UNIVERSITIES’ ROLE IN TEACHING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OVERVIEW

Organised By

ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

FUDAN UNIVERSITY
OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND ON THE #ASEFInnoLab SERIES

In line with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s mission, we create opportunities for higher education academics and senior administrators from Asia and Europe to meet, learn from each other, and build capacity to address common global challenges together.

We believe higher education academics and senior administrators are in a unique position to transform and modernise their higher education institutions by introducing tech-savvy, inclusive and sustainable policies that positively impact students, staff and the organisation itself.

In 2021, ASEF organised two editions of ASEFInnoLab online which received excellent feedback from participants. Hence, we are organising the 3rd edition of ASEFInnoLab.

Participants of ASEFInnoLab3 will develop joint action plans e.g. joint curriculum development, joint research proposal, study exchanges, internship programmes, incubator enhancement, etc., to build connections and have a concrete output after they complete the programme.

What are the key objectives of the series?

The ASEF Innovation Laboratory series aims to

EXPAND KNOWLEDGE
Enhance understanding of data and artificial innovation ecosystems and the universities’ role in advancing them.

STIMULATE INNOVATIVE IDEAS
Learning from experts and peers enables higher education senior administrators to think about innovative and actionable ideas on how to improve practices and innovation strategies in their institutions.

BUILD JOINT PROJECTS
Academics and senior administrators participating in the programme will collaborate to develop joint action plans.

KEY FACTS

WHEN & WHERE
Every Wednesday between 28 June – 26 July 2023, Online

PARTICIPANTS
40 higher education academics and senior administrators from across Asia and Europe

METHODOLOGY
ASEFInnoLab is an experiential design laboratory where interactive sessions ensure peer learning and actionable outcomes.

OUTCOMES
♦ Expanded professional network across Asia and Europe
♦ Capacity to collaborate on a joint action plan

FULLY FUNDED, NO PARTICIPATION FEE.

TOPIC OF THE UPCOMING #ASEFInnoLab

What will be discussed?
Universities’ Role in Teaching AI Skills and Entrepreneurship.

ASEFInnoLab will engage participants to further enhance the teaching programmes of their universities in the field of Teaching and Entrepreneurship for AI Innovation Ecosystems.

Tertiary education institutions are at the intersection of education, research, and innovation. Their performance is crucial to create well-performing economies and sustainable societies. With the impact of demographic changes, socio-economic developments, and technological
disruptions of the 4th Industrial Revolution on the labour market, tertiary education providers must adapt quickly to new skills demands.1

The world is increasingly reliant on Artificial Intelligence (AI) across all societal sectors, harnessing its potential in industry, economics, healthcare, information security, communication, and education, amongst others. According to OECD, “in 2012, no Al-related job required more than 7 AI-related skills in […] Singapore or more than 9 AI skills in the UK and the US. In 2015 and 2018, we find jobs requiring 10 or more AI skills in all countries.”2

Fast-evolving AI capabilities in key skill domains, specifically numeracy and literacy skills, raise questions about whether AI will substitute workers in jobs and what implications this would have for education systems3. ChatGPT is a prime example of AI literacy capabilities. Because of these points, there is a need to re-think the graduate skills needed for an AI era.

TARGET GROUP
Who should apply?

This Innovation Laboratory is designed for academics and senior administrators who spearhead AI-related teaching activities in their higher education institutions.

We envision about 40 participants from across Asia and Europe joining the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory, who meet the following criteria:

- Academics and senior administrators from higher education institutions in charge of AI-related teaching initiatives (e.g. degree programmes, AI skill building and AI-related entrepreneurship)
- Citizens of eligible Asian and European countries*
- Excellent command of English (written and verbal)

ASEF invites individuals who meet the eligibility criteria, have relevant expertise, expressed strong motivation, and are committed to jointly working with peers from Asia and Europe on concrete outcomes.

Participants will have to commit to participating in the online sessions and jointly work with colleagues from different countries on a joint project that will be published at the end of the programme.

Participants are not required to have technical or coding skills. The lab will focus on the managerial and organisational aspects of AI Innovation Ecosystems.

*All ASEF projects are implemented in line with the decisions of the ASEF Board of Governors.

PROGRAMME DESIGN

What are the programme elements of the ASEFInnoLab3?

It is a 5-week long intense virtual learning and networking programme for ideas and activities taking place between 28 June - 26 July 2023

This 5-week long online programme engages an estimated 40 participants from Asia and Europe.

Learning Sessions | Every Wednesday

The Learning sessions are dedicated to expanding knowledge, exchanging good practices, and building networks among participants:

- Participants will attend 2-hour sessions once a week to expand their knowledge and understanding of AI skill demands of the future economy, and the innovative solutions to meet this.
- Interactive sessions will feature experts from leading universities and companies in the field of AI skills and entrepreneurship
Action Sessions | Once a week

The Action Phase is dedicated to developing joint projects e.g. curriculum development, joint research proposal, study exchanges, internship programmes, incubator enhancement, etc. Participants will join groups to build connections and have a concrete output after they complete the programme.

- Participants have the option to attend a 1-hour sessions once a week to start and continue discussion on the development of their joint action plans.
- Small group discussions with mentors who are acknowledged practitioners in the field.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

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LEARNING SESSIONS

- Facilitated group sessions with guest speakers and plenty of exchanges, 2 hours per week

| Week 1 | Getting to Know Each Other and Introduction to AI Skills and Entrepreneurship |
| Week 2 | Value Proposition and Target Groups |
| Week 3 | Activities and Resources |
| Week 4 | Stakeholder Groups, Outcomes and Impact |
| Week 5 | Presentations of Joint Action Plans |

ACTION SESSIONS

- Small group session focusing on joint action plans development with mentors, 1 hour per week

| Small group sessions with peers and mentors |
| Continuous Development of Joint Action Plans |
| Peer networking and exchanges of insights |
| Support and review of Joint Action Plans with Mentors and Peers |

OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS

What do participants get out of the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory?

In Summary: Knowledge, Ideas, and a Joint Project.

Participants will complete the programme with a key combination of knowledge and new networks, which can advance their work in driving innovation. Participants will walk away with:

- Enhanced understanding of AI skill needs
  The Lab will help participants to understand the role of higher education in filling the skills gaps in the field of AI; expand knowledge on different strategies and learn about good practices in Asia and Europe countries.

- Personal network in Asia and Europe
  The Lab will provide diverse opportunities for interaction and cooperation for participants from different countries in Asia and Europe. Therefore, we fully expect new bilateral and multi-lateral partnerships to emerge.

- A concrete collaborative action plan
  Participants will develop a joint action plan e.g. joint curriculum development, joint research proposal, study exchanges, internship programmes, incubator enhancement, etc., to build connections and have a concrete output after they complete the programme.
IMPACT

In the long term, the impact of ASEFInnoLab is expected to realise on four levels.

- **Individual level:** Inspire Asia-Europe higher education academics and senior administrators, to take action and improve institutional strategies and practices in innovation.
- **University level:** Strengthen Asia-Europe universities’ role in innovation ecosystems.
- **Policy level:** Inform the Asia-Europe education policymakers on universities’ roles and strategies in innovation ecosystems.
- **International level:** Create an Asia-Europe peer network to support exchange on innovation and find opportunities for collaboration.

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](http://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](https://www.fudan.edu.cn/en)

ENDNOTES

