Call for Proposals

ACAPHEI 2026 China–Southeast Asia Research Collaboration Proposal Challenge

Hosted by Universitas YARSI, Jakarta, Indonesia
In conjunction with the 8th ASEAN-China Forum of Private Higher Education Development and Cooperation and the 6th Annual Meeting of ACAPHEI
November 2026

Background

The ASEAN-China Alliance for Private Higher Education Institutions (ACAPHEI) has been positioned as a regional platform for shared learning, faculty joint research, student mobility, and long-term cooperation among private higher education institutions in China and Southeast Asia. At the 2025 forum hosted by Geely University in Chengdu, participants emphasized the development of a China-ASEAN digital education ecosystem in the AI era, and Universitas YARSI was announced as the host for the 2026 annual meeting in Jakarta.

In line with this momentum, Universitas YARSI launches the ACAPHEI 2026 China–Southeast Asia Research Collaboration Proposal Challenge. The competition is designed to stimulate sustainable research partnerships among ACAPHEI member institutions and to encourage collaborative projects that align with the 2026 forum theme: **Technology Advancement in Light of Sustainable Development Goals**.

Purpose

The challenge aims to:

- Encourage meaningful and sustainable joint research among ACAPHEI member institutions in China and Southeast Asia.
- Promote collaborative research that integrates technology advancement with Sustainable Development Goals-oriented outcomes.
- Strengthen participation of students and communities in cross-border research initiatives.
- Support projects that are likely to produce reportable progress by the next ACAPHEI annual forum.

- Build a pipeline of long-term partnerships that can continue through publications, pilot implementation, grant applications, student involvement, and future ACAPHEI activities.

Eligibility

Applications are open to teams from ACAPHEI member institutions. Each proposal must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- The team must include members from at least two ACAPHEI member institutions.
- The team must include at least one representative from China and at least one representative from Southeast Asia.
- The team must designate one China-based team leader and one Southeast Asia-based team leader.
- Interdisciplinary participation is encouraged.
- Student involvement is strongly encouraged.
- Community or external stakeholder participation is welcome when relevant to the project.

Teams that have previously collaborated or already published related work are also eligible, provided that the submitted proposal clearly presents a new phase of collaboration, future research directions, or an expanded implementation plan.

Theme

Submitted proposals must align with the 2026 forum theme: **Technology Advancement in Light of Sustainable Development Goals**. Competitive proposals are expected to show clear relevance to one or more SDGs and explain how technology contributes to meaningful educational, social, environmental, health, or economic outcomes.

Examples of suitable directions include, but are not limited to:

- Digital education and learning innovation.
- Artificial intelligence for social good.
- Health technology and public health innovation.
- Sustainable campus systems and green mobility.
- Smart community development.
- Climate-responsive technology solutions.

- Digital inclusion and equitable access.
- Applied research that supports regional development in China and Southeast Asia.

Submission requirements

Each team must submit the following documents in English:

- A research proposal of 2 to 4 pages.
- A one-page team profile, including institutional affiliations and roles.
- A brief statement of prior collaboration, if any.
- A timeline showing planned activities and expected progress before the next ACAPHEI annual forum.

The proposal should include:

- Title of the project.
- Names and affiliations of team members.
- Background and rationale.
- Research objectives or questions.
- Proposed methods or implementation plan.
- Explanation of cross-country collaboration roles.
- Student and community engagement plan, where relevant.
- Expected outputs and outcomes.
- Impact measurement approach.
- Sustainability plan for future collaboration.

Selection process

All submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of faculty members of Universitas YARSI and representatives of the ACAPHEI Secretariat. The committee will shortlist proposals based on eligibility, relevance, and quality.

Shortlisted teams will be invited to present their proposals in an online pitch session during a routine ACAPHEI Zoom meeting in August 2026. Final evaluation will combine written proposal review and pitch performance. The winning team will be announced in September 2026.

Committee members are expected to observe academic fairness and avoid conflicts of interest in the review process.

Award

The winning team will receive hotel accommodation support in Jakarta during the ACAPHEI 2026 forum for two team leaders:

- One team leader representing the China-based partner institution.
- One team leader representing the Southeast Asia-based partner institution.

The prize is intended to support participation in the forum and strengthen in-person collaboration during the annual meeting.

Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Weight
Institutional track record on the topic	Strength of prior expertise, publications, projects, or institutional capacity relevant to the proposed topic	15
Quality of China–SEA collaboration design	Clarity of complementary roles and the added value of the cross-country partnership	15
Alignment with forum theme and SDGs	Relevance to technology advancement and explicit contribution to Sustainable Development Goals	15
Technology innovation component	Meaningful use of technology, digital tools, AI, or innovation in the research design or implementation	10
Student and community involvement	Quality of engagement of students, communities, or relevant stakeholders in participating countries	10
Impact and impact measurement	Potential significance of the research and credibility of the indicators used to assess impact	15
Feasibility by the next ACAPHEI forum	Likelihood of achieving reportable progress by the next annual meeting	10
Sustainability of collaboration	Probability that the partnership will continue through publications, grants, exchanges, pilots, or future joint work	10

Indicative timeline

Activity	Timeline
Call for proposals released	July 2026
Submission deadline	July to August 2026
Shortlisting by selection committee	August to September2026
Online pitch during ACAPHEI routine Zoom meeting	September 2026
Winner announcement	Early October 2026
Hotel voucher / accommodation confirmation	October 2026
Research sharing during ACAPHEI 2026 forum at YARSI	November 2026

Expectations from the winning team

The winning team is expected to:

- Attend and present at the ACAPHEI 2026 forum in Jakarta.
- Share progress, preliminary findings, or implementation updates.
- Demonstrate active collaboration between the China and Southeast Asia partners.
- Continue the collaboration beyond the competition period through concrete follow-up activities.

Submission and contact

Proposals should be submitted to the ACAPHEI 2026 Organizing Committee at Universitas YARSI according to the submission instructions to be circulated by the committee. Further administrative details, deadlines, and technical submission guidance may be specified in the official announcement package.