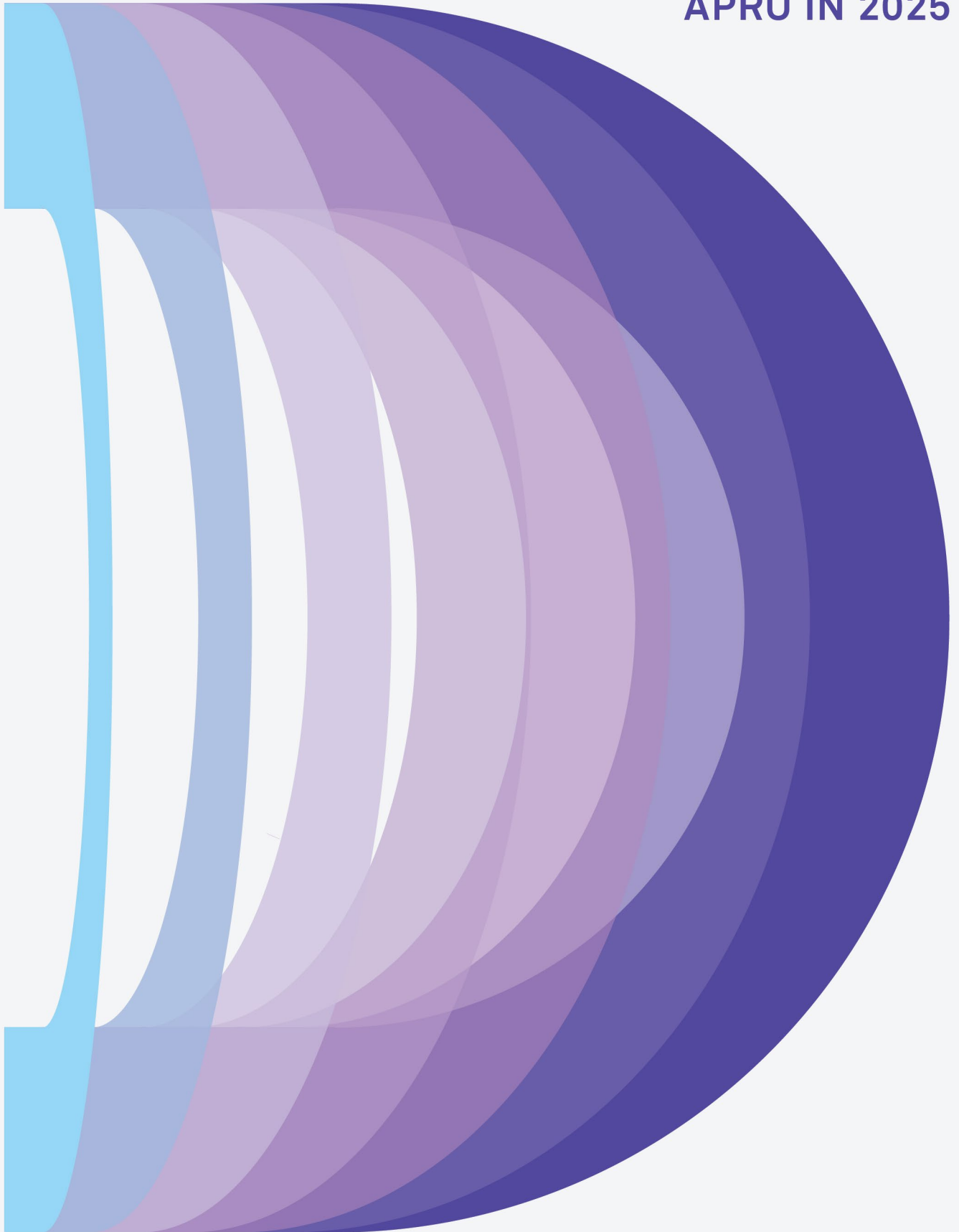


# DIPLOMACY AND DETERMINATION

APRU IN 2025





# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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# APRU AT-A-GLANCE

APRU (The Association of Pacific Rim Universities) is a network of 62 leading universities from 18 economies of the Pacific Rim, linking the Americas, Asia, and Australasia. It brings together thought leaders, researchers, and policymakers to exchange ideas and collaborate on practical solutions to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## OVERVIEW OF APRU ACTIVITIES IN 2024-2025

62  Universities

18  Economies of the Pacific Rim

2+ Million  Students

200,000+  Faculty Members

41  International Events and Activities



# MAINLAND CHINA & HONG KONG SAR

- 28 Fudan University
- 29 Nanjing University
- 30 Peking University
- 31 Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- 32 Southern University of Science and Technology
- 33 Sun Yat-sen University
- 34 The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 35 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- 36 The University of Hong Kong
- 37 Tongji University
- 38 Tsinghua University
- 39 University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
- 40 University of Science and Technology of China
- 41 Xi'an Jiaotong University
- 42 Zhejiang University

# CHINESE TAIPEI

- 12 National Taiwan University
- 13 National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

INDIAN OCEAN

# INDONESIA

- 15 Universitas Indonesia

# AUSTRALIA

- 1 The Australian National University
- 2 The University of Adelaide
- 3 The University of Melbourne
- 4 The University of Queensland
- 5 The University of Sydney
- 6 UNSW Sydney

# KOREA

- 22 Korea University
- 23 KAIST
- 24 POSTECH
- 25 Pusan National University
- 26 Seoul National University
- 27 Yonsei University

# JAPAN

- 16 Keio University
- 17 Kyushu University
- 18 Nagoya University
- 19 The University of Osaka
- 20 Tohoku University
- 21 Waseda University

# THAILAND

- 50 Chulalongkorn University

# PHILIPPINES

- 46 University of the Philippines

# MALAYSIA

- 43 Universiti Malaya

# SINGAPORE

- 48 Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 49 National University of Singapore

# RUSSIA

- 47 Far Eastern Federal University

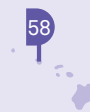
# CANADA

- 7 Simon Fraser University
- 8 The University of British Columbia
- 9 University of Alberta

# MEXICO

- 44 Tecnológico de Monterrey

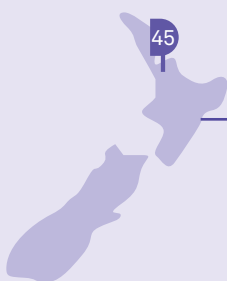
NORTH  
PACIFIC  
OCEAN



SOUTH  
PACIFIC  
OCEAN

# NEW ZEALAND

- 45 The University of Auckland





# USA

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

- 51 University of California, Davis
- 52 University of California, Irvine
- 53 University of California, Los Angeles
- 54 University of California, Riverside
- 55 University of California, San Diego
- 56 University of California, Santa Barbara
- 57 University of California, Santa Cruz
- 58 University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 59 University of Michigan
- 60 University of Oregon
- 61 University of Southern California
- 62 University of Washington

# ECUADOR

- 14 Universidad San Francisco de Quito

# CHILE

- 10 Universidad de Chile
- 11 Universidad de Concepción

# APRU MEMBERS

as of March 31, 2025

APRU membership is comprised of 62 leading universities from 18 economies of the Pacific Rim known worldwide for their academic and research excellence.

# FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

## DEAR APRU MEMBERS,

As we present this report at the APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting hosted by UC San Diego, higher education is in crisis. This crisis manifests differently amongst our diverse members. It is exacerbated by geoeconomic and geopolitical tensions which have resulted in political barriers to research, scientific collaboration and exchange. This has stalled innovation, diminished global perspectives and pressured universities to look inward.

In this challenging environment, our network showcases its strength of membership and the importance of our collective relationships in APRU to maintain collaborative momentum in leadership, research and student exchange. APRU brings together the leading universities in the Pacific Rim. With our vast reservoirs of knowledge and ingenuity, we can rise to the occasion by devising imaginative and innovative solutions. By collaborating with the right partners, universities can turn these solutions into reality and sustain the momentum that has always driven the human spirit.



This Annual Report, titled: "Diplomacy and Determination: APRU 2025," provides a succinct account of the concerted and innovative work that we have undertaken in 2024-2025. Bound by our mission to foster dialogue, collaboration and action across the Asia Pacific, this mission is a constant incentive for us to think anew, and act anew, to further education and to contribute to the solution of Pacific challenges.

As you know, I had the privilege to host the APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting in June 2024 at The University of Auckland – Waipapa Taumata Rau, under the theme "Oceans – The World's Challenges Divide Us, the Ocean Currents Connect Us." This meeting embodied to me precisely the thought leadership of this alliance of solution-oriented universities in the Association. With more than 80% of APRU's members represented by 120 university leaders, it was clear that institutions are eager to join efforts that address climate change, preserve marine biodiversity, ensure food resilience and advance climate justice through research, student engagement, and community work. As the Presidential Champion for APRU's Asia Pacific Women in Leadership program, I also had the opportunity to celebrate the success of the program's mentorship initiative in advancing women's leadership in academia during a special summit preceding the presidential meeting.

As Interim Chair of APRU's Steering Committee, I look forward to presenting this report at the Annual Presidents' Meeting. Sincere thanks to Chancellor Pradeep Khosla for hosting us at UC San Diego.

Thank you to the Chancellors, Presidents, Vice-Chancellors and your universities for the unwavering commitment and continuous support provided to APRU in 2024-2025.

**Dawn Freshwater**  
Interim Chair  
APRU  
Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Auckland – Waipapa Taumata Rau

# DIplomacy AND DETERMINATION

A letter by Thomas Schneider,  
Chief Executive, on APRU's position in 2025

## DEAR APRU COLLEAGUES,

"Diplomacy and Determination: APRU in 2025" sets the tone for how APRU operates at a turning point of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As a multilateral network spanning the Pacific Ocean, APRU pursues collaboration with a firm commitment to overcoming challenges and sustaining dialogue.

Cognizant of the unprecedented change that the past quarter century has seen, including in the Asia Pacific, we offer a unique cross-Pacific platform of joint initiatives – effective mechanisms of diplomacy in education, sustainability, and multilateral relations.

Beyond its past and rather narrow political definition, diplomacy is nowadays a preserve of multiple actors. Aside from the sphere of interstate relations, it has extended to specialized fields of diplomatic engagement – such as trade, climate, and education. For close to 30 years, APRU has established itself as an essential regional actor of diplomacy, embodying the model of multilateral cooperation.

The need for such multilateral diplomacy is essential in a world characterized by contrary tendencies of development. On the one hand, the world is hyperconnected through trade, finance, modern communication, and unprecedented mobility of people unseen in earlier phases of history. At the same time, the world is becoming increasingly fragmented politically. We have witnessed a global diffusion of power to emerging national and institutional stakeholders, including non-state actors. Major demographic shifts, environmental degradation, and socioeconomic inequality – compounded by recent crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and wars – have fundamentally reshaped the world.

The unprecedented pace of technological development challenges the very foundations of how life will be lived in the future. Multilateral diplomacy appears thus more urgent than before and lies at the foundation of APRU's mission in 2025. What are the effective mechanisms and forms of APRU diplomacy?



APRU builds and maintains strong partnerships with its 62 members in 18 economies of the Asia Pacific, as well as with governments, global NGOs, and the corporate sector. Partnership-building is a constant and politically sensitive process, facilitated by ongoing diplomatic engagement through both physical meetings and virtual communication. Subsets of these partners are regularly regrouped to collaborate with APRU on common goals, addressing the global challenges and threats described above. These collaborations bring together dozens of institutions and agencies and hundreds of individuals, creating diplomatic cohesion underpinned by trust and respect.

Our programs addressing the grand Pacific Challenges serve as vehicles for Health Diplomacy, Hazards Diplomacy, Biodiversity Diplomacy, Sustainability Diplomacy, and Food Diplomacy. Initiatives on Asia Pacific Women in Leadership, Indigenous Knowledges and Data for Social Impact function as mechanisms of Equality Diplomacy. Programs focused on student education and training, including the use of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education, act as beacons of Educational Diplomacy. Similarly, our facilitation of research collaboration and publications exemplifies Research Diplomacy. Pursued with staunch determination, these efforts establish a diplomatic engine of interconnectedness and shared purpose.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year, in this spirit of diplomacy and determination!

Sincerely,

**Thomas Schneider**  
Chief Executive  
APRU

# PARTNERING FOR THE PACIFIC

## Engaging in Collaborative Solutions for Asia-Pacific Challenges

Extending its work beyond the network, APRU partners with organizations with the common goal to address Asia-Pacific challenges and advance higher education through impactful initiatives, driving innovation and fostering social change across the region.

### QUICK TAKE

APRU addresses Asia-Pacific challenges through partnerships like the Asia Pacific Capacity Accelerator Network, the Gender Gap Report with Universitas 21, and the BigCoast Forest Climate Initiative to promote sustainability. Collaboration with the Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance also enhances scholarly access, highlighting APRU's commitment to promoting educational diplomacy.

### ASIA PACIFIC (APAC) DATA CAPACITY ACCELERATOR

Supported by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, data.org launched the APAC Capacity Accelerator Network (CAN), aimed at enhancing financial inclusion and inclusive economic growth through impact data science and AI. Collaborating with APRU and the Asian Institute of Digital Finance at NUS, as regional partners, the initiative aims to strengthen the data talent pipeline and capacities of regional social impact organisations through training, curriculum development, upskilling and experiential learning opportunities.

### GENDER GAP REPORT WITH UNIVERSITAS 21 (U21)

APRU and U21 are compiling their third Gender Gap Report to examine progress on women's leadership in universities. Despite a multitude of initiatives aimed at promoting gender equity, women currently hold only 37% of faculty positions and 25% of management roles. The report will assess regional trends and insights, highlighting individual progress and overall change.

### BIGCOAST FOREST CLIMATE INITIATIVE AND AFOGNAK FOREST CARBON PROJECT

For the 2024 APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting, hosted by the University of Auckland, APRU offset 420 tonnes of carbon emissions through the BigCoast Forest Climate Initiative, which plays a vital role in protecting 40,000 hectares of forests in Western Canada. Similarly, 102 tonnes of carbon emissions from the 2024 Senior International Leaders' Meeting in Tokyo were offset through Alaska's Afognak Island Forest Project, preserving forests, biodiversity, and indigenous communities in the Kodiak archipelago. indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship.

### PACIFIC RIM RESEARCH LIBRARIES ALLIANCE (PRRLA)

With a membership exceeding 40 university libraries, and 28 members common with APRU, PRRLA fosters collaboration through shared digital collections and innovative initiatives. Participants from its members can tap into its development opportunities, engaging webinars, and the prestigious Karl Lo Award, which aims to increase the visibility of library collections. PRRLA collaborates with APRU on creating a pilot for a Museum of the Asia-Pacific, consisting of APRU's museums and PRRLA's special collections.

See P.59 for more information  
about APRU partnerships

For more information on  
APRU's global partnerships,  
please contact us at  
programs@apru.org



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more or visit  
our page



# NEW APRU MEMBERS



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



The Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) is a high-level public research university founded in Shenzhen amid China's higher education reforms. Inspired by top science and technology universities, SUSTech focuses on science, engineering, and medicine, with additional strengths in business and humanities. It offers undergraduate to doctoral programs and advances research in emerging fields, serving as a think tank for social progress. In February 2022, SUSTech and its mathematics discipline were selected for the national "Double First-Class" initiative.

Rooted in China, SUSTech explores opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and Shenzhen's development zones. It upholds a pioneering spirit of truth-seeking, reform, and excellence while emphasizing knowledge creation, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Guided by its motto, "Virtue, Truth, Advancement, and Self-Strengthening," SUSTech supports China's innovation-driven growth and Shenzhen's transformation into a global technology hub. With a world-class faculty, top-tier talent cultivation, and cutting-edge research, SUSTech is rapidly evolving into an internationally recognized research university.

## UNIVERSIDAD DE CONCEPCIÓN



Universidad de Concepción (UdeC) is one of the main institutions of higher education in Chile. It stands out due to its academic leadership and commitment to research that has a positive impact on the social and cultural development of the country.

Founded in 1919, it was the first university in Latin America to build a university city model, a design that allowed the interaction between its different schools in the same place, which encouraged an interdisciplinary vision both in education and the creation of knowledge.

More than 70,000 students have graduated from this university and currently over 27,000 students are enrolled in undergraduate programs, and 4,000 in the Graduate School and health specializations programs.

The university also has three campuses located in Concepción, Chillán and Los Ángeles, and the Santiago Unit. In 2022, the Universidad de Concepción Nature Campus project was launched as an extension of the Concepción Campus, a space of over 180 hectares devoted to the preservation and restoration of the biological diversity of the native flora and fauna ecosystems. In addition, the university hosts three museums, 12 libraries and a coastal oceanography laboratory in Caleta Tortel in the south of Chile.

UdeC has consolidated itself as a national and international referent, placed in outstanding positions in global rankings such as the QS World University Rankings and The Times Higher Education Latin America University Rankings.

With a broad educational offer of 90 undergraduate and 120 postgraduate programs that encompass all the dimensions of knowledge, UdeC stands as an institution of renowned prestige in higher education. Likewise, with its 40 research centers as sponsoring or associated institutions and robust collaboration with academic and scientific institutions at the national and global level, our university is placed as one of the most productive universities in Chile.

Through more than 400 international agreements focused on scientific and academic exchange and joint projects with renowned universities, UdeC promotes international student mobility and global cooperation.



# APRU LEADERS

## STEERING COMMITTEE 2024-2025

The Steering Committee is APRU's executive body, as elected by the presidents of member universities.

It oversees the strategy, policy, programs and finances of the network.



**Dawn FRESHWATER**  
Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Auckland  
Interim Vice-Chair  
*January-June 2025*



**Joy JOHNSON**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Simon Fraser University  
Interim Chair  
*January-June 2025*



**Kohei ITOH**  
President  
Keio University



**HO Teck Hua**  
President  
Nanyang Technological  
University, Singapore



**TAN Eng Chye**  
President  
National University of  
Singapore



**RYU Honglim**  
President  
Seoul National University



**DING Kuiling**  
President  
Shanghai Jiao Tong  
University



**David GARZA**  
President  
Tecnológico de  
Monterrey



**ZHANG Xiang**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Hong Kong



**Deborah TERRY AO**  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of Queensland



**Rosa DEVÉS**  
Rector  
Universidad de Chile



**Gary S. MAY**  
Chancellor  
UC Davis



**Pradeep KHOSLA**  
Chancellor  
UC San Diego



**Carol L. FOLT**  
President  
University of  
Southern California



**Thomas SCHNEIDER**  
Chief Executive  
APRU



**Albert CHAN**  
Chief Operating Officer  
APRU



**Gene D. BLOCK**  
Former Chancellor  
UCLA



**Rocky S. TUAN**  
Former Vice-Chancellor and President  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Chair, Steering Committee  
*until December 2024*

## APRU AMBASSADORS

An APRU Ambassador is a distinguished role of APRU and is held by a highly respected academic or leader who has made significant contributions to higher education.

# NEW PRESIDENTS



**Wilert PURIWAT**  
President  
Chulalongkorn University  
*from June 30, 2024*



**Jae-weon CHOI**  
President  
Pusan National University  
*from May 17, 2024*



**XUE Qikun**  
President  
Southern University of  
Science and Technology



**Dennis LO**  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
*from January 8, 2025*



**Emma JOHNSTON**  
Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Melbourne  
*from February 2025*



**Teiji TOMINAGA**  
President  
Tohoku University  
*from April 1, 2024*



**Julio FRENK**  
Chancellor  
UCLA  
*from January 1, 2025*



**Carlos SAAVEDRA**  
Rector  
Universidad de Concepción



**Heri HERMANSYAH**  
Rector  
Universitas Indonesia  
*from December 4, 2024*



**Wendy F. HENSEL**  
President  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
*from January 1, 2025*



**CHANG Jin**  
President  
University of Science and  
Technology of China  
*from October 10, 2024*



**ZHANG Liqun**  
President  
Xi'an Jiaotong University  
*from March 2024*



# 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' MEETING

## Connecting Universities Across the Pacific Ocean

As the most significant gathering of university leaders in the Asia Pacific, the APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting is dedicated to fostering educational diplomacy. It convenes APRU Presidents to advance Asia Pacific higher education, address key issues and identify collaboration opportunities.

### AT A GLANCE

125  Participants

48  Universities

16  Economies

### HOST UNIVERSITY



### QUICK TAKE

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents' Meeting 2024 gathered over 120 leaders from 48 member universities at Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland to discuss collaborative efforts in tackling climate change and its effects on the ocean. Under the theme "Oceans – The World's Challenges Divide Us, the Ocean Currents Connect Us," the event featured discussions on climate change leadership, biodiversity protection, resilient food systems, and climate equity.

## EMBRACING OCEAN-CENTRIC PERSPECTIVES

The meeting featured three keynotes, led by New Zealand's Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Judith Collins, to emphasize the importance of partnerships in biotechnology and medical technology for driving economic growth. Associate Professor Dan Hikuroa from Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland, advocated for an ocean-centric view on climate change and legal personhood for nature, and Professor Simon Thrush, also from the same university, highlighted the role of marine ecosystems in sustainability.

## NAVIGATING THE TIDES

Leaders from member universities discussed efforts to address climate change, including the University of Adelaide's 2030 sustainability strategy, Waseda University's renewable energy education, UC Davis's biodiversity focus, Nanyang Technological University's sustainability goals, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's Sustainable Smart Campus.

## PROTECTING OCEAN BIODIVERSITY

The panel "Guardians of the Blue" highlighted climate risks to the Pacific Ocean and the role of universities in promoting ocean sustainability. During the session, National Taiwan University shared its zero-carbon competition, Universidad San Francisco de Quito emphasized collaboration with Indigenous communities, Universiti Malaya presented a seaweed "living lab," and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa stressed indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship.

## STRENGTHENING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

The panel "Sea, Soil, Sustenance: Pathways to Resilient Food Systems" examined the links between marine ecosystems, food security, and water resilience in the Asia Pacific. President Tan Eng Chye of the National University of Singapore discussed water self-sufficiency, while President and Vice-Chancellor Joy Johnson of Simon Fraser University connected food security to Sustainable Development Goals. President Song Gao of Sun Yat-Sen University highlighted regional vulnerability to environmental changes. Discussions on climate equity emphasized local knowledge and disaster mitigation for marginalized communities, with insights from President Attorney Angelo Jimenez of the University of the Philippines and Professor Toshiya Ueki of Tohoku University.

## APPOINTMENT OF APRU AMBASSADOR

During the summit's business meeting, Chancellor Gene D. Block of UCLA was honored as the inaugural "APRU Ambassador" in recognition of his exemplary leadership and contributions to the organization. Vice-Chancellor and President Rocky S. Tuan of the Chinese University of Hong Kong commended him for elevating the association's global stature over the past eight years. In his acceptance speech, Chancellor Block expressed gratitude to APRU members and reaffirmed his commitment to higher education in his new role.

## ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY

Prior to the Annual Presidents' Meeting, APRU held the inaugural Asia Pacific Women in Leadership Summit 2024 in Auckland. At the summit, university presidents and participants highlighted the urgent need for university leaders to take practical steps in advancing women's leadership in higher education and addressing challenges for women.

## APRU'S CARBON OFFSET COMMITMENT

For the APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting, APRU partnered with ClimeCo to offset 420 tonnes of carbon emissions through the BigCoast Forest Climate Initiative, showcasing its commitment to sustainability. The initiative protects 40,000 hectares of Canadian West Coast forests for 25 years, supporting diverse ecosystems. APRU emphasized enhancing sustainability efforts across international conferences to gather insights for future climate solutions and strengthen its role as an environmental leader.



**Each of us in the room, coming from the diverse countries that share their coastline with the Pacific, know that there are a multitude of issues facing the Pacific Ocean; our region confronts many existing and emerging sustainability and geopolitical challenges.**



Prof. Dawn Freshwater  
Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Auckland



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# SENIOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERS' MEETING

## ‘Learning Without Limits’: A Unifying Theme for Education Diplomacy

APRU’s Senior International Leaders meet annually to explore vital themes in higher education, exchanging best practices and strategies which highlight the ways that universities are addressing the needs of future generations.

### AT A GLANCE



### HOST UNIVERSITY



### QUICK TAKE

The APRU Senior International Leaders’ Meeting 2024, themed “Learning without Limits,” was held at Keio University, uniting leaders from member universities to discuss strategies for overcoming global challenges in higher education. Attendees addressed demographic changes, geopolitical risks, and technology integration in teaching. Keynote speeches and discussions highlighted creativity, collaborative learning, and responsible AI use. The next meeting is scheduled for 2025 and will be hosted in Ecuador by Universidad San Francisco de Quito.



**It was not just a meeting but a collaborative effort to shape a unified approach towards a sustainable and inclusive future in higher education.**



Prof. Kohei Itoh  
President  
Keio University



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### ENHANCING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

President Kohei Itoh of Keio University highlighted APRU's role in strengthening higher education resilience and promoting sustainability through cooperation and innovation. He also emphasized AI's vast potential in higher education and student learning. The meeting addressed challenges for Japanese universities, such as demographic shifts and geopolitical risks, calling for innovative solutions. APRU's sustainability efforts were exemplified by the support for the Afognak Island Forest Project, which protects Alaska's native forests and supports local communities.

### CRAFTING FUTURE STRATEGIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The meeting addressed strategies for the evolving challenges universities face globally. Key discussions emphasized the need for international cooperation, using Japanese universities as a case study. Notable keynote addresses highlighted the transformative potential of integrating art and AI in education, featuring Professor Yike Guo, Provost of the Hong Kong

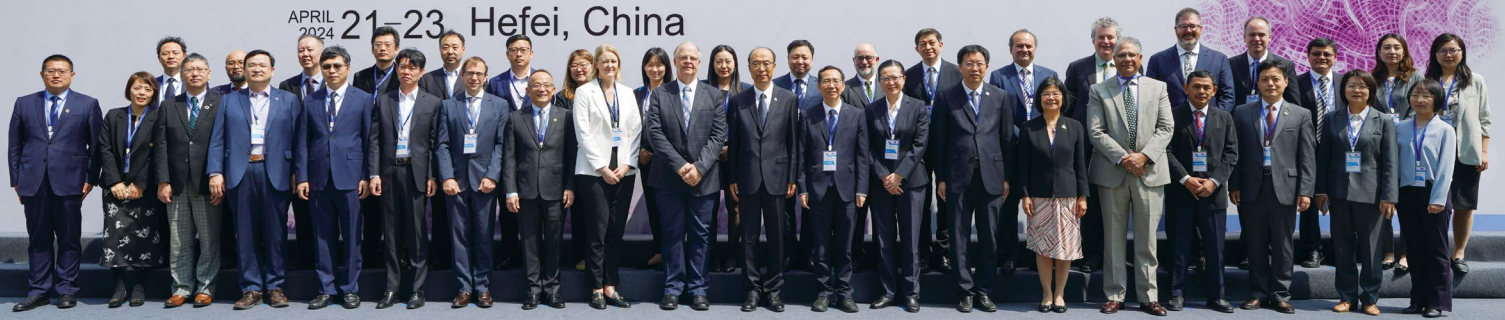
University of Science and Technology, Professor Helen Sullivan, Dean of The Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific, and Ms. Laura Hassink, Managing Director of STM Journals at Elsevier. The meeting reinforced the responsible use of technology, especially AI, to maintain trust in scientific research and education.

### EMBEDDING VALUES AND AMPLIFYING IMPACT IN GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION

Two dedicated sessions explored APRU's core values and strategic vision, focusing on how to strengthen their integration into the association's future direction. Speakers examined key principles — such as collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity — and their enduring relevance to APRU, while also addressing the challenges of upholding these values in an increasingly multipolar world. The discussions further delved into strategies for enhancing the network's global impact, including frameworks for measuring effectiveness and innovative approaches to deepening engagement with member universities. By aligning shared values with actionable goals, APRU aims to fortify its role as a transformative force in higher education.

# Collaborative Research for a *Better Future*

APRIL 2024 21–23, Hefei, China



## VICE PRESIDENTS FOR RESEARCH MEETING

### Uniting Through Collaborative Research

The APRU Vice Presidents for Research Meeting promotes educational diplomacy across the Pacific Rim by convening university leaders to take a critical look at key research challenges in universities such as policies, funding, and technology transfer.

#### HOST UNIVERSITY



#### QUICK TAKE

The 6th APRU Vice Presidents for Research Meeting, themed “Collaborative Research for a Better Future,” took place at the University of Science and Technology of China. It gathered research administrators to discuss strategic collaboration in research, with a focus on critical issues such as capacity building, technological advancements, and enhancement of university-industry partnerships. Attendees shared insights on measuring research impact, and aimed to foster innovation within academic institutions.

#### AT A GLANCE

51  Participants

22  Universities

12  Economies



### INSIGHTS FROM THE APRU VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR RESEARCH MEETING

The meeting opened with speeches from notable figures including Professor Liu Weidong, Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Professor Yang Jinlong, Vice President of the University of Science and Technology of China, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in science. APRU Chief Executive Thomas Schneider highlighted the potential of diverse Pacific Rim institutions for collaborative research. The meeting also featured five insightful panels on fostering innovation, advancing research, and incubating emerging technologies.

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION THROUGH LARGE SCIENCE FACILITIES (LSF)

Professor Feng Donglai from the University of Science and Technology of China delivered an inspiring keynote address on LSF, emphasizing their role as platforms for international collaboration and advancing knowledge.

Using examples of LSF primarily from Mainland China and around the world, he detailed the significant scientific progress achieved in fields such as high-energy physics and life sciences. He also emphasized how sharing LSF fosters global partnerships among researchers to address complex challenges facing humanity. Furthermore, these collaborations, he emphasized, bring diverse perspectives, benefiting students and future researchers.

### ENHANCING GLOBAL COLLABORATION THROUGH SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Attendees from 22 universities discussed critical issues including policy development and industry collaboration. Notable contributions included insights from Vice-President for Research and Development Professor Tim Cheng of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Professor Soojin Park of POSTECH.

### ADVISORY GROUP

- Prof. Chakkaphan Sutthirat, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Peter Preiser, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Prof. Arturo Molina, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Prof. Mai-Har Sham, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Gail Murphy, The University of British Columbia
- Prof. Katherine Belov, The University of Sydney
- Dr. Ishwar Puri, University of Southern California
- Dr. Carla Dimalanta, University of the Philippines



**The University of Science and Technology of China is precisely a paragon of the promise that a place holds for its own future, in terms of local identity, resources, and development.**



Prof. Thomas Schneider  
Chief Executive, APRU



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# GLOBAL ADVOCACY



## Shaping the Discourse on Global Challenges

In addition to APRU programs, the association actively participates in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), events of Times Higher Education and other global platforms to shape discourse, facilitate knowledge exchange, and share valuable insights about addressing pressing global challenges.



### APEC POLICY PARTNERSHIP ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION (PPSTI)

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

▶ LIMA, PERU

Representing APRU, Professor Ery Odette Fukushima from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito presented on “Innovation Ecosystems for Resilience Solutions,” emphasizing how science, technology, and innovation support ecosystem resilience, sustainable industries, and young innovators.



### APEC HEALTHY WOMEN, HEALTHY ECONOMIES RESEARCH PRIZE

APRIL-AUGUST 2024

Mellissa Withers, APRU Global Health Program Director, has once again been invited to be on the judging panel for the 2024 prize. The APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Research Prize is an annual prize recognizing research that enables policymakers, business leaders, and others to identify and implement measures to improve women’s health in APEC economies, so women can join and rise in the workforce.



### THE 49<sup>TH</sup> APEC HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (HRDWG) MEETING

MAY 8, 2024

▶ AREQUIPA, PERU

Universidad de Chile presented the APRU Virtual Student Exchange Program at the 49<sup>th</sup> APEC HRDWG plenary meeting, where Professor Andrés Dockendorff from Universidad de Chile highlighted the program’s focus on inclusivity, benefiting 300 participants from Chile in four years. He also emphasized the importance of academic networks in connecting vulnerable students globally.



### APEC DIGITAL EDUCATION POLICY TRAINING (ADEPT) PROGRAM

AUGUST 27-28, 2024

▶ INSTITUTE OF APEC COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION

APRU Chief Executive Professor Thomas Schneider shared APRU’s initiatives in digital education and AI during the ADEPT program, which focused on promoting inclusive growth through digital education policies.



### APRU’S GENERATIVE AI IN EDUCATION AT APEC TVET WORKSHOP

AUGUST 28, 2024

▶ CHINESE TAIPEI

Case studies from the APRU-Microsoft project on Generative AI in Higher Education were highlighted at the workshop. Dr. Sean McMinn from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology shared insights on AI readiness in education with over 100 education policymakers and industry experts, showcasing Generative AI’s role in course design and assessments.



For more information on APRU's global advocacy, please visit our site

[apru.org](http://apru.org)

## OTHER PROJECTS

### QUICK TAKE

In the past year, APRU delegates participated in various international initiatives such as the APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation, the Global AI Forum; the Institute for the Future of Education Conference; a United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific webinar; and the Greater Bay Area Science Forum, advocating for policies and solutions that will help shape the higher education arena.



### THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION (IFE) CONFERENCE

JANUARY 23-25, 2024

▶ TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

At the IFE Conference, APRU Chief Executive Professor Thomas Schneider highlighted the importance of online internationalization in higher education. He discussed collaborative online programs and the need to train professors to strengthen global research alliances.



### GLOBAL SOLUTIONS JOURNAL

APRIL 29, 2024

▶ ONLINE PUBLICATION

Global Solutions Journal: Issue 10 featured the article "Multilateralism, Systems Thinking, Education – The Dilemmas of Higher Education and the Case for a Meta-University," highlighting APRU's meta-university model that fosters education and systems thinking. The piece was written by APRU Chief Executive Professor Thomas Schneider.



### GREATER BAY AREA SCIENCE FORUM

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

▶ THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

At a pre-event roundtable for the Greater Bay Area Science Forum 2024, which featured discussions on biomedical sciences, AI, and green energy, APRU Chief Executive Professor Thomas Schneider emphasized Hong Kong's role as a super-connector for international collaboration and technological innovation; he also shed light on the importance of talent exchange through the APRU network.



### UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE UN DAY FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

▶ UN CONFERENCE CENTRE BANGKOK AND ONLINE

The UN ESCAP Day for South-South Cooperation - Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow featured APRU Chief Strategy Officer Christina Schönleber discussing important contributions civil society organisations and academic experts made to translate south-south learning in the Asia Pacific. APRU's AI for Social Good project was also showcased for its effective collaboration.



### TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION GLOBAL AI FORUM

NOVEMBER 29, 2024

▶ THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

The Global AI Forum 2024 gathered academics and thought leaders to explore AI ethics, advancements, and institutional challenges in higher education. As a notable APRU speaker, Professor Simon Bates, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) at The University of British Columbia and Chair of the University of the Future Working Group, led a panel on "Preparing for Success: Redefining Education for the AI Era."

# KEY OUTCOMES AND IMPACT IN 2024-2025


Within the framework of APRU programs, universities come together to tackle issues ranging from climate change and public health to technological innovation and inclusive education. Every year, APRU hosts events and forges partnerships within the network and beyond to discover solutions and enhance capacity to address the world's most pressing challenges. This dynamic alliance is a testament to the power of collective action and academic excellence.

**THE APRU ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' MEETING** hosted by The University of Auckland was APRU's premier event in 2024, uniting 125 leaders from 48 of the region's top research universities. This prestigious gathering serves as a platform to strengthen global connectivity, promote strategic collaborations, and address pressing challenges shaping the future of higher education and beyond.

16  Programs

APRU's strategic initiatives support key areas such as:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biodiversity & Sustainability
- Forest Ecosystems
- Food Security
- Gender Equity
- Global Health
- Indigenous and First Nations Knowledges
- Multi-Hazards
- Sustainable Cities and Landscapes
- Sustainable Waste Management

41  International events and activities

6,000+  Participants

## OVERVIEW

62  Universities

18  Economies

10+ Million  Alumni

2+ Million  Students

200,000+  Faculty Members

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

As a leading voice for knowledge and innovation in the Pacific, APRU connects the region's brightest young minds through its unique geographical reach, enabling them to address important issues and shape a better future.

16  Student Activities

2,800+  Student Participants

# ONE PACIFIC AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

APRU empowers students, researchers, experts, academics, universities and international partners to tackle some of the most pressing challenges we face in the Asia Pacific. We align our programs with the objectives of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which aim to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable society for all by 2030.

## CHALLENGES

- ☉ Artificial Intelligence
- ☉ Asia Pacific Women in Leadership
- ☉ Biodiversity and Sustainability
- ☉ Forest Ecosystems Living Lab Initiative
- ☉ Food Security and Agritech
- ☉ Sustainable Waste Management
- ☉ Global Health
- ☉ Indigenous and First Nations Knowledges
- ☉ Multi-Hazards
- ☉ Sustainable Cities and Landscapes

## 17 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## Innovating Education, Bridging Gaps and Shaping Futures Through Advanced Technology

Artificial intelligence (AI) and frontier technologies are reshaping societies and industries, demanding proactive responses. While AI drives innovation, concerns about inequality and ethics persist. APRU addresses these challenges through its network's collective expertise.

### PROJECT LEADS (GENERATIVE AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION)

Prof. Simon Bates, The University of British Columbia  
Prof. Danny Liu, The University of Sydney

#### AT A GLANCE

180  Participants

24  Universities

13  Economies



### QUICK TAKE

Over the past year, APRU has amplified groundbreaking outputs from its “AI for Social Good” partnership with Google and UN ESCAP while forging new collaborations with industry giants like Microsoft and partner organizations like data.org, harnessing the intellectual firepower of Asia-Pacific universities. These initiatives have shaped cutting-edge governance and policy frameworks for AI applications, setting the stage for transformative change. In 2024, APRU launched two trailblazing projects: the Generative AI in Education initiative, and Southeast Asia's first-ever data capacity accelerator. Together, they are propelling the Asia-Pacific region to the forefront of the global AI revolution.

### FUTURE OF GENERATIVE AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION

APRU is leading efforts to integrate generative AI into higher education to address the sector's needs for systematic guidance, shared learning, and collaborative solutions amidst the advent of AI. Launched in 2023 with generous support from Microsoft and Elsevier, the “Generative AI in Education” project explores frameworks for AI adoption across member institutions. Phase I compiled over 30 case studies on current applications, while Phase II, implemented throughout 2024, included three workshops aimed at developing strategies and identifying critical considerations for responsible AI use.

The initiative culminated in a whitepaper published in January 2025. Titled “Generative AI in Higher Education: Current Practices and Ways Forward,” it offers best practices to guide educational leaders in navigating the evolving education and technology landscape. Authored by Professor Danny Liu from The University of Sydney and Professor Simon Bates, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning, The University of British Columbia, the document outlines the ‘CRAFT’ framework, focusing on culture, rules, access, familiarity, and trust for effective AI integration. The initiative emphasizes collaborative clusters and student involvement, calling for transformative actions to reshape higher education in an AI-driven landscape.



## FORGING PARTNERSHIPS AND LAUNCHING THE ASIA PACIFIC DATA CAPACITY ACCELERATOR

APRU and data.org collaborated to leverage their collective expertise in advancing data science for social impact and AI for Good in Southeast Asia. With a focus on empowering educators, students, and social impact organizations (SIOs), the partnership aims to strengthen the capabilities of both the emerging and existing workforce while building the capacities of SIOs to drive inclusive growth across the region. This initiative is a key component of the APAC Capacity Accelerator Network, established and launched in November 2024 in Singapore. It was the first data capacity accelerator in Southeast Asia, launched by data.org in partnership with APRU and NUS, with funding from Mastercard’s Center for Inclusive Growth.



## AI FOR SOCIAL GOOD IN THAILAND AND BANGLADESH

The “AI for Social Good” project, a collaboration between APRU, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and government partners in Thailand and Bangladesh, aimed to develop country-specific AI governance frameworks to tackle socio-economic challenges. Following the AI for Social Good Summit and the publication of papers in 2023, the project team released the final report in March 2024 and shared key findings at the UN ESCAP webinar “Leveraging Network for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policies.” The project also produced practical case studies focusing on leveraging AI for maternal health in Bangladesh and digital health governance for poverty alleviation in Thailand.






**[The Future of Generative AI in Higher Education] project serves as an exciting and concerted effort for universities to exchange insights as it will empower universities to address the challenges on the integration of generative AI and upskilling individuals, seize this opportunity for innovation, and navigate the ever-evolving landscape of AI in education and research.**



**Dr. Catherine Zhou**  
Teaching Associate of the Office of the Dean of Engineering  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

### PUBLICATIONS

-  Whitepaper: Generative AI in Higher Education: Current Practices and Ways Forward
-  Final Report: AI For Social Good, Strengthening Capabilities & Governance Case Studies of Thailand and Bangladesh
-  Project Report: Future Universities in a Generative AI World



**[The launch of the accelerator] is a remarkable step in the region’s journey as a leader in using data and AI for social good. This initiative will prepare a new generation of data and AI practitioners in the civil service, among others, to address social challenges that benefit local communities.**












**Jon Huntsman**  
former US Ambassador to China and Singapore  
Vice Chairman and President  
Strategic Growth, Mastercard

### MEDIA SPOTLIGHT:

-  Business Wire, APRU’s latest AI For Social Good Report spotlights the need for transforming social policies and services in Bangladesh and Thailand, March 26, 2024
-  University World News, AI in maternal health – how research and policy intertwine, April 13, 2024
-  The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HKUST Drives Responsible AI Integration in Higher Education with APRU, June 20, 2024
-  University World News, New ‘accelerator’ to train data scientists for social impact, November 27, 2024
-  University World News, White Paper Offers HE a Balanced Plan for AI Engagement, January 15, 2025

### EXTERNAL PARTNERS

-  Google
-  United Nations ESCAP
-  Microsoft
-  Elsevier
-  Data.org
-  Mastercard
-  NXPO
-  NECTEC
-  a2i



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# ASIA PACIFIC WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



## Advancing Gender Equality in the Pacific Rim

Gender equality is essential for economic growth, social well-being, and addressing demographic challenges in the Pacific Rim. APRU is dedicated to fostering a more equitable region, advocating for stronger efforts to address inequalities within its network.

### HOST UNIVERSITIES



### AT A GLANCE 4<sup>TH</sup> COHORT OF APWIL MENTORING PROGRAM

88  Mentors and mentees

27  APRU member universities

77  Participants at the first APWiL In-Person Summit

### QUICK TAKE

APRU members are committed to addressing gender imbalances through initiatives such as the Asia Pacific Women in Leadership Program (APWiL). Co-led by UC Davis and Universiti Malaya, the program welcomed its fourth and largest cohort of the APWiL Mentoring Program to date and featured activities and workshops. Most notably, APWiL hosted its first in-person summit in 2024 to explore gender equity in academia. The program also marked the 2024 International Women's Day with a seminar on reducing barriers to women's success and fostering equity.

## ASIA PACIFIC WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP IN-PERSON SUMMIT 2024

The APWiL In-Person Summit 2024, hosted by The University of Auckland ahead of the Annual Presidents Meeting, marked a historic gathering of 77 participants and alumni of the APWiL Mentoring Program. This first in-person meeting since the program's launch featured discussions on overcoming systemic barriers including gender stereotypes, cultural norms, and institutional biases. Participants shared strategies to advance gender equity, addressing critical issues such as work-life balance, leadership development, and the challenges women face in academia. Insights from the Summit reinforced university leaders' commitment to systemic change through mentorship, allyship, and inclusive policies. The event strengthened the APWiL network while setting an agenda to accelerate gender equity across Asia-Pacific higher education.

## APWiL MENTORING PROGRAM WELCOMED THE 4<sup>TH</sup> COHORT

First launched in 2020-21, the APWiL Mentoring Program welcomed its 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort, the orientation and first Informal Networking event focused on women's equity in academia and creating safe spaces. The topic of work-life balance was also featured, creating a valuable platform for mentees, mentors, and alumni to share their experiences. The 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort welcomed 44 mentoring pairs — nearly three times larger than the Pilot Cohort in 2020-21 — highlighting the growing interest in empowering women leaders within the network. APWiL Co-Chair Professor Yvonne Lim of Universiti Malaya emphasized the program's value among members and the support it has received from male colleagues.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024: BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES

Celebrating International Women's Day 2024, APWiL hosted the webinar "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," highlighting women's roles in society and the importance of gender equity. The event highlighted the value of mentoring programs and the need for supportive policies. Ultimately, it encouraged women to seize opportunities, emphasizing that collaboration and shared experiences are vital for advancing gender equity in academia and beyond.



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more or visit  
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## CORE GROUP

- ☉ Prof. Dawn Freshwater, The University of Auckland (APWiL Presidential Champion)
- ☉ Prof. Yvonne Ai-Lian Lim, Universiti Malaya (Co-Chair)
- ☉ Prof. Joanna Regulska, UC Davis (Co-Chair)
- ☉ Prof. Akiyo Okuda, Keio University
- ☉ Dr. Inés Sáenz Negrete, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- ☉ Prof. Mai Har Sham, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- ☉ Dr. Derlie Mateo-Babiano, The University of Melbourne
- ☉ Prof. Katherine Belov, The University of Sydney
- ☉ Dr. Ximena M. Córdova, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- ☉ Dr. Yong Zulina Zubairi, Universiti Malaya
- ☉ Dr. Suat Yan Lai, Universiti Malaya
- ☉ Prof. Cindy Fan, UCLA
- ☉ Dr. Denise Konan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- ☉ Dr. Marby Villaceran, University of the Philippines
- ☉ APRU Secretariat Representative



**Universities can play a pivotal role in providing support services and networking opportunities to help all women thrive, and it is important that we expose our children and our teenagers to a range of career paths that aren't limited by gender.**



**Ziena Jalil**

Keynote Speaker at the APWiL In-Person Summit 2024  
Chief of Staff at Te Pūkenga –  
New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology  
and Board member for the Asia New Zealand Foundation  
and Education New Zealand



**The steadily growing participation highlights the value our group members place on this program. It's not just the women leaders and colleagues playing their roles; we are also deeply grateful for the support of our male colleagues in encouraging women to aspire to leadership positions.**



**Prof. Yvonne Lim**

APWiL Co-Chair and Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Academic and International)  
Professor of Parasitology  
Universiti Malaya

# BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



## Promoting Biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific

The program brings together scientists and other stakeholders to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, empowering researchers and students to protect ecosystems and develop sustainable solutions.

### HOST UNIVERSITIES



### QUICK TAKE

Led by The Chinese University of Hong Kong and The University of Sydney, the program advanced biodiversity efforts through initiatives like the APRU x EBPHK Conference and the Biodiversity for Sustainable Cities Webinar Series, which addressed biodiversity loss and urban sustainability. They also collaborated on genomic research and ocean health projects, demonstrating their commitment to addressing environmental challenges and climate change.

### AT A GLANCE

365  Participants

17  Universities    9  Economies



**[Through collaboration] we will generate new knowledge that improves our understanding of technological intervention, allowing us to better manage the resources that are part of the human heritage.**



Prof. Alan Chan  
Provost, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

### APRU X EBPHK JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

An international conference jointly organized by APRU and Earth BioGenome Project Hong Kong (EBPHK) on Biodiversity, Conservation, Genomics, and Sustainability took place at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2024, featuring a field trip to showcase local conservation efforts and the urgency of protecting regional biodiversity.

### APRU BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES WEBINAR SERIES 2024

Co-hosted by the APRU Biodiversity Program and Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Program — in partnership with The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and The University of Sydney — this series featured three webinars. Researchers and stakeholders explored biodiversity loss in urban environments and discussed strategies for balancing human development with conservation efforts.

### PARTNERING FOR THE PACIFIC

To mark World Ocean Day and ahead of the APRU Annual Presidents' Meeting, APRU launched a weekly series titled "Partnering for the Pacific" to highlight efforts in ocean and climate action. The series featured contributions from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, The University of Sydney, and The University of Auckland, underscoring shared environmental responsibility and the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to ocean sustainability.

### CORE GROUP

- Prof. Jerome Hui, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Co-Chair)
- Prof. Nathan Lo, The University of Sydney (Co-Chair)
- Prof. Somsak Panha, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Peter Presier, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Prof. Hsiao-Wei Yuan, National Taiwan University
- Prof. Tien Ming Lee, Sun Yat-sen University
- Prof. Alan Chan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Kathy Belov, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Subha Bhassu, Universiti Malaya
- Prof. Harris Lewin, UC Davis/ Arizona State University
- Prof. Joanna Regulska, UC Davis
- Dr. Hayde Galvez, University of the Philippines
- APRU Secretariat Representative



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# FOREST ECOSYSTEMS LIVING LAB INITIATIVE



The Forest Ecosystems Living Lab Initiative represents a groundbreaking approach to sustainable forest management and innovation. By integrating cutting-edge research with practical, community-based solutions, we are setting the stage for a future where forest ecosystems thrive in harmony with human needs.



Prof. Dominik Roeser  
Associate Dean and Associate Professor from  
The University of British Columbia's Faculty of Forestry

## Setting the Stage for Forest Innovation

The Asia Pacific's rich biodiversity, particularly in forest ecosystems, faces challenges such as land degradation and biodiversity loss due to economic and population growth. The new APRU initiative offers a platform for collaborative efforts to promote sustainable forest management and conservation.

### QUICK TAKE

The APRU Forest Ecosystems Living Lab Initiative (FELLI) held its inaugural meeting bringing together six partner universities to advance the development of the project. The FELLI team also authored an article for the Global Solutions Journal, outlining the project's vision for a comparative approach to forest research and conservation.

### LEAD UNIVERSITIES



### PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES



### AT A GLANCE

19 Participants

6 Universities    6 Economies

### FELLI INAUGURAL MEETING

The inaugural meeting of FELLI took place in December at The University of British Columbia and was joined by forestry scientists from Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Kyushu University, National Taiwan University, University of the Philippines Los Baños, and Universiti Malaya. Together, they established a foundation for the living lab project. Key discussions focused on amplifying FELLI's visibility as a unique research initiative, empowering student engagement through a unified forestry course, and informing policy development by bringing attention to the biodiversity challenges of forests around the world. Highlighting the project's importance for the network, Christina Schönleber, APRU Chief Strategy Officer, says, "Through rich research data and comparative studies across diverse forest ecosystems, this project is not only aimed at advancing forest studies but also at creating transformative research experiences for students."

### GLOBAL SOLUTIONS JOURNAL

FELLI published the article "The Forest Ecosystems Living Lab Initiative: A Collaborative, International Network to Inform Forest Research and Management" in the Global Solutions Journal 11 (2025), 84-91, showcasing its collective and innovative approach to collaborating on cutting-edge research, promoting experiential learning, and developing policies for forest conservation and restoration.



For more information, please contact us at [programs@apru.org](mailto:programs@apru.org)

# FOOD SECURITY AND AGRITECH



## Understanding and Advancing Food Security

Food security is achieved when every individual, at all times, has both physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that satisfies their dietary requirements and personal preferences, enabling them to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

### HOST UNIVERSITIES



### PARTNERS



### AT A GLANCE

134  Participants



**We cannot use a one-size-fits-all approach to enrich soil health in localities all across the Asia-Pacific region. Governments and researchers must work together to support small farmers to gain the knowledge and technology to sustain soil for the agri-food economy at scale.**



Dr. Zeng-Yei Hseu  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Agricultural Chemistry  
National Taiwan University

### QUICK TAKE

Led by Simon Fraser University, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and National University of Singapore, the pilot program responds to the growing need for a research and innovation hub addressing local and regional agricultural challenges. Its new initiatives prioritized innovative agritech solutions, fostering a strong network of interdisciplinary experts and practitioners across the Asia Pacific.

### CO-DIRECTORS

- ◉ Prof. Woo Soo Kim, Simon Fraser University
- ◉ Prof. Veera Sekaran, National University of Singapore
- ◉ Anne Lochoff, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

### GLOBAL ADVOCACY

In 2024, APRU continued to actively engage in various global events addressing food security and climate challenges.

- ◉ **Food Security at Canada-in-Asia Conference 2024**  
APRU introduced its new Food Security Program, focusing on agri-tech policy and global food production during discussions led by Professor Woo Soo Kim.
- ◉ **Dialogue on Climate and Food Security**  
APRU participated in an FAO online dialogue to explore integrating climate action into agri-food systems.
- ◉ **United Nations Model Program on Food Security**  
Three students from the University of the Philippines took part in the UN Model Program, emphasizing youth involvement in addressing food security challenges through virtual lectures and simulations.



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# SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT



## Formulating a Sustainable Waste Management Agenda

The Asia Pacific's rapid urbanization and population growth have increased waste generation, outpacing management infrastructure and causing environmental challenges. This program addresses these issues through recycling, recovery, and sustainable strategies that support circular economy principles and environmental treatments.

### QUICK TAKE

Aiming to develop integrated solutions for sustainable waste management, the program gathers scientific, technical and strategic feedback from researchers, industry partners, environmental groups, and government departments in the region. Led by Korea University, the program focused on biological waste recycling and the remediation of soil, water, and air, addressing environmental compatibility, financial feasibility and social needs in a local context.

### AT A GLANCE

865  Participants

### 2024 GLOBAL ESG AND SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE SERIES

Held from April to December, the lecture series offered a broad overview of sustainability, uniting research in ecology, conservation, environmental health, and waste management with a focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. Nine online interactive lectures, delivered by world-renowned experts, engaged over 800 academics and students, showcasing cutting-edge research from diverse fields and economies in the Asia Pacific.

### LEAD UNIVERSITY



until  
September  
2024

### CORE GROUP (UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2024)

- Prof. Yong Sik Ok, Korea University (Program Chair and Director)
- Prof. William Mitch, Stanford University (Program Co-Chair)
- Prof. Zhengang Liu, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Prof. Shicheng Zhang, Fudan University
- Prof. Jay Hyuk Rhee, Korea University
- Prof. Nagahisa Hirayama, Nagoya University
- Prof. Cheng Gu, Nanjing University
- Prof. Janelle Thompson, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Prof. Chia-Hung Hou, National Taiwan University
- Prof. Chi-Hwa Wang, National University of Singapore
- Prof. Donghui Wen, Peking University
- Prof. Daniel C.W. Tsang, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Prof. Longbin Huang, The University of Queensland
- Prof. Ali Abbas, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Shumi Akhtar, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Xiaonan Wang, Tsinghua University
- Prof. Nanda Ayu Wijayanthi, Universitas Indonesia
- Prof. Rosazlin Binti Abdullah, Universiti Malaya
- Prof. Rico C. Ancog, University of the Philippines Los Baños
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Strategically addressing plastic pollution within the framework of ESG principles and corporate sustainability initiatives enables us to take significant strides towards realizing the UN SDGs.



Prof. Yong Sik Ok  
Researcher  
Korea University  
Program Chair and Director  
APRU SWM Program



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# GLOBAL HEALTH

## Forging Global Collaboration to Meet Health Challenges

The program enables member universities to leverage their research, education, and training programs in health, as well as evidence-based health interventions to better respond to the world's rapidly evolving health needs.



### HOST UNIVERSITY



### AT A GLANCE

618  Participants

68  Universities

25  Economies

### QUICK TAKE

Since launching in 2007, the APRU Global Health Program, led by the University of Southern California, has been serving as an essential platform for member universities to connect and capitalize on their advanced research, education, and training programs to better respond to the world's rapidly evolving health needs. Over the years, it has expanded to include new approaches in health education, research, and activities to confront urgent challenges, including infectious disease outbreaks and the effects of climate change, urbanization and aging populations on population health.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND THE LONG-TERM WEBINAR

Hosted in September by the University of Southern California and the University of the Philippines, this webinar gathered a panel of experts from the Asia-Pacific region who discussed issues in environmental ethics and how they would affect the long-term health and well-being of humans and our planet. Together with over 100 participants, they explored global stewardship from an ethics framework to answer the question: “What is our moral responsibility towards future generations in terms of the environment?”

## THE 17<sup>TH</sup> APRU GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2024

The 2024 conference attracted a record high of 413 participants from 25 economies, constituting a strong display of interdisciplinary collaboration between healthcare professionals, scholars, government officials and technologists. Hosted by the School of Global Health of Chulalongkorn University, the annual gathering had the timely topics of AI, digital transformation, and planetary health at the center of discussions. The conference aimed to explore new approaches to advance social justice and identify comprehensive solutions to health challenges facing the world.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR TEACHING & LEARNING WORKSHOP

Hosted by the University of Southern California and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and joined by nearly 100 participants, the webinar featured five expert panelists from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and Malaysia who presented specific examples of using AI to elevate their teaching and learning effectiveness. They explored how AI innovations can optimize their teaching practices from improved course design to innovative assessment methods, making their pedagogical practices more efficient, personalized, and accessible.

## CORE GROUP

- Prof. Sofia Gruskin, University of Southern California (Program Chair)
- Prof. Mellissa Withers, University of Southern California (Program Director)
- Dr. Taninee Sahakitrungruang, Chulalongkorn University
- Dr. Jiayan Huang, Fudan University
- Dr. Juhwan Oh, Seoul National University
- Dr. Manuel Pérez-Jiménez, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Prof. Martin CS Wong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. King Chow, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Dr. Judith McCool, The University of Auckland
- Prof. Mu Li, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Masamine Jimba, The University of Tokyo
- Prof. Budi Haryanto, Universitas Indonesia
- Dr. Sanjay Rampal, Universiti Malaya
- Dr. Erlinda Castro Palaganas, University of the Philippines
- APRU Secretariat Representative



**The 17<sup>th</sup> APRU Global Health Conference constitutes far more than the typical academic gathering by proposing resilient strategies for planetary well-being, while integrating knowledge from diverse disciplines and practices. In essence, it is about confronting the growing complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges before us.**



Prof. Wilert Puriwat  
President  
Chulalongkorn University



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See P.44 for student-focused events related to the Global Health program

# INDIGENOUS AND FIRST NATIONS KNOWLEDGES

## Encouraging Collaboration and Amplifying Indigenous Voices and Visions

Over the last two decades, more leading universities have introduced international and comparative dimensions into their Indigenous, First Nations, Maori, Pacific, Native American and Latin American Studies. The APRU Indigenous and First Nations Knowledges Network initiative connects members through multilateral collaborations to share knowledge, foster researcher connections, and strengthen teaching programs in this area.



### HOST UNIVERSITIES



### PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES



### PROGRAM LEADERS

- ◉ Rector Rosa Devés, Universidad de Chile (Presidential Champion)
- ◉ President Angelo A. Jimenez, University of the Philippines (Presidential Champion)
- ◉ Prof. Adrian Little, The University of Melbourne (Co-Chair)
- ◉ Prof. Noelani Puniwai, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Co-Chair)

### QUICK TAKE

Co-led by The University of Melbourne and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the program hosted its third in-person workshop in Santiago, Chile (Universidad de Chile) and a series of online seminars in 2024, providing academics and students with opportunities to exchange ideas, share strategies, and explore topics relevant to Indigenous Peoples and communities in the region. The program enables APRU to serve as an agent of peace and cross-cultural understanding.

### AT A GLANCE

438  Participants

17  APRU member universities

42  Non-APRU institutions

20  Economies



**ROOTS AND BRIDGES: APRU INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS SEMINAR SERIES**

This eight-seminar series showcased and expanded the possibilities of international collaborations across countries, universities, and disciplines. It highlighted Indigenous-led methodologies, Indigenous and First Nations Knowledges, languages, place-based research, leadership programs, teaching and learning, among other topics.

The series connected nearly 400 participants, who gained insights from leading network researchers on recent fieldwork and personal stories. All seminars were given by APRU network members, and moderated by Emeritus Professor David Romo from Universidad de San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador.

**We are excited and committed to recognizing that, through the APRU Indigenous Knowledges Network, spaces are being created for dialogue and collaboration among the communities of our universities and our territories across different parts of the world. This is the invaluable contribution APRU makes in various fields of knowledge, acting as an agent of peace and understanding.**

Dr. Rosa Deves  
Rector  
Universidad de Chile



**History is filled with untold events by Indigenous peoples. ... For those of us at universities, we know we have a responsibility to Indigenous peoples, to our identity, to honor our past, but also our future.**



Prof. Veronica Figueroa  
Universidad de Chile

**APRU INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES NETWORK WORKSHOP**

In November, Universidad de Chile hosted the third in-person workshop, titled “Indigenous Sciences/Indigenous knowledges: Discussions and Contributions for a Common Future.” The event brought together Indigenous leaders from Chilean universities, along with Indigenous experts and scholars from five economies across the Asia Pacific.

The workshop amplified the voices of Chile’s Indigenous peoples, exploring topics such as intersectionality, Indigenous knowledges, language preservation, institutionalizing Indigenous wisdom, and climate change to address humanity’s collective challenges. During the event, participants also had the rare opportunity to experience various ancestral ceremonies of the Indigenous peoples of Chile.



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# MULTI- HAZARDS

## Championing Collaboration to Minimize Threats of Natural Hazards

The program leverages the expertise of APRU universities for cutting-edge research on natural hazards in the Asia-Pacific region, where 40% of the world's natural disasters occur.



### HOST UNIVERSITY



### PROJECT PARTNER



### AT A GLANCE

225  Participants

39  Universities

12  Economies

### QUICK TAKE

The APRU Multi-Hazards Program, hosted by Tohoku University, brings together APRU members and partners to explore how academics, policymakers, governments, and communities can collaborate to facilitate disaster risk reduction and recovery. In 2024, the program organized a conference, symposium, workshop, and summer school, with the aim of improving coordination and sharing knowledge.



### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: BIG DATA FOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asian Development Bank and Tohoku University’s International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDES), in partnership with the APRU Multi-Hazards Program, organized the conference in Sendai, Japan. Under the theme “Big Data for Disaster Response and Management in Asia and the Pacific,” 80 participants shared their case studies and applications of different sets of big data and new methodologies in disaster assessments, with a focus on economic and social impacts. They explored non-traditional datasets such as remote sensing, mobile location data, and social media data to assess the impact on different segments of the economy.

### APRU 2024 MULTI-HAZARDS WORKSHOP

The 2024 Multi-Hazards Workshop hosted at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan focused on the All-Hazards Approach, Risk Assessment, and Early Warning and Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The workshop emphasized the need for a broader application of The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 to include environmental, technological, and biological hazards and a more people-centered, all-hazards, and multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction. A total of 25 experts and practitioners on DRR from the region discussed how to transform current disaster risk management approaches.

### THE 19<sup>TH</sup> APRU MULTI-HAZARDS SYMPOSIUM 2024

The symposium, hosted by National Taiwan University’s Center for Weather and Climate Disaster Research, focused on “Forging Sustainable and Resilient Futures: Science, Technology and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction.” Over 120 participants from 39 organizations in 13 economies attended, with 10 keynote speakers and 13 sessions on topics such as early warning systems, risk communication, and disaster education. A rare activation of the contingency plan occurred as the record-breaking Typhoon Krathon disrupted social and economic activities in Taiwan highlighting the need for innovative disaster risk reduction in the face of increasingly intense natural hazards.

A key highlight was a panel discussion reflecting on lessons learned from two significant earthquakes that struck the region in 2024. Professor Michio Ubaura from the International Research Institute of Disaster Science of Tohoku University shared his analysis on the Noto earthquake that hit western Japan on January 1. Professor Kuo-Fong Ma from the Institute of Earth Sciences of Academia Sinica presented her research on societal resilience and advanced smart-city technologies, which was adopted in the earthquake on April 3 in Hualien, Taiwan.

### APRU LEADS CONTRIBUTION TO DISASTER RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

Of the top 100 institutions globally ranked by scholarly output on natural disasters, APRU accounts for 23% of the publications and 28% of the citations.



### CORE GROUP

- Prof. Osamu Murao, Tohoku University (Program Chair)
- Prof. Takako Izumi, Tohoku University (Program Director)
- Prof. Supot Teachavorasinskun, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Hung Chi Kuo, National Taiwan University
- Dr. Lalith Wijerathne, The University of Tokyo
- Prof. Fumihiko Imamura, Tohoku University
- Prof. Hui Zhang, Tsinghua University
- Prof. Hugo Romero, Universidad de Chile
- Prof. John Rundle, UC Davis
- Dr. Denise Konan, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa
- Prof. Benito M. Pacheco, University of the Philippines
- Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Yamanashi University
- APRU Secretariat Representative

**The increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards underscores the urgent need for proactive and comprehensive strategies to mitigate risks, enhance preparedness, and build resilience.**



**Prof. Chun-Chieh Wu**  
 Director  
 NTU’s Center for Weather and Climate Disaster Research



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See P.46 for student-focused events related to the Multi-Hazards program

# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND LANDSCAPES

## Rethinking the City through Collective Research and Action

The program aims to unite policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from across disciplines to find answers to the big social, urban, and ecological questions of our time.

### HOST UNIVERSITY



### QUICK TAKE

Hosted by the University of Oregon, the program is designed to better manage the interface of urban areas and surrounding ecosystems to address urban and sustainability challenges. In 2024, it hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference, an insightful book talk, seminars, and co-organized the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy. It also hosted student programs, including the inaugural Galapagos summer school, and a joint webinar series with the Biodiversity Program (see P.28).

### AT A GLANCE

360  Participants

36  Universities

13  Economies



### CORE GROUP

- ◉ Prof. Dennis Galvan (Program Chair), University of Oregon
- ◉ Prof. Yekang Ko (Program Director), University of Oregon
- ◉ Prof. Jinhyun Chon, Korea University
- ◉ Prof. Chun-Yen Chang, National Taiwan University
- ◉ Dr. Fei Mo, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- ◉ Dr. Andréanne Doyon, Simon Fraser University
- ◉ Dr. Robert Dyball, The Australian National University
- ◉ Prof. Chingwen Cheng, The Pennsylvania State University
- ◉ Prof. Paola Boarin, The University of Auckland
- ◉ Dr. Natalia Echeverri, The University of Hong Kong
- ◉ Dr. Yong Guo, Tsinghua University
- ◉ Dr. Beatriz Maturana Cossio, Universidad de Chile
- ◉ Prof. John Alejandro Dunn Insúa, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- ◉ Prof. Ximena Córdova Vallejo, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- ◉ Prof. Mohammed Ali Berawi, Universitas Indonesia
- ◉ Prof. Makena Coffman, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
- ◉ Prof. Yizhao Yang, University of Oregon
- ◉ Dr. Jennifer Amparo, University of the Philippines
- ◉ Prof. Catherine Evans, UNSW Sydney
- ◉ Prof. Jeffrey Hou, National University of Singapore
- ◉ Prof. Nancy Rottle, University of Washington
- ◉ Prof. Anne Taufen, University of Washington
- ◉ Prof. Ken Yocom, University of Washington
- ◉ Prof. Zhifang Wang, Peking University
- ◉ Dr. Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard, UNSW Sydney
- ◉ Dr. Feng Jianxi, Nanjing University
- ◉ APRU Secretariat Representative





### THE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRU SUSTAINABLE CITIES & LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE 2024

The conference was hosted by the University of the Philippines Los Baños, in collaboration with the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Human Settlements Planning and Development. Under the theme “Advancing Sustainable Cities and Communities through Science, Technology, and Innovation,” over 230 participants took part in discussions focused on four sub-themes – Safe, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable – to develop multi-disciplinary research collaborations and actionable solutions to enhance supportive relationships between cities and their local and regional landscapes.

### WEBINAR ON “THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN HANDBOOK”

In October, APRU hosted a book talk to introduce The Sustainable Urban Design Handbook, which combines best practices and research to present a comprehensive approach to sustainable urban design. Participants heard from the authors Professor Nico Larco of the University of Oregon and now, City of Eugene Mayor, Kaarin Knudson, on how educators, designers, planners, officials, and citizens can contribute to creating sustainable urban environments.

### SPRINGER HANDBOOK “HUMAN GALAPAGOS: BOUNDARIES, TERRITORIES, AND PLACES”

Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) announced the prospective launch of a Springer Handbook draft, titled, “Human Galapagos: Boundaries, Territories, and Places,” which was a key output from the 6<sup>th</sup> APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference 2023. Approximately 20 academic experts from diverse backgrounds contributed to this book. It is expected to be published in 2025.

### ASIA-PACIFIC MAYORS ACADEMY 2024

The academy was launched by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific. It was developed in cooperation with the United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), APRU, and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The academy provides capacity development programs for leaders of local authorities to implement sustainable urban development and enhance their leadership and technical capacities in urban sustainability. In the 2024 cohort, 11 mayors from cities across eight economies participated in modules on urban development, resilience, and smart cities. These were co-developed by academic experts including many from the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program.



**Sustainability challenges, such as climate change, resource depletion, and waste management, are complex and interrelated, often extending beyond the boundaries of individual institutions. These problems require a comprehensive approach that integrates local actions with national policies and programs.**



Atty. Angelo A. Jimenez  
President  
University of the Philippines



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See P.47 for student-focused events related to the Sustainable Cities and Landscapes program

# PACIFIC CLASSROOMS AND CAREERS

Every year, in partnership with APRU member universities and external organizations, APRU offers students a variety of activities to apply their knowledge to critical policy challenges in the region, enhancing their international experience, and enriching their key competencies and leadership potential. These activities include student competitions, interactive workshops, virtual courses, and certificate programs, covering a wide range of topics.

# 3

- ◉ Asia Pacific Open Dialogues
- ◉ Student Global Climate Change Simulation
- ◉ Global Health Student Leadership
- ◉ Global Sustainability: Waste and the City Course
- ◉ Multi-Hazards Summer School
- ◉ Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Galápagos Summer School
- ◉ SDG Education for Global Citizenship
- ◉ Undergraduate Leaders' Program
- ◉ Virtual Student Exchange



# ASIA PACIFIC OPEN DIALOGUES

## Cultivating Connection, Empathy and Awareness

The online program fosters a collaborative model for promoting meaningful conversations and developing leadership skills among students.

### LEAD UNIVERSITY



### PROGRAM LEADERS

- Dr. David Huerta-Harris, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Natalia Moreno, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Carlos Alejandro Reyna Velázquez, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- César Garza Campos, Tecnológico de Monterrey

### ASIA PACIFIC OPEN DIALOGUES 2<sup>ND</sup> COHORT

Held in May, the program’s key topic “What is the right to higher education?” was inspired by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During the conversations, students explored various challenges related to the topic, gaining a deeper understanding of how the right to higher education is hindered by significant differences in educational systems and perspectives worldwide. Shared challenges discussed included economic hardship and other barriers to accessing and remaining in college, such as distance, lack of accessibility, food insecurity, debt, and emotional burdens.

### ASIA PACIFIC OPEN DIALOGUES 3<sup>RD</sup> COHORT

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Dialogues focused on “Addressing partner violence in the university context.” The program, hosted in October, fostered diversity recognition and encouraged participants to envision ways to live more peacefully, renewing hope in complex times. Moderating the open dialogues were academics from Tecnológico de Monterrey, and for the first time, the dialogue benefited from the professional moderation by certified staff from Universidad San Francisco de Quito and Universidad de Chile.



### QUICK TAKE

Following the success of the 2023 pilot program, Tecnológico de Monterrey hosted two cohorts of the Asia Pacific Open Dialogues in 2024 to promote the importance of connecting people with different perspectives and fostering safe spaces. Through candid conversations among students, the program also aims to create empathy and awareness on current shared topics.

### AT A GLANCE (2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> COHORTS)

120  Participants

10  Universities

9  Economies



**In dialogue, people do not fight to win but to seek meeting points where ideas can be built. The dialogue does not intend to change a point of view that does not want to be changed; its primary function is to find ways for people to talk about their ideas from their perspective and reach agreements where all parties are satisfied.**



Dr. Perla Salinas  
Director of Human Dignity Training  
Tecnológico de Monterrey



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# STUDENT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE SIMULATION

## Equipping Students with Climate Negotiation Skills

Students form multi-country, multi-cultural, and multi-disciplinary teams in this role-playing exercise, acting as delegates to the United Nations Climate Change Negotiations.



### LEAD UNIVERSITIES



### AT A GLANCE

192  Participants

20  Universities

16  Economies

### QUICK TAKE

The program was co-organized by the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program at the University of Oregon and the APRU Global Health Program at the University of Southern California. It provided students with the opportunity to explore the complexities of climate-related decision-making by collaborating with peers and expert faculty facilitators from across the APRU network.

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> APRU STUDENT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE SIMULATION

In this 4-week mock exercise, students were assigned to delegations of various nations to tackle topics like clean energy, migration, deforestation, and carbon emissions. It also brought together diverse experts who shared their perspectives on topics ranging from coastal habitats and deforestation to diplomacy and negotiation skills, with materials from the World Climate Interactive and the C-ROADS simulation model being used. In live sessions and short lectures, students deliberated on the human and environmental effects of climate change, as well as the economic factors shaping countries' positions and global commitments.



**The simulation exercises made me realize how important it is to consider many aspects and factors before reaching a policy decision, especially with so much at stake. It also highlighted the importance of having leaders who truly grasp the weight of their decisions and the real-life impact they have on the everyday lives of the people they serve.**



Queenie Ashley Artita

Student from University of the Philippines Los Baños



**Through the Climate Change Simulation, we've been able to create a truly interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global experience for students, [who] participated in these meaningful, difficult, and hopeful conversations with global experts in our network across the Pacific Ocean.**



Elly Vandegrift

Director of the Global Studies Institute  
University of Oregon

### ADVISORY GROUP

- Prof. Mellissa Withers, University of Southern California (Co-Organizer)
- Elly Vandegrift, University of Oregon (Co-Organizer)
- Gitanjali Bedi, Monash University
- Prof. Zhenyu Zhang, Peking University
- Prof. Vivian Lee, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



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# GLOBAL HEALTH STUDENT LEADERSHIP



## Advancing Global Health Education and Student Leadership

Global Health Program student activities include a number of innovative initiatives that strive to enhance student learning, meet the evolving needs of future global health leaders, and respond to evolving health challenges.

### LEAD UNIVERSITY



### AT A GLANCE



### APRU MINI CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS

Offered by the APRU Global Health Working Group on Bioethics in February and August 2024, the APRU Global Health Mini Certificate in Health Research Ethics provided free, virtual and interactive training for students with limited research ethics backgrounds. Over 250 students completed the course and received certificates of participation after attending live lectures by six renowned bioethicists and taking part in case study breakout sessions led by 30 experts.



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### QUICK TAKE

Led by the Global Health Program at the University of Southern California (USC), the 2024 activities included a virtual case competition, poster contest, and courses. It also offered mini-certificate training with senior researchers and renowned experts. Additionally, two distance education courses on global health politics and leadership were offered to provide an interactive space to explore health leadership and ethics.

### THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL APRU GLOBAL HEALTH VIRTUAL CASE COMPETITION 2024

The 2024 challenge, “Improving Diabetes Care Management through Technological Innovation,” was a collaboration between APRU, the United Nations Development Programme, the Thai Diabetes Federation, and Chulalongkorn University’s School of Global Health. Over 12 weeks, teams created videos proposing realistic, innovative solutions, attracting a record 108 entries. Team “Sparkling!” from Universitas Indonesia won for their app that simplifies diabetes management by automatically storing and analyzing blood sugar readings.

### THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL APRU GLOBAL HEALTH STUDENT POSTER CONTEST 2024

Students shared their refreshing, forward-looking insights at the APRU Global Health Conference at Chulalongkorn University. The poster contest winners included Kaung Htet Wai (undergraduate) from Mae Fah Luang University with “Trends and Determinants of Tuberculosis Incidence in Myanmar, 2010–2022,” and Raania Amaani (postgraduate) from the University of Melbourne with “Caregiving Together Framework: Optimizing Fathers’ Involvement in Caring for Children with Disabilities.”

### APRU DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

Two graduate-level courses were offered in fall 2024: Global Health Leadership and Global Health Ethics. The former introduced how leaders have overcome challenges faced in the operationalization of complex matters, while the latter explored ethical principles in the distribution of health resources, health research and practices across nations and cultures. The APRU Global Health case studies book, published by program members, served as the textbook.

# GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: WASTE AND THE CITY COURSE



## Preparing Students for Global Sustainability Challenges

With a focus on waste and urban sustainability, this seminar course introduces graduate students to global sustainability concepts, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. It also fosters communication and critical thinking skills through real-time interactions and collaborative case studies.

### AT A GLANCE

61  Students

7  Universities

6  Economies



### LEAD UNIVERSITIES



Prof. Sierin Lim  
Program Lead, NTU, SG



### QUICK TAKE

Led by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and offered in collaboration with the University of Oregon and Korea University, this 10-week course provided graduate students with the opportunity to learn from experts in academia and industry about working with key stakeholders to implement sustainability in their organizations.

### APRU GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: WASTE & THE CITY 2024

The course blended synchronous and asynchronous sessions, featuring dynamic guest lectures, group presentations, and thought-provoking case study discussions. Asynchronous sessions prepared students for collaborative group work and additional activities organized by participating universities. The course was led by Professor Sierin Lim from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in collaboration with the Sustainable Waste Management Program, led by Professor Yong Sik Ok from Korea University (until September 2024), and APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program led by Professor Yekang Ko from the University of Oregon. There were four key themes:

- General (UN SDGs and ESG)
- Waste (covering FMCG, agriculture, plastics, medical, and water)
- Urban Development (urban planning, sanitation, ecology, and climate change)
- Others (oil & gas, technology, and transportation)

Over 60 students explored real-world ESG case studies and gained valuable insights from industry leaders through live sessions. The program provided them with essential exposure to key sustainability concepts and their practical applications in the real world.



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# MULTI-HAZARDS SUMMER SCHOOL

## Building Resilience and Managing Disaster Risk

The Summer School has been a key activity under APRU's Multi-Hazards Program since 2013. It is designed for graduate students to learn the mechanism of international disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, and learn from various disaster science research conducted in different countries.

### LEAD UNIVERSITY



### AT A GLANCE

32  Participants

12  Universities

6  Economies



This trip highlights the vital importance of drawing lessons from historical disaster events and collaborating with a range of stakeholders to achieve our common goal of a safer tomorrow. The partnership between NGOs and academia is essential in this endeavour.



Takeshi Komino

CWS Japan / Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, who contributed to the program as a lecturer in Multi-Hazards events



### QUICK TAKE

The 2024 program, held at Tohoku University, focused on “Cross-border Collaborations as a Tool for Addressing Disaster Risks.” Graduate students and young researchers were brought together to explore DRR strategies from real-life cases, and academia’s role in advancing disaster science.

### LEADING THE WAY IN EDUCATION IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Offered in a combination of lectures by academic experts, government officials and non-profit organization practitioners, featuring group work and field trips, the four-day summer school guided 32 students to learn important DRR approaches. For the first time, participants took a day trip to Futaba Town in Fukushima Prefecture, where they visited the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum and decontamination facilities, closely observing the aftermath and recovery from the triple disasters caused by an earthquake, a tsunami and then a major nuclear plant accident.



Witnessing first-hand the interim nuclear soil storage facility was an eye-opening experience. ... The stories of resilience and recovery, coupled with the technical insights shared by the experts, left a lasting impact on me, reinforcing the importance of learning from past events to build a safer future.



Anjali Haridas

Student from Kyoto University



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# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND LANDSCAPES GALÁPAGOS SUMMER SCHOOL



## Piloting Knowledge Co-production through Immersive Learning and Research

The summer school is an immersive learning experience and a place-based sustainability education initiative first incubated in 2023 during the 6<sup>th</sup> APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference.

### LEAD UNIVERSITIES



### AT A GLANCE

36 Participants

3 Universities    3 Economies

### IMMERSING STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY AND ACTION-BASED LEARNING

The 3-week summer school provided students interested in urban planning, architecture, and environmental conservation with a uniquely immersive experience in the Galápagos Islands. Joined by 36 students from the University of Oregon, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, and The University of Hong Kong, the summer school focused on action-based learning and the relationship between urban and natural ecosystems, allowing students to gain hands-on insights into the social, economic, and environmental needs of the communities living in the Galápagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a natural treasure of humanity.

### QUICK TAKE

Developed in close collaboration between the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program at the University of Oregon and Universidad San Francisco de Quito, this inaugural field study in Quito and the Galápagos Islands used the Galápagos as a case study to deepen students' understanding of the complex socio-ecological systems of cities and landscapes. It also allowed them to explore how the looming climate crisis could impact the archipelago.



The Galápagos Islands offer an unparalleled setting for studying sustainable cities and landscapes, where evolving urban settlements are intricately embedded in a delicate and complex natural environment. Our Galápagos summer study abroad program immerses students in the unique ecosystems and communities of the archipelago, providing invaluable experiential learning opportunities that deeply influence their perspectives and understanding of sustainability.



Prof. Yizhao Yang  
School of Planning, Public Policy and Management  
University of Oregon



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# SDG EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP



## Building Knowledge of Global Issues and Global Literacy

Co-designed by six core-partner universities in collaboration with the United Nations, the program is intercultural, transdisciplinary, and interactive and fosters global citizenship among students across the vast and diverse range of economies of the Pacific Rim.

### HOST UNIVERSITIES



### PROJECT PARTNER

United Nations

### QUICK TAKE

Chulalongkorn University and Universiti Malaya hosted the onsite part of the 3-month hybrid program welcoming mentors, experts, and nearly 40 students. Through workshops, seminars, cultural activities, and community site visits, participants explored the Sustainable Development Goals and developed social innovation prototypes to address urgent challenges.

### AT A GLANCE

37  Participants

13  Universities

8  Economies

40  Mentors, speakers, and experts

### SDG EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM 2024

The 2024 hybrid program, themed “Shaping the Future of Health & Wellbeing” (SDG 3), explored various dimensions of well-being, including social, cultural, emotional, spiritual, economic and more. Co-designed with input from the core partner universities and in partnership with the United Nations, it fostered interdisciplinary collaboration and a shared commitment to building resilient global communities. By integrating diverse disciplines and practices, the program aimed to cultivate global citizenship.

### SOCIAL INNOVATION PITCHING COMPETITION

The interactive competition concluded the SDG Education for Global Citizenship Program 2024. After an exciting pitching round, judges from the UN and other experts selected ‘One Health Co-op – Peering Platform for Sustainability and Wellness’ as the winning project. Mentored by Dr. Terence Yuen from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the winning team tackled healthcare access, environmental degradation, and mental health as interconnected issues, promoting holistic well-being under the themes of wellness and sustainability.



**We’re incredibly grateful for the chance to develop our idea in a collaborative environment, and we are now more committed than ever to turning our vision into actionable steps.**



Sun Ningjie

Student from Nanjing University

### CORE GROUP

- Michiko Yoshida, Chulalongkorn University (Chair)
- Rafiza Hashim, Universiti Malaya (Vice Chair)
- Shally Fan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Natalie Konomi, Kyushu University
- Carol Zachs, Simon Fraser University
- Liang Guo, Shanghai Jiao Tong University



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# UNDERGRADUATE LEADERS' PROGRAM



## Shaping the Next Generation of Leaders

The program empowers students to become change-makers through cultural exchange and unique learning opportunities, equipping them with skills to drive positive societal change while supporting their academic and personal development.

### AT A GLANCE

64  Participants

24  Universities

13  Economies

### LEAD UNIVERSITY



### UNDERGRADUATE LEADERS' PROGRAM 2024: "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A FAST-CHANGING METROPOLIS"

As the world continued to grapple with the complexities of urban development that is safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, the 2024 program focused on the SDG: Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), alongside cross-cutting goals on food security (SDG 2), green mobility (SDG 7), and sustainable ecosystems (SDGs 14 and 15).

Over 60 participants experienced Shanghai through academic seminars, site visits and cultural activities. The highlight of the program was a 72-hour challenge where students collaborated to tackle real-world problems, produce posters and 3-minute videos, and present innovative ideas for Shanghai's future.



**I was gratified to hear from the ULP students that they learned as much about urban sustainability from the program activities around Shanghai as they did about the diverse Pacific Rim cultures and norms from fellow undergraduate leaders around the dining table and on the APRU Talent Show stage.**



Prof. Kwee-Yan Teh  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Academic Lead of ULP



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### QUICK TAKE

The APRU Undergraduate Leaders' Program (ULP) made its return to mainland China in July, ten years after its successful launch in Nanjing University. Hosted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the 2024 program engaged undergraduates in a series of lectures and activities addressing topics such as sustainable cities, hyperlocal communities, and universities without borders.



**The past two weeks have been incredible as I see how much our young students can achieve in such a short time. Coming from different academic backgrounds, universities and countries, they help shaping Shanghai's sustainable future with their ideas and visions.**



Viva Du  
ULP 2024 Program Manager  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University



# VIRTUAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

## Cultivating International Connections Through Virtual Learning

The APRU Virtual Student Exchange (VSE) Program offers an immersive student exchange experience through digital technologies, enabling students to learn new ideas and cultures, and engage with peers from around the world without the need to travel abroad.

### QUICK TAKE

Since its inauguration in 2020, 44 APRU member universities have participated in the program, offering over 1,100 courses that range from arts and culture to the social sciences, law, science and engineering. In the past year, the VSE Program offered a wide variety of co-curricular programs, and online academic and language courses across three study periods.

### AT A GLANCE

1,284  Participants

23  Universities

10  Economies



### LEAD UNIVERSITY



### VIRTUAL LANGUAGE CENTER

In addition to over 160 online courses offered through the 2024 VSE program, a Virtual Language Center was introduced during the summer to equip students with language and cultural skills needed when embarking on future exchange programs.

### BUILDING BRIDGES: UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE'S INCLUSIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVES THROUGH VSE

Universidad de Chile highlighted the APRU Virtual Student Exchange Program at the 49<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of APEC's Human Resources Development Working Group in Peru. During the session, themed "Building the bridge from the informal to the formal economy," Professor Andrés Dockendorff from the Institute of International Studies presented joint research projects promoting inclusivity in education and the workforce.

He explained how the university leverages its role in APRU to advocate for policies supporting underserved populations across the Pacific Rim through the VSE program and noted the positive impact it has brought to students by connecting them to their peers all over the APRU network.

### CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

As part of the VSE program, APRU member universities provide a variety of dynamic co-curricular activities, empowering students to gain skills beyond the classroom. Highlights from the past year included programs on pivotal topics like AI literacy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, equipping participants to address global challenges.



**This course not only provided rich academic content but also fostered collaboration and communication. We tackled problems together, shared ideas, and collectively propelled each other's learning forward.**



Yifan Zhou

Student from Shanghai Jiao Tong University



**The co-curricular programs offered by VSE allowed me to broaden my horizons and explore different aspects of my interests. ... I was able to enhance my learning experience beyond the classroom.**



Binyu Hu

Student from The University of Hong Kong



Scan to read more or visit our page



# APRU CONNECT

Behind every APRU initiative is a team of leaders, innovators, and valued partners, whose unwavering support and guidance are instrumental to the success of the network.

- ◉ APRU Presidents
- ◉ Senior International Leaders
- ◉ APRU Program Leaders
- ◉ APRU International Secretariat and Statutory Directors
- ◉ APRU Partners
- ◉ APRU Events Calendar 2025



# APRU PRESIDENTS

as of March 31, 2025

## AUSTRALIA

### Sharon PICKERING

President and Vice-Chancellor  
Monash University  
*until December 2024*

### Genevieve BELL AO FTSE FAHA

Vice-Chancellor and President  
The Australian National University

### Peter HØJ AC

Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of Adelaide

### Emma JOHNSTON

Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Melbourne  
*from February 2025*

### Deborah TERRY AO

Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of Queensland

### Mark SCOTT AO

Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of Sydney

### Attila BRUNGS

President and Vice-Chancellor  
UNSW Sydney

## CANADA

### Joy JOHNSON

President and Vice-Chancellor  
Simon Fraser University

### Benoit-Antoine BACON

President and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of British Columbia

### Bill FLANAGAN

President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Alberta

## CHILE

### Rosa DEVÉS

Rector  
Universidad de Chile

### Carlos SAAVEDRA RUBILAR

Rector  
Universidad de Concepción

## MAINLAND CHINA & HONG KONG SAR

### JIN Li

President  
Fudan University

### TAN Zhemin

President  
Nanjing University

### GONG Qihuang

President  
Peking University

### DING Kuiling

President  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

### XUE Qikun

President  
Southern University of Science and Technology

### GAO Song

President  
Sun Yat-sen University

### Dennis LO

Vice-Chancellor and President  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
*from January 8, 2025*

### Nancy Y. IP

President  
The Hong Kong University of Science  
and Technology

### Xiang ZHANG

President and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Hong Kong

### ZHENG Qinghua

President  
Tongji University

### LI Luming

President  
Tsinghua University

### ZHOU Qi

President  
University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

### CHANG Jin

President  
University of Science and  
Technology of China  
*from October 10, 2024*

### ZHANG Liqun

President  
Xi'an Jiaotong University  
*from March 2024*

### DU Jiangfeng

President  
Zhejiang University  
*until March 7, 2025*

## CHINESE TAIPEI

### Wen-Chang CHEN

President  
National Taiwan University

### Chi-Hung LIN

President  
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

## ECUADOR

### Diego QUIROGA

Rector  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito

## INDONESIA

---

**Heri HERMANSYAH**  
Rector  
Universitas Indonesia  
*from December 4, 2024*

## JAPAN

---

**Kohei ITOH**  
President  
Keio University

**Tatsuro ISHIBASHI**  
President  
Kyushu University

**Naoshi SUGIYAMA**  
President  
Nagoya University

**Shojiro NISHIO**  
President  
The University of Osaka  
*until March 31, 2025*

**Teiji TOMINAGA**  
President  
Tohoku University  
*from April 1, 2024*

**Aiji TANAKA**  
President  
Waseda University

## KOREA

---

**Kwang Hyung LEE**  
President  
KAIST

**Dong-One KIM**  
President  
Korea University

**Seong Keun KIM**  
President  
POSTECH

**Jae-weon CHOI**  
President  
Pusan National University  
*from May 17, 2024*

**Honglim RYU**  
President  
Seoul National University

**Dong-Sup YOON**  
President  
Yonsei University

## MALAYSIA

---

**Dato' Seri Noor Azuan ABU OSMAN**  
Vice-Chancellor  
Universiti Malaya

## MEXICO

---

**David GARZA**  
President  
Tecnológico de Monterrey

## NEW ZEALAND

---

**Dawn FRESHWATER**  
Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Auckland

## PHILLIPPINES

---

**Angelo A. JIMENEZ**  
President  
University of the Philippines

## RUSSIA

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**Boris N. KOROBETS**  
President  
Far Eastern Federal University

## SINGAPORE

---

**HO Teck Hua**  
President  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

**TAN Eng Chye**  
President  
National University of Singapore

## THAILAND

---

**Wilert PURIWAT**  
President  
Chulalongkorn University  
*from June 30, 2024*

## USA

---

**Gary S. MAY**  
Chancellor  
University of California, Davis

**Howard GILLMAN**  
Chancellor  
University of California, Irvine

**Julio FRENK**  
Chancellor  
University of California, Los Angeles  
*from January 1, 2025*

**Kim A. WILCOX**  
Chancellor  
University of California, Riverside

**Pradeep K. KHOSLA**  
Chancellor  
University of California, San Diego

**Henry T. YANG**  
Chancellor  
University of California,  
Santa Barbara

**Cynthia K. LARIVE**  
Chancellor  
University of California, Santa Cruz

**Wendy F. HENSEL**  
President  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
*from January 1, 2025*

**Santa J. ONO**  
President  
University of Michigan

**John Karl SCHOLZ**  
President  
University of Oregon

**Carol L. FOLT**  
President  
University of Southern California

**Ana Mari CAUCE**  
President  
University of Washington

# SENIOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

as of March 31, 2025

The **International Advisory Committee (IAC)** is a group of selected Senior International Leaders who provide guidance and leadership of the APRU International Secretariat future strategy and policy direction. Kathy Belov (The University of Sydney) and Erik Lithander (The University of Auckland) are co-chairs of IAC.

The **University of the Future Working Group** convenes to identify common challenges faced by our member institutions and to map out paths towards viable solutions. The working group was led by Simon Bates, The University of British Columbia until December 2024 and is now led by José Escamilla (Tecnológico de Monterrey) and Christie Chung (Mills College at Northeastern University) from 2025.

## AUSTRALIA

### Craig JEFFREY

Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)  
Monash University  
*until December 2024*

### Helen SULLIVAN

Dean of ANU College of Asia  
and the Pacific  
The Australian National University

### Jessica GALLAGHER

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and  
Vice-President (External Engagement)  
The University of Adelaide

### Adrian LITTLE FASSA

Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)  
The University of Melbourne

### Rongyu LI

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and  
Vice-President (Global Engagement)  
The University of Queensland

### Kathy BELOV, AO

Pro-Vice-Chancellor,  
Global & Research Engagement  
The University of Sydney

### Colin GRANT

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global  
UNSW Sydney

## CANADA

### Carol ZACHS

Senior Director, Global Engagement  
Simon Fraser University

### Cheryl DUMARESQ

Executive Director, Global Engagement  
The University of British Columbia

### David BRESSLER

Chief Strategy Officer  
(International & Enterprise)  
University of Alberta  
*from January 2025*

## CHILE

### Alicia SALOMONE

Director of International Affairs  
Universidad de Chile

### Yasna Ivonne PEREIRA REYES

Director of International Affairs  
Universidad de Concepción

## MAINLAND CHINA & HONG KONG SAR

### LU Lian

Director, Office of Global Partnerships  
Fudan University

### LU Yanqing

Vice President  
Nanjing University

### WANG Bo

Vice President  
Peking University

### Weidong LIU

Vice President for International Affairs  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

### WANG Fan

Vice-President  
Sun Yat-sen University

### Shally FAN

Director of Academic Links  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Yang WANG

Vice-President for  
Institutional Advancement  
The Hong Kong University of Science  
and Technology

### Isabella WONG

Chief of Staff  
The University of Hong Kong

### LOU Yongqi

Vice President (International)  
Tongji University

### LI Jinliang

Dean, Office of International Affairs  
Tsinghua University

### Yanfen WANG

Vice President  
University of Chinese Academy  
of Sciences

### YANG Jinlong

Vice President for International Affairs  
University of Science and  
Technology of China

### SHAN Zhiwei

Vice President for Global Engagement  
Xi'an Jiaotong University

### LIANG Junying

Director, Office of Global Engagement  
Zhejiang University

## CHINESE TAIPEI

### Hsiao-Wei YUAN

Vice President for International Affairs  
National Taiwan University

### Wan-Syang HSU

Vice-President for International Affairs  
National Yang Ming  
Chiao Tung University

## ECUADOR

---

**Alexandra VELASCO**  
Senior Director of Internationalization  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito

## INDONESIA

---

**Agustin Kusumayati ACHIJAT**  
Secretary to the University  
Universitas Indonesia

## JAPAN

---

**Motohiro TSUCHIYA**  
Vice-President for Global Engagement  
Keio University

**Kenji IWATA**  
Executive Vice President  
International Affairs  
Kyushu University

**Norimi MIZUTANI**  
Vice President  
(International Affairs, Planning,  
Evaluation, and Institutional Research)  
Nagoya University

**Koichi FUKASE**  
Executive Vice-President of Global  
Engagement and Student Support  
The University of Osaka  
*until March 31, 2025*

**Toshiya UEKI**  
Executive Vice-President  
Tohoku University

**Masahiko GEMMA**  
Vice President for International Affairs  
Waseda University

## KOREA

---

**Man Sung YIM**  
Associate Vice President,  
International Office  
KAIST

**Sang Kee SONG**  
Vice President for International Affairs  
Korea University

**Sun-Min PARK**  
Vice President of External Relations  
POSTECH

**LEE Chang Hwan**  
Dean  
PNU International

**Jae W. LEE**  
Vice President of International Affairs  
Seoul National University

**Yong Chan KIM**  
Vice President for International Affairs  
Yonsei University

## MALAYSIA

---

**Yvonne LIM Ai Lian**  
Associate Vice-Chancellor  
(Global Engagement)  
Universiti Malaya

## MEXICO

---

**Mirko VARANO**  
Vice-Rector for Internationalization  
Tecnológico de Monterrey

## NEW ZEALAND

---

**Erik LITHANDER**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Strategic Engagement)  
The University of Auckland

## PHILLIPPINES

---

**Leo D.P. CUBILLAN**  
Vice-President for Academic Affairs  
University of the Philippines

## RUSSIA

---

**Evgeny E. VLASOV**  
Vice President for International Relations  
Far Eastern Federal University

## SINGAPORE

---

**Pooi See LEE**  
Vice President  
(International Engagement)  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

**Sau Kim LUM**  
Associate Vice-President for  
Global Relations  
National University of Singapore

## THAILAND

---

**Palanee AMMARANOND**  
Vice President  
Chulalongkorn University

## USA

---

**Joanna M. REGULSKA**  
Vice Provost and Dean of Global Affairs  
UC Davis

**Victoria JONES**  
Chief Global Affairs Officer  
UC Irvine  
*until March 2025*

**C. Cindy FAN**  
Vice Provost for International Studies and  
Global Engagement  
UCLA

**Marko PRINCEVAC**  
Vice Provost of International Affairs  
UC Riverside

**Tamara C. CUNNINGHAM**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor of  
Global Initiatives  
UC San Diego

**Kum-Kum BHAVNANI**  
Associate Vice Chancellor for  
Global Engagement  
UC Santa Barbara

**Becky GEORGE**  
Assistant Vice Provost of  
Global Engagement  
UC Santa Cruz

**Brent WHITE**  
Chief Global Officer  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Valeria Maria BERTACCO**  
Vice Provost for Engaged Learning  
University of Michigan

**Dennis GALVAN**  
Dean and Vice Provost of the  
Division of Global Engagement  
University of Oregon

**Anthony BAILEY**  
Vice President for Strategic and  
Global Initiatives  
University of Southern California

**Ahmad M EZZEDDINE**  
Vice Provost for Global Affairs  
University of Washington

# APRU PROGRAM LEADERS

## ASIA PACIFIC WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



**Yvonne Lim Ai Lian**  
Program Co-Chair  
Universiti Malaya



**Joanna M. Regulska**  
Program Co-Chair  
UC Davis

## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRITECH PROGRAM



**Woo Soo Kim**  
Program Co-Director  
Simon Fraser University



**Anne Lochoff**  
Program Co-Director  
Nanyang Technological  
University, Singapore



**Veera Sekaran**  
Program Co-Director  
National University of  
Singapore

## BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM



**Jerome Hui**  
Program Co-Director  
The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong  
*until Mid-November 2024*



**Nathan Lo**  
Program Co-Director  
The University of Sydney

## CLIMATE CHANGE SIMULATION PROGRAM



**Elly Vandergrift**  
Program Co-Organizer  
University of Oregon



**Carolyn Hogg**  
Program Co-Director  
The University of Sydney  
*from May 2024*



**Edwin Chan**  
Program Co-Director  
The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong  
*from November 2024*

## GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM & CLIMATE CHANGE SIMULATION



**Mellissa Withers**  
Program Director (Global Health);  
Program Co-Organizer (Climate Change Simulation)  
University of Southern California



**TF Chan**  
Program Co-Director  
The Chinese University  
of Hong Kong  
*from November 2024*

## FOREST ECOSYSTEMS LIVING LAB INITIATIVE



**Dominik Roeser**  
Program Co-Chair  
The University of British Columbia



**Juan Manuel Guayasamin**  
Program Co-Chair  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito

## GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: WASTE & THE CITY PROGRAM



**Sierin Lim**  
Program Director  
Nanyang Technological  
University, Singapore

## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES PROGRAM



**Adrian Little**  
Program Co-Chair  
The University of  
Melbourne



**Noelani Puniwai**  
Program Co-Chair  
University of Hawai'i  
at Mānoa

## MULTI-HAZARDS PROGRAM



**Takako Izumi**  
Program Director  
Tohoku University

## OPEN DIALOGUES PROGRAM



**David Huerta**  
Program Chair  
Tecnológico de Monterrey

## SUSTAINABLE CITIES & LANDSCAPES PROGRAM



**Yekang Ko**  
Program Director  
University of Oregon

## SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



**Yong Sik Ok**  
Program Chair and Director  
Korea University  
*Until September 2024*

## UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE WORKING GROUP



**José Escamilla**  
Program Co-Chair  
Tecnológico de Monterrey  
*from February 2025*



**Simon Bates**  
Program Co-Chair  
The University of  
British Columbia  
*until December 2024*



**Christie Chung**  
Program Co-Chair  
Mills College at  
Northeastern University  
*from February 2025*

## SDG FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM



**Michiko Yoshida**  
Program Chair  
Chulalongkorn  
University



**Rafiza Hashim**  
Program Vice-chair  
Universiti Malaya

## VIRTUAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



**Shally Fan**  
Program Chair  
The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong

# APRU INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The APRU Secretariat is responsible for supporting the coordination, facilitation, and liaison of all APRU activities and programs.

Headquartered at Cyberport, Hong Kong, the Secretariat works with APRU members to set the organization's agenda to fulfill its mission.

## LEADERSHIP



Prof. Thomas  
Schneider  
Chief Executive



Albert Chan  
Chief Operating Officer



Christina Maria  
Schönleber  
Chief Strategy Officer

## OPERATIONS



Eric Chu  
Executive Manager



Ellen Yau  
Manager, Administration  
and Finance

## PROGRAMS



Adriana Rojas  
Senior Director,  
Programs



Benjamin Zhou  
Program Manager



David Guillermo  
Quimbayo G.  
Program Manager

## ENGAGEMENT



Jackie Wong  
Senior Director,  
Communications and  
Engagement



Joey Chu  
Senior Manager, Events



Vini Damayanti  
Communications and  
Administrative Officer



Berenice Voets  
Policy Counsellor and  
APEC Liaison

# APRU STATUTORY DIRECTORS

APRU statutory directors have the responsibility of overseeing APRU to operate according to all rules and regulations laid down by the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.



Salome Lam  
Bursar and Director  
of Finance,  
The Chinese University  
of Hong Kong



Prof. Kar Yan Tam  
Vice-President for  
Administration and Business,  
The Hong Kong University of  
Science and Technology

# APRU PARTNERS

## ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)



APRU has collaborated on APEC initiatives as a guest member of the *Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation and the Human Resources Development Working Groups*. APRU has also contributed to dialogues addressing topics including oceans, health, and the digital economy. APRU co-organizes the APEC University Leaders' Forum in collaboration with APEC to bring leaders of education, government and industry to address the biggest challenges of the region.

## ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)



ADB has a long standing partnership with APRU. In 2024, APRU and the ADB collaborated on the International Conference on Big Data for Disaster Response and Management in Asia and the Pacific. Previously, APRU and the ADB have worked together on the fields of aging and technology and their impact on the labor market with a view to better understand the link between technology and the opportunity to maximise the benefits of longevity.

## THE ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE BELT AND ROAD REGIONS (ANSO)



APRU explored new collaborations with ANSO in 2024, one area of mutual interest is supporting and facilitating graduate student symposia or programs with APRU members UCAS and USTC. APRU and ANSO are exploring a partnership to include the CAS International Young Scientists Workshop in Hong Kong, as well as in areas such as big data and forest ecosystems.

## CYBERPORT



As the home of the APRU International Secretariat, Cyberport is the digital tech flagship of Hong Kong with an innovation digital community of over 1,650 start-ups and technology companies.

## DATA.ORG AND MASTERCARD CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

**data.org**

With the generous support of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and in partnership with APRU and the National University of Singapore, data.org, a non-governmental organization, inaugurated Southeast Asia's first data capacity accelerator in Singapore in November 2024. The initiative will produce a cohort of socially responsible data professionals and a social impact training model for universities that can be scaled up across other Southeast Asian countries.

## ELSEVIER



APRU and Elsevier partnered to enhance research collaboration between members and to apply this strength to addressing challenges in the Asia-Pacific. APRU is particularly grateful to Elsevier for its support in the areas of gender equity, sustainability, health, and the digital economy.



APRU received funding for three collaborative projects focusing on the impact of AI on society, including AI for Everyone: Benefiting from and Building Trust in the Technology; Transformation of Work in Asia-Pacific in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and AI For Social Good.

## MICROSOFT



Microsoft supported a new APRU initiative on generative AI, which aims to facilitate discussions on leveraging this emerging technology to shape the future of higher education. An output of this Microsoft-supported project was a comprehensive whitepaper in 2025 titled “Generative AI in Higher Education: Current Practices and Ways Forward”, along with a project report detailing the outcomes of an 18-month project on generative AI in higher education.

## PACIFIC RIM RESEARCH LIBRARIES ALLIANCE (PRRLA)



Since 2016, PRRLA has partnered with APRU, addressing challenges in academic libraries across the Pacific Rim through digitization, shared resource access, and professional development. This collaboration enhances global access to research materials, fosters expertise exchange, and promotes groundbreaking library initiatives. In 2024, APRU and PRRLA started to collaborate on a joint pilot project for a comprehensive, innovative Museum of the Asia Pacific.

## TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION



APRU partnered on a number of THE’s high-profile global events including the Impact and Innovation Summit, the Asia Universities Summit and Global AI Forum. THE is recognised around the world for its powerful proprietary data, world-recognised rankings and award-winning journalism.

## UNITED NATIONS

As well as aligning their work with the SDGs, APRU experts joined the Technical Advisory Group within the International Labour Organization on the Women and the Future of Work in the Asia-Pacific report. The APRU Multi-Hazards Program worked on projects in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The SDGs Education for Global Citizenship program also work in collaboration with the Office in Bangkok.

## UN ESCAP



APRU has been collaborating with UN ESCAP on a number of initiatives and projects including developing statistical guidance towards SDG 14, the implementation and running of the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, and, alongside Google, developing the AI for Social Good project.

## UNIVERSITY WORLD NEWS



APRU has long partnered with UWN on media coverage of key APRU events such as the APM, AULF, as well as coverage of the many topical areas of the work such as the impact of SDGs, artificial intelligence and the role of universities to overcome geopolitical tensions. *University World News* is an online global higher education publication, which provides in-depth, independent news and commentary on higher education and research worldwide, both North and South. *University World News* is an open-source website attracting 2 million unique visitors and 3.4 million page views per year and is pitched at university leaders, senior academics, academics, students, administrators and policymakers.

# APRU EVENTS CALENDAR 2025



Scan to read  
most up-to-  
date APRU  
events

[apru.org](https://apru.org)

APRU is delighted to present an array of international opportunities tailored for APRU's valued members and partners.

Events are listed as of March 31, 2025, in our commitment to keeping you informed with the most current information, please be aware that event details may undergo periodic updates.

## UNIVERSITY LEADERS' MEETINGS



### 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' MEETING 2025

**JUNE 22-24, 2025**

**Host:** UC San Diego

**Venue:** San Diego, California, USA



### APRU SENIOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERS' MEETING 2025

**OCTOBER 13-15, 2025**

**Host:** Universidad San Francisco  
de Quito

**Venue:** Quito, Ecuador



### APEC UNIVERSITY LEADERS' FORUM 2025

**MAY 12-13, 2025**

**Host:** Pusan National University

**Venue:** Jeju Island, Korea

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Please note that the eligibility criteria for each APRU program and activity may vary. We encourage you to visit the respective program and event websites for the latest details or contact us to indicate your interest.

We look forward to welcoming you and your university experts at APRU events in the future.



### ASIA PACIFIC WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP (APWIL) 5<sup>TH</sup> COHORT - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025 \*

**MARCH 7, 2025**

**Hosts:** UC Davis and  
Universiti Malaya



### THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SUSTAINABLE CITIES & LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE 2025

**JUNE 17-19, 2025**

**Host:** Simon Fraser University  
**Venue:** Vancouver, Canada



### 5<sup>TH</sup> COHORT APWIL MENTORING PROGRAM \*

**SEPTEMBER 2024 - OCTOBER 2025**

**Hosts:** UC Davis and  
Universiti Malaya



### APWIL 5<sup>TH</sup> COHORT - GRADUATION \*

**OCTOBER 8, 2025**

**Hosts:** UC Davis and  
Universiti Malaya



### THE 20<sup>TH</sup> APRU MULTI-HAZARDS SYMPOSIUM 2025

**NOVEMBER 26-29, 2025**

**Hosts:** University of the Philippines  
**Venue:** Bonifacio Global City,  
Taguig, Philippines



### THE 18<sup>TH</sup> APRU GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2025

**OCTOBER 28 - 31, 2025**

**Host:** Universiti Malaya  
**Venue:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

\* Virtual event

# STUDENT PROGRAMS



## APRU MINI CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS FOR STUDENTS \*

**FEBRUARY 18 - 23, 2025**

**Host:** University of Southern California



## ASIA PACIFIC OPEN DIALOGUES 4<sup>TH</sup> COHORT \*

**APRIL - MAY 2025**

**Host:** Tecnológico de Monterrey



## VIRTUAL STUDENT EXCHANGE \*

**Enrolment:** ONGOING

**Season 1:** JULY - DECEMBER, 2025

**Host:** The Chinese University of Hong Kong



## CERTIFICATE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP 2025 \*

**APRIL 3 - MAY 1, 2025**

**Hosts:** University of Southern California and University of Oregon



## THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL APRU GLOBAL HEALTH VIRTUAL CASE COMPETITION 2025 \*

**JANUARY 31 - JUNE 6, 2025**

**Host:** University of Southern California



## SDG EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP (SDG4GC)

**JUNE 2 - AUGUST 29, 2025**

**Hosts:** Chulalongkorn University and Universiti Malaya

**Venue:** Hybrid event (onsite program on July 19 - 27, 2025)



## UNDERGRADUATE LEADERS' PROGRAM

**JULY 20 - AUGUST 2, 2025**

**Host:** Universidad de Chile  
**Venue:** Santiago, Chile



## APRU MULTI-HAZARDS 2025 SUMMER SCHOOL

**JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2025**

**Host:** Tohoku University  
**Venue:** Sendai, Japan



## THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL APRU GLOBAL HEALTH STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

**NOVEMBER 28 - 31, 2025**

**Host:** Universiti Malaya  
**Venue:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



## GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY COURSE, WASTE & THE CITY \*

**SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 2025**

**Host:** Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



## ASIA PACIFIC OPEN DIALOGUES 5<sup>TH</sup> COHORT \*

**OCTOBER 2025**

**Host:** Tecnológico de Monterrey



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