02 innoLab

ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

UNIVERSITIES' ROLE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

OVERVIEW

Organised By

ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

FUDAN UNIVERSITY

In Partnership with

APRU

OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND ON THE #ASEFInnoLab SERIES

In line with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s mission, we create opportunities for higher education managers from Asia and Europe to meet, learn from each other, and build capacity to address common global challenges together. We believe managers of higher education are in a unique position to transform and modernise their higher education institutions by introducing tech-savvy, inclusive and sustainable policies. Therefore, we provide platforms where they can exchange good practices and co-create new ideas to move away from business as usual and develop something progressive.

What are the key objectives of the series?
The ASEF Innovation Laboratory series aims to

EXPAND KNOWLEDGE
Enhance understanding of data and artificial innovation ecosystems, and the universities' role in advancing them.

STIMULATE INNOVATIVE IDEAS
Through learning from experts and peers, enable higher education managers to think about innovative and actionable ideas on how to improve innovation strategies and practices in their institutions.

BUILD PEER SUPPORT NETWORKS
Create an Asia-Europe platform of practitioners to exchange good practices and promote collaboration in innovation for sustainable development in Asia and Europe.

KEY FACTS

WHEN & WHERE
6 weeks between 4 November – 9 December 2021, Online

PARTICIPANTS
40 higher education managers, administrators and academics selected from 51 ASEM countries by an Open Call for Applications

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Enhanced understanding of Data and AI Innovation ecosystems
- Increased insights and knowledge to advance innovation ecosystems at participants' universities
- Capacity to prepare an action plan to get ahead of change

FULLY FUNDED, NO PARTICIPATION FEES.

TOPIC OF THE UPCOMING #ASEFInnoLab

What will be discussed?
Strategies for university managers to enhance the role of their institutions in innovation ecosystems in Asia and Europe.

Tertiary education institutions are at the intersection of education, research and innovation. Their performance is crucial in contributing to well-performing economies and sustainable societies. With the impact of demographic changes, socio-economic developments and technological disruptions of the 4th Industrial Revolution on the labour market, tertiary education providers have to adapt quickly to new skills and technology transfer demands.[1]

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. Growing investments in research and development of AI technologies confirm this trend: over the past 3 years, EU funding for AI research has increased by 70% compared to the previous period.[2] However, the digital- and AI-based portion of Europe's ICT sector accounts for around 1.7% of GDP only, a rather low share compared to leading tech nations like China (2.2 %) or the United States (3.3 %).[3] Two-thirds of global investment in artificial intelligence is pouring into China, which helped the AI industry grow by 67% in 2018 alone.[4]

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are instrumental in the development of national and regional innovation ecosystems. They are in the perfect position to orchestrate the dialogue among stakeholders, engaging students, company managers & policy makers likewise, and co-create knowledge and driving strategic development. [5] HEIs are the seedbed for AI ecosystems. In France and the UK, many AI start-ups originated at universities. In India and South Korea, large companies sponsor AI research projects and fellowships at universities and research institutions. In China, government spending on university scientific research has grown by double digits annually for the past decade, spurring AI progress. [6]

ASEFInnoLabs will explore university strategies in their national and regional ecosystems, how they create multi-stakeholder partnerships with businesses, policy makers and international partners to boost AI innovation ecosystems.

ASEFInnoLabs will engage participants in **further enhancing the innovation strategies and practices at their universities** in the following two areas:

1 | Teaching and Entrepreneurship for AI Innovation Ecosystems
2 | Research and Technology Transfer in AI Innovation Ecosystems

TARGET GROUP

Who should apply?

This Innovation Laboratory is designed for university managers, administrators and academics who spearhead AI-related initiatives in their institutions.

We envision about 40 participants from among the 51 ASEM countries to join the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory, **who meet the following criteria:**

- Managers, administrators or academics in tertiary higher education institutions in charge of initiatives related to the ASEFInnoLab topics
- Citizens of any of the 51 ASEM partner countries
- Excellent command of English (written and verbal)

Selected participants will have to commit to participate at the Pioneer Sessions (2 hours) each week and participate at as many Action Sessions (1 hour) as they deem necessary to develop an action plan, and submit an individual action plan at the end of the programme that will be published.

Participants will be selected by an Open Call for Application. The screening process will ensure a non-discriminative approach assuring a balanced geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to the opportunity for all. When assessing the applications, **ASEF is looking for applicants who meet the eligibility criteria, express strong motivation, and are committed to transforming the knowledge and skills gained during the laboratory into action.**

Participation <u>does not require technical or coding abilities</u>. The laboratory will focus on the managerial and organisational aspects of AI innovation ecosystems.

PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

What are the programme elements of the ASEFInnoLab?

It is a 6-week long intense virtual learning and networking project for ideas and action.

The Lab will be organised entirely virtual, with the use of online collaboration tools and platforms. It is a **6-week long engagement with approximately 3 hours commitment per week.** This phase is dedicated to expanding knowledge, exchange good practices, and build networks among participants. This phase will include:

- **Pioneer Sessions - Facilitated interactive sessions:** led by experts, featuring speakers from leading universities and companies in the field of innovation and AI on the subthemes of ASEFInnoLab. Participants will attend these 2-hours long

exchange sessions every week.

♦ **Action Sessions - Small group discussions with mentors and peers -** led by practitioners in the field and will be available for small group discussions to discuss the action plans, challenges, collaboration opportunities. These sessions are dedicated to help participants developing their individual action plans.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	
PIONEER SESSIONS	**ACTION SESSIONS**
Facilitated interactive group sessions with guest speakers and lots of exchanges, 2hrs each week	Small group sessions focusing on action plan development with mentors, 1hr each week
Week 1 | Getting to Know Each Other & Explore Challenges	Small group sessions with peers and mentors for exchange
Week 2 | Value Propositions and Target Groups - Beneficiaries On Campus and Off Campus	
Week 3 | Activities and Resources – Teaching and Research Contributing to AI Innovation Ecosystems	Discussing the Action Plan Content and BMC segments
Week 4 | Stakeholder Groups – Working with Private & Public Sector to Improve AI Powered Activities	Peer discussions and exchanges of experience in small groups
Week 5 | Outcomes and Impact – Critical View of Measuring Outcomes in AI Teaching and Research	
Week 6 | Wrap up and Presenting Action Plans of Participants	Continuous Review of Action Plans with Mentors and Peers

OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS

What do participants get out of the ASEF Innovation Laboratory?
In short: knowledge, ideas and networks to kick-start their own project at home.

Participants will complete the programme with a key combination of knowledge, practical solutions and new networks which can advance their work in driving innovation. Participants will walk away with:

♦ **Enhanced understanding of AI innovation ecosystem**
The lab will help participants to understand the role of higher education in leveraging AI in higher education; expand knowledge on different strategies related to the traditional missions of universities (education, research, partnership) and learn about good practices in ASEM countries.

♦ **Personal network in Asia and Europe**
The Lab will provide diverse opportunities for interaction and cooperation for 25 participants from different countries across Asia and Europe. Therefore, we fully expect new bi-lateral and multi-lateral partnerships to emerge.

♦ **Tailored action plan to get ahead of change**
Participants will develop their own action plans, which they can implement in their home institution to unlock the full potential of their organisations and to contribute to national and regional ecosystems.
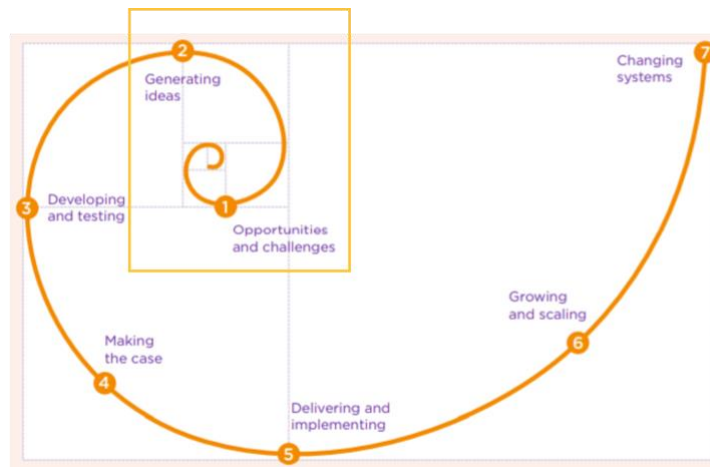
IMPACT

In the long term, the impact of ASEFInnoLab is expected to realise on four levels.

- Individual level: Inspire ASEM higher education managers to take action and improve institutional strategies and practices in innovation
- University level: Strengthen ASEM universities' role in innovation ecosystems
- Policy level: Inform the ASEM education policy makers on ASEM universities' roles and strategies in innovation ecosystems
- International level: Create an Asia-Europe peer network to support exchange on innovation and find opportunities for collaboration

The ASEFInnoLab is supporting participants in taking the first two steps on an innovation spiral. It is our intention to initiate the process and participants will then pursue the road to impact independently. We hope that the peer support community will help them in following through this process.

Source: Innovation Teams and Labs. A Practice Guide. Nesta.
https://media.nesta.org.uk/documents/innovation_teams_and_labs_a_practice_guide.pdf

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.

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 7th 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

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)

As a network of leading universities linking the Americas, Asia and Australasia, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) is the Voice of Knowledge and Innovation for the Asia-Pacific region. We bring together thought leaders, researchers, and policy makers to exchange ideas and collaborate on effective solutions to the challenges of the 21st century.

For more information, please visit https://apru.org

CONTRIBUTING TO

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. In Berlin (Germany) in 2008, ASEM Ministers of Education met for the first time and since then have been meeting regularly (every second year) to develop the ASEM Education Process (AEP) and to create an ASEM Education Area.
For more information, please visit ASEM Info Board.

ENDNOTES

[1] 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

[2] Excellence and Trust in Artificial Intelligence. ISBN 978-92-76-15957-5February 2020. European Union. Accessed on 26/02/2020: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_282

[3] Tackling Europe's Gap in Digital and AI. McKinsey Global Institute. February 2019. Accessed on 26/02/2020: https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/mckinsey/featured%20insights/artificial%20intelligence/tackling%20europes%20gap%20in%20digital%20and%20ai/mgi-tackling-europes-gap-in-digital-and-ai-feb-2019-vf.ashx

[4] Meet China's 5 biggest AI companies. World Economic Forum. 20 September 2018. Accessed on 26/02/2020: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/09/the-top-5-chinese-ai-companies/

[5] Dr Sybille Reichert. The Role of Universities in Regional Innovation Ecosystems. EUA 2019. Accessed on 22/04/2020. https://www.eua.eu/downloads/publications/eua%20innovation%20ecosystem%20report_final_digital.pdf

[6] Embracing Artificial Intelligence: Enabling Strong and Inclusive AI Driven Economic Growth. Accenture. 2017. Accessed on 22/04/2020. https://www.accenture.com/_acnmedia/accenture/next-gen-5/event-g20-yea-summit/pdfs/accenture-intelligent-economy.pdf