



Awards Asia 2026

Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Erciyes University
Submission title or project name	Integrated digital transformation for research excellence and strategic data management
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Erciyes University (ERÜ) launched the integrated digital transformation and strategic data management initiative to create a unified system. This platform is designed to boost research quality, support data-driven decisions and ensure sustainable quality management. It handles the increasing volume of academic data by monitoring research performance at all levels, adhering to international standards. The project focuses on three areas: strengthening research through automated retrieval and analysis of key data (such as publications and patents) from databases like Web of Science; strategic data management for real-time tracking and reporting; and fostering a culture of quality through academic staff training. Using a modern architecture, the system enables dynamic analytics. By 2024, 98 per cent of research data integration was automated, cutting manual work by 80 per cent. This success enhances visibility and supports evidence-based governance, aligning ERÜ with its sustainability goals.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	KMITL – King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
Submission title or project name	KMITL Smart Campus: a city-data, IoT and AI platform driving a smart digital sustainable university
Nominee / key personnel	Poon Khwansuwan (acting director, Smart City Innovative Research Academy); with the Office of Physical Resource and Environmental Management, the Properties Management Office and the Smart City Innovative Research Academy (SCiRA) as lead units
URL	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1LXbotNZLG/ https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16CfXjUb5R/ https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1A8etAY4tY/
Submission	KMITL – King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang is transforming its 1,000-acre campus into a smart digital sustainable university through the innovative KMITL Smart Campus project. This initiative integrates internet of things infrastructure, AI-powered analytics and a centralised City Data Platform to enhance safety, optimise energy efficiency and improve mobility. The project’s Intelligent Operation Centre (IOC) consolidates real-time data from smart poles, solar energy dashboards, smart parking and environmental sensors, enabling proactive decision-making and predictive insights. Early results show measurable impact, including fewer safety incidents, double-digit energy savings and enhanced user experiences for more than 25,000 daily campus users. Beyond immediate benefits, the platform functions as a living laboratory for students, researchers and industry partners, providing a scalable model for Thailand’s smart city and higher education ecosystem. The KMITL Smart Campus demonstrates how technology can transform operations, strengthen sustainability and inspire digital innovation across Asia.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Lingnan University Hong Kong
Submission title or project name	Transforming film education through interactive game – CineSim
Nominee / key personnel	Tobby Kan (department of digital arts and creative industries)
URL	https://www.cinesim.info/ https://store.steampowered.com/app/3237260/CineSim/
Submission	CineSim, developed at Lingnan University, is an innovative digital ecosystem that bridges the gap between film theory and practice. Traditionally, film education relies on costly equipment, large studio spaces and heavy manpower, limiting student access and experimentation. CineSim addresses this challenge through a PC-based simulator built with Unreal Engine, where students explore cinematography and lighting using an intuitive drag-and-drop interface. Educators can demonstrate techniques such as three-point lighting instantly, while students independently or collaboratively test changes and immediately see results. More than 200 students have used CineSim, gaining confidence and readiness before entering real production. CineSim-VR extends this innovation into immersive learning, enabling students to step into reconstructed scenes from iconic movies to analyse storytelling techniques. Already tested with 50 students, it combines experiential and analytical learning. Scalable and affordable, CineSim empowers schools and universities to deliver high-quality film education without the traditional barriers of cost and access.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Monash University Malaysia
Submission title or project name	Harnessing AI to transform student feedback into action
Nominee / key personnel	Caryn Lim; Lau Wei Ken; Tridib Saha
URL	https://www.monash.edu.my/education-excellence/key-initiatives-and-events/essfs#:~:text=The%20Early%20Semester%20Student%20Feedback%20Survey%20%28ESSFS%29%20is,which%20occurs%20at%20the%20end%20of%20the%20semester
Submission	Monash University Malaysia has transformed how it uses student feedback by combining machine learning and data visualisation to deliver actionable insights in days rather than months. Our Early Semester Student Feedback Survey captures thousands of student comments, offering valuable perspectives on teaching, assessments and learning resources. Previously, analysing this qualitative data was slow and labour-intensive, which meant that improvements could not be implemented before the semester had ended. Now, machine learning-based analysis techniques quickly identify strengths, areas for attention and emerging trends, allowing education leaders to respond during the same semester. This approach has led to measurable gains in the student experience, with overall campus satisfaction increasing by 4 per cent since its launch, alongside notable improvements in targeted areas such as the quality of feedback. The success of this initiative is influencing adoption across the Monash network, showcasing how digital innovation can directly enhance teaching and learning.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	The Education University of Hong Kong
Submission title or project name	Math City: a 3D virtual city for real knowledge
Nominee / key personnel	Singh Manpreet
URL	https://www.spatial.io/s/MathCity-1-0-67dfb195742c75f887eebd0c?share=5396504057967632053
Submission	Mathematics education is crucial for developing essential skills and supporting STEM learning in today's technology-oriented society. However, many students struggle with abstract concepts because traditional teaching methods lack real-world connections. A 3D, gamified virtual platform, Math City, was developed based on an enquiry-based model and operated in a multiplayer mode with embedded quests, awards and badges. By integrating 3D visualisation, gamified tasks, GenAI tool, authentic assessment and collaborative problem-solving to enhance spatial reasoning and mathematical modelling skills, it makes mathematics more engaging. Developed using Unity and hosted on spatial.io, Math City is accessible across devices and educational formats. It emphasises creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, aligning with the university's goals. Pilot testing with 1,400 users showed promising results, achieving a system usability scale rating of 74.54. The second version will introduce AI-enabled learning pathways and customised assessments, enhancing its potential for broader implementation and promoting equitable education.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Submission title or project name	Integrated AI Agent in an Immersive Transdisciplinary Platform for Individualized Adaptive Learning
Nominee / key personnel	Yuk Ming Tang (project leader); Wei Ting Kuo (technical officer); Hoi Sze Chan (project associate); Ching Ping Kwok (project associate)
URL	https://youtu.be/Xz8Lvv9zwTc
Submission	The Integrated AI Agent Platform in an Immersive Transdisciplinary Platform delivers individualised, assessment-driven training through realistic immersive scenarios powered by conversational AI teammates and supervisors. The transdisciplinary platform adapts difficulty and content in real time, strengthening communication, decision-making and technical proficiency across disciplines. In pilots with nearly 1,000 medical students, 95 per cent reported enhanced learning compared with traditional methods, citing clearer understanding, better retention and improved exam readiness. Built for scale with a modular, cloud-based architecture and multilingual support, the platform targets 50,000 users in 10+ countries within two years and 500,000 users across 50 countries in three to five years. A sustainable model – institutional licensing, subscriptions and bespoke content – supports ongoing R&D. This early-stage yet evidence-backed project sets a new standard for equitable, immersive education and workforce readiness.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Ubon Ratchathani University
Submission title or project name	EMS Help Me Digital Platform for cross-border patient referral management between Thailand, Laos and Cambodia
Nominee / key personnel	Arunrat Sawettham; Sarinthip Thaweedeche; Jaikaew Thaemngern; Panita Krongyut; Hansa Chuenchuphol
URL	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093905408256 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wE8EVe8FKoahPxKK_ic8V--rUerJ4xEt/view https://drive.google.com/file/d/1znAk1UIp06abGan_jbaS9mbRySG-W4sy/view
Submission	The EMS Help Me Digital Platform, developed by Ubon Ratchathani University, is a pioneering cross-border patient-referral system linking Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Addressing fragmented health coordination and language barriers, the platform integrates multilingual mobile apps, blockchain-secured patient records, GPS tracking and offline functionality to ensure real-time emergency response. Since its launch, coordination time has been reduced by 55 per cent, patient transfer processes have been simplified, and data errors have been cut by 40 per cent. More than 400 users reported a 22 per cent rise in satisfaction, while hospitals achieved lower costs and streamlined workflows. Developed via a participatory approach with border hospitals and checkpoints, the system builds trust and strengthens community health resilience. Scalable to national and ASEAN health frameworks, EMS Help Me exemplifies how academic-driven digital innovation can save lives, foster collaboration and position universities as key contributors to regional development.



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Institution Name	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Submission title or project name	e-Prihatin
Nominee / key personnel	Nurwina Akmal binti Anuar (leader); Norinsan Kamil Othman; Ahmad Firdhaus Arham; Munira Ismail; Muhammad Hamiduddin Saat; Abdul Qaiyum Borhan; Wan Muhammad Nashrul Wan Muhammad Najeeb; Syahidrul Ashraff Zamri; Muhammad Tajuddin Abdul Rahim; Abdul Rahman Bin Ramli; Ahmad Hairi Rabbani Ahmad Puhad; Zulaikha Mohamad
URL	https://eprihatin.ukm.my/
Submission	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia has transformed welfare support into a faster, safer and future-ready digital system. At UKM, students once faced long delays and fragmented processes when applying for welfare or financial aid. Applications could take weeks, creating uncertainty and inequity. To solve this, UKM launched e-Prihatin a centralised, secure, digital platform that re-engineered student support. E-Prihatin automates applications, integrates with student data systems and enables real-time tracking. Processing times have dropped from 14 days to three working days, a 79 per cent improvement. In 2024, more than 4,200 students accessed aid through the system, with 95 per cent satisfaction. Built with single sign-on security and mobile-friendly design, it guarantees confidentiality while making support faster and more transparent. The initiative overcame cultural resistance through awareness campaigns and staff training, while leveraging in-house IT to reduce costs. Designed to be modular, e-Prihatin can scale to new services and be replicated across the sector.