA member universities were selected

39

scholars from 19 schools and departments of Tsinghua University conducted academic visits to 8 AUA member universities

19

scholars from 10 AUA member universities visited 10 schools and departments of Tsinghua University for academic exchanges

List of Admitted Scholars for AUA-THU SDG Fellowship Program  
(Tsinghua University to AUA Member Universities)

| AUA Scholar<br>(Tsinghua University<br>Outbound) | Department                                             | Host<br>University | Department<br>at Host University                                                              | Host<br>Professor                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| CHEN Min                                         | State Key Laboratory of<br>Hydrosience and Engineering | NUS                | Faculty of Civil and<br>Environmental Engineering                                             | Meng Xin                               |
| DENG Yang                                        | Department of Automation                               | QU                 | Department of Mechanical and<br>Industrial Engineering                                        | Ertoğral Kadir                         |
| DING Yizhen                                      | Vanke School of Public Health<br>and Health Sciences   | SNU                | Public Health                                                                                 | Kim Ho                                 |
| GAO Yi                                           | Department of Energy and<br>Power Engineering          | NUS                | Department of Civil and<br>Environmental Engineering                                          | Yu Iris                                |
| GUO Junjun                                       | Department of Chemical<br>Engineering                  | UTokyo             | Department of Advanced<br>Materials Science                                                   | Tamai Yaunari                          |
| HAN Xing                                         | Department of Electrical<br>Engineering                | UM                 | Department of Physics                                                                         | Yap Seong Ling                         |
| HUANG Minxuan                                    | School of Social Sciences                              | NUS                | Lee Kuan Yew School of Public<br>Policy                                                       | Wu Muluan                              |
| HUANG Zhiwen                                     | Department of Electrical<br>Engineering                | UTokyo             | Department of Electrical and<br>Electronic Engineering                                        | Kumada Akiko                           |
| LAI Yuan                                         | School of Architecture                                 | NUS                | School of Architecture                                                                        | Biljecki Filip                         |
| LI Chenglong                                     | Network Research Institute                             | QU                 | Faculty of Engineering                                                                        | Suganthan<br>Ponnuthurai<br>Nagaratnam |
| LIU Pengcheng                                    | Department of Hydraulic<br>Engineering                 | CU                 | Faculty of Civil Engineering                                                                  | Tangaramvong<br>Sawekchai              |
| LIU Xu                                           | Institute of Nuclear and New<br>Energy Technology      | UM                 | Department of Mechanical<br>Engineering                                                       | Chong Wen Tong                         |
| LIU Zhongkai                                     | Department of Energy and<br>Power Engineering          | QU                 | Department of Mechanical and<br>Industrial Engineering                                        | Ahmed Samer                            |
| NIU Songjie                                      | Department of Computer<br>Science and Technology       | UM                 | School of Computer Science<br>and Technology                                                  | Loo Chu Kiong                          |
| OUYANG Yunyu                                     | School of Fine Arts                                    | NUS                | College of Design and<br>Engineering                                                          | Ho Puay Peng                           |
| PANG Yuan                                        | Department of Mechanical<br>Engineering                | UTokyo             | Chemical Systems Engineering                                                                  | Sakai Yasuyuki                         |
| PENG Lisha                                       | Department of Electrical<br>Engineering                | NUS                | Department of Civil and<br>Environmental Engineering,<br>Faculty of Design and<br>Engineering | Qian Xudong                            |
| QU Diyang                                        | Vanke School of Public Health                          | NUS                | Saw Swee Hock School of<br>Public Health                                                      | Feng Mengling                          |

List of Admitted Scholars for AUA-THU SDG Fellowship Program  
(Tsinghua University to AUA Member Universities)

| AUA Scholar<br>(Tsinghua University Outbound) | Department                                         | Host University | Department at Host University                           | Host Professor             |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SONG Yu                                       | Department of Mechanical Engineering               | CU              | Mechanical Engineering                                  | Singhatanadid Paired       |
| WANG Cong                                     | School of Public Administration                    | UTokyo          | Institute of Social Sciences                            | Marukawa Tomoo             |
| WANG Congyue                                  | School of Social Sciences                          | NU              | Graduate School of Public Policy                        | Orazgaliyev Serik          |
| WANG Kaibao                                   | Department of Mechanical Engineering               | UM              | Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering | Alengaram Ubagaram Johnson |
| WANG Yifan                                    | Department of Chemical Engineering                 | UM              | Faculty of Science                                      | Ling Tau Chuan             |
| XIONG Lunqiao                                 | Department of Chemical Engineering                 | NUS             | Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering     | Yan Ning                   |
| XU Yangyang                                   | Department of Computer Science and Technology      | NUS             | School of Computing                                     | Yan Shuicheng              |
| XU Zhihao                                     | School of Social Sciences                          | NUS             | Department of Economics                                 | Sng Tuan-Hwee              |
| YANG QI                                       | Department of Hydraulic Engineering                | CU              | Faculty of Engineering                                  | Ruangrassamee Anat         |
| YANG Wudi                                     | School of Education                                | NUS             | Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy                    | Gu Qingyang                |
| YIN Zhenyuan                                  | Shenzhen Graduate School                           | CU              | School of Petroleum and Chemical Engineering            | Rangsunvigitt Pramoch      |
| YU Yi                                         | School of Education                                | SNU             | School of Education                                     | Kester Kevin               |
| ZHANG Huang                                   | Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Studies        | SNU             | Pending                                                 | Pending                    |
| ZHANG Jun                                     | Department of Hydraulic Engineering                | CU              | Department of Civil Engineering                         | Boonyatee Tirawat          |
| ZHANG Peng                                    | Department of Energy and Power Engineering         | QU              | Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering     | Ahmed Samer Fikry          |
| ZHANG Yan                                     | Department of Data Science and Information Studies | UTokyo          | Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies   | Motoyoshi Isamu            |
| ZHENG Hao                                     | Department of Mathematical Sciences                | UTokyo          | Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology             | Chen Jie                   |
| ZHENG Zhengjie                                | School of Education                                | UTokyo          | School of Education                                     | Nakamura Takayasu          |
| ZHU Jianwei                                   | Institute for Network Science and Cyberspace       | NUS             | School of Computing                                     | Liang Zhenkai              |

List of Admitted Scholars for AUA-THU SDG Fellowship Program  
(AUA Member Universities to Tsinghua University)

| AUA Scholar<br>(Tsinghua University Inbound) | Home University | Department at Host University                                                           | Host Professor at Tsinghua University | Department                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| SANORAN, Kanyarat (Lek)                      | CU              | Business School                                                                         | ZHONG Zhou                            | School of Education                             |
| CHAIMONGKOL, Nhabhat                         | CU              | Faculty of Education                                                                    | ZHONG Zhou                            | School of Education                             |
| HE, Jingwei Alex                             | HKUST           | Division of Public Policy                                                               | ZHAO Jing                             | School of Public Policy and Management          |
| ZHU, Pengyu                                  | HKUST           | Division of Public Policy                                                               | DONG Yuxiao                           | School of Information Science and Technology    |
| HENG, Chye Kiang                             | NUS             | Architecture                                                                            | ZHANG Li                              | School of Architecture                          |
| ORAZGALIYEV, Serik                           | NU              | Graduate School of Public Policy                                                        | CHEN Ling                             | School of Public Policy and Management          |
| PERVEEN, Asma                                | NU              | Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department, School of Engineering & Digital Sciences | ZHAO Cang                             | School of Mechanical Engineering                |
| QUAN, Jige                                   | SNU             | Graduate School of Environmental Studies                                                | LAI Yuan                              | School of Architecture                          |
| YUN, Myung Hwan                              | SNU             | Industrial Engineering                                                                  | RAU Pei-Luen                          | Department of Industrial Engineering            |
| ANTWI-BOATENG, Osman                         | UAEU            | Government and Society                                                                  | TANG Xiaoyang                         | School of Social Sciences                       |
| AHMED, Waleed Khalil                         | UAEU            | Engineering Requirement Unit, College of Engineering                                    | WANG Jianjian                         | School of Mechanical Engineering                |
| YATIM, Ardiyansyah Saad                      | UI              | Mechanical Engineering/Faculty of Engineering                                           | CAO Bin                               | School of Architecture                          |
| FARIZAL                                      | UI              | Department of Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering                            | ZHU Xufeng                            | School of Public Policy and Management          |
| YAU, Yat Huang                               | UM              | Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering                            | YANG Xudong                           | School of Architecture                          |
| WOI, Pei Meng                                | UM              | Chemistry/Science                                                                       | LI Jinghong                           | Department of Chemical Engineering              |
| TAKAGISHI, Akira                             | UTokyo          | Department of Art History, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology                  | GAO Yang                              | Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures |
| OKA, Mihoko                                  | UTokyo          | Historiographical Institute                                                             | GAO Yang                              | Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures |
| Wint Thuzar Than                             | UY              | Environment and Water Studies Department                                                | DENG Shubo                            | School of Environment                           |
| YOUNG, Sansfica Marlyn                       | UoC             | Environmental Technology                                                                | YUE Dongbei                           | School of Environment                           |

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.

# Strategy & Policy

# AUA PRESIDENTS FORUM 2025

The AUA Presidents Forum 2025 was held on April 18 at The University of Tokyo (UTokyo) in Japan, as part of the AUA Summit 2025. This forum with three different panel sessions aimed to provide a global platform for university leaders to address regional, national, and global challenges via fostering stronger collaboration among AUA member universities.

In the opening remark, Prof. Teruo Fujii, President of UTokyo, welcomed all the delegates to UTokyo and the Summit. He expressed high expectations for the forum. "I hope today's dialogues will contribute in a significant way to the advancement of knowledge, the cultivation of the new generation of global citizens, and the betterment of the entire community and planet," said Fujii.

The forum comprised three sessions that provided university leaders with a platform to discuss challenges and share innovative strategies in order to drive growth, integration, and collaboration across borders. The first session "Promise and Risk of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education" was moderated by Prof. Ema Arisa from UTokyo, convening panelists including Prof. Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University; Prof. Teruo Fujii, President of UTokyo; Prof. Waqar Ahmad, President of Nazarbayev University; Prof. Jae W. Lee, Vice President of Seoul National University; Prof. Mohsen Sherif, Acting Provost of UAE University; and Prof. Tin Maung Tun, Rector of University of Yangon. They explored AI's role in teaching, research, and campus ecosystems, and introduced universities' implementations such as AI-integrated curricula, localized language models, ethical frameworks, and interdisciplinary collaboration to foster responsible AI development.



The second session, moderated by Prof. Kameyama Yasuko, was themed "Ten Years of SDGs: Universities' Role in Achievements and Challenges". Prof. Lim Yvonne Ai Lian, Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaya; Prof. H.D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo; Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; Prof. Lum Sau Kim, Associate Vice President of National University of Singapore; and Prof. Wilert Puriwat, President of Chulalongkorn University together discussed the way to integrate Sustainable Development Goals into campus operations from economic, societal, and environmental aspects.

The third session on the topic of "From Campus to Startup: How Universities Drive Innovation and Entrepreneurship" was moderated by Prof. Kagami Shigeo from UTokyo. Prof. Tim Cheng, Vice President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Prof. Dong Zhiyong, Vice President of Peking University; Prof. Milind Atrey, Deputy Director of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; and Dr. Mezyad Alterkawi, President of the Global Engagement Office at King Saud University, attended this session. Panelists together highlighted how universities can cultivate ecosystems that not only foster the creation of startups but also support their growth and sustainability. They also discussed successful examples, best practices for fostering an innovative culture, and the role of academic programs and on-campus incubators in supporting budding entrepreneurs.



Prof. Kaori Hayashi, Executive Vice President of UTokyo, delivered the closing remark, commenting that the three topics of this forum represent key agendas in today's world that universities must address to nurture the next generation of leaders. She expressed her expectation that "through joint efforts and unity in the Asian region, we can build a shared academic space where students can not only develop their knowledge but also engage in meaningful exchanges across borders, culture, and disciplines". Hayashi also emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation among institutions, noting that its significance lies not only in academic collaboration but also in the moral imperative to collectively tackle the world's most complex challenges.



# AUA ONLINE EDUCATION FAIR 2025

The Asian Universities Alliance Online Education Fair 2025 was successfully held from December 8 to 11, bringing together 13 AUA member universities to showcase their academic strengths and educational offerings to a global audience. Leading universities from 13 Asian countries and regions—including Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong SAR, China), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (India), King Saud University (Saudi Arabia), National University of Singapore (Singapore), Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan), Seoul National University (Republic of Korea), Tsinghua University (China), United Arab Emirates University (United Arab Emirates), Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia), Universiti Malaya (Malaysia), University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), and The University of Tokyo (Japan)—showcased their unique historical and cultural heritage, core academic strengths, flagship disciplines, campus environments, as well as undergraduate, postgraduate, and short-term academic programs through admissions information, institutional promotional videos, and 27 live sessions.

EXPLORE  
YOUR  
FUTURE  
WITH  
ASIA'S  
LEADING  
UNIVERSITIES

► Dec 8-11 (Mon~Thu), 2025



For more live events and university information, please visit:  
[www.asianuniversities.org/edufair](http://www.asianuniversities.org/edufair)



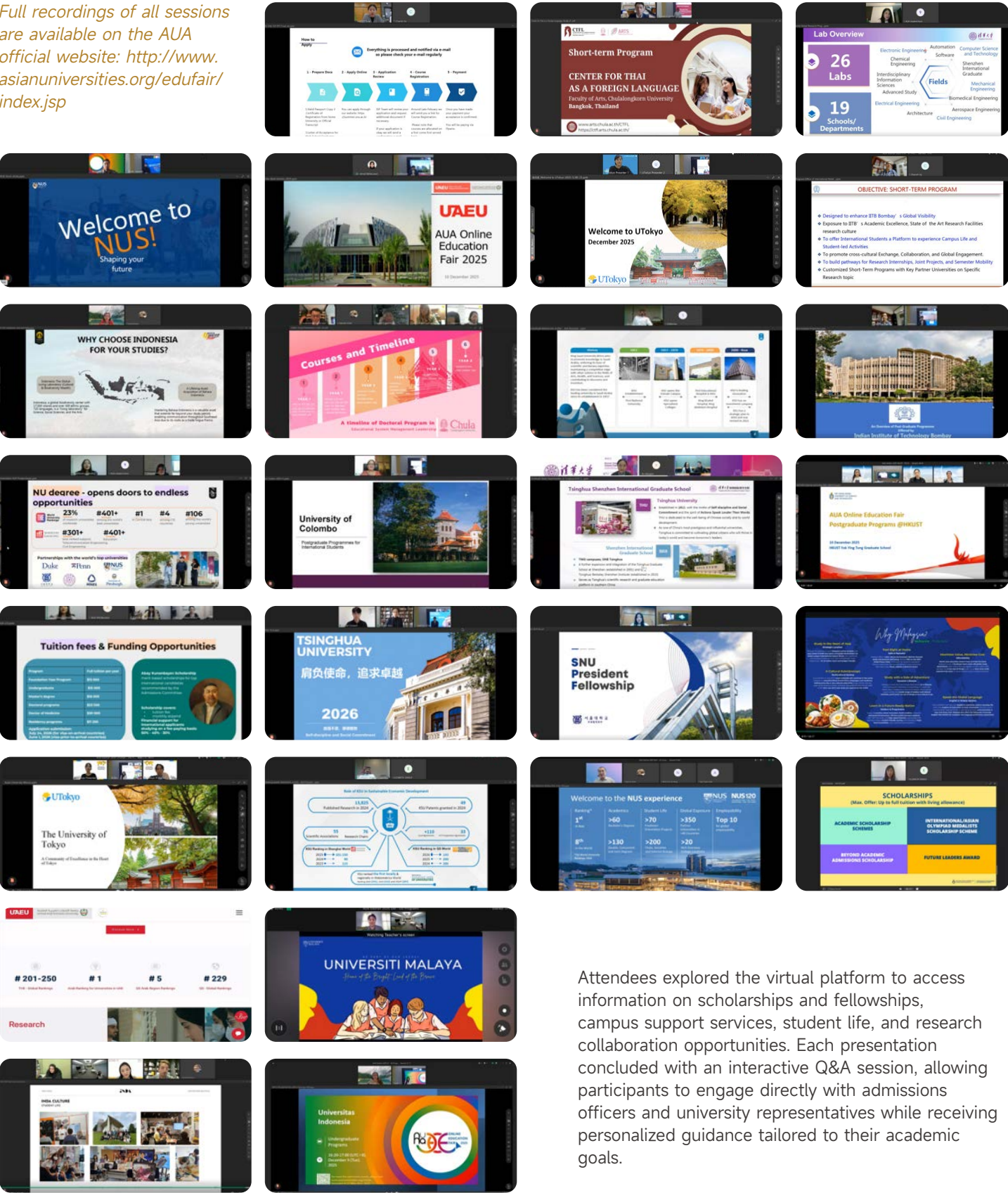
As the fifth consecutive online education fair co-organized by AUA members, this year's event drew thousands of attendees worldwide, offering them a one-stop platform to explore diverse higher education pathways across Asia. Admissions representatives from participating universities provided in-depth insights into application procedures, entry requirements, and program-specific policies, while students, parents, and educators engaged directly with university officials at virtual booths—forging valuable connections and gaining firsthand knowledge of academic and career development opportunities.

December 8-11, 2025

AUA Secretariat

The four-day fair featured a thematic schedule centered on hundreds of internationally accessible programs: short-term programs took the spotlight on December 8; undergraduate programs were the focus on December 8 to 9; and postgraduate programs were highlighted from December 10 to 11.

Full recordings of all sessions are available on the AUA official website: <http://www.asianuniversities.org/edufair/index.jsp>



Attendees explored the virtual platform to access information on scholarships and fellowships, campus support services, student life, and research collaboration opportunities. Each presentation concluded with an interactive Q&A session, allowing participants to engage directly with admissions officers and university representatives while receiving personalized guidance tailored to their academic goals.

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.

# Pilot Programs

# AUA ONLINE EDUCATION NETWORK



The AUA Online Education Network (OEN), initiated by the Online Education Center of Tsinghua University, continued to strengthen collaboration among member institutions through recognition of high-quality academic resources and expert exchange activities in 2025 around the future of higher education in the intelligence era.

## Excellence in Teaching and Educational Innovation

To recognize excellence in online and digital education, the Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance (GMA) launched the Third Annual GMA Awards in 2025. At the GMA Awards, three courses submitted by AUA member universities were recognized. “Ayurveda Basic Principles,” offered by the University of Colombo and led by Dr. Pushpa Kulanatha’s team, and “Canine Injection & Venipuncture,” led by Assistant Professor Pawana Chuesiri’s team from Chulalongkorn University were recognized with GMA Award. “Robots for Rehabilitation” offered by Dr. Prashant Kumar Jamwal from Nazarbayev University received the GMA Awards: AI Special Recognition.

The participation of AUA member universities in the GMA Awards reflects their continued contribution to the development and dissemination of high-quality online education within regional and global higher education communities.

## Expert Exchange on AI-Empowered Transformation of Higher Education

Amid the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence technologies, global higher education is undergoing significant digital transformation and intelligent upgrading. These developments are influencing the delivery of educational resources, teaching interaction models, and assessment methods, while also prompting renewed discussion on educational governance and institutional strategy.

AUA member universities actively contributed to the 2025 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference, themed “Breaking Boundaries and Reshaping Futures: Open and Intelligent Global Education,” held in Mexico City in December 2025. Professor Darkhan Bilyalov, Vice Provost of Nazarbayev University; Professor Yasushi Asami, Vice President of The University of Tokyo and Director of the Center for Research and Development of Higher Education; and Dr. Sean McMinn, Director of the Center for Education Innovation at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, delivered speeches at the conference.

In addition, experts from AUA member universities participated in the Online Education Dialogue series, contributing perspectives on AI and digital transformation in higher education. Speakers included Dr. Mohammed Alzaid, Head of the Artificial Intelligence Office at King Saud University, and Dr. Sean McMinn.

By integrating course recognition, high-level conference engagement, and sustained policy and academic dialogue, AUA OEN and GMA consolidated their partnership in advancing online and AI-empowered education, contributing to the evolution of an open, intelligent, and globally connected higher education architecture.

# AUA INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK

Launched in November 2024, the AUA Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) Network has quickly established itself as a cornerstone of collaborative innovation across the Alliance. Over a dynamic first year, under the inaugural convenorship of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), the Network delivered a series of impactful initiatives designed to foster entrepreneurial talent, deepen cross-institutional collaboration, and strengthen the region’s innovation ecosystem.

## Showcasing Regional Innovation: HKUST Unicorn Day 2025

A highlight of the Network’s first year was HKUST Unicorn Day 2025, held on 13 June 2025. As part of the event, the AUA I&E Network hosted a dedicated “AUA Booth” that showcased prominent start-ups incubated at AUA member universities. The booth facilitated exchanges with founders of HKUST’s deep-tech start-ups, offering visitors a window into HKUST’s research impact and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with more than 80 deep-tech projects and engage in pitching sessions, further strengthening cross-institutional connections and knowledge sharing. Representatives from AUA member universities were invited by HKUST to participate in the event, deepening and strengthening future cooperation in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship.



Nurturing Future Entrepreneurs:  
HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp 2025

Entrepreneurship education remained a core priority for the Network. From 6 to 12 July 2025, HKUST welcomed participants from four AUA member universities to the HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp. This immersive seven-day program introduced participants to Hong Kong's vibrant start-up ecosystem, equipping them with hands-on entrepreneurial skills through design-thinking workshops, interactive pitching sessions, and a final competition. Site visits to the Hong Kong Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, the Hong Kong Centre for Construction Robotics (HKCRC), Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks (HKSTP), and the Lingnan University Jockey Club Gerontech-X Lab gave attendees first-hand exposure to cutting-edge research facilities and innovation hubs. A networking dinner provided a platform for cross-cultural connections that will support participants' entrepreneurial journeys for years to come. This impactful bootcamp further consolidated the Network's development momentum and facilitated experience sharing among young innovators from member universities.



A Smooth Handover at the AUA Executives'  
Meeting 2025

As the first convenorship term drew to a close, the Network celebrated a significant milestone with the convenorship transition at the AUA Executives' Meeting 2025. During the handover ceremony, Tsinghua University formally accepted the convenorship of the AUA I&E Network for the 2025–2026 term from HKUST. Professor Li Shuangshou, representative of the Fundamental Industry Training Centre at Tsinghua University, received the convenor plaque in a ceremony witnessed by representatives from across the Alliance.

Reflecting on HKUST's tenure as the inaugural convenor, Professor Carrie Ling, Director of the HKUST Entrepreneurship Center, highlighted the Network's collaborative achievements of the past year and underscored the shared dedication to fostering innovation, research, and entrepreneurial mindsets in higher education across the region.

As the AUA I&E Network moves into its second year, the solid foundation built under HKUST's leadership and the fresh energy brought by Tsinghua's convenorship promise to unlock even greater opportunities for cross-regional collaboration, entrepreneurial talent development, and innovative solutions to the region's most pressing challenges.



# Governance

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# AUA BOARD MEETING 2025



The AUA Board Meeting for 2025 was successfully convened on April 17, 2025, in Tokyo, Japan. Hosted by The University of Tokyo (UTokyo), the meeting brought together over fifty representatives from member universities, who engaged in in-depth discussions on the challenges and development trends confronting higher education in Asia.

Kaori Hayashi, Executive Vice President of UTokyo, delivered a welcome address on behalf of President Teruo Fujii. In her speech, she extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed the hope that the close partnership within AUA would serve as a model for future international cooperation.



The Board Meeting was structured into two sessions. The first session was chaired by K. V. Krishna Rao, the Deputy Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB). Mohsen Sherif, Acting Provost of the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), presented the AUA Work Review for 2024-2025 to the Board on behalf of Ahmed Al Raeesi, the AUA President and UAEU Acting Vice Chancellor. Subsequently, Liu Jian, the AUA Secretary, reported on the AUA Financial Statement for 2024-2025.

Yvonne Li, Head of Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and Mezyad Alterkawi, President of the Global Engagement Office at King Saud University (KSU), then presented two progress reports from AUA working groups. Board members actively engaged in discussions on the contents of these reports and put forward a wealth of valuable suggestions.

In the Handover of AUA Executive Presidency segment, Shireesh Kedare, IITB Director and AUA Executive President 2023-2024, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity that enabled IITB to hold the Executive

Presidency from 2023 to 2024 and looked forward to further strengthening future collaboration within AUA. Then a token of appreciation was presented to him by Mohsen Sherif. With the Board's approval, Seoul National University (SNU) officially took over the AUA Executive Presidency for 2025-2026. The Board also confirmed the appointment of Ryu Hong Lim, President of SNU, as the AUA Executive President for 2025-2026. On behalf of Ryu Hong Lim, Jae W. Lee, Vice President of SNU, stated that SNU is committed to working closely with all member institutions to reinforce AUA as Asia's leading inter-university platform for collaboration, innovation and shared progress.



The second session, chaired by Yang Bin, Vice Chairman of the University Council at Tsinghua University, featured a presentation by Liu Jian on the AUA Programs and Budget for 2025-2026.

The Board then voted on the AUA Themes for 2026-2029. After deliberation, AI & Digital Innovation, Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability & Future Habitat, Public Health, and Innovation & Entrepreneurship were selected as the frontier fields for AUA during the 2026-2029 period.

Waqar Ahmad, President of Nazarbayev University; Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University; Wilert Puriwat, President of Chulalongkorn University; Tin Maung Tun, Rector of the University of Yangon; Noor Azuan Abu Osman, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya (via video message); on behalf of Abdullah Alsalman, Mezyad Alterkawi, Hettige

Don Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo; Tim Cheng, Vice-President of HKUST; Dong Zhiyong, Vice President of Peking University; and Lum Sau Kim, Associate Vice President of National University of Singapore delivered remarks in sequence.

At the conclusion of the Board Meeting, Kaori Hayashi delivered the closing remarks. She noted, "So many students and young scholars are engaged in cutting-edge activities proposed and organized through this global alliance." She expressed her hope that AUA would enable all member universities to collaborate closely, nurturing globally-minded and talented individuals who could contribute to academic excellence, as well as to the future peace and prosperity of Asia and the world.

# AUA EXECUTIVES' MEETING 2025



The Asian Universities Alliance Executives' Meeting 2025 was held by Seoul National University (SNU) in Seoul, Korea from November 26 to 27, 2025. Bringing together 48 delegates from 15 member universities across 14 countries and regions, this meeting focused on reviewing achievements, discussing financial sustainability, mapping the alliance's membership development, and formulating the AUA Framework 2026-2029 to guide the Alliance's future growth.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Honglim Ryu, President of SNU, warmly welcomed the AUA representatives to the SNU campus. In his welcome address, Prof. Ryu highlighted the unique strength of AUA, noting that "among the various international partnerships SNU is part of, AUA stands out for the strong sense of partnership and trust among its members." He emphasized that with Asia standing at the center of the world economically and technologically, the



AUA platform enables member universities to achieve greater things together and become a model of collaboration.

Prof. Yang Bin, Vice Chancellor of University Council at Tsinghua University (THU), delivered an inspiring address on behalf of the founding member and permanent host of the AUA Secretariat. He reaffirmed THU's commitment to building a shared educational community through resource sharing. Prof. Yang highlighted recent initiatives, including the opening of THU's foundational AI courses to AUA members and the launch of the AUA-THU SDG Fellowship, which will support scholars from member universities to visit THU and support THU scholars visiting AUA member universities.



Prof. Ayesha Salem Al Dhaheri, Advisor to the Vice Chancellor of United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), also delivered remarks on behalf of AUA President and UAEU Vice Chancellor Prof. Ahmed Al Raeesi, extending warm greetings to all AUA members. She also emphasized UAEU's continued commitment to deepening collaboration and building on shared progress within AUA community.



The session on AUA program reports, chaired by Prof. Wah Wah, Pro-Rector of the University of Yangon, reviewed the implementation of key AUA initiatives in 2025. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) presented on the AUA Asia-Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN) Conference. Universiti Malaya (UM) shared the outcomes of the AUA Joint Lecture Series 2025 which focused on engineering innovations. THU reported on the Asia Deep Dive Program, themed "Sustainable Development & Youth Leadership", which was hosted by its Shenzhen International Graduate School in October.

The session also included the handover ceremony for the AUA Innovation & Entrepreneurship Network Convenorship. HKUST, represented by Prof. Carrie Ling, Director of the Entrepreneurship Center, officially handed over the network's convenorship to THU. Prof. Li Shuangshou from THU's Fundamental Industry Training Center (iCenter) accepted the convenor plaque.



Following the program reviews, the session on alliance governance was chaired by Prof. Rehan Sadiq, Provost of Nazarbayev University. Ms. Xiao Qian, Dean of the Office of International Affairs at THU, and Prof. Lim Yvonne Ai Lian, Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor of UM, respectively presented the reports of the Working Group on Financial Sustainability and the Working Group on Member and Observer Admission. Delegates engaged in discussions on these vital topics to ensure the Alliance remains financially resilient and open to strategic expansion.

The discussion session on the Alliance's strategic direction was led by Prof. Lum Sau Kim, Associate Vice President of the National University of Singapore. The Secretariat presented the progress of structuring the AUA Framework 2026-2029, which sets a clear vision for maximizing educational and research impact over the next three years. Subsequently, Prof. Shin Cheul Kim, Associate Vice-President of HKUST, chaired the recommendation progress for the AUA Presidency 2026-2029, ensuring the institutional continuity of the Alliance.

On November 27, the AUA Special Forum was convened to discuss the future landscape of higher education. The forum featured two sessions: "Beyond Borders: Practices of Attracting and Retaining Global Talent," moderated by Prof. Hyojin Sung from SNU's Graduate School of Data Science, and "Future Shape of Degree Programs," moderated by Prof. Jung Cheol Shin from SNU's Department of Education.

The first panel discussion was held among Prof. Vedagiri Perumal, the Dean of the Infrastructure Planning and Support at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB), Prof. Rehan Sadiq, and Prof. Ayesha Salem Al Dhaheri. The discussion highlighted that while AUA member universities recognize global talent as a cornerstone of academic excellence and international reputation, they grapple with shared challenges.

The second panel discussion was held among Prof. Yang Bin, Prof. Lim Yvonne Ai Lian, Prof. Venkata Santosh Kumar Delhi, the Associate Dean of the Infrastructure Planning and Support at IITB, as well as Prof. Dong-Hun Han Associate Dean of Student Affairs from the SNU College. Discussions included geopolitical tensions disrupting international student mobility, rigid curriculum frameworks, interdepartmental silos, and the need to balance foundational knowledge with future-ready skills.

The AUA Executives' Meeting 2025 concluded successfully in Seoul with in-depth exchanges and wide consensus. All members reaffirmed their willingness to strengthen cooperation and jointly promote the prosperity of higher education in Asia.





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