

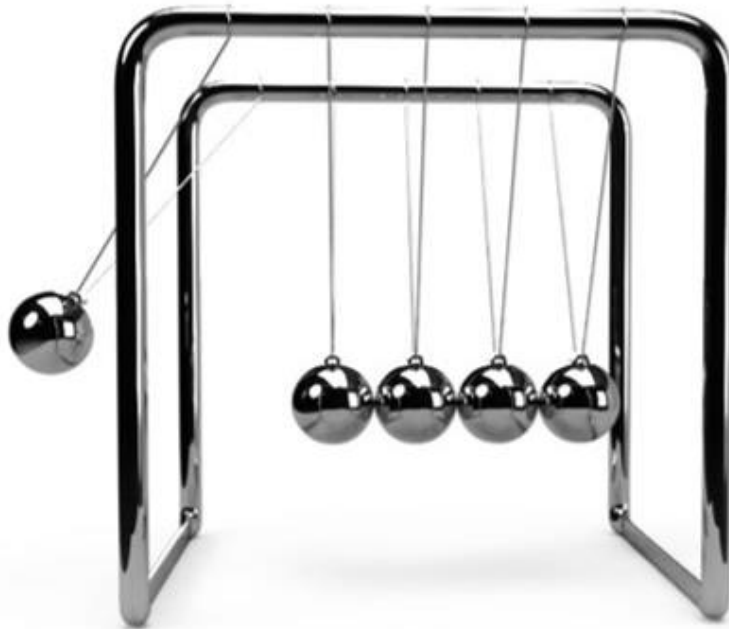
05

ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

# innoLab

“Universities’ Role in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Ecosystems”

## OVERVIEW



## OVERVIEW

### BACKGROUND ON THE #ASEFInnoLab SERIES

In line with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s mission, we create opportunities for higher education stakeholders 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 initiatives that positively impact students, staff, and the organisation itself.

Since 2021, ASEF has organised four editions of ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory (ASEFInnoLab). Last year we saw the implementation of its first onsite event, which was held in conjunction with the Shanghai Forum in October. To date, InnoLab's editions has received excellent feedback from participants, and we remain committed to developing it continuously over time. This year, we are embarking on the programme's fifth edition.

Participants of ASEFInnoLab5 will learn from thought leaders and experts in the field and work together to create joint outputs focused on key issues related to AI Governance, AI in Education, and AI for Sustainable Development.

### What are the key objectives of the series?

The ASEF Innovation Laboratory series is a design thinking laboratory for leaders, managers, and administrators of tertiary higher education institutions, with the mission to:



#### BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

by improving their universities' role in multi-stakeholder innovation partnerships



#### SUSTAIN NETWORKS

by supporting an Asia-Europe network by fostering science and technology collaboration for sustainable development



#### CONTRIBUTE TO POLICYMAKING

by informing and influencing education policymakers of the 51 ASEM partner countries

## KEY FACTS

### WHEN & WHERE

Every Thursday between  
02 May – 27 June 2024,  
Online

### PARTICIPANTS

- ◆ Up to 200 higher education managers, academics, and researchers with AI-related education and research portfolio
- ◆ By invitation only

### METHODOLOGY

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

### COMPONENTS

- ◆ Self-Learning Phase (4 weeks)
- ◆ Team Learning Phase (5 weeks)
- ◆ Onsite Event, Oct 2024\*
- ◆ Spin-off Activities with AE4AI Network, Oct onwards

### INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES

- ◆ Enhanced understanding of AI skills and entrepreneurship
- ◆ Expanded professional network across Asia and Europe
- ◆ Greater capacity to collaborate in intercultural teams on joint outputs

### COSTS

- ◆ **No fees, the programme is free of charge**

*\*For select participants only*

**TOPIC OF THE  
UPCOMING  
#ASEFInnoLab****What will be discussed?****Participants will learn more about “Universities' Role in AI Innovation Ecosystems.”**

ASEFInnoLab5 will engage participants to further enhance their universities' role and contribution to 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 Fourth Industrial Revolution on the labour market, tertiary education providers must adapt quickly to new skills demands.<sup>1</sup>

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 AI-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.”<sup>2</sup>

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 systems<sup>3</sup>. ChatGPT is a prime example of AI literacy capabilities. Against this backdrop, there is a need to re-think the graduate skills needed for an AI era.

Against this backdrop, ASEFInnoLab5 focuses on three subthemes:

- ◆ **AI Governance.** From Generative AI (GAI) to quantum machine learning, trends in tech innovations are shaping the future of society. This subtheme is looking at universities' role in building capacity to ensure technology ethics, safety; to inform policymakers on social and legal governance issues of AI, as well as predict the skill needs of the future economy and workforce in Asia and Europe and globally.
- ◆ **AI in Education.** Institutions of higher education play a pivotal role in realising the transformative potential of AI in education. This subtheme focuses on universities' role in developing AI skills and content for tertiary education, formulating learning and teaching methodologies with AI, and building institutional capacity to inform policymakers and strengthen educational capabilities, resilience, and develop reliability.
- ◆ **AI for Sustainable Development.** Due to the cross-cutting, encompassing nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the role of AI in their achievement has become an important topic of discussion as the world races to meet global sustainability targets. This subtheme focuses on universities' role on raising awareness on AI potential for SDGs, promoting environmentally responsible AI, contributing to socio-cultural dynamics of sustainable development.

**TARGET GROUP****Who should join?**

**This Innovation Laboratory is designed for academics, researchers and managers who spearhead AI-related activities in their higher education institutions.**

We envision having about 200 participants from across Asia and Europe who meet the following criteria:

- ◆ Higher education managers, academics, researchers working with AI-related teaching, learning, research, management initiatives
- ◆ Citizens of eligible ASEF member countries\*

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

- ◆ Excellent command of English (written and verbal)

**Participation is by invitation only.** ASEF invites individuals who meet the eligibility criteria, have relevant expertise, strong motivation, and are committed to allocate their time and energy to make the most out of this programme.

Participants will have to **commit to participating in the online sessions and jointly work with colleagues from different countries on a team output.**

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

**PROGRAMME DESIGN**

**What are the programme elements of the ASEFInnoLab5?**

**It is a 9-week long learning and networking programme taking place between 02 May to 27 June 2024 (online via Zoom) and on 21 to 25 October 2024 (onsite in China).**

The online phase will engage an estimated 200 participants from Asia and Europe. Outstanding participants from the virtual programme along with select high-level experts will have the opportunity to join an onsite programme in China that will be organised in October in partnership with Fudan University.

**Self-Learning Phase (02 to 23 May 2024)**



In this phase, participants will expand their knowledge, exchange good practices, and build networks with colleagues. They will learn from experts about the subthemes to help them acquire relevant knowledge. These weekly 2-hour interactive webinars will:

- ◆ focus on expanding participants’ knowledge of these areas;
- ◆ feature experts from leading universities and companies in the field of AI; and
- ◆ conclude with the participants joining the Shanghai Forum online (TBC).

**Team Learning Phase (30 May to 27 June 2024)**



Building on the knowledge the participants acquired during the Self-Learning Phase, this phase will be the platform for participants to delve deeper and discuss more in depth **one of the subthemes of their choice: AI Governance, AI in Education, Teaching, and Learning,**

or **AI for Sustainable Development**. As a concrete output of these discussions, participants will work together in small groups to outline a **position paper** that discusses a problem related to subtheme and proposes possible solutions and recommendations on how to enhance universities' role in solving this problem. Position papers of appropriate quality will get published by ASEF (with a Singaporean ISBN number). Team Learning sessions will also be held weekly for two hours and have interactive sessions.

#### Onsite Programme in Shanghai, China (21 to 25 October 2024)

Another round of invitations will be sent to outstanding participants from the online phases. A select cohort will join high-level experts in an onsite programme that will be hosted by Fudan University in Shanghai, China. There will be various panel discussions, site visits, cross-faculty engagements, and guest lectures. A key output of the onsite programme is an **insight report** focused on InnoLab5's three subthemes.

## OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

#### In Summary: Knowledge, Ideas, and a Collaborative Project.

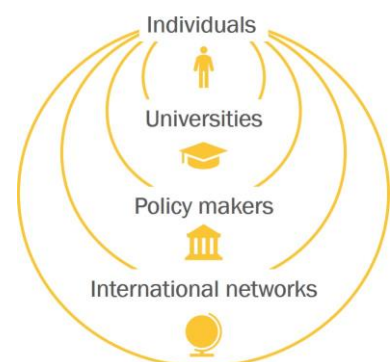
Participants will complete the programme with a key combination of knowledge and new networks, which can advance their work in various ways. The key intended outcomes of the programme are:

- ◆ **Understanding of universities' role in AI innovation ecosystems**  
The Lab will help participants to understand the role of higher education in addressing multiple issues around AI governance, AI in education, and AI for sustainable development; expand knowledge on different strategies and learn about good practices in Asia and Europe countries.
- ◆ **A joint position paper with peers and ideas for innovation plans**  
Participants will jointly work together to produce a draft position paper that analyses a certain area of their choice, with the opportunity to publish it. Participants will finish the programme with multiple ideas on their own innovation plans for the future, as well as opportunities to contribute to the global discussion on AI and Higher Education.
- ◆ **Increased professional network across 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 multilateral partnerships to emerge.

## IMPACT

In the long term, the impact of ASEFInnoLab is expected to be realised on four levels:

- ◆ Individual level: Inspire **Asia-Europe higher education academics and administrators** to take action and improve institutional strategies and practices in digital innovation.
- ◆ University level: Strengthen **Asia-Europe universities'** role in AI innovation ecosystems.
- ◆ Policy level: Inform the **Asia-Europe education policymakers** on universities' roles and strategies in AI innovation ecosystems.
- ◆ International level: Support an **Asia-Europe peer network** to facilitate 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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>

**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> World Economic Forum. The Future of Jobs, Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Accessed on 17/04/2018. [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_FOJ\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_Jobs.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_FOJ_Executive_Summary_Jobs.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Heike Nachtigall. Demand for AI skills in jobs: Evidence from online job postings. OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers 2021/03. (p49.) Accessed on 14/3/2023: [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/deliver/3ed32d94-en.pdf?itemId=/content/paper/3ed32d94-en&mimeType=pdf](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/deliver/3ed32d94-en.pdf?itemId=/content/paper/3ed32d94-en&mimeType=pdf)

<sup>3</sup> OECD. Is Education Losing the Race with Technology? AI's Progress in Maths and Reading. Accessed on 04/04/2023. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/is-education-losing-the-race-with-technology\\_73105f99-en?utm\\_campaign=OECD%20Education%20%26%20Skills%20Newsletter%3A%20March%202023&utm\\_content=Find%20out%20more&utm\\_term=edu&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Adestra](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/is-education-losing-the-race-with-technology_73105f99-en?utm_campaign=OECD%20Education%20%26%20Skills%20Newsletter%3A%20March%202023&utm_content=Find%20out%20more&utm_term=edu&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra)