

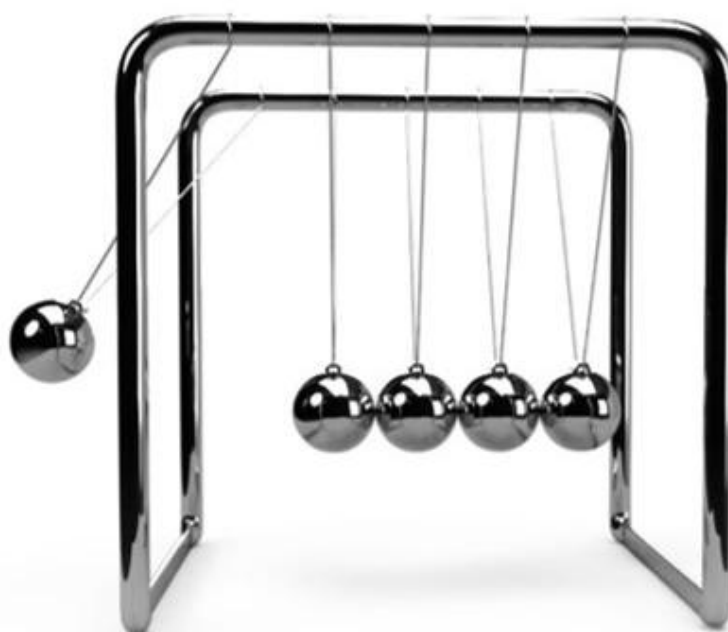
06

ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

# innoLab

Universities' Role in  
Developing Skills for  
an AI-Powered Future

## Programme



*Time is displayed in Singapore Time (SGT) and Central European Summer Time (CEST).  
To convert it to your time zone, you can websites such as <https://savvytime.com>.  
We reserve the right to any changes in this programme.*

## **Self-Learning / Week 1**

### **Introduction and Orientation: Developing Skills for the AI Era**

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This first session will open with a series of messages welcoming the participants and introducing the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory programme design and thematic directions. Participants will also start discussing the overarching theme of “Developing Skills for the AI Era” and universities’ changing responsibilities in this field.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

14 May 2025 (Wed)  
Synchronous

- ◆ **Mr ZHANG Lei**, Deputy Executive Director of ASEF
- ◆ **Mr JIANG Duan**, ASEF Governor for China

#### **Introduction on ASEFinnoLab6**

- ◆ **Ms Reka TOZSA**, Director of Education Department, ASEF

#### **Messages from Partner Hosts**

- ◆ **Prof SHEN Yi**, Professor of SIRPA & Director of International Research Institute of Global Cyberspace Governance, Fudan University, China
- ◆ **Dr Robert Kerwin BILLONES**, Full Professor and Research Fellow, Gokongwei College of Engineering, De La Salle University, Philippines
- ◆ **Dr Renata BACAROVA**, Head of the Technology Transfer Office, Technology and Innovation Park & Professor, Faculty of Law/Department of Civil Law, University of Pavol Jozef Safarik, Slovakia

#### **Facilitator-led Discussion**

Time will be allocated for participants to join small groups in breakout sessions where they can introduce themselves and share their professional background, their motivation to join the programme and their expectations in terms of learning and outcomes.

- ◆ **Dr Claudio RIVERA**, Director of Academic Affairs and Director of Undergraduate Programmes, RTU Riga Business School, Latvia & Strategic Advisor for ASEFinnoLab6

## Self-Learning / Week 2

### Skills Foresight: Predicting Competencies for the AI Era

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Participants will learn from key organisations that apply foresight approaches and labour market intelligence techniques to anticipate the skill demands of the emerging AI-driven job market. In this session, speakers will discuss trends and skill predictions for an AI-Powered future, and participants will reflect on how universities contribute to the talent pipeline, and what strategies can align future curricula with evolving workforce needs.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### Guest Speakers

##### Navigating the Future of Work in the Age of AI

- ◆ **Ms PeiChin TAY**, Senior Policy Advisor, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

##### OECD AI Capability Indicators: Measuring AI Today to Shape the World of Tomorrow

- ◆ **Dr Margarita KALAMOVA**, Lead Analyst, AI and the Future of Skills Team, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

#### Facilitator-led Discussion

Participants will have the opportunity for Q&A with the speakers. The Facilitator, Dr Claudio Rivera, will lead the discussion to help participants identify key takeaways and distil learnings from the presentations.

## Self-Learning / Week 3

### Skills Development Frameworks & Priorities across Asia and Europe

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This session presents an overview of national and regional frameworks guiding skills development in Asia and Europe, focusing on how AI and digital transformation impact such frameworks. It will explore commonalities, differences, and opportunities for higher education to contribute to these agendas through curriculum, policy, and partnership.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### Guest Speakers

##### Skills Frameworks in Asia

- ◆ **Dr PARYONO**, Deputy Director for Professional Affairs and Research Manager, Department of Research and Development, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training

##### Skills Frameworks in Europe

- ◆ **Ms Ummuhan BARDAK**, Senior Specialist on Labour Market and Migration, European Training Foundation

#### Facilitator-led Discussion

Participants will have the opportunity for Q&A with the speakers. The Facilitator, Dr Claudio Rivera, will lead the discussion to help participants identify key takeaways and distil learnings from the presentations.

## Self-Learning / Week 4

### Beyond the Binary: AI and Human Skills Development

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This session will explore the dual challenge of universities in preparing their students for an AI-driven future: staying ahead of rapid technological change in AI while strengthening the human dimension of education. Speakers will explore how AI technology is changing the world as well as why and how can academic institutions balance technological and human skills development.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### Guest Speakers

##### The Future of AI Technology

- ◆ **Mr Adarsh JANAKIRAMAN**, AI Global Black Belt, Microsoft

##### Human Skills Development and AI Literacy

- ◆ **Ms Veronika STEFAN**, Expert in Artificial Intelligence and Education and AI Literacy, Council of Europe's Education Department

04 June 2025 (Wed)  
Synchronous

#### Facilitator-led Discussion

Participants will have the opportunity for Q&A with the speakers. The Facilitator, Dr Claudio Rivera, will lead the discussion to help participants identify key takeaways and distil learnings from the presentations.

## Team Learning / Week 5

### Establishing the Groundwork for Joint Outputs

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This session will set the foundation for the Team Learning Phase for both groups working on Academic Papers and Micro-credential Programmes. Expert Facilitators will provide an overview of each track, introduce possible areas of focus and topic directions, and provide information on timeline, tools, and other resources. There will be brainstorming sessions to distill topics for exploration and address questions.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### Track 1: Academic Papers

##### Introduction to the Academic Papers Track Workplan

##### Speaker and Expert Facilitator

- ◆ **Dr Lafifa JAMAL**, Professor, Department of Robotics & Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Breakout Discussions** to bounce off ideas, reflect on topics that piqued their interest, and get to know others

#### Track 2: Micro-credential Programmes

##### Introduction to the Micro-credentials Track Workplan

##### Speaker and Expert Facilitator

- ◆ **Dr Lara SORRENTINO**, Head of Budget and General Affairs Unit, Teaching and Learning Division, University of Bologna, Italy

**Breakout Discussions** to bounce off ideas, reflect on topics that piqued their interest, and get to know others

11 June 2025 (Wed)  
Synchronous

## Team Learning / Week 6

### Identifying Shared Points of Interest: Pitching Ideas

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Participants with a topic in mind and willingness to lead a team will give 3-minute pitches of their academic paper/micro-credential programme ideas. After sharing their proposals with their sub-cohort, interested collaborators will “sign-up” for their preferred topic. Each group will have 5 maximum slots.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### Track 1: Academic Papers

#### Track 2: Micro-credential Programmes

18 June 2025  
Synchronous

#### Topic Pitching by Participants

#### Topic Pitching by Participants

#### Expert Facilitator

#### Expert Facilitator

- ◆ **Dr Lafifa JAMAL**, Professor, Department of Robotics & Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

- ◆ **Dr Lara SORRENTINO**, Head of Budget and General Affairs Unit, Teaching and Learning Division, University of Bologna, Italy

## Team Learning / Week 7

### Announcement of Teams and Team Building

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16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

Team compositions will be announced, and teams will work in break-out room sessions to come up with a roadmap for their joint journey. The Expert Facilitators will lead the discussions.

25 June 2025  
Synchronous

## Team Learning / Week 8

### Team Collaboration Session

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Between 30 June -  
06 July 2025

Teams will continue to work independently and set their own collaboration sessions. The schedule and platform to be used for meetings will be the team members' discretion.

Self-organised

The Expert Facilitators will have dedicated consultation hours where teams can block a slot to seek advice on their progress or resources they can tap.

## Team Learning / Week 9

### Team Collaboration Session

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Between  
07 - 13 July 2025

Teams will continue to work independently and set their own collaboration sessions. The schedule and platform to be used for meetings will be the team members' discretion.

Self-organised

The Expert Facilitators will have dedicated consultation hours where teams can block a slot to seek advice on their progress or resources they can tap.

## Team Learning / Week 10

### Team Collaboration Session

Between  
14 - 20 July 2025

Self-organised

This is the week prior to the closing session where teams will present the initial version of their outputs. They are recommended to wrap up their team's work for the phase, assign a presenter, and build their slide deck in preparation for the upcoming week.

The Expert Facilitators will have dedicated consultation hours where teams can block a slot to seek advice on their progress or resources they can tap.

The ASEFINnoLab team will disseminate reminders to serve as guidelines for the presentations. This will ensure the smooth facilitation of the closing session.

## Team Learning / Week 11

### Team Pitches & Closing: Prospects in Developing Skills for the AI Era

In the final session of the Online Phase, designated presenters for each team will do a 2-3 min pitch (depending on how many teams will end up presenting) giving the highlights of the initial version of their joint output. Teams from both the Academic Papers and Micro-credential Programmes output tracks will once again meet as a full cohort for the first time since the Self-Learning Phase ended.

There will be panels of external experts who will support in evaluating the pitches and draft outputs submitted by the teams. Selected team will receive invitation to one of the on-site programmes to further work on their joint outputs and bring them to fruition.

16:00 - 18:00 SGT /  
10:00 - 12:00 CEST

#### Rundown of Session Logistics & Introduction of Panels of Judges

- ◆ Mr Martin HAMMERBAUER, Senior Project Executive, Education Department, ASEF

23 July 2025 (Wed)  
Synchronous

#### Team Pitches:

- ◆ Academic Papers Track
- ◆ Micro-credential Programmes Track

#### Closing Message

- ◆ Ms Reka TOZSA, Director of the Education Department, ASEF
- ◆ MS Cleo CACHAPERO, Higher Education Project Lead, Education Department, ASEF

## Implementing Partners



#### The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, 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 <https://asef.org/>.



#### Fudan University (FDU)

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>.



### Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPJS)

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University was established in 1959 as the second classical university in Slovakia. The current structure of the institution includes five faculties: the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Public Administration, and Faculty of Arts. It provides education in three main cycles – bachelor's, master's, doctor's and PhD studies in different fields. Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice provides higher education based on the newest scientific findings in a wide international context and cooperates very closely with academic institutions all around the world. For more information, please visit <https://www.upjs.sk/en/>.

### De La Salle University (DLSU)

De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines is a Catholic coeducational institution founded in 1911 by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. It is a hub for higher education training renowned for its academic excellence, prolific and relevant research, and involved community service. For more information, please visit <https://www.dlsu.edu.ph/>.

## Supporting Partners



### The ASEM Education Secretariat (AES)

The AES was created by the ASEM Ministers of Education (ASEMME) in 2009 with the purpose of ensuring effective coordination of ASEM Education Process initiatives and activities. The Secretariat is hosted on a rotating basis, in which countries in Asia and Europe take turns to host on a voluntary basis. The current secretariat is hosted by Italy until end 2026. For more information, please visit <https://asem-education.org/>.



### German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

DAAD is a registered association comprised of German institutions of higher education and student bodies. It supports the internationalisation of German universities, promotes German studies and the German language abroad, supports countries in the Global South in building and improving their higher education systems and advises decision makers on education, foreign science and development policy. For more information, please visit <https://www.daad.de/en/>.



### European Students' Union (ESU)

The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 44 National Unions of Students from 40 countries. ESU aims to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents almost 20 million students in Europe. For more information, please visit: <https://esu-online.org/>.



### Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence (AE4AI) Network

The AE4AI Network was established by 20 academics and university managers from Asia and Europe in 2023 with the intent to enhance universities' role in AI innovation ecosystems and together pursue collaboration and actions on AI Governance, AI in Education, and AI for Sustainable Development. For more information, please visit <https://asef.org/projects/asia-europe-for-artificial-intelligence-ae4ai-network/>.



### European Training Foundation (ETF)

The European Training Foundation is a specialised agency of the European Union (EU), established in 1994 to contribute to the development of education, training, and labour market systems in the neighbouring regions and countries surrounding the EU. The ETF's mission is to assist these countries in developing their human capital, thereby supporting socio-economic development, competitiveness, and social inclusion. Its strategic focus is on fostering lifelong learning and human capital development, aligning with the EU's broader objectives of promoting sustainable economic growth, social cohesion, innovation, and union of skills. For more information, please visit <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en>.



### Asia Pacific Policy Observatory (APPO)

The Asia Pacific Policy Observatory is a digital-native think tank offering insights into the governance of the Internet and evolving technologies, including AI. With a network of budding policy analysts across Asia and the Pacific, APPO equips young leaders with the necessary skills to engage more meaningfully in the multistakeholder discourse while making the development of digital policy discussions more accessible and comprehensible to all. APPO is part of NetMission.Asia's many digital governance capacity-development

programmes for university students and youth. For more information, visit <https://netmission.asia/asia-pacific-policy-observatory/>.