

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE
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On-site: Nottingham, United
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7th ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory Conference: The Role of Universities in Advancing AI for Good

What does “AI for Good” mean for universities? The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) will be convening the 7th ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory ([ASEFInnoLab7](#)) Conference, an in-person programme exploring “The Role of Universities in Advancing AI for Good,” from 24-28 August 2026 at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

The ASEFInnoLab7 Conference will bring together **75 participants and resource persons from 32 countries across Asia and Europe** for dialogue, peer learning and collaborative work on the role of higher education in shaping Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the common good. The event follows months of online collaboration and will provide an opportunity for participants to deepen discussions, exchange experiences across different higher education contexts, and further develop concrete ideas and recommendations for universities and policymakers.

As AI becomes increasingly embedded across education, research, industry and society, universities face a growing responsibility not only to adapt to technological change, but also to help shape its direction. Questions around access and inequality, responsible governance, human-centred learning, sustainability and the societal value of innovation are becoming increasingly important. **ASEFInnoLab7 explores how universities can contribute to AI development and use that is responsible, inclusive and beneficial to society.**

A central component of ASEFInnoLab7 is the development of **nine white papers exploring how AI can serve the common good**. Topics include the emerging “intelligence divide”; AI for underserved communities; inequalities in AI and data systems; human-centred learning and assessment; institutional governance of generative AI; AI for sustainability and the SDGs; using AI to strengthen sustainable knowledge and Open Educational Resources; and the evolving role of universities in shaping responsible AI innovation.

The conference will:

- Strengthen dialogue and knowledge exchange among higher education stakeholders from Asia and Europe on the opportunities, risks and societal implications of AI.
- Provide a collaborative space for the nine white paper teams to share, refine and strengthen their white papers’ findings and direction through peer and expert feedback.
- Connect research, policy and practice by facilitating exchanges among academics, practitioners, industry and international organisations.
- Foster longer-term Asia-Europe cooperation on responsible, inclusive and human-centred approaches to AI in higher education.

The programme will feature keynote talks, white paper presentations and feedback sessions, expert roundtables and institutional exchanges. Participants will hear perspectives from experts representing universities, industry, ministries and international organisations. The programme will also include dedicated exchanges with the [ASEM Education Expert Group on Digitalisation and AI](#). Roundtables and panel discussions will examine how universities and industry can collaborate more strategically in the age of AI, explore how the future of research and development looks

like, and share policies and practices already being used to harness AI for public benefit across different higher education systems.

Following the event, the ASEFinnoLab7 teams will finalise their white papers towards publication and dissemination later this year. Participants will also be welcomed into the [Asia-Europe for AI \(AE4AI\) Network](#), extending opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration beyond the programme.

Get to know our participants and resource persons [here](#), and learn more about their work, advocacy and what they bring to the conference.

The ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory forms part of ASEF's broader commitment to strengthening Asia-Europe cooperation in higher education. Through ASEFinnoLab7, ASEF continues to connect people and institutions across Asia and Europe around shared challenges—this time, around a technology that is rapidly transforming universities and the societies they serve.

ASEF is proud to deliver this edition alongside [Fudan University](#) and [University of Nottingham](#), with the strong support of the [International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence](#), [UN Internet Governance Forum](#), [International Association of Universities](#), [ASEM Education Secretariat](#), [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#), and the [Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence Network](#).

About the Asia-Europe Foundation

ASEF is an inter-governmental 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 peoples, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF has run more than 280 projects, mainly seminars, workshops and lectures, together with over 230 partner organisations. www.asef.org

About the Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM is an inter-governmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. It comprises 53 partners: 21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU. www.ASEMinfoboard.org