



Awards Asia 2026

Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership

Institution Name	Beaconhouse National University
Submission title or project name	Mapping industrial emissions and child health risks: from research to action
Nominee / key personnel	Usman Nazir (School of Computer and Information Technology)
URL	https://drunazir.users.earthengine.app/view/arikilns
Submission	Beaconhouse National University, in partnership with NDORMS at the University of Oxford, has advanced its pioneering AI-based framework from detecting unregulated emissions to linking them with child health outcomes. The team demonstrated that areas with higher densities of industrial chimneys and brick kilns report significantly higher rates of acute respiratory infections (ARI) in children under five. To make this evidence actionable, the project launched a publicly accessible web application, enabling policymakers and researchers to visualise emission hotspots and ARI clusters interactively. This tool empowers governments and NGOs to prioritise interventions in high-risk regions, bridging science and policy. By combining cutting-edge AI, remote sensing and epidemiology, Beaconhouse has delivered measurable impact on environmental and health policy in south Asia, setting a benchmark for higher education institutions globally in environmental leadership and real-world problem-solving.



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Institution Name	Hiroshima University
Submission title or project name	Leading international collaboration on biogeochemical cycles in tropical Asia
Nominee / key personnel	Masayuki Kondo
URL	
Submission	Hiroshima University's Seto Inland Sea Carbon-Neutral Research Centre (S-CNC), founded in 2023, leads global efforts to understand, monitor and mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Through comprehensive observations of terrestrial, marine and atmospheric systems, it integrates geophysical data, modelling and policy-relevant analysis to advance carbon neutrality. S-CNC also cultivates future leaders through specialised training in climate and sustainability science. Its flagship initiative, the Tropical Asia League of Excellence in Geophysical Research (LeXtra), launched in 2024, unites top researchers across Asia to assess national GHG budgets and enhance transparency under the Paris Agreement. Supported by iLEAPS and the Global Carbon Project, LeXtra fosters global collaboration and empowers young scientists. In 2025, S-CNC secured the seventh International iLEAPS Conference for Hiroshima in 2027, further strengthening its global impact. Through science, education and partnerships, S-CNC drives regional innovation for a carbon-neutral and sustainable world.



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Institution Name	İzmir University of Economics
Submission title or project name	From campus to global impact: sustainability at IUE
Nominee / key personnel	Mehmet Efe Biresselioğlu (team leader); Muhittin Hakan Demir; Ayşe Banu Demir; Gözde Çeviker; Berker Özcureci; Mert Akdoğan
URL	https://www.ieu.edu.tr/en
Submission	İzmir University of Economics (IUE) has positioned itself as a leader in sustainability by embedding climate action and sustainable development across university functions. As Turkey's first university with a dedicated sustainable energy master's programme, IUE integrates the UN SDGs into its curricula, research and governance structures. The university's Sustainability Office and Commission provide the institutional backbone for these efforts, and the university has carried out projects such as the Carbon Footprint Assessment, the Healthy Campus Initiative and the development of the eco-friendly Güzelbahçe campus. Through its Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Research Centre (SENLAB), IUE participates in multiple Horizon Europe projects, positioning İzmir as a test bed for climate-neutral lifestyles. All these actions benefit more than 12,500 students and staff directly while also contributing to İzmir's Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and its Green City Action Plan. By aligning education, research and operations, IUE demonstrates how universities can serve as living laboratories for sustainability.



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Institution Name	Kyung Hee University
Submission title or project name	Global SDGs team challenge: a student-driven model for environmental leadership
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://sdgs.khu.ac.kr/sBbs/7CB37
Submission	Kyung Hee University's Global SDGs Team Challenge Project, launched in 2025, empowers international students to lead multidisciplinary teams in addressing urgent environmental challenges tied to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Supported by W38.5 million in scholarships, students conduct field research in their leader's home country, undertaking projects that link academic enquiry with practical solutions. In its inaugural year, teams studied flood resilience in Malaysia, water pollution in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, sustainable urban housing in Singapore, and circular economy models in Hong Kong. These projects produced actionable recommendations on climate resilience, clean water access, waste reduction and inclusive green urban planning. Through this initiative, Kyung Hee demonstrates outstanding environmental leadership, turning student-led research into transferable solutions that strengthen communities across Asia. The programme highlights the role of universities as catalysts in training future sustainability leaders and advancing practical action towards carbon-neutral, resilient societies.



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Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership

Institution Name	LSPR Institute of Communication and Business
Submission title or project name	Reaction programme village (resilience and inclusion)
Nominee / key personnel	LSPR Centre for Crisis and Resilience Studies (CCRS)
URL	https://www.lspr.ac.id/centre-for-resilience/
Submission	The LSPR Institute of Communication and Business, through its Centre for Crisis and Resilience Studies (CCRS), leads the Resilience and Inclusion Village Programme (Desa ReAKSI) to strengthen environmental and social resilience in Sukabumi, Bali, the Mentawai Islands and Jakarta (Indonesia). The programme engages vulnerable groups – women, youth, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities – through participatory workshops, disaster simulations and culture-based learning that combine storytelling with local wisdom. More than 500 people have participated directly and 1,500 more have been reached through campaigns, improving disaster literacy and adaptive capacity. Integrating traditions such as Tri Hita Karana (a philosophy that roughly translates as the “three causes of well-being”) with modern resilience practices fosters community ownership and long-term sustainability. Backed by 13 journal publications, two academic books and the Resilience Forum platform, the CCRS has positioned LSPR as a leader in inclusive resilience. This global impact was recognised through LSPR’s being ranked number one in the world for crisis management in the World University Rankings for Innovation 2025, underscoring its commitment to building safer and more resilient communities.



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Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership

Institution Name	National University of Singapore
Submission title or project name	NUS Green Data Centre Network Upgrade
Nominee / key personnel	Nelson Wong (head of network); Jeff Teo (senior architect)
URL	
Submission	The National University of Singapore (NUS) has redefined environmental leadership through the Green Data Centre Network Upgrade, a transformative initiative that embeds sustainability into digital infrastructure. Aligned with the NUS Green Campus road map and Singapore's Green Plan 2030, the project modernised the university's network while cutting energy use by 45 per cent and reducing rack space by 49 per cent. Using software-defined networking, automation and real-time power monitoring, NUS achieved annual energy savings of 160,111kWh – equivalent to powering 500 public housing flats for a month – and reduced 108 metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Sustainability was deliberately built into every phase, from procurement with minimal packaging to responsible e-waste recycling and circular-economy practices. Beyond operational gains, students and staff co- created energy dashboards, turning the project into a live sustainability case study. The initiative serves as a replicable model of sustainable digital transformation, showcasing how technology and environmental responsibility can progress hand in hand.



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Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership

Institution Name	Prince of Songkla University
Submission title or project name	From seeding to stewardship: empowering coastal communities through blue carbon and ecotourism
Nominee / key personnel	Ponlachart Chotikarn
URL	https://youtu.be/D9KhjAxUmbw?si=ZtEN1m6qAVDKnSKm
Submission	The collaborative project “The Feasibility and Efficiency Enhancement of Seagrass Species for CO₂ Sequestration in Thailand”, led by the Coastal Oceanography and Climate Change Research Institute and financially supported by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, demonstrates exceptional environmental leadership. This initiative provides a pioneering, nature-based solution to climate change by advancing the scientific understanding of marine carbon sequestration. The project’s key impact lies in its holistic approach. The project developed an innovative, solar-powered nursery system that is low-cost and scalable. It established a community-integrated model through a Seagrass Learning Centre, educating more than 200 visitors and empowering local fishermen. Additionally, it created a profitable ecotourism route with a one-year payback period and a benefit-cost ratio of 11.35, proving that conservation can be a powerful engine for economic growth. This replicable blueprint for environmental and economic empowerment is a compelling example of collaborative leadership.



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Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership

Institution Name	Ubon Ratchathani University
Submission title or project name	Empowering young people as leaders in local climate governance
Nominee / key personnel	Patawee Chotanan
URL	https://www.unicef.org/thailand/media/14566/file/UNICEF%20Local%20Government%20Playbook%20Climate%20Governance.pdf.pdf
Submission	Ubon Ratchathani University (UBU) demonstrates environmental leadership through the project “Empowering Young People as Leaders in Local Climate Governance”. Implemented by the Faculty of Political Science in collaboration with UNICEF Thailand and Warinchamrap Municipality, the initiative transforms environmental education into a youth-led, community-based learning process. Using ideation and design thinking, students co-create solutions for local flooding and climate challenges. More than 300 young people have engaged in real-world projects, developing policy proposals and working with local authorities. Supported by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation and recognised by Unicef, the project has become a model within the Sustainable University Network of Thailand. It advances SDG 11 – sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 – climate action, and SDG 17 – partnerships for the goals, showcasing how higher education and cross-sector collaboration can empower young people to become leaders driving inclusive and sustainable environmental change.