CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: LIVE DEBATES

8th ASEAN–China Forum for Private Higher Education Development and Cooperation

6th Annual Meeting of ACAPHEI

Host Institution: Universitas YARSI, Jakarta, Indonesia

On behalf of the Secretariat of the **ASEAN–China Alliance of Private Higher Education Institutions (ACAPHEI)** and **Universitas YARSI**, we are pleased to announce the **ACAPHEI Live Debates**, a novel feature of the 8th Annual Forum taking place from **18 November 2026** in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Under the overarching forum theme, *"Empowering Communities in the Society 5.0 Era: The Synergy of Health, Social Innovation, and Technology,"* these live debates will showcase academic excellence, critical thinking, and dynamic discourse on pressing global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dilemmas.

We invite ACAPHEI member universities to form and register a debate team. Please take note of the participation guidelines, featured debate topics, session structure, and rules below.

1. Registration & Limited Slots

- **Available Slots:** Participation is strictly limited to **four (4) university teams** on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **How to Register:** Interested member universities must register online via the official ACAPHEI website: **https://acaphei2026.yarsi.ac.id/**
- **Registration Deadline:** Registration will **close automatically as soon as four (4) university members have signed up** through the website.

2. Featured Debate Topics / Motions

Participating teams must be prepared to debate the following two flagship motions centered on current SDG dilemmas:

Topic 1: Mandating AI in Higher Education (SDG 4 & SDG 9)

- **Motion:** *"This House believes that assessments should be redesigned around AI use rather than preventing it."*
- **ACAPHEI Alignment:** Topic 4 (Future Education & Cross-Border Collaboration) & Topic 2 (Technological Solutions).

- **In Favor (Pro):** AI accelerates personalized education, equips graduates with essential Society 5.0 digital competencies, and democratizes access to high-level learning tools.
- **Against (Con):** Mandating AI exacerbates educational inequality for resource-constrained regional universities, creates systemic ethical risks around plagiarism, and reduces human critical thinking.
- **Mentimeter Appeal:** Highly relatable for both students and faculty in the audience, prompting strong opinions on academic integrity vs. technological advancement.

Topic 2: Mandatory Sharing of Health Data for AI Research (SDG 3 & SDG 9)

- **Motion:** *"This House believes that low- and middle-income countries should retain sovereign control over health data rather than contribute to international AI research networks."*
- **ACAPHEI Alignment:** Topic 1 (Health & Medical Innovations) & Topic 3 (Ethics & Human-Centric Policy).
- **In Favor (Pro):** Aggregating big data across populations drastically speeds up medical diagnostics, telemedicine breakthroughs, and disease prevention for vulnerable communities.
- **Against (Con):** Compromises patient autonomy, creates severe cybersecurity and data privacy vulnerabilities, and risks commercial exploitation by third parties.
- **Mentimeter Appeal:** A classic tension between individual data privacy rights and public health innovation.

3. Team Eligibility & Stance Assignment

- **Team Composition:** Each team must consist of two (2) members from the same university.
- **Language Requirement:** All debate proceedings, presentations, rebuttals, and supporting slides (if used) must be conducted entirely in English.
- **Role Balance:** Both team members must actively speak during both the Case Presentation phase and the Rebuttal/Cross-Examination phase.
- **Stance Assignment (Pro vs. Con):** The stance of each team—In Favor (Pro) or Against (Con)—will be assigned by random draw immediately prior to the match during the debate briefing or live on stage. Teams must be prepared to defend either side of the assigned motion regardless of personal or institutional preference.

4. 30-Minute Match Structure & Protocol

Time Window	Session Phase	Protocol & Instructions

00:00 – 02:00 (2 mins)	**Introduction & Motion Announcement**	• Master of Ceremonies (MC) introduces the motion and competing teams. • Audience scans QR code to register baseline opinions via Mentimeter.
02:00 – 09:00 (7 mins)	**Initial Case Presentations**	• **In Favor (Pro) Team:** 3.5 minutes to present opening case, key arguments, and context. • **Against (Con) Team:** 3.5 minutes to present opening counter-case and fundamental stance. Note: Both team members must share speaking time during presentation.
09:00 – 24:00 (15 mins)	**Challenge, Rebuttal & Cross-Examination**	• Open, structured floor exchange between both teams. Teams alternate asking probing questions, challenging evidence, and defending positions. • Each team is limited to a **maximum of 90 seconds per turn** to maintain rapid flow.
24:00 – 27:00 (3 mins)	**Live Audience Voting (Mentimeter)**	• Audience evaluates arguments and casts final votes via Mentimeter. • Voters evaluate: "Which team made the most persuasive, evidence-grounded argument?"
27:00 – 30:00 (3 mins)	**Winner Announcement & Award Ceremony**	• MC announces the winning team based on audience Mentimeter vote and presents award and commemorative certificates.

5. Debate Rules & Decorum

1. **Strict Timekeeping:** Time limits are strictly enforced by the official timekeeper. A single bell ring indicates 30 seconds remaining; a double bell ring signals time expired. Speakers exceeding time limits by more than 15 seconds will be muted/stopped.
2. **Academic Rigor & Evidence:** Arguments must be grounded in empirical data, peer-reviewed literature, official UN SDG indicators, or documented ASEAN-China

regional policy case studies. Fabricated statistics or ungrounded generalizations are strictly prohibited.

3. **Professional Decorum:** Debaters must maintain the utmost courtesy and professional respect toward opponents, judges, and the audience. Personal attacks (ad hominem arguments), derogatory language, or deliberate interruptions outside designated rebuttal turns will result in immediate disqualification.

We encourage all interested ACAPHEI member institutions to secure their spot promptly at **https://acaphei2026.yarsi.ac.id/** . We look forward to an intellectually stimulating and impactful live debate series in Jakarta!

Warm regards,

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