01 innoLab

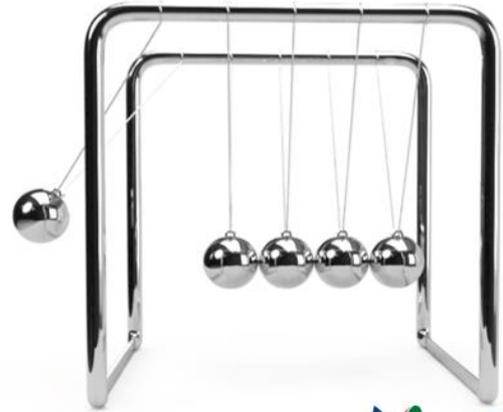## ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities' Role in Artificial Intelligence Innovation Ecosystems

25 March – 13 May 2021, Online

PROJECT REPORT

BACKGROUND

In line with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s mission, we create opportunities for higher education managers from Asia and Europe to meet, learn from each other, and build capacity to address common global challenges together. We believe managers of higher education are in a unique position to transform and modernise their higher education institutions by introducing tech savvy, inclusive and sustainable policies.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The 1st ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory (ASEFInnoLab1) was titled "**Universities' Role in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Ecosystems**". It was an 8-week long **online project**, that brought together university managers, administrators and academics to exchange good practices, co-create new ideas and explore areas for collaboration among their institutions. They discussed strategies to enhance the role of their institutions in the development of artificial intelligence innovation ecosystems, in particular along the following two topics:

1 | Teaching and Entrepreneurship for AI Innovation Ecosystems
2 | Research and Technology Transfer in AI Innovation Ecosystems

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The first ASEFInnoLab aimed to

EXPAND KNOWLEDGE
Enhance understanding on data and artificial innovation ecosystems, and universities role in advancing them.

STIMULATE INNOVATIVE IDEAS
Through learning from experts and peers, higher support education managers to develop innovative and actionable ideas on how to improve innovation strategies and practices in their institutions.

BUILD PEER SUPPORT NETWORKS
Create an Asia-Europe platform of practitioners to exchange good practices and promote collaboration in innovation for sustainable development in Asia and Europe.

The detailed Project Overview is available here.

KEY FACTS

Dates
- 8-weeks between 25 March – 13 May 2021

Format
- Online

Participants
- 28 higher education managers selected from 51 ASEM countries

Main Outcomes
- An enhanced understanding of universities' role in AI Innovation Ecosystems
- New ideas and action plans to advance AI Innovation Ecosystems at participants' higher education institutions'
- A professional Asia-Europe wide peer support network

Partners
- Co-organised with Fudan University
- In partnership with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The ASEFInnoLab was **organised entirely virtual between 25 March – 13 May 2021**. It was an 8-week engagement and required participants to set aside approximately 4 hours every week to prepare for and participate in the sessions. The Lab consisted of:

♦ **Synchronous activities:** Live sessions were organised each week, allowing for real-time conversation with renowned subject matter experts, university leaders in the field of AI and innovation ecosystems and collaborative work with peers.

♦ **Asynchronous activities:** The learning journey included self-paced study elements such as readings, videos, case studies, with collaborative learning elements such as live online presentations, group exercises, tailored to the challenges that participants define to work on.

The following topics were discussed:

♦ Week1: Artificial Intelligence, What It Is, What It Is Not
♦ Week2: Universities' Role in Innovation Ecosystems
♦ Week3: Governing AI Innovation Ecosystems
♦ Week4: Teaching and Skill Needs of AI Innovation Ecosystems
♦ Week5: Advancing Student Entrepreneurship in the AI Age
♦ Week6: Research and Industry Relations in AI Innovation Ecosystems
♦ Week7: Technology Transfer to Businesses in AI Innovation Ecosystems
♦ Week8: Wrap up, Presentation of Action Plans of Participants

An overview of the Programme and Speakers is available here.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1st EDITION

28
Participants

295
Applicants from 32 countries

22
ASEM countries represented

8-week engagement
with synchronous and Asynchronous learning activities

16
Speakers and experts

20 Action Plans
Drafted by participants

118,830
Social media reach

1,438
Unique website visitors

100%
would recommend ASEFInnoLab to a colleague

An overview of the Participants' Booklet is available here.
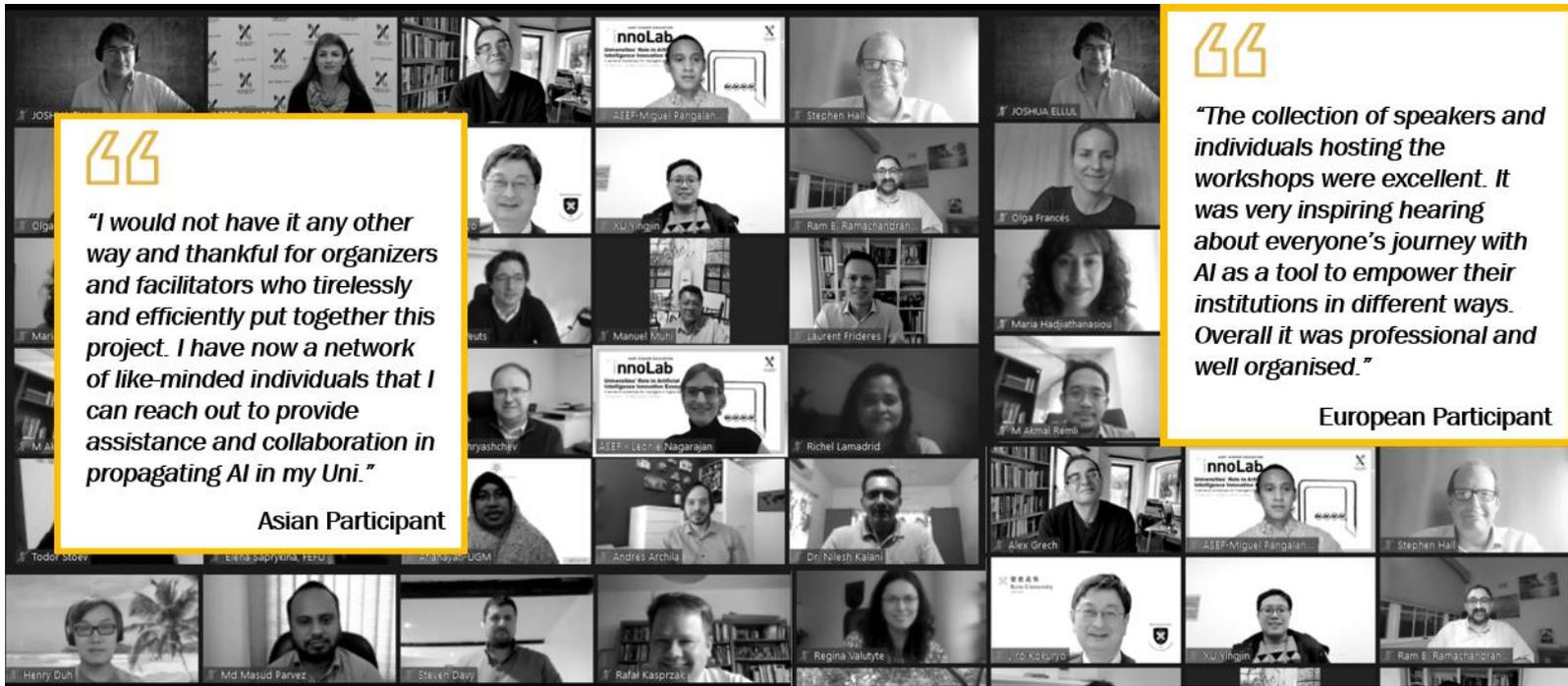
ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION
01 innoLab

28 Participants

ASEM Countries **22**

> "I would not have it any other way and thankful for organizers and facilitators who tirelessly and efficiently put together this project. I have now a network of like-minded individuals that I can reach out to provide assistance and collaboration in propagating AI in my Uni."
>
> **Asian Participant**

> "The collection of speakers and individuals hosting the workshops were excellent. It was very inspiring hearing about everyone's journey with AI as a tool to empower their institutions in different ways. Overall it was professional and well organised."
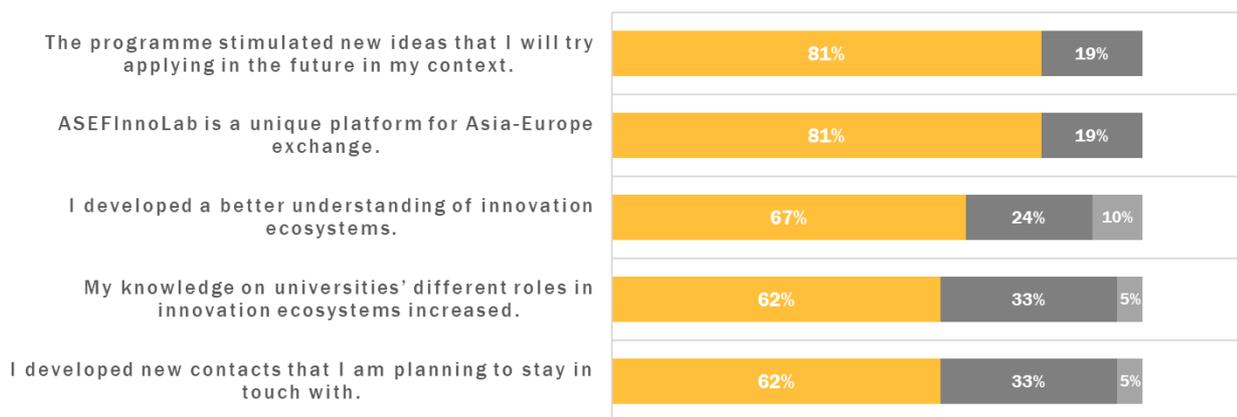>
> **European Participant**

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Participants who filled up the final feedback survey agreed that the training was successful in achieving the following objectives:

100%   **STIMULATING NEW IDEAS**
All of the participants agreed that the training stimulated new ideas that they will apply in the academic, professional or personal context.

100%   **PUTTING KNOWLEDGE INTO PRACTICE**
20 actions plans were created by participants which they will initiate at their home institutions after ASEFInnoLab.

100%   **UNIQUE PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGE**
All of the participants agreed that ASEFInnoLab is unique platform for university managers from Asia and Europe to exchange ideas and initiate collaboration.

HOW STRONGLY DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

■ Strongly agree   ■ Agree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly Disagree

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree
The programme stimulated new ideas that I will try applying in the future in my context.	81%	19%	
ASEFInnoLab is a unique platform for Asia-Europe exchange.	81%	19%	
I developed a better understanding of innovation ecosystems.	67%	24%	10%
My knowledge on universities' different roles in innovation ecosystems increased.	62%	33%	5%
I developed new contacts that I am planning to stay in touch with.	62%	33%	5%

> "The 8-weeks of ASEF Innolab have made me re-evaluate the Science Park and provided me with useful new ideas, good practices and different points of view from experts, peers and facilitators. Applying different analysis to an AI innovation ecosystem has also been a very valuable exercise to focus on the next steps for improvement."
>
> **Olga Francés,** General Manager, Science Park of University of Alicante, Spain

ORGANISED BY

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy, public health and media.
For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org.

Fudan University

Fudan University is a major public research university in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. Founded in 1905, today it is widely considered as one of the most prestigious and selective universities in the country. The QS University Rankings 2021 ranked Fudan as the 7th most reputable university in Asia, while it is classified as a Double First Class University by the Ministry of Education in China. Fudan also actively incubates high-tech industries and encourages them to convert knowledge to power. In return, the multi-pattern development of the high-tech industries helps the University to industrialize the research outcomes. For more information, please visit https://www.fudan.edu.cn/en

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)

As a network of leading universities linking the Americas, Asia and Australasia, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) is the Voice of Knowledge and Innovation for the Asia-Pacific region. We bring together thought leaders, researchers, and policy makers to exchange ideas and collaborate on effective solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. For more information, please visit https://apru.org

CONTRIBUTING TO

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. In Berlin (Germany) in 2008, ASEM Ministers of Education met for the first time and since then have been meeting regularly (every second year) to develop the ASEM Education Process (AEP) and to create an ASEM Education Area. For more information, please visit ASEM Info Board.

PROJECT UPDATES

Project Updates

University Managers Taking Action to Enhance AI Innovation Ecosystems: Asia-Europe Peer Exchange at ASEFInnoLab

21 May 2021   Read More →

Project Updates

Meet the Participants & Speakers of the First ASEFInnoLab

24 Mar 2021   Read More →

Project Updates

Open Call for Participation – Coming Soon

28 Jan 2021   Read More →

Project Updates

Open Call for Expert Facilitator [Deadline: 14 August 2020]

17 Jul 2020   Read More →