



AI for Asia Fellowship

Navigating AI Together: Empowering Asia's Next
Generation of Innovators

PROGRAM BRIEFER

2026



About Us

Siklab is an internationally-recognized development and impact consulting company that focuses on high-level partnerships within Asia. Rooted in the Philippines, Siklab works on upskilling, social innovation, education, and multi-sectoral partnership solutions with its diverse portfolio of partners.

A pioneer in the public-private partnerships space, Siklab works with governments on creating opportunities for young talent to be more globally competitive utilizing the principles of Industry 4.0 and the **Future of Work**.



About Us

Siklab was conceptualized in the **United Nations** General Assembly Hall in New York back in 2016, when the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were just released to the general public, with the goal of creating more meaningful and strategic opportunities for young people to contribute to achieving the SDGs by 2030.



Partners

Over the years, we have worked with a highly diverse pool of international partners. What differentiates our work is our emphasis on cross-sectoral collaboration - we create and design programs rooted in multisectoral and public-private partnerships in order to generate long-term, sustainable impact.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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AREAS OF WORK



Upskilling



Education



Public-Private
Partnership



Social
Innovation



International
Exchange



Development
Consulting



Where it began.

In **2025**, the AI for Asia Fellowship brought together its inaugural cohort of young leaders from across Southeast Asia, uniting fellows from all ASEAN Member States.

Over **six weeks**, they engaged with world-class speakers from institutions including ADB, Microsoft, UNDP, ASEAN, and Oxford, working across six focus areas: AI literacy, policy and ethics, workforce development, research, innovation, and community.

60+
FELLOWS

6
WEEKS

17
SPEAKERS

Previous Speakers

Our speaker lineup reflects the breadth and credibility of the AI for Asia Fellowship. Past speakers have represented leading global institutions, including the Asian Development Bank, Microsoft, UNDP, ASEAN, UN Volunteers, and the University of Oxford, bringing fellows direct access to expertise across technology, policy, development, and academia.



Previous Speakers

AI for Asia was co-founded by Saje Molato (left) and Edward Yee (right), committed to making skills and opportunities accessible across the region. The fellowship brings together speakers from Asia's growing tech and innovation ecosystem.



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The AI for Asia Fellowship is a regional capacity-building initiative organized by Siklab Pilipinas. The fellowship is designed to **empower ASEAN member states and South Korea youth (ages 18-35) with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to thrive in an AI-driven future.**

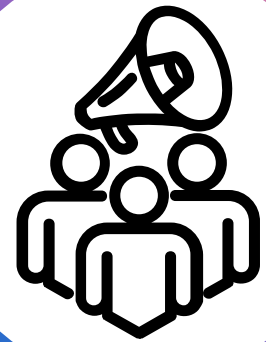
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries, economies, and societies across the world. In Southeast Asia, these transformations present both opportunities and challenges: unlocking innovation and efficiency while disrupting traditional labor markets. The fellowship seeks to bridge the AI skills gap by equipping the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers with future-ready skills, entrepreneurial mindsets, and collaborative networks.

Over a 12-week intensive program, fellows will engage with world-class speakers, industry leaders, policy experts, and innovators. They will participate in knowledge-sharing sessions, case studies, group discussions, mentorship opportunities, and capstone projects that apply AI to real-world problems.

The fellowship is guided by the theme:

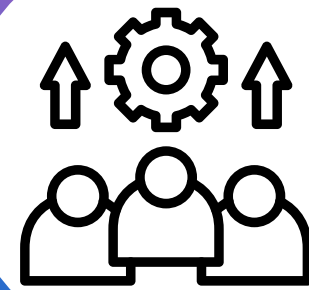
Navigating AI Together: Empowering Asia's Next Generation of Innovators

PROGRAM GOALS



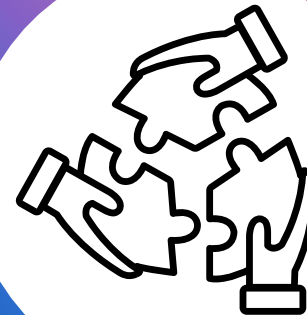
Raise Awareness

Strengthen understanding of AI and its socio-economic implications in ASEAN.



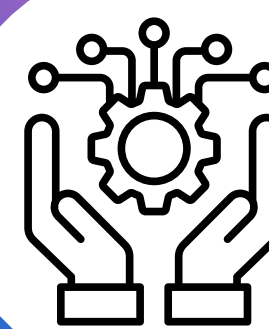
Build Capacities

Equip fellows with digital literacy, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills to navigate Industry 4.0.



Foster Collaboration

Create a platform for regional youth to co-design solutions, share knowledge, and engage in cross-border exchanges.



Encourage Innovation

Support youth-led initiatives and startups integrating AI in development and industry.



Shape Policy and Advocacy

Connect youth with policymakers, academics, and industry leaders to influence inclusive AI strategies.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS



120 Fellows (10 per ASEAN member states including South Korea)



Age Range: 18-35 years old



Youth who demonstrate leadership potential, curiosity in AI and digital innovation, and commitment to inclusive development.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & SCHEDULE



**Call for Applications
Opens**
May 20, 2026

Extended Deadline
July 5, 2026

Session 1: Kick Off Program
July 18, 2026

Fellows are welcomed into the program with an overview of the fellowship, followed by a keynote from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and an open session for introductions and community-building.

Application deadline
June 27, 2026

**Announcement &
Confirmation**
July 6 - July 16, 2026

All sessions are fully virtual/online and are scheduled every Saturday (2:00 - 5:00 PM) GMT + 8, Singapore Time.



Session 2: AI x Health July 25, 2026

A deep dive into real-world applications of AI in healthcare, focusing on innovation, accessibility, and emerging medical technologies. Fellows analyze practical use cases and reflect on the opportunities and limitations of AI-driven health solutions.

Session 4: Open co-produced session (Vacant) August 15, 2026

Fireside Chat: AI Safety & Systemic Risks from Frontier AI August 8, 2026

A practical session with industry leaders exploring how AI is transforming labor markets, future careers, and workforce demands. The session highlights personal insights, industry experiences, and strategies for adapting to technological change.

Session 5: Proposed Session by SEAMEO (Tentative) August 22, 2026



All sessions are fully virtual/online and are scheduled every Saturday (2:00 - 5:00 PM) GMT + 8, Singapore Time.



Session 6: AI x Education
August 29, 2026

A deep dive into how AI is transforming learning environments across Southeast Asia, from curriculum design and teacher support to access for underserved communities.

Office Hours
September 6, 2026



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

Session 7: AI x Sustainability
September 5, 2026

Exploring how AI technologies can support sustainable development initiatives in areas such as climate action, resource optimization, and environmental resilience. The session encourages critical reflection on innovation, impact, and long-term sustainability goals.

Session 8
Presentations (Batch 1)
September 19, 2026

All sessions are fully virtual/online and are scheduled every Saturday (2:00 - 5:00 PM) GMT + 8, Singapore Time.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & SCHEDULE



All sessions are fully virtual/online and are scheduled every Saturday (2:00 - 5:00 PM) GMT + 8, Singapore Time.

CORE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

LEARNING SESSIONS & EXPERT PANELS



- Regional and global experts deliver lectures and participate in panel discussions.
- Topics include AI in the ASEAN marketplace, skills for Industry 4.0, digital disruption, and innovation ecosystems.

CASE STUDIES & SYNTHESIS ACTIVITIES



- Fellows analyze real-world scenarios such as BPO disruption in the Philippines, manufacturing automation, and AI adoption in regional industries.
- Group discussions and synthesis help apply theory to practice.

MENTORSHIP & NETWORKING



- Partnerships with AI companies, startups, development organizations, and universities connect fellows with mentors.
- Provides access to opportunity pipelines, internships, and venture support.

CAPSTONE PROJECT



- Collaborative group project where fellows propose AI-driven solutions addressing workforce adaptation, employability, or industry innovation.
- Projects are pitched during Capstone Week, with recognition for innovation and impact potential.

MONITORING & EVALUATION



- Pre-and post-training assessments to track improvement in AI literacy.
- Session surveys and alumni feedback for continuous improvement.
- Documentation of success stories and fellow trajectories.

POST-FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



- Continuing engagement with fellows through alumni activities.
- Invitations to in-person events, access to grant opportunities, and endorsements to other regional and international engagements.

APPLICATION PROCESS



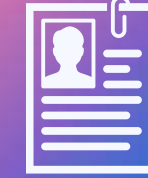
THREE SHORT ESSAYS (maximum 200 words each)

Essay 1: Your current knowledge of AI and how it works impacts your community/sector.
Essay 2: Your vision for how AI can shape the future of ASEAN.
Essay 3: How participating in the AI for Asia Fellowship will help you contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.



ONE-MINUTE VIDEO SELF-INTRODUCTION

A short introduction covering your background, interests, and motivation for joining the fellowship.



CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

A 2–3 page CV highlighting relevant education, work or project experiences, leadership roles, and skills.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Submit the application via Typeform which includes personal information, three short essays, one-minute self- introduction video, and curriculum vitae (CV).
- If unable to access the Typeform, applicants may submit the accomplished application template and other requirements to designated email address: leadasia@siklab.org.ph with email subject: AI FOR ASIA 2026 APPLICATION - [NAME]
- Submissions must be made on or before the deadline.
- Download the Application Packet for the Program Briefer and Submission Templates thru the following link.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The AI for Asia Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of our partners at the **National Youth Council (NYC)** Singapore through the **Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF)**. We gratefully acknowledge their commitment to advancing youth development, regional collaboration, and digital transformation across ASEAN.

In 2024, Siklab Pilipinas was nominated as one of three organizations to participate in the **ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AF)**. The AI for Asia Fellowship stands as a culmination of this invaluable experience, reflecting the spirit of youth leadership, innovation, and cross-border cooperation fostered by AYF.

To learn more about the ASEAN Youth Fellowship, please visit:





AI for Asia



aifroasean.org



AI for Asia

SUPPORTED BY:



DEVELOPED BY:

