











**2022-2023**  
**Yearbook**

# AUA Members

Name	Abbrev.	Location
 Chulalongkorn University	CU	Bangkok, Thailand <sup>a</sup>
 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST	Hong Kong, China <sup>b</sup>
 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	IITB	Mumbai, India <sup>c</sup>
 King Saud University	KSU	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia <sup>d</sup>
 National University of Singapore	NUS	Singapore <sup>e</sup>
 NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY	NU	Astana, Kazakhstan <sup>f</sup>
 北京大学 PEKING UNIVERSITY	PKU	Beijing, China <sup>g</sup>
 서울대학교 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	SNU	Seoul, Republic of Korea <sup>h</sup>

Name	Abbrev.	Location
 清华大学 Tsinghua University	THU	Beijing, China <sup>i</sup>
 UAEU	UAEU	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates <sup>j</sup>
 UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA Veritas, Probitas, Iustitia	UI	Jakarta, Indonesia <sup>k</sup>
 UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO	UoC	Colombo, Sri Lanka <sup>l</sup>
 UNIVERSITI MALAYA	UM	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia <sup>m</sup>
 東京大学 THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO	UTokyo	Tokyo, Japan <sup>n</sup>
	UY	Yangon, Myanmar <sup>o</sup>

# AUA Overview 2022-2023

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Presidents  
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Academic  
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Student  
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766

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Executive &  
Administration  
Meetings

## AUA Presidents Forum 2022

hosted by Tsinghua University

<b>Session 1:</b> University Internationalization During and After COVID-19	March 2022
<b>Session 2:</b> Creating a University Culture of Innovation and Lifelong Learning	March 2022
<b>Session 3:</b> Future of Learning: Interdisciplinary Education and Innovative Pedagogy	March 2022
<b>Session 4:</b> The Networked University for an Integrated Education and Research Ecosystem	March 2022
<b>Plenary Session:</b> Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature	April 2022

## AUA Academic Conferences 2022-2023

AUA Academic Conference on Learning in a Post-COVID-19 Era	Chulalongkorn University	June 2022
AUA Academic Conference on the Exchange of Asian Civilisations and the Smooth Flow of Trade along the Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in conjunction with 2022 Tsinghua Symposium Seminar	Tsinghua University	August 2022
10th Asian Management Research and Case Conference 2022 in Collaboration with Asian Universities Alliance	United Arab Emirates University	October 2022
AUA-UAEU Workshop on Graph Theory, Combinatorics and Applications	United Arab Emirates University Universitas Indonesia	November 2022
AUA Academic Conference on Water Technology	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	December 2022
AUA Academic Conference on Public Health Resilience in the COVID-19 Pandemic	Universitas Indonesia The University of Tokyo	February 2023

## AUA Student Programs 2022-2023

AUA Biodiversity Photography Contest	Tsinghua University	January-May 2022
AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program Artificial Intelligence in Education	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	May 2022
AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	July 2022
AUA-NU Overseas Study Program Water Resources Policy and Management	Nazarbayev University	October- December 2022
AUA Lecture Series: Future of Energy	AUA Secretariat	October- December 2022
AUA Youth Forum—Building a Meta Silk Road: Integration of Asian Cultures in the Real and Virtual Universe	Nazarbayev University	October 2022
AUA-HKUST Fintech MasterClass	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	October- November 2022
AUA Youth Forum—Uniting for a Sustainable Future: Asian Youth in Action	United Arab Emirates University	March 2023

## Executive & Administration Meetings 2022-2023

AUA Board Meeting	Tsinghua University	April 2022
AUA Executives' Meeting	United Arab Emirates University	November 2022
University Administration Meeting: Establishment of AUA Institutions Joint/Dual Postgraduate Academic Programs	Universiti Malaya	February 2023

# Preface

The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), comprising fifteen member universities, celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2022. This report showcases the work of AUA from April 2022 to April 2023 as it continued its efforts to jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific, and technological development, by strengthening collaboration among member institutions across Asia.

To celebrate its 5th anniversary, AUA held multiple events and organized various programs with member universities to reflect on past achievements. In March 2022, Tsinghua University hosted the AUA Presidents Forum, which comprised four sessions and a plenary session. With the theme of “Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature,” university leaders shared diverse experiences highlighting sustainable solutions that drive the progress and innovation of higher education in Asia and beyond.

In 2022-2023, AUA Executive Presidency was held by the United Arab Emirates University, with Professor Ghaleb Ali AlHadrami AlBreiki serving as AUA Executive President. In November 2022, AUA Executives’ Meeting took place in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, which emphasized the preparedness of member universities to forge ahead with new initiatives. AUA Youth Forum—Uniting for a Sustainable Future: Asian Youth in Action, hosted by United Arab Emirates University, is an excellent example of how AUA inspires young people to contribute to sustainable development locally and globally.

This year marks the completion of the AUA Framework 2020-2023. Throughout these years, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, AUA showed solidarity, resilience, and tenacity. Throughout the year, AUA has continued promoting educational resource sharing and the development of a multicultural learning environment. Between June 2022 and May 2023, AUA member universities actively proposed and hosted various student mobility programs in disciplines related to AUA themes: Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Asian Civilizations, and Energy and Sustainability. Altogether, 415 students participated in 8 student programs hosted by five member universities and the AUA Secretariat.

Recent global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have further emphasized the need for resilience in the face of unexpected disruption. Universities face several challenges, including sustainable development and the need to adapt to new technologies. Such challenges require a collaborative approach. AUA member universities have actively worked together to leverage their resources and expertise. AUA Lecture Series 2022: Future of Energy drew from the best educational resources of our members and invited

16 eminent scholars from 14 universities to provide diverse approaches to sustainable, clean, and affordable energy. Through live broadcast sessions of the Online Education Fair 2022, which attracted thousands of viewers, AUA member universities provided detailed information about international students’ recruitment.

By organizing academic conferences, AUA provides a platform for international exchanges to facilitate research collaboration. From 2022 to 2023, AUA member universities hosted six academic conferences on various topics such as public health resilience, water technology, graph theory and combinatorics, management research, and Asian civilizations. Engaging a total of 271 participants from fifteen member universities, these conferences offered a unique opportunity for scholars, students, and researchers to share their research findings, network with experts in the field, and enhance their skills. Participants learned about the latest research trends and broadened their perspectives, which allowed them to pursue further research.

AUA plays a crucial role in fostering communication on university strategy and policy by organizing university administration meetings. Such meetings build towards bilateral cooperation agreements between member universities. In February 2023, Universiti Malaya organized a program on the Establishment of AUA Institutions Joint/Dual Postgraduate Academic Programs, which allowed delegates to share best practices and discuss prospects about joint and dual degree programs.

Higher education has always been a dynamic sector. Over the past few years, member universities have adapted to major transformations in the sector with a pragmatic approach that has created a stronger Alliance. In the face of adversity, AUA has developed a series of working policies, mechanisms, and practices and formed a joint force through unity and collaboration. By pooling and sharing quality educational resources, AUA members have jointly organized a set of activities that instilled a sense of community into scholars and students.

As humankind, we face shared challenges such as climate change, food security, and environmental pollution. Looking upon past experiences, universities need to rethink how to tackle these issues and adapt to the new realities in the higher education sector. Each member university should prioritize win-win synergies to thrive and accelerate growth globally over the next decade. AUA is a good example of universities working together to build a community of Asian higher education for a shared future. Combining strengths in research, education, and innovation, the AUA member universities will ensure progress toward that goal.

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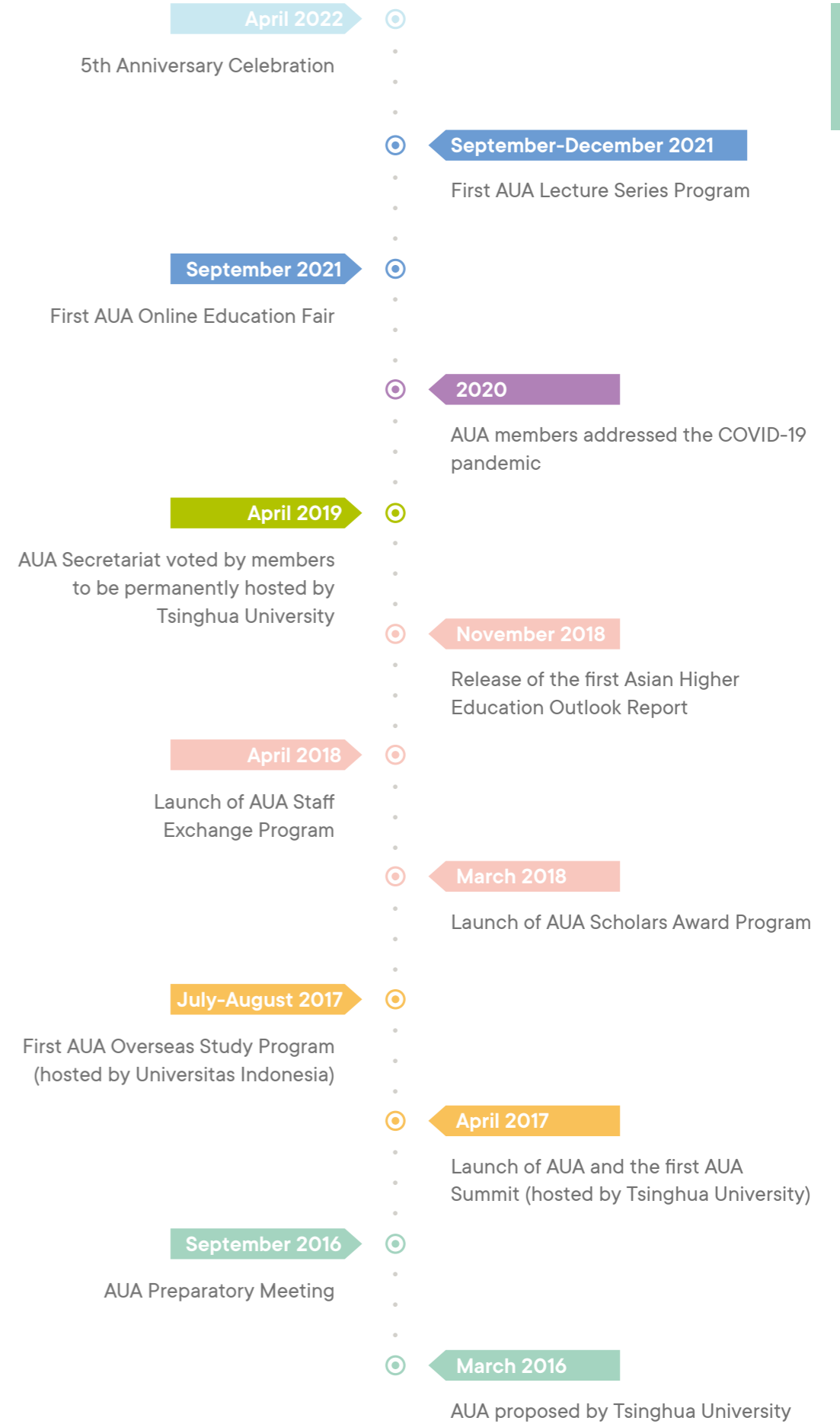
# About AUJA


















# 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 of AUA



 <p><b>Nancy IP</b> The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</p>	 <p><b>Subhasis Chaudhuri</b> Indian Institute of Technology Bombay</p>	 <p><b>Badran A. Alomar</b> King Saud University</p>
 <p><b>Bundhit EUA-ARPORN</b> Chulalongkorn University</p>	 <p><b>TAN Eng Chye</b> National University of Singapore</p>	 <p><b>GONG Qihuang</b> Peking University</p>
 <p><b>Shigeo Katsu</b> Nazarbayev University</p>	 <p><b>WANG Xiqin</b> Tsinghua University AUA President 2022-2023</p>	 <p><b>Ghaleb Ali AlHadrami AlBreiki</b> United Arab Emirates University AUA Executive President 2022-2023</p>
 <p><b>H.D. Karunaratne</b> University of Colombo</p>	 <p><b>Honglim Ryu</b> Seoul National University</p>	 <p><b>Teruo Fujii</b> The University of Tokyo</p>
 <p><b>Ari Kuncoro</b> Universitas Indonesia</p>	 <p><b>Mohd. Hamdi Abd. Shukor</b> Universiti Malaya</p>	 <p><b>Tin Maung Tun</b> University of Yangon</p>

## Former AUA Board Members (2022-2023)

 <p><b>Se-Jung OH</b> Seoul National University</p>	 <p><b>QIU Yong</b> Tsinghua University</p>	 <p><b>Wei SHYY</b> The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</p>
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# 2020-2023 AUA Framework

The AUA Framework is structured in two dimensions: Themes and Modules. The Themes set preferred topics for the Modules. Generally, member universities should ensure to propose and manage AUA programs and activities according to the four Modules.

For 2020-2023, the AUA Themes include:

- Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
- Asian Civilisations
- Energy & Sustainability

The four Modules are:

- Student Mobility
- Research Collaboration
- Strategy & Policy
- Annual Report on Asian Higher Education

Based on the AUA Framework, the topics encompassed in the three themes cut across technological, economic, social, political, cultural, and many other dimensions.

### Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

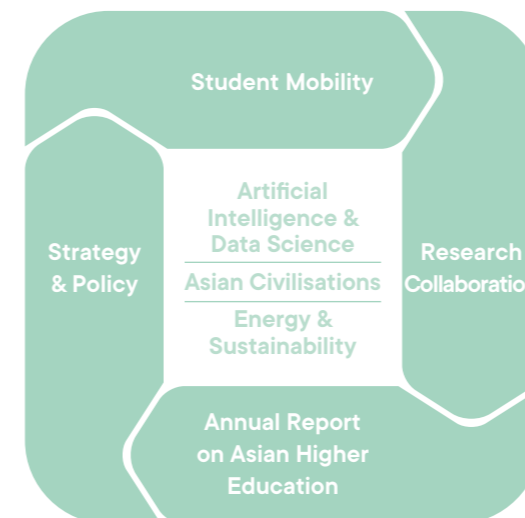
Nowadays, the world has embarked on a fast track of artificial intelligence among many other disruptive technologies based on data science. The competition for more advanced technologies is getting fierce, not only in industry, but also in universities and research institutes. AUA aims to facilitate communications between the member universities on the theoretical, technological, and ethical studies of artificial intelligence and data science. AUA also encourages initiatives that help the member universities build closer ties with industry, improve technology transfer, or strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship education.

### Asian Civilisations

Asia is home to thousands of ethnic groups and is the cradle of numerous brilliant civilisations. Despite marvelous achievements in recent years, Asia is facing challenges in economic resilience, social development, political stability, cultural preservation, etc. Located in 14 Asian countries and regions, the AUA member universities offer significant advantages in Asian studies in terms of educational and research resources. AUA will create the conditions to produce the best research on Asian studies and encourage member universities to develop educational programs on Asian studies for students within and beyond the AUA community.

### Energy and Sustainability

With the joint efforts of many countries over the past few decades, the adoption of sustainable energy is widespread all over the world. Governments of many countries take considerable measures to enhance energy conservation, improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and create market demand for sustainable energy. In response to the calls for energy solutions, AUA will support the programs that deepen students' awareness of energy challenges and sustainable development. AUA will encourage students to learn how to play an active part in promoting sustainable development as well as creating prosperity.





# Student Mobility

AUA member universities have shown a strong willingness to increase the mobility of students. It is a delight to the member universities that AUA has grown into a platform that facilitates student mobility. Throughout the years, AUA has implemented its primary function as a tie to connect members and share educational resources. Many AUA students had an opportunity to raise awareness of many 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 providing opportunities for holding Asia Deep Dive Programs, AUA Youth Forums, Overseas Study Programs, and Arts and Sports Events.

# 2022-2023 Student Mobility Programs

AUA Youth Forums	AUA Youth Forum: Building a Meta Silk Road: Integration of Asian Cultures in the Real and Virtual Universe	Nazarbayev University	October 2022
	AUA Youth Forum 2023: Uniting for a Sustainable Future: Asian Youth in Action	United Arab Emirates University	March 2023
AUA Lecture Series	AUA Lecture Series 2022: Future of Energy	AUA Secretariat	October-December 2022
Overseas Study Programs	AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program Artificial Intelligence in Education	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	May 2022
	AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	July 2022
	AUA-NU Overseas Study Program Water Resources Policy and Management	Nazarbayev University	October-December 2022
	AUA-HKUST Fintech MasterClass	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	October-November 2022
Arts and Sports Events	AUA Biodiversity Photography Contest	Tsinghua University	January-May 2022

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## AUA Youth Forum

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

## AUA Lecture Series

AUA Lecture Series is an academic program that brings together scholars from multiple AUA member universities to jointly deliver a series of academic lectures on a specific topic related to Asia, e.g., Asia's economies, new energy industry, sustainable development, etc. AUA Lecture Series is a unique public education product developed by AUA as it provides students with different facts, views, and perspectives on the same issue by scholars from different parts of Asia.

## Overseas Study Programs

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

## Arts and Sports Events

Many AUA member universities have vibrant arts and sports communities. Artistic and sports education constitute an important part of university education as well as campus life. Arts and Sports Events (ASE) allow students to showcase their talents and share cross-cultural experiences with one another. Through artistic endeavors and sportsmanship, these programs help students grow into creative and independent thinkers.

## Building a Meta Silk Road: Integration of Asian Cultures in the Real and Virtual Universe

From October 24 to 28, 2022, the Asian Universities Alliance Youth Forum under the theme of "Building a Meta Silk Road: Integration of Asian Cultures in the Real and Virtual Universe", was hosted by Nazarbayev University (NU) in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The AUA Youth Forum (AUAYF) focused on particular themes—such as Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, Public Health, Asian Civilizations, and Future Habitats—that correspond to the concept of the AUA year.

At the Youth Forum, about 40 participants represented 8 AUA member universities: Nazarbayev University, The University of Tokyo, Chulalongkorn University, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, United Arab Emirates University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Seoul National University, Universiti Malaya, and the University of Colombo (online).

On October 24, the Forum opened with welcoming remarks by NU President Shigeo Katsu and Provost Ilesanmi Adesida. Dr. Loretta O'Donnell, NU Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, delivered her speech on *Heritage and Silk Road*, and Ms. Aliya Kaimoldinova, Head of the Office of Global Relations, gave a talk on *Internationalization*.

Katsu mentioned the increasing role of digital technologies and the historical connection between Silk Road countries and emphasized the importance of communication between people and the value of cultural exchange.

"We are happy to host students from our institutions in the AUA

Nazarbayev University,  
October 2022

40



students

9



universities



Group photo of AUAYF participants at Nazarbayev University



Nazarbayev University President Shigeo Katsu delivering a keynote address



Students attending a cultural activity



Students presenting their traditional costumes



Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida, Nazarbayev University Provost delivering welcoming remarks



Group photo of AUAYF participants with NU's Provosts and program organizers



Students attending a lecture

family as participants in the Forum on Meta Silk Road. Artificial Intelligence and Smart Systems have become the infrastructure of life; this Forum will examine their intersection with the areas of business, finance, and environment and their impact on culture in the heart of the Ancient Silk Road," said NU Provost Ilesanmi Adesida.



A participant raising a question during the discussion

During the week, students from AUA member universities exchanged knowledge, experiences, and cultural values. The Youth Forum program included workshops by NU professors on the following topics as research in AI, AR/XR/VR, data science, and computer graphics; AI in Environmental Health; Cyber Security and Blockchain; "Data as the new oil: Alibaba's multi-billion business model building on data analytics"; "Preserving Silk Roads Heritage: Challenges and Solutions". In addition, participants had a chance to attend scientific workshops and seminars and visited the National Park–Borovoe resort area where they learned about Kazakh cultural heritage.

On the closing day, students wore their national costumes, shared a piece of their culture with creative performances, and reflected on what they had learned about Kazakhstan.

## Uniting for a Sustainable Future: Asian Youth in Action

The AUA Youth Forum 2023 under the theme "Uniting for a Sustainable Future: Asian Youth in Action" was hosted by United Arab Emirates University on 12-18 March 2023. A total of 43 students from 12 AUA member universities participated in this forum. Below is a reflection of a program participant, Xinran Ge, who studies at the School of Environment at Tsinghua University:

"As I reflect on my experience at the 2023 AUA Youth Forum on Sustainability, I realize that many reasons contributed to the overall success of the forum. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, and cultural activities were filled with opportunities to learn, connect, and engage.

The theme of our event was Sustainability, which is a crucial topic. With the modernization of our world, irreparable damage has been done to the environment, many species are on the verge of extinction, and the issue of global warming has become more and more of a concern. Therefore, we need to explore and practice the concept of Sustainability to ensure that our planet can continue to provide conditions for human survival. In the forum, we listened to experts and scholars from all over the world. We also explored advanced concepts and modern technologies related to environmental protection, clean energy, sustainable cities, and sustainable agriculture. Through these events and exchanges, we better understood Sustainability and various natural phenomena. This knowledge is essential for the youth to cooperate and contribute to building a sustainable future.

In addition, the forum allowed us to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in Sustainability. Through various discussions and workshops, we learned about different aspects of sustainability, such as environmental protection, social equity, and economic development. We also gained insights into how industries, including technology and tourism, can work towards achieving sustainable goals.

Our visit to Masdar City was particularly eye-opening. As an aspiring environmental scientist, I was fascinated by the city's advanced technologies for generating renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. It was inspiring to see how innovation and sustainability can work hand in hand to create a cleaner, more efficient future. This visit allowed us to explore real-world examples of Sustainability, which helped us better understand the ideas and concepts of our discussions and workshops.

Apart from the educational aspect, the cultural exchange component of the forum was equally valuable. It was a privilege to meet and learn from students from all over Asia, each with their perspectives and experiences. The cultural night was a highlight of the forum, as we witnessed the diversity and beauty of different cultures. From traditional dances to delicious food, we could experience the richness and complexity of Asian culture.

Lastly, the forum reminded us of the role that youth can play in promoting Sustainability on an international level. As future leaders, we are responsible for taking necessary action and working toward achieving a more sustainable future. The forum instilled the knowledge and skills needed to make a difference. By working hand in hand, we can create a cleaner, more equitable, and more prosperous world for all.

Overall, the 2023 AUA Youth Forum on Sustainability was a truly unforgettable experience. During the forum, we had an opportunity to raise awareness on various aspects of Sustainability, connect with fellow students, and get inspired to act. AUA Youth Forum was a testament to the importance of youth in promoting Sustainability and a reminder that we can create a better future for ourselves and generations to come."



Students visiting Masdar City in UAE



Students exploring local cultural traditions



Students after completing the Sports Championship activity



Participants after receiving their prizes



Group photo of AUA Youth Forum 2023 participants



Students at the opening ceremony of AUA Youth Forum 2023



Invited speakers during the panel discussion

United Arab Emirates University, March 2023

43



students

12



universities

## Future of Energy

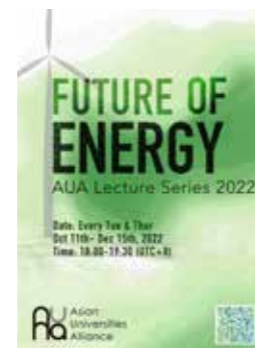
AUA Lecture Series 2022: Future of Energy was held online from October to December 2022. Sixteen eminent scholars from 14 AUA universities delivered lectures tailored for AUA students, attracting more than 100,000 audiences online.

The theme of AUA Lecture Series 2022 was related to Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Energy is an important material basis and driving force for the progress of human civilization. The UN states that sustainable energy "transforms lives, economies and the planet" and that access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy is critical to achieving many of the SDGs, especially mitigating climate change. In reaching the targets for Goal 7, Asian countries developed their national energy strategies and energy policies based on domestic energy demand and the international energy situation. Asia has abundant and promising clean energy resources, which is an important foundation for achieving a clean, diversified, reliable and economical supply of energy in the future.

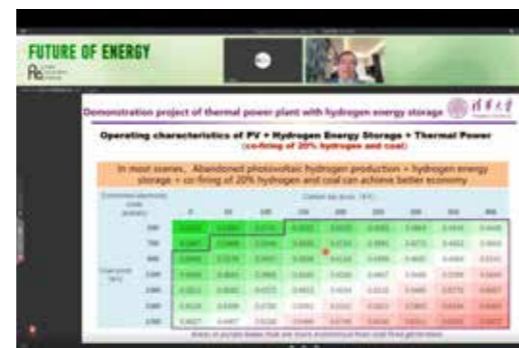
AUA Lecture Series 2022: Future of Energy invited experts from each AUA university who introduced the energy strategies of their home countries, including scenario planning, and guided students and other attendees to rethink how to "ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."

Both the AUA students and the global audience gained a good level of understanding of energy strategies and policies across Asia. In addition, the AUA students enrolled in the program had an opportunity to learn from and have discussions with other students from Asia.

All lectures are uploaded on AUA's official website. It is hoped that the lecture series could serve as a public education product made by AUA. Previous lectures are available at: <http://www.asianuniversities.org/lectureseries/>



AUA Lecture Series 2022



Opening ceremony of AUA Lecture Series 2022

AUA Secretariat,  
October-December  
2022

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## AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program 2021 Artificial Intelligence in Education

The AUA Overseas Study Program "Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED)" was hosted online by IIT Bombay from 23rd May 2022 to 3rd June 2022. The 10-day long program was designed to introduce the learners to the application of artificial intelligence in one of the most promising domains today—Education. The course was uniquely designed to give the students an experience of what prospects and challenges may arise from data generated by learners in a variety of educational setups, and what novel technologies are available today to address such hurdles.

A diverse set of 23 student participants from ten universities across Asia took part in the program: the University of Yangon, National University of Singapore, Peking University, Tsinghua University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Nazarbayev University, Seoul National University, Universitas Indonesia, and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

During the program, the students were taken through a curated set of asynchronous video lectures delivered by the instructor of the course, which were accompanied by daily live online interactions with the instructor and TAs. Some of the topics covered included introduction to machine learning, introduction to Python programming, different levels of analytics, data privacy, data visualization, machine learning, descriptive analytics, diagnostic analytics, pattern and process mining, and multimodal learning analytics. The students were introduced to a publicly available dataset called Open University Learning Analytics Dataset (OULAD), which contains data about seven courses, students, and their interactions with a digital learning environment. The last two days of the program were focused on the course project and presentations by the groups.

Based on the experience and feedback of the participants, the program was well-received and reflected the AUA's objectives of inculcating scientific temper in higher education students through a multi-cultural learning environment and promoting cultural exchanges among the students.



Program flyer



A presentation during the lecture



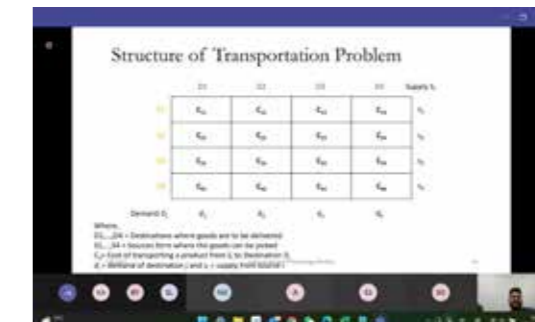
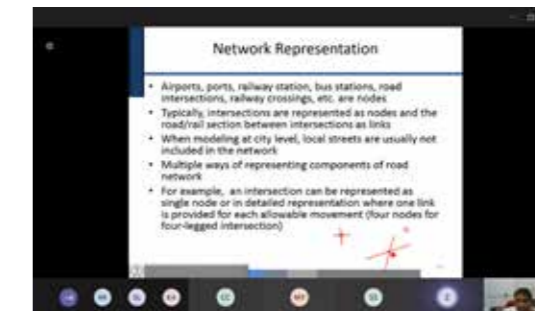
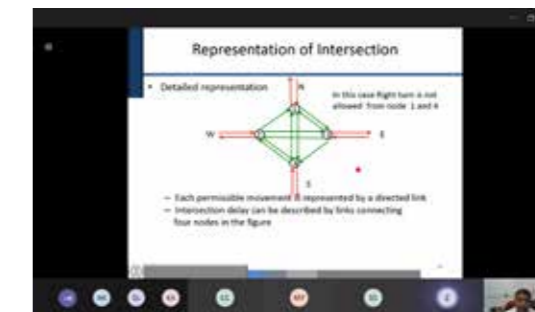
The live interactions with several active learning strategies like Think-Pair-Share

## AUA-IITB Overseas Study Program 2022-Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics

The AUA Overseas Study Program "Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics" was hosted online by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) on 4-15 July 2022. 10 students from 5 AUA universities participated in this online program.

The program aimed to encourage students better understand the modeling and planning technologies of freight movement. Unlike passenger movement, there are many players involved in the decision-making of freight movement. It is important to understand, model, and plan the logistics of these movements. Efficient logistics operations are vital for the economic prosperity of a region. Many countries have higher logistics costs causing hurdles in freight mobility. With the exponential growth in e-commerce, the significance of logistics operations has only increased.

Throughout a series of lectures, course tutorials and presentations, students had an opportunity to explore various key topics in freight transportation planning and logistics operations.



Snapshots of online lectures and presentations

Indian Institute of  
Technology Bombay,  
May 2022

23



10



Indian Institute of  
Technology Bombay,  
July 2022

10



5



## AUA-NU Overseas Study Program 2022 - Water Resources Policy and Management

The AUA Overseas Study Program "Water Resources Policy and Management" was held online by Nazarbayev University from 5 October to 7 December 2022.

The program aimed to accentuate the role of water resources policy and management by focusing on the Central Asia region with a comparative analysis of South/Southeast Asia regions.

A total of 23 students from 11 AUA universities participated in this online program. Participants had an opportunity to understand the concept of integrated water resources management (IWRM) through an interdisciplinary approach; to apply holistic conceptual frameworks for the development of better water resources management and policy decisions; and to interpret the complexities of transboundary water systems into policy frameworks.

### Participant testimonials:

"Prof. Xenarios and Dr. Baigaliyeva are always well prepared and have delivered world-class lectures that have definitely widened my spectrum in understanding water governance-related subjects. Their lectures are a well-mixed combination of basic knowledge for beginners and more complex concepts that invoke thoughts for experienced students with a good proportion of the social science and physical science of WRM. I value this rare opportunity to learn and exchange views with peers from all around Asia in the breakout rooms or other interactive sessions. I'm also impressed by the organization and structure of the program. All in all, I recommend this course to all individuals who have an interest in learning more about water-related issues and I am grateful that AUA and NU have brought to me this wonderful course."

**Olivia Pang**

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**

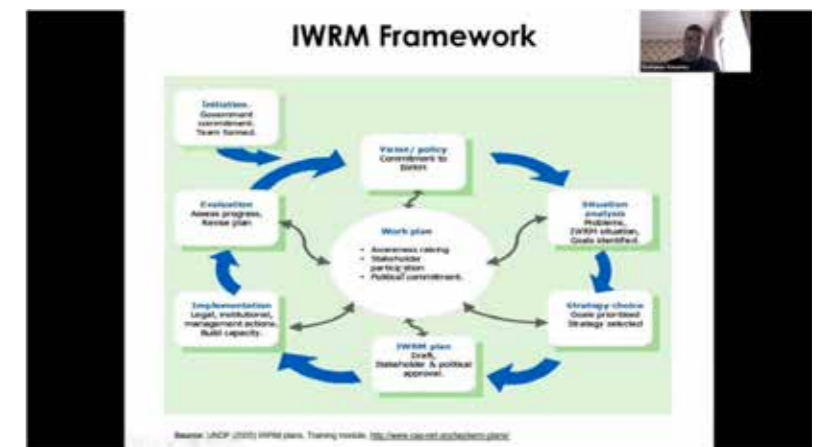
"I love this program so much because it not only gave me knowledge of water management but most importantly is that it gave me more understanding of situations in each country (ex-Soviet, Middle East, Eurasia, and many more). I haven't heard stories of these countries until I joined the program. I love discussing and sharing information about my country with other

students, as well as listening to professors and classmates share their stories. I love the method of teaching when each student votes for an option that they are likely to agree with and lets them share their thoughts. I realized that people from different backgrounds have different perspectives toward the same thing, and we should respect each other."

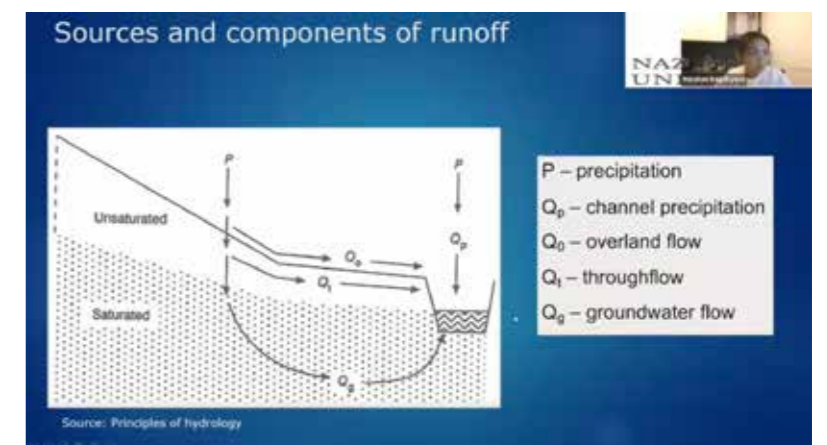
**Chusma Trisuriyatumma**  
**Chulalongkorn University**

"I particularly enjoyed working in groups. It is great pleasure to be part of a group of students who is concerned about water. The content is focused on contemporary issues and well organized."

**Anara Zhardem**  
**Nazarbayev University**



Week 3: Learning the fundamentals of IWRM



Week 4: Technical session on basics of hydrological cycle

# Overseas Study Programs

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, October-November 2022

147 students

8 universities

## AUA-HKUST Fintech MasterClass

The AUA-HKUST FinTech MasterClass was held from 28 October to 10 December 2022. The program consisted of Hong Kong FinTech Week, Distinguish talks and HKUST Web3 Carnival.

AUA participants received the student passes to join the main conference of Hong Kong FinTech Week virtually and had a chance to connect with professionals from different countries. Over 250 top speakers around the world, including FinTech founders, investors, regulators, and academics, shared their views and experience in their respective fields.

Prof. Yang Wang, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement shared the efforts of HKUST on Blockchain and Web3.0. HKUST has the first Theme-Based Research Grant on Blockchain, and a Crypto-Fintech Lab to bridge the digital economy from research, education, innovation to globalization by establishing industry partnerships. Prof. Wang also shared his view on the opportunities and challenges of Web3.0, and the commitment and future of Hong Kong to Web3.0 Digital Economy.

Prof. Shiqing Ling, Chair Professor of the Department of Mathematics and Academic Director of MSc FinTech program introduced the FinTech landscape in Hong Kong and postgraduate training at HKUST. He shared how technical and financial knowledge such as information technology, blockchain, data science, machine learning and decision analytics could help develop talents for the digital economy. Mr. Joel Choy, alumnus of MSc FinTech program, Director of Data Management and Delivery (Cyber Security Operations) of JLL Technologies shared his FinTech journey and learning.

The HKUST Web3 Carnival was a series of mix-scale industry dialogues in the format of panel discussions to focus on sharing with entrepreneurs some most heated topics in Web3, including NFT, metaverse, and cryptocurrency.

AUA students joined the virtual events on Sustainability and Impact in Web3, Risk and Opportunities in Web3 and The World in 2030 (Closing Panel of HKUST Web3 Carnival).



Hong Kong FinTech Week

## Participant testimonials :

It is my pleasure to participate in the FinTech Week seminars. With the emergence and explosive growth of the Fintech industry, it is important for me, as an undergraduate student, to understand what is transforming the financial sector landscape before I officially start my professional career. I enjoyed the talk very much and I am thrilled to see students from different countries.

**Andrea DE FELICE**  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

It has been a great experience joining the FinTech MasterClass as the program covers multiple platforms for participants to get a thorough picture of this heated area. Not only can we hear from the field experts in the arena, but we can also connect with them on the virtual conference! I am most grateful to have an opportunity to join the renowned Hong Kong FinTech Week and get inspired by the professionals. Thanks to AUA and HKUST, this is a program that I would recommend to other students interested in the FinTech field.

**Ting DAI**  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Opening session: Digital Economy



Introduction of HKUST in FinTech



HKUST Web3 Carnival Closing Panel – The World in 2030



### AUA Biodiversity Photography Contest

The AUA Biodiversity Photo Contest took place between January and April 2022. Ninety students, faculty members, and staff from twelve AUA member universities submitted over 500 photographs. The contest was part of a number of events discussing critical global and regional challenges for AUA's 5th anniversary.

The theme of the contest was "Community of Life: Biodiversity Through the Lens." It was hosted by the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) Secretariat and organized by Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS).

Photographs submitted to the contest highlighted unique species, the intersection of biodiversity and modern life, and the co-existence between human beings and nature. In each of the two categories, smartphone and digital camera, six winners were chosen: one first prize winner, two second prize winners, and three third prize winners. The first prize photos, along with second and third prize photos were exhibited online on the AUA 5th Anniversary website and in an offline exhibition in Shenzhen organized by Tsinghua SIGS. A number of shortlisted photos were also displayed at the exhibition and in the contest photo album.

The photo contest and exhibition come at a time when biodiversity is being discussed on a global scale. In 2019, the UN published a report on global biodiversity and ecosystems that drew attention to the severe impact of human actions on animal and plant habitats. As a result, the first part of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) was held in Kunming, Yunnan, China in October 2021. At the event, delegates were committed to negotiating a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The "Community of Life: Biodiversity Through the Lens" Photo Contest is part of this global effort to bring attention to the critical issue of biodiversity.

As a vivid and creative reflection of this global effort, the winning photographs have brought awareness to the importance of biodiversity protection in the AUA community and beyond.



*A Green Iguana, first prize photo, smartphone category*



*Smooth coated otter during golden hour*



*A Golden Snub-nosed Monkey Looking into the Distance*



*Warmth of Family*



*Rich vibrant coral reefs settling along seawalls at East Coast Park, Singapore*



*Reflection*

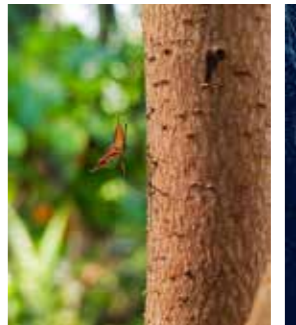
*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize digital camera photographs*



*The Whisper of Cheetahs, first prize photo, digital camera category*



*An Old Tree Undergoing Vicissitudes*



*Different*



*Liberated - Rhythm of the Waves*



*Flying Red-crowned Cranes*



*Mandarin Duck Couples*

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize smartphone photographs*

Tsinghua University,  
January-April 2022

90



12



*AUA Biodiversity Photo Contest Exhibition opening ceremony*



*AUA Biodiversity Photo Contest exhibition in Shenzhen*





# Research Collaboration

A photograph of several people sitting around a table in a conference setting, overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The people appear to be engaged in a discussion or meeting.

Since the founding of AUA, the member universities have continuously improved communication to foster research collaboration within the alliance. Each year, AUA supports member universities to hold academic conferences drawn from the AUA Themes. AUA Academic Conferences aim to bring peer scholars of the AUA universities to meet, share and discuss the research of a particular academic domain. Academic Conferences extend AUA's impact in academic fields, encourage academic communication and help initiate academic clusters among the member universities.

## Learning in the Post-COVID-19 Era

AUA Academic Conference on Learning in a Post-Covid-19 Era was held on June 16-17, 2022. By organizing this academic conference, Chulalongkorn University aimed to connect common concerns, insights and aspirations shared by leading scholars and practitioners in AUA member institutions and other stakeholders in society, to seek a new learning that would serve Asia. The crisis is an opportunity to revive the whole education system, a new form of equitable quality education for all.

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has impacted every segment of society. It forced all sectors to adjust their thinking and impose a new order, including the world of education. The pandemic has disrupted traditional schooling. It has driven educators to change their perspectives and practices. Learning in the new normal is a new challenge. The pandemic has particularly highlighted the long-standing educational inequalities for children around the world.

The Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University co-hosted the conference with AUA, welcoming all the inspiring presenters. Honorable keynote speakers included Dr. Riel Miller, former Head of Futures Literacy at UNESCO, and Prof. Dr. Somkiat Tankitvanich, President of Thailand Development Research Institute. Their addresses set the tone of the conference enriching the exchanges that followed in panel discussions.

The conference featured three-day pre-conference workshops from June 13-15, 2022, which were designed for practitioners to boost their professional development. These hands-on events were organized by various academic units within the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University. Each speaker engaged in extended conversation to bring out the best practices that represented their teams' efforts.



Dr. Riel Miller, Former Head of Futures Literacy



Prof. Dr. Somkiat Tankitvanich, President of Thailand Development Research Institute



Broadcasting team, the Office of International Affairs and Global Network



Pre-conference online workshop



Prof. WANG Xiqin, President of Tsinghua University and Prof. Bundhit-eua Arporn, President of Chulalongkorn University delivering welcoming remarks



A participant presenting her research paper

Besides the teamwork within the Faculty of Education, cross-unit collaborations among diverse groups gave rise to this successful conference. The groups included the Office of Academic Resources (broadcasting team), the Office of International Affairs and Global Network, and the AUA Secretariat based at Tsinghua University.

The conference encouraged AUA participants to bring forth their ideas across the Asian continent. One of the aims of the conference was to allow a common line of academic inquiry that could bring most members of the AUA network together and encourage future collaborations among participants with similar interests.

Chulalongkorn University, June 2022

66



students

7



universities

## 2022 AUA Academic Conference on the Exchange of Asian Civilisations and the Smooth Flow of Trade along the Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in conjunction with 2022 Tsinghua Symposium Seminar

On August 28th, 2022, AUA Academic Conference in conjunction with Tsinghua Symposium Seminar was successfully held at Hunan University. Under the theme of "The Exchange of Asian Civilizations and the Smooth Flow of Trade Along the Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative", experts and scholars emphasized the significance of promoting shared identity and values, working hand in hand toward improving Asian higher education and its tangible impact on society's biggest challenges.

The conference was held in a hybrid format, co-hosted by Tsinghua University and Hunan University. It included three-panel discussions, attended by 39 scholars representing 35 universities and 12 countries.

The AUA Academic conference began with the opening ceremony, chaired by Prof. Hou Junjun, Dean of the School of Economics and Trade, Hunan University. Prof. Wang Weibin, Vice President of Hunan University, delivered the welcoming remarks. Following this, Dr. Zhang Chuanjie, AUA Secretary, pointed to the importance of exchanges among Asian civilizations. He encouraged scholars from different countries and universities to strengthen dialogue, embrace diversity and deepen mutual understanding.

Following the opening ceremony, invited experts delivered keynote speeches addressing current socio-economic issues within Asia. Prof. Sawada Yasuyuki, who served as the Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and is now a professor at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, gave a speech on "Imitation, Innovation, and Digitalization in Post-COVID Asian Development." According to Prof. Yasuyuki, the driving policy of Asian technological transformation should be analyzed through historical narratives of technological development in Asia as well as Japan's "flying geese paradigm."

Prof. Fu Yuming from the Business School at the National University of Singapore gave a speech entitled "Urban Development in the Context of Decarbonization and Digitalization." He stressed that the development of low-carbon cities in response to climate change should continue by improving the national happiness index. Prof. Xu Helian, who serves as the Secretary-General of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Research Institute at Hunan University, delivered a speech entitled "Structural Characteristics and Reconstruction of the Trade Relations Network of Countries along "the Belt and Road." He



Opening ceremony of the conference



Prof. Hou Junjun, Dean of the School of Economics and Trade, Hunan University



Prof. Sawada Yasuyuki, Faculty of Economics, the University of Tokyo



A participant presenting his research paper



Conference participants during the panel discussion

demonstrated the network structure of the BRI countries and their supply chain characteristics through space-time performance using geographical computing. Prof. Tang Xiaoyang, Dean of the Department of International Relations at Tsinghua University, delivered his keynote speech on the topic "Asian Regional Integration Process Under the Trend of Counter-globalization." He provided an excellent blueprint for regional cooperation in Asia by considering the historical context of globalization.

In the first panel discussion, entitled "The Belt and Road Initiative and Civilizational Exchange and Mutual Appreciation", 13 scholars presented their research results and proposed a set of policy formulations. They provided an overview of the countries and regions along the Belt and Road and mainly focused on the following topics: maritime Silk Road, peacekeeping, and digitalization.

During the second panel discussion, 12 speakers elaborated on the major role of the Belt and Road initiative as well as the impact of international cooperation on development. Under the theme of "Economic and Social Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative", scholars also proposed a set of technical strategies to advance the BRI initiative based on quantitative economic modeling.

Prior to the closing ceremony, the third-panel discussion entitled "Inclusive Growth and Digital Transformation in Asia" took place. Its participants discussed how China, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka among other Belt and Road countries in Asia had improved their socio-economic development through a technological transformation as well as education-driven and innovative thinking. Speakers argued that focusing on the topics such as green finance, digital media, and talent cultivation is the key to achieving success in the process of modernization.

At the closing ceremony, Prof. Ai Hongshan delivered a concluding speech. Each session during panel discussions was chaired by respected professors from Tsinghua University and Hunan University.

Overall, this academic conference was a success as it will certainly help further strengthen the collaboration among Asian universities, enhance cultural exchanges, and promote trade along the countries of the Belt and Road initiative. Participants agreed on the significance of sharing knowledge among civilizations and improving people-to-people exchanges to build a better future for all.



Group photo of conference participants

## 10th Asian Management Research and Case Conference 2022 in Collaboration with Asian Universities Alliance

The Covid-19 outbreak has challenged every aspect of management, forcing stakeholders to adapt and evolve amid increasing uncertainties. The impacts of the pandemic have been starkly different for developing nations; yet the rapid adoption of technology to prop up segments of business and industry presents a unique disruption that promises endless possibilities for growth, driving employment, increasing productivity, impacting global health and education, and transforming supply chains beyond borders. From October 4th to October 6th, under the theme of "Building Resilience in an Increasingly Turbulent World: Evolving Managerial Perspectives", the 10th Asian Management Research and Case Conference (AMRC) in Collaboration with the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) was successfully held at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in Al Ain, UAE.

AMRC Conference aimed to explore the intersection of business and society in the context of building and enhancing resilience to overcome emerging challenges. It was organized by the College of Business and Economics at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), IIM Bangalore, and the University of Dhaka in collaboration with the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA). Research papers and teaching cases mainly addressed the issues that were related to the conference sub-themes: Accounting & Finance, Managerial Economics, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Human Resource Management, International Business, Organizational Behavior, Technology & Operational Management, and Leadership.

On Oct 4th, the conference began with the keynote address delivered by Prof. Dima Rachid Jamali, Dean & Professor of Business Administration from the University of Sharjah. During



H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Chancellor of UAE University delivering opening remarks

the first day of the conference, two Professional Development Workshops took place. The first workshop, "Meet the Editors" was moderated by Prof. Wayne Hochwarter (Florida State University). The second workshop, "Teaching by the Case Method" was conducted by Prof. Jawad Syed and Dr. Shakeel S. Jajja from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). The first day also included five paper presentation sessions on themes of operations management, marketing and strategy, accounting and finance, ethics and social responsibility, and gender, diversity & organizational change.



Prof. Dima Rachid Jamali delivering a lecture during the conference

The Joint Opening Session of the 10th AMRC 2022 and 26th MIE Conference was held in the morning of the second day of the conference. After the National Anthem and Introductory Video on UAEU, opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Chancellor of UAE University. Following this, two professors delivered welcome addresses: Prof. Mohamed Madi, Dean of College of Business & Economics, UAEU; Prof. Alnoor Bhimani, Honorary Dean Suleman Dawood School of Business, LUMS. In the afternoon, two keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Alnoor (LUMS) and Prof. Michael Holmes (Florida State University). Also, the three parallel paper presentation sessions took place focusing on Human Resource Management, Managerial Economics, and Production & Operations Management.



A participant raising a question during the discussion

The 3rd day of the conference started with keynote speeches delivered by guest speakers: Prof. Maunther Barakat from New York University Abu Dhabi; Prof. Maura Scott from Florida State University. They provided insights on financial markets in times of crises and how can marketing research advance individual, societal and environmental well-being. Following this, four parallel sessions took place exploring the following research areas: Business & Management, Marketing & Entrepreneurship, Economics, and Organizational Behavior.

Participants of the AMRC Conference 2022 included representatives from several AUA member universities: University of Colombo, Universitas Indonesia, Nazarbayev University, Tsinghua University, United Arab Emirates University, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



Delegates during the conference at UAEU

Overall, the conference was a great success. Participants concluded that being resilient is the key to adapting to a new normal. Resilience helps communities transform traditions to keep each other safe, and businesses learn to grow in the face of turbulent conditions.



Group photo of conference participants at UAEU

United Arab Emirates University, October 2022

51



AUA participants

7



AUA universities

## 2022 AUA Academic Conference on Water Technology

The 2nd International Conference on Water Technologies (ICWT) in Collaboration with Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) was successfully held in a hybrid mode at the Water Innovation Center, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on 1-2 December 2022.

Under the theme of "Materials and Technologies for Water Remediation", the conference aimed to promote the development of sustainable technologies for water and wastewater treatment. Research papers, presentations, and plenary sessions addressed the needs through scientific discussions by exploring the following sub-themes: Nanomaterials for Water Purification, Biophysical Separation & Remediation, Photocatalysis for Water Treatment, Membranes, Physio-chemical & Thermal Processes, Oil Water Separation, Challenges in Water Purification & Desalination and Sensors.

The conference commenced with an inaugural session. The welcome address was made by Prof. Shobha Shukla, Professor MEMS and Professor-in-charge of water center WICTRE at IIT Bombay, India. This was followed by opening remarks delivered by Prof. S. Sudarshan, Deputy Director of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. The abstract book was released and the audience was addressed by Prof. S. Manoharan, Director General, PDPU Gandhinagar, India. This was followed by an address by Mr. Unnikrishnan, CEO of IITB Monash research academy, IIT Bombay, Prof. K. Kaliappan, Dean Strategy and Prof. N. N. Vishwanathan, HOD MEMS, IIT Bombay. An overview of WICTRE collaboration was provided by Prof. Sumit Saxena, Professor MEMS, IIT Bombay, India. The inaugural session ended with an overview of Indian Desalination Association and Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences provided by their representatives.

The Inaugural session was followed by a technical session. The technical session consisted of plenary, invited, contributory talks, panel discussion, networking lunch and dinner, and workshop along with a poster session on both days. The participants not only learned about the latest technological advancements and innovations in water technology through each of these activities but also were able to connect to experts and peers in the field.

ICWT 2022 provided different sessions including keynote



Release of the abstract  
book by the dignitaries



Snapshots of invited lecturers



Poster session



A workshop being conducted by Prof. Anita  
Mahadevan-Jansen



Participants performing group activities



Group photo of conference participants

speeches, oral presentations, and a poster session on various research areas. Comprising 6 sessions and plenary lectures, the conference included 131 participants. Besides presenting their own research contributions, attendees had fruitful discussions with experts and guest speakers within two days.

The conference concluded with a workshop led by Professor Anita Mahadevan-Jansen, who discussed leadership qualities and the skills necessary for climbing the career ladder and achieving success.

Overall, participants of the ICWT 2022 explored the future development of technological solutions and shared ideas regarding novel materials systems. The organizing committee has selected research papers that will be considered for publication in a special issue of Environmental Science & Pollution Research (Springer), Journal of Materials Research (Springer), Water Reuse (IWA), and Materials Open Research (T&F).

## 2023 AUA Academic Conference on Public Health Resilience in the COVID-19 Pandemic

On 12-13 February 2023, the Faculty of Public Health Universitas Indonesia (FPH UI) as the host and the University of Tokyo as the co-host brought the theme of "Public Health Resilience in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Innovative Approach and Best Practice in Facing the Challenges." The conference included various Public Health topic areas, including Epidemiology, Occupational Health and Safety, Health Administration & Policy, Environmental Health, Health Communication, Public Health Nutrition, Biostatistics, Health Tourism, and others.

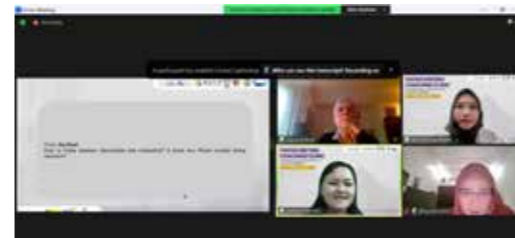
The conference consisted of three events: (1) a pre-conference seminar for graduates and postgraduate students, (2) oral and poster presentations, and (3) publication in several Scopus or SINTA-indexed journals. Participants included presenters from 9 out of 15 AUA member universities. Altogether 116 abstracts were submitted from AUA member universities and will be included in the abstract book. The full papers submitted by the participants will be published in 15 journals that have collaborated with Universitas Indonesia.

Before the opening ceremony, the Faculty of Public Health Universitas Indonesia (FPH UI) organized an event called "paper writing clinic". This pre-conference event brought highly reputable speakers that shared their expertise and experience in writing and publishing. This one-day event targeted a wide range of students at any stage of their writing.

The opening of the conference took place smoothly and was greeted happily by all conference attendees. After the opening ceremony took place, the first activity was a keynote speech by drg. Agus Suprpto, M.Kes, an Expert Staff for Human Development and Cultural Affairs of RI. He presented the topic regarding "Intersectoral Coordination Experience in Policy Implementation and Innovation to Improve Indonesian Public Health Quality". In solving the COVID-19 problem, drg. Agus Suprpto said that ministries in Indonesia are working together to form a strategy to deal with COVID-19 and succeeded in forming several policies.

In the plenary session on the first day of the conference, a guest speaker Prof. Tjandra Yoga, one of the professors at the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia and former Director of Communicable Diseases WHO Southeast Asia presented the topic "The importance of Public Health approaches in facing global emerging diseases on secondary health care". He emphasized that the world needs to be prepared for a new pandemic that will come.

Prof. Akira Yasukouchi from Kyushu University conveyed the topic of "Introduction of physio-anthropological evaluation of human adaptability to the artificial environment".



Participants attending Paper Writing Coaching Clinic



Distinguished guests at the opening ceremony



Prof. Tjandra Yoga, Universitas Indonesia, delivering a lecture



Prof. Akira Yasukouchi from Kyushu University delivering a lecture



Students attending a symposium during the conference



Group photo of conference participants at the opening ceremony

During an online symposium that carried the topic of green hospitals and sustainability, three experts mentioned that hospitals and healthcare services need to become significantly more proactive in leading the transformation to net zero carbon emissions because the journey will also reduce the burden on hospitals and health systems.

Another activity, Symposium: Green Construction, emphasized the need for calculating carbon emissions in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. In his presentation, Mr. Firansyah shared information regarding the implementation of green construction by PT. Nindya Karya, in the form of NICAF (a software for calculating carbon emissions in construction activities in the Nindya Karya).

On the 2nd day of the conference, during the Plenary Session dr. Heru Kasidi, M.Sc, (Chief of Pita Putih Indonesia) has delivered an issue about climate change and its impact on Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH). Prof. dr. Zubairi Djoerban, Sp.PD-KHOM (Internist – Specialists of Hematology and Oncology, Universitas Indonesia) shared information about HIV/AIDS situation and management in Indonesia.

In the last plenary session, three speakers who are experts in their respective fields discussed the COVID-19 problem from various perspectives. Each speaker brought up different topics as follows:

- 1) Current Situation of Global and Indonesian Children's Malnutrition delivered by a nutrition specialist for UNICEF Indonesia, David Colozza.
- 2) Lesson Learned from COVID-19 Handling in Indonesia: Policy, Implementation, Evaluation, and Recommendations for Policy Changes or Updates based on Regional Perspective. Speaker: Prof. drh. Wiku Bakti Bawono Adisasmito (Indonesian Task Force for COVID-19 Handling)
- 3) Environmental Global Changes and Implication On Planetary Health: Control And Management Strategies. Speaker: Dr. Barlev Nico Marhehe (UNEP Indonesia)

Besides speakers, experts, and their presentations, participants



presented research results both orally and in poster presentations.



Closing the first day of the conference, all offline participants and the committee gathered together for a gala dinner. Participants had an opportunity to enjoy Indonesian food and performances which were enlivened by live music.

During the conference, offline participants took part in campus tour activities to get to know more about the campus and facilities at Universitas Indonesia.

The closing ceremony was also a venue for announcements and awards for conference participants in the category of best poster and oral presenter as well as best oral presentation for each topic.

The conference served as a sharing platform that enabled participants to establish research networking. The speakers and delegates were mostly from member universities of AUA which itself served as a great way to collaborate with prestigious institutions and work hand in hand to make a more significant impact in the post-pandemic world.



Experts delivering lectures during plenary sessions



A participant presenting her research paper during the conference



Participants at the closing ceremony



Group photo of participants and the committee at Universitas Indonesia



Participants and the committee at the gala dinner

# Academic Conferences

United Arab Emirates University/  
Universitas Indonesia  
November 2022

15



6



## AUA-UAEU Workshop on Graph Theory, Combinatorics and Applications

The 2022 AUA-UAEU Workshop on Graph Theory, Combinatorics and Applications (GTCA2022) was hosted by the United Arab Emirates University in collaboration with Universitas Indonesia on 13-15 November 2022.

A total of 15 participants from 6 AUA universities participated in the workshop.

Graph theory and combinatorics are closely related to many mathematical subjects, such as topology, geometry and number theory, and have a lot of applications in applied sciences, engineering and optimization problems. The workshop focused on all aspects of graph theory, combinatorics and their applications. Organizers aimed to create a platform for exchanging the latest research results and ideas, to share the advanced research methods and latest trends in these areas, and to develop further collaborations.

**13 - 15 November 2022**  
In Collaboration with Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

**AUA-UAEU WORKSHOP ON GRAPH THEORY, COMBINATORICS AND APPLICATIONS**  
**GTCA 2022**

**Keynote Speakers**

 Prof. Kiki A. Sugeng Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia	 Prof. Ismael G. Yero Universidad de Cádiz, Spain	 Prof. Hao Huang National University of Singapore, Singapore	 Prof. Edy Tri Baskoro Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia
 Prof. Martin Dača Technická univerzita v Košicích, Slovakia	 Prof. Volkmar Welker Philippe-Universität Marburg, Germany	 Prof. Kinkar C. Das Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea	 Prof. Sebastian M. Cioabă University of Delaware, USA

**Organizing Committee**

Dr. Muhammad Imran (UAEU)	Dr. Adarna Domo (UAEU)
Dr. Chafik Boudadice (UAEU)	Dr. Gerry R. Sibran (UI)
Dr. Jantua Gong (UAEU)	Dr. Kiki A. Sugeng (UI)
Dr. Nafaa Chéfi (UAEU)	Dr. Zuhdi Raza (UOS)
Feridha Jamal (UAEU)	

**Contact Us**  
Department of Mathematical Sciences,  
P.O. Box 15551, Al Ain, U.A.E.  
TEL: +971 3 713 6145/6389  
Email: gtca2022uae@gmail.com  
Website: <https://conferences.uaeu.ac.ae/gtca2022/en/index.shtml>



# Strategy and Policy



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 University Administration Meetings, which mainly focus on the sharing of policies and administrative practices.

## Session 1 University Internationalization During and After COVID-19

This year's AUAPF, themed "Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature", explores the scope of advancement in higher education amidst new and profound challenges.

On March 15th, the Asian Universities Alliance Presidents Forum 2022 (AUAPF 2022) kicked off the first session themed "University Internationalization During and After COVID-19". It brought to the forefront critical challenges the pandemic poses to higher education and innovative strategies to move forward. Prof. Kaori Hayashi, Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo; Prof. Yang Bin, Provost and Vice President of Tsinghua University; and Dr. Reuben Wong, Associate Vice President of the National University of Singapore attended the session, which was moderated by Dr. Zhang Chuanjie, Secretary of Asian Universities Alliance.

As a locus of knowledge creation and dissemination, universities have a critical role to play in leading joint efforts in tackling a new range of challenges. In this spirit, AUAPF 2022, themed "Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature", brings together university leaders from across Asia to explore new approaches and opportunities in higher education.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Zhang Chuanjie highlighted the importance of exchanging best practices among AUA member universities, and the significance of ensuring that higher education remains open, accessible and dynamic in the face of new challenges.

The panelists shared their universities' practices and experiences in navigating the COVID-19 crisis, including the shift to hybrid and online classes, and the importance of unwavering commitment to internationalization during and after the pandemic.

Prof. Kaori Hayashi introduced the University of Tokyo's various initiatives to overcome difficulties posed by the pandemic, including the "Global Unit Courses" program which attracted 88 participants from 17 countries. She also talked about the University of Tokyo's online "Short Term Education Programs", which has received very positive feedback from students and has made education more accessible. For continued academic exchange, the University of Tokyo also implemented the "Global Fellow Designation Program," which invited scholars from overseas to participate remotely in research and education practices.



*Panelists sharing their university practices*

Dr. Reuben Wong shared the experience of hosting the first online "Young Asian Leaders Initiative" for Singaporean and Southeast Asian students. "This was a fantastic way of connecting youth across borders," according to Wong. Technology provides a unique opportunity for students from all kinds of financial backgrounds to participate and connect on an equal footing. To document virtual learning, the National University of Singapore has encouraged students and faculty to produce online content, such as making videos and blogs. Wong also emphasized the importance of fostering global citizens through interdisciplinarity.

In his remarks, Prof. Yang Bin pointed out that despite the challenges, the pandemic has also brought a transformation in digital education for Tsinghua University. Many international students who are unable to come to campus and the hundreds of volunteers serving the Winter Olympics are now taking hybrid classes, and learning alongside their classmates who are physically in the classroom. Yang pointed out that the pandemic has highlighted the importance and urgency of joint efforts in addressing global challenges. To this end, Tsinghua will put more emphasis on international exchange and cooperation in four particular areas: public health, climate change, online education and artificial intelligence governance.

The panelists also addressed questions from the audience on topics including the quality of online courses and career education during the pandemic. Bringing diverse viewpoints to the session, panelists engaged in a lively discussion and exchanged best practices among member universities. Their valuable contributions embodied the resilience and shared commitment to internationalization at the universities.

## Session 2 Creating a University Culture of Innovation and Lifelong Learning

On 17 March 2022, AUA members convened for the second session of the Asian Universities Alliance Presidents Forum (AUAPF) 2022.

The second session, "Creating a University Culture of Innovation and Lifelong Learning", engaged Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President of Chulalongkorn University; Prof. OH Se-Jung, President of Seoul National University; and Prof. Mohd. Hamdi Abd. Shukor, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya. Dr. Loretta O'Donnell, Vice-Provost of Nazarbayev University, moderated the session.

In a candid discussion, panelists deliberated the role and responsibility of universities in enabling a sustainable future for all, by cultivating lifelong learners and driving innovative solutions to common challenges. On the question of fostering a culture of innovation, President Bundhit discussed how the Chulalongkorn University Innovation Hub, since its launch in 2016, has created spinoff innovation enterprises, commercialized products at a faster rate, and changed the way projects are incubated and funded. The hub has incubated over 300 startups, benefiting over 2 million people and reaching over 52 provinces in Thailand.

President Oh discussed how the Artificial Intelligence Institute of Seoul National University, since its establishment in 2019, has boosted joint research among different disciplines and promoted collaboration between industrial and academic sectors. Additionally, SNU has embarked on an ambitious "2031 Initiative" aimed at significantly reorganizing the existing curriculum and education system into a more student-oriented one, where interdisciplinary studies are the norm rather than the exception.

For Universiti Malaya, the culture of research has transformed over the last 10 to 15 years from a primary focus on producing papers in high-impact journals towards creating a more tangible impact. Vice Chancellor Hamdi believes that the university must strive



Panelists discussing challenges to innovation and lifelong learning

to create more visible outcomes for society at large, including contributions to global SDGs and ESGs. To that end, UM is also allocating more efforts to promoting multidisciplinary research.

"Lifelong learning is the key to developing global citizens", according to President Bundhit. The panelists all agreed that creating a culture of lifelong learning is essential to adapting to and solving global challenges. In an effort to overcome the challenges of long-distance learning brought by the pandemic, their universities have developed various online education programs. These include SNU's Extension College, Center for Teaching and Learning, and Academy of University Administration, Universiti Malaya's Centre for Continuing Education, and Chulalongkorn's CU Neuron, CUVIP and Degree Plus.

While the panelists acknowledged the pandemic poses new challenges to innovation and lifelong learning, it has also brought many opportunities. According to President Oh, SNU created an integrated knowledge hub that shared the latest updates and research about the pandemic with the public. SNU also launched online international summer programs which were well received by many students.

President Bundhit added that the pandemic has indeed accelerated lifelong learning, with a larger number of learners engaging in the online learning system. In terms of innovation, the research of Chulalongkorn University in the last two years was more oriented towards providing practical solutions related to COVID-19 challenges.

In Universiti Malaya, despite COVID-related lockdowns and the temporary closure of the campus and labs, researchers managed to adapt to the challenges and continued their innovation effort. Vice Chancellor Hamdi also shared UM's hybrid full-degree programs, which have enabled many international and adult learners to pursue their academic aspirations. Consequently, the capacity of these programs has also increased.

The session also addressed the need to adapt to the "mobile phone era", ways to incentivize faculty members to contribute to lifelong learning, and content development for more engaging education programs. The insightful responses and wisdom shared by the panelists serve as a testament to lifelong learning in action, which many can learn from.

Previously, on 15 March, the first session of AUAPF 2022 explored "University Internationalization During and After COVID-19" with panelists from the University of Tokyo, Tsinghua University, and the National University of Singapore.



AUA Presidents Forum Session 2 panelists

## Session 3 Future of Learning: Interdisciplinary Education and Innovative Pedagogy

Why is interdisciplinarity the emerging and desirable trend in higher education? What strategies are Asia's leading universities exploring to promote interdisciplinarity? How can the 'future of learning' meet the new demands of the rapidly evolving society?

These were some of the critical questions examined in the third session themed "Future of Learning: Interdisciplinary Education and Innovative Pedagogy". The panel included Prof. Lionel Ni, President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou); Prof. Chandrika Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo; and Dr. Loretta O'Donnell, Vice Provost of Nazarbayev University. Prof. Yong Zulina Zubairi, Associate Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya, moderated the session.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Zubairi noted that the complex and multifaceted nature of emerging challenges warrants the need for imaginative solutions. "Universities thus have a vital role to play as we seek effective solutions," she said. "Transcending disciplinary boundaries and incorporating multiple perspectives can take us a long way." The panel discussion that followed assessed the strategies as well as challenges universities face in their quest to promote interdisciplinary education and innovative pedagogy.

### Creating Synergy

For universities to strike a balance between "theory and practice" as well as "depth and breadth" is as crucial as it is challenging. Interdisciplinary education needs to be geared towards bridging these gaps through innovative curriculum development and engaging real-world problem-solving. According to Dr. O'Donnell, "When we think about interdisciplinarity in terms of education, we essentially think of the word synthesis," so the question that needs to be asked is, "How do we look at a range of different mental models and synthesize them to come up with complex answers to the complex questions." Consequently, Nazarbayev University (NU) strives to build on the concept of the "T-shaped student", who possesses knowledge spread across a range of disciplines, but also holds depth in a certain specialization. This approach is meant to equip graduates with the ability to solve problems from a range of different perspectives. NU's compulsory core curriculum that includes ethics, writing and history is designed to achieve exactly this.

O'Donnell also reflected on the dichotomy between successful academic careers, that incentivize scholars to specialize in a very narrow field, and the complex thinking skills required to tackle practical challenges such as climate change, gender equality, public health and issues of well-being. By allocating collaborative research grants, NU is encouraging scholars to pursue multi-disciplinary studies. As a national university, NU's mandate also includes cross-institutional collaborations with other universities in Kazakhstan. O'Donnell emphasized that a collaborative culture "is a step forward to many things, from solving a particular research problem, towards creating more harmony and more understanding across cultures."

### Pushing Boundaries

On "budgets and boundaries", President Ni of The Hong Kong



Prof. Zubairi delivering her opening remarks



Panelists during the Session 3 of AUAPF 2022

University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou) (HKUST(GZ)) offered a candid assessment. "Whereas all higher education practitioners know the importance and benefits of collaborations, when you come down to budget allocation and performance assessment, boundaries come into play," he said. He explained that the establishment of HKUST (GZ) creates an exceptional opportunity for new resources, organizational structure and physical settings needed for the systematic development of cross-disciplinary programs in concert with the disciplinary-oriented efforts at HKUST's Clear Water Bay campus. At HKUST (GZ), cross-disciplinary education and research will be realized through four "hubs", namely, function hub, information hub, systems hub, and society hub. The university encourages theme-based labs which are accessible to all the interested faculty and students. Ni also firmly advocated randomly-allocated and multidisciplinary spaces for faculty members, "I don't say this department or that department. The person next door may be from a different discipline, which allows them to communicate."

Promoting innovation through interdisciplinary work is key to education at HKUST (GZ). Ni noted, "We encourage students to learn from different disciplines. Graduate students, especially PhD students, need dual advisors from different disciplines." Commenting on the impact of COVID-19 on education, he asserted that by forcing universities out of their comfort zones, the pandemic has offered a unique opportunity. "We had no choice; we stuck on to further improve, to a point where I think we're effective now," he remarked while describing the speed with which online teaching was eventually embraced. Despite initial reluctance and skepticism from faculty and students, "our evaluation of online classes is better than the traditional classroom," he noted. Ni also stressed that ultimately a mindset-change is very important to "making a change, and making an impact."

### Towards Problem-Solving

While assessing the system of exam-based learning in many Asian societies, Vice Chancellor Wijeyaratne noted that this culture needs to change. To shift away from traditional learning methods and encourage "out of the box" thinking, the University of Colombo (UoC) has established staff development centres and young academic mentoring initiatives. "We reviewed this situation because we had a little more time during this pandemic," she discussed, further elaborating that a "new reality" has opened the eyes of young professionals to new opportunities, with more focus on real-world challenges. UoC has responded by expediting education in more practical sectors, increasing emphasis on emerging fields such as entrepreneurship, and establishing better connections between job providers and the university.

According to Wijeyaratne, "The goal for universities should move beyond 'simply teaching or learning' and instead include practical application, and to equip students with enough flexibility to change their course over time in order to achieve richer career outcomes." UoC has encouraged different competitions and created new avenues to inspire students and faculty members to connect with the real world and evolving trends in the job market.

All panelists agreed that today universities find themselves on a fast track to think about academia differently and more holistically. In this light, Asian universities have a unique opportunity to transcend disciplinary boundaries and incorporate multiple perspectives in finding viable and imaginative solutions for a better world.

## Session 4 The Networked University for an Integrated Education and Research Ecosystem

On 25 March 2022, AUA members convened for the fourth session of the Asian Universities Alliance Presidents Forum (AUAPF) 2022. With the theme of "The Networked University for an Integrated Education and Research Ecosystem", the session brought together Prof. Ghaleb Al Hadrami AlBreiki, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University; Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; Dr. Agustin Kusumayati, University Secretary of Universitas Indonesia; and Prof. Tin Maung Tun, Rector of the University of Yangon. Prof. King Chow, Acting Dean of Students of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, moderated the session.

Panelists openly shared their initiatives and experiences in creating an environment for integrated education and research through the optimization of institutional resources and by strengthening connections between academic units. According to Prof. AlBreiki, the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) is now driving interdisciplinary education by dismantling its traditional academic units. Their colleges are going through a process of restructuring, where new interdisciplinary programs are under discussion and planning. With some undergraduate programs suspended, due to relatively low enrolment, the UAEU will focus more on graduate programs that can contribute to the national economy and knowledge creation.

Students of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) are encouraged to expand their learning beyond classrooms. Prof. Chaudhuri believed that this is especially important for undergraduate education, "because graduate education automatically involves research and knowledge development." The undergraduate student body are provided with various research opportunities from the second year onwards, including 24/7 access to makeup spaces and labs and additional credits for research work.

Dr. Kusumayati believed that interdisciplinary collaboration is the only way to solve interconnected problems and improve resilience against crises as large as the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the national education program "Emancipated Learning", Universitas Indonesia now encourages students to learn outside their programs for a maximum of three semesters, either from UI, other universities, or the industry. "When they [students] are doing an independent project or developing a new business, they have to work together with colleagues from other disciplines and learn from them," said Dr. Kusumayati.

Prof. Tin Maung Tun agreed that interdisciplinary research is essential to finding solutions to new problems and grand challenges. This means that the university curriculum will have to change in order to meet such demands. He also stressed the importance of creating an institutional culture that encourages innovation and collaboration.



Panelists during the online discussion

Panelists also elaborated on the importance of building trusting, reciprocal, and enduring relationships with other universities and organizations. As many universities are facing budget cuts, Prof. AlBreiki suggested that universities could form a network that allows students to fulfill part of their program requirements by taking courses from other universities as a way to deal with the financial challenge. According to Dr. Kusumayati, the program of "Emancipated Learning" has greatly encouraged Indonesian universities to seek collaboration with many kinds of stakeholders. "We want to send our students into the field, industry, and research institutions," she said. By providing knowledge and technology to these partners, a university can gain additional support for its education and research. Prof. Chaudhuri also supported the university-industry partnership, emphasizing that higher education institutions in developing countries like India have the responsibility to support their industry with their learning.

While the universities gain support and benefits from such a network, they are also giving back and sharing what others need. For example, IITB works with local governments to solve water and power problems in rural areas. It has also joined the National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning to provide free quality education to anyone interested in learning from the IITs. "We will have to see that what we do makes an impact on the life of the common people on the street," commented Prof. Chaudhuri. In a similar spirit, Universitas Indonesia assists younger and/or smaller universities in terms of their curriculum development and university management. Dr. Kusumayati added that the university is also expanding its courses to students from other universities under the "Emancipated Learning" program.

Additionally, this session also addressed resource allocation for the arts and social sciences, the balance between long-term educational goals and short-term difficulties and concerns, and ways to minimize the digital divide during the pandemic.

During his concluding remarks, Prof. Chow emphasized that building an integrated education and research ecosystem is important not only for an institution itself, but also for the whole community. He hoped that AUA will lead the joint effort to "raise the entire Asian education community to a different level."



Prof. King L. Chow delivering welcoming remarks

## Plenary Session Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature

The plenary session of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) Presidents Forum 2022 was held on April 22, marking the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the alliance. The theme of this year's forum was "Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature."

Huai Jinpeng, China's Minister of Education, and Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia, delivered remarks as the guests of honor at the forum, attended by leaders and representatives of all the 15 AUA member universities and other distinguished guests.

Minister Huai extended congratulations on behalf of his ministry to AUA on its fifth anniversary and remarked that the establishment of the alliance by distinguished universities from different Asian countries and regions reflected the general trend of common development and win-win cooperation in Asian higher education. He urged AUA members to promote regional connections of higher education through digitalization, to deepen the pragmatic cooperation between universities by focusing on talent cultivation and scientific research and innovation, and to promote communication between peoples and appreciation to diverse cultures. He said he was hopeful that AUA would make greater contributions to jointly addressing regional and global challenges, promoting the common welfare of Asian people, and advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Ban Ki-moon congratulated AUA on its fifth anniversary, saying, since 2017, AUA has served as a robust platform for regional collaboration, partnership, and dialogue. He called on AUA to scale up its cooperative regional efforts to help forge tangible progress on the UN's development and climate goals. "Your role is extremely important, as we need to ensure that the UN Global Goals are local business, throughout Asia and beyond. With your elevated efforts, I am confident that we can construct a more healthy, sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous world for all," he said.

Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China, Prof. Dr. Anek Laothamatas, Thailand's Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation, and Dr. Nyunt Phy, Myanmar's Union Minister for Education, sent congratulatory messages on AUA's fifth anniversary, which were read out respectively by Wei Shyy, President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Bundhit Eua-arporn, President of Chulalongkorn University, and Tin Maung Tun, Rector of the University of Yangon at the forum.



Mr. Huai Jinpeng, China's Minister of Education delivering his remarks



Mr. Ban Ki-moon delivering a congratulatory message



Prof. QIU Yong, Chairman of Tsinghua University Council, addressing the forum



Prof. WANG Xiqin, President of Tsinghua University, delivering his remarks



Panelists during the Plenary Session

Following that, Chairman of Tsinghua University Council Qiu Yong, who served as the founding president of AUA, addressed the forum. He noted that AUA has grown into a cohesive consortium of Asian higher education with an increasing impact and thanked AUA members and the greater Asian community for their strong support. "The diversity we embrace forms the foundation of our alliance. With each of us sharing a unique set of knowledge and experiences, I am confident that we will be able to continue collectively tackling our common challenges and building a brighter future for all," he said.

Tsinghua University President Wang Xiqin, on behalf of the entire AUA community, presented a token of appreciation to Professor Qiu in recognition of his distinguished leadership during his time as AUA Founding President. Last month, Professor Wang Xiqin was appointed President of Tsinghua University, making him also AUA President. President Wang Xiqin said that he is honored to serve as the new President of AUA and he looks forward to working closely with all the AUA members to enhance AUA's unique contribution to building a shared future for Asia and beyond.

The forum held online was moderated by Yang Bin, Provost and Vice President of Tsinghua University. Eight leaders of other AUA member universities delivered their remarks at the forum. Ghaleb AlHadrami AlBreiki, Acting Vice Chancellor of United Arab Emirates University, Bundhit Eua-arporn, President of Chulalongkorn University, and OH Se-Jung, President of Seoul National University highlighted that higher education was experiencing important paradigm shifts due to global challenges. AUA has been providing a unique space and platform for innovative, multilateral and institutional collaborations among flagship universities of Asia, leading the development of new research and strengthening intercultural understandings. It was an excellent example of leveraging international collaboration to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, while also reinventing the roles of universities.

Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, H. D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, and Wei Shyy, President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology emphasized that Asia is a region with diverse and rich cultural heritage. In the era of global Asia, it is significant to build a closer bond with a shared future among Asian universities. AUA has an important role to play in cultivating the spirit of collaboration and respect among young people and future talents in Asia. Student exchange programs and credit transfer among member universities can be further encouraged in the future.

Shigeo Katsu, President of Nazarbayev University and Tin Maung Tun, Rector of the University of Yangon said that AUA has made great strides in the past five years and has become a place to share best practices, which benefited all member universities. They stated that they would continue to deepen the collaborations in higher education to address regional and global challenges and promote a shared future for humanity.

## AUA Board Meeting 2022

The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) held its annual Board Meeting on April 22 as it marked its fifth anniversary, where AUA members reviewed the alliance's past activities and set its plans and initiatives for the coming years.

Tsinghua President Wang Xiqin attended the Board Meeting for the first time as the new AUA President and delivered opening and closing remarks.

Of the three sessions of the Board Meeting, the first session focused on AUA programs and the alliance's budget for the next year. Board members presented progress reports on member and observer admission, and financial sustainability.

The second session also saw the formal handover ceremony of the AUA Executive Presidency.

Vice Chancellor Hamdi Shukor of Universiti Malaya, who served as the AUA Executive President 2021-2022, addressed the Board Meeting and thanked all the AUA member universities for their cooperation and support during his university's executive presidency.

Acting Vice Chancellor Ghaleb Alhadrami Albreiki of United Arab Emirates University, said that it was a great honor for his university to be entrusted with the responsibility of the AUA Executive Presidency and that his university would work to strengthen collaborations among AUA members.

Discussing AUA's new plans and initiatives in the third session, the Board Members selected four themes that AUA will focus on from 2023 to 2026: AI and data science, Asian civilizations, public health, and future habitat, with the continued commitment to jointly addressing regional and global challenges.



AUA Board Meeting 2022

## AUA Executives' Meeting 2022

On 9-10 November 2022, the sixth Asian Universities Alliance Executives' Meeting (AUAEM) was hosted by AUA Executive Presidency 2022-2023 United Arab Emirates University (UAEU). Participants representing all AUA member universities joined the AUAEM 2022 held in Al Ain, UAE. All attendees shared their experiences in AUA programs and discussed opportunities for future development.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Wang Hongwei, on behalf of AUA President Professor Wang Xiqin, welcomed all the attendees and stated that after five years of building, AUA has become more open, more inclusive, and more resilient by addressing global challenges through extensive collaboration.

In his welcoming address at the Executives' Meeting, Prof. Ghaleb Ali AlHadrami AIBreiki, Acting Vice Chancellor of United Arab Emirates University, praised AUA for its achievements throughout the past years. As the UAEU is looking outward to new partnerships, Prof. AIBreiki mentioned that it is important to prioritize programs focusing on cultivating collaboration that leads to greater innovation.

During the AUAEM 2023 sessions, delegates discussed the ideas regarding the revisions of AUA Framework 2023-2026, proposed new initiatives, and concluded that AUA will continue promoting research collaboration and encouraging member universities to increase participation in future AUA activities.

AUA Executives' Meeting 2022 reflected the preparedness of AUA member universities to deepen strong multilateral relationships in the post-pandemic era and forge ahead together with new initiatives. As a result of the fruitful discussions, delegates jointly reiterated that the key to future development is to strengthen ties among AUA member universities while transforming Asian higher education through innovative approaches.



Session one of the Executives Meeting 2022

## Establishment of AUA Institutions Joint/ Dual Postgraduate Academic Programs

AUA University Administration Meeting 2023 with the purpose of encouraging member universities to enhance communications on the best practices for university administration was hosted by Universiti Malaya on 14-16 February 2023.

University Administration Meetings (UAMs) provide a platform for dialogues between the senior management as well as other levels of the administrative staff of member universities.

This program aimed to promote joint/dual postgraduate academic programs among the participating institutions, followed by establishing a general framework of collaboration, and a timeline to launch the program for the joint/dual postgraduate academic programs listed under the AUA 2023-2024 Academic Session.



Group photo of UAM 2023 participants

Universiti Malaya, 14-16  
February 2023

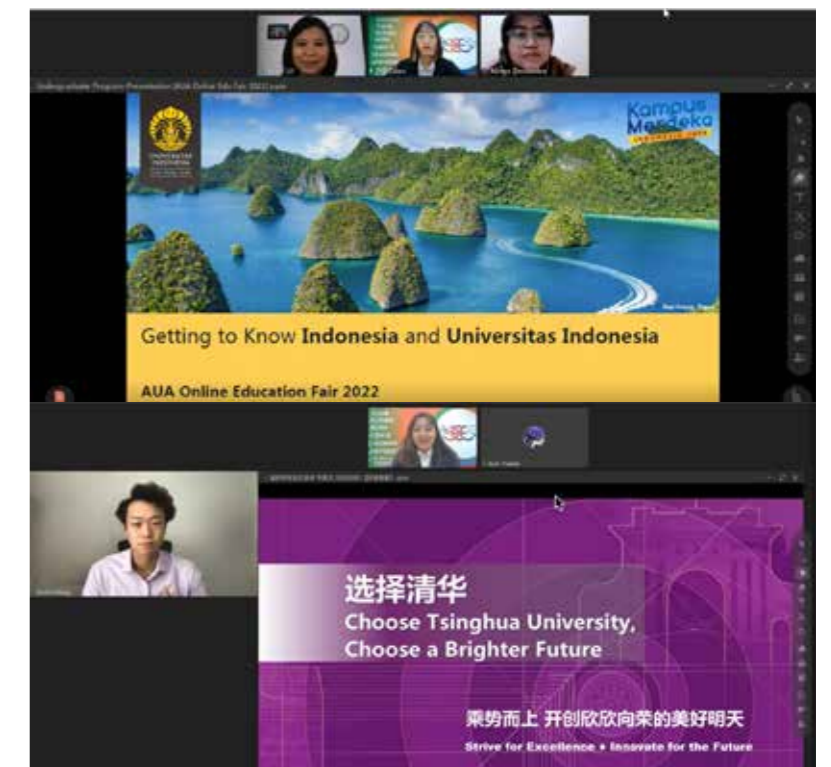
# Education Fair

## AUA Online Education Fair 2022

From September 20th to October 9th, the AUA Online Education Fair 2022 was successfully held by the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA).

This is the second year that all 15 leading Asian universities hosted a joint education fair bringing thousands of viewers together to explore opportunities related to higher education and benefit from them. Admissions officers provided information about the latest admission policy and application process. Several member universities announced the launching of new postgraduate programs. Besides the Q&A session, each member university shared video clips of their respective universities during online sessions. Students, parents, and educators worldwide joined the virtual booths to interact and connect with admissions officers and engage in career exploration.

The AUA Online Education Fair 2022 featured hundreds of academic programs available to international students. A total of 34 live recruitment events were broadcasted online. This year, undergraduate recruitment events were delivered on September 24-25th. As to postgraduate programs and the featured academic programs, participants could attend these online events on October 8-9th respectively. The audience had a chance to join the virtual booths and gather important information on various issues related to study programs including scholarships, fellowships, university campus services, student community, research collaboration, and more. At the end of each session, overall, the participants were thoroughly informed by university admissions officers and guest speakers.



Representatives of 15 member universities during the AUA EduFair 2022





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Asian Universities Alliance

AUA Secretariat  
102 Gu Yue Tang West, Tsinghua University  
Beijing 100084, P.R. China

Tel: +86-10-62796650  
Email: [aua@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:aua@tsinghua.edu.cn)