



Awards Asia 2025

Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Submission title or project name	Habibi Community Centre: Bersive 2 Camp for Internally Displaced People, Kurdistan, Iraq
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Peter Hasdell, Insitu Project Project design: Chan Hei, Chelsea/ABCD Collaborative and School of Design PolyU; Peter Hasdell and Tan Ming, InSitu-Project and School of Design PolyU Project management: Andrew Kwong, HIS Foundation; Willy Tan and Heidi Tan, Jonathan Su Habibi International; Paul Kingery, MedEast Playground design: Giulia Galli, Catalytic Action Project construction: Davide Frasca, Vide Terra (Superadobe); Paul Kingery and Salim Ali, MedEast; Hawas Khalil, Seje Village Funding: HIS Foundation (Superadobe Hall) and Habibi International (Entire project)
URL	https://www.his-foundation.org/ https://www.habibi-international.org/ https://linktr.ee/insitu.prj https://www.videterra.org/
Submission	The Habibi Community Centre is a unique project built for the 7,000 internally displaced Yazidi persons who were subject to violent ethnic cleansing during the 2014-17 ISIS/ISIL war. It is located in Bersive 2 Camp in Kurdistan, Iraq. Initiated by Habibi International and HIS Foundation (funders, clients, operators), the centre was built as a research-by-design project with ABCD Collaborative (PolyU) and InSitu Project (PolyU), in collaboration with Vide Terra, MedEast and Catalytic Action between May 2020 and May 2023. The community hall utilised an earth-bag construction (superadobe), reducing costs while providing construction training for residents. Arranged around a courtyard, the centre provides treatment facilities, a community hall, co-designed play spaces and sanitary amenities. It caters for medical, dental and women's needs, as well as childcare, surgical rehabilitation, prosthetics, physiotherapy, trauma counselling, education and language training. The centre has been recognised in design awards and is a dignified oasis for the community.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	Hiroshima University
Submission title or project name	Japanese international cooperation has supported primary mathematics programmes in Africa for more than two decades
Nominee / key personnel	Takuya Baba, Professor; Atsushi Matachi, Senior Adviser (Basic Education), Japan International Cooperation Agency
URL	https://world-education-blog.org/2024/09/04/japanese-international-cooperation-has-supported-primary-mathematics-programmes-in-africa-for-more-than-two-decades/
Submission	Professor Takuya Baba of Hiroshima University was asked by UNESCO to re-evaluate the support for science and mathematics education in Africa that Hiroshima University has been leading. A paper summarising the results was introduced in the Global Education Monitoring Report 2024. Distinct from Western support, Japanese-style international support emphasizes local ownership, and while its effectiveness can be measured financially and via the number of beneficiaries, it will also extend beyond this. Offering aid specifically in the form of teacher education support is a compelling intervention of this project that will capture the public's attention because it provides sustainable long-term support that will continue to change lives over time. This project will therefore "enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries" as stated in Target 9, Goal 17 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This report reconsiders the nature and meaning of international support through Japan's efforts.



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Institution Name	Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST)
Submission title or project name	
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	The university is dedicated to documenting and revitalising the unique world views of Indigenous peoples, ensuring that their rich heritage is not only remembered but actively lived by future generations. Through extensive research, the researchers documented the unique Kalanguya world view, emphasizing values such as respect for nature, family values and solidarity. Central to this initiative is the creation of a storybook for Kalanguya children, which serves as a vital educational tool. Through the storybook, the university helps impart Indigenous knowledge and empowers youth to embrace their heritage in a rapidly changing world. Involving elders, leaders, residents and IP researchers in the storytelling process enriches the narratives and strengthens intergenerational bonds. Through the research findings and the storybook, the wisdom of IP ancestors is preserved, bridging generations and nurturing a sense of belonging.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	Necmettin Erbakan University
Submission title or project name	Developing a Recommendation System for Increasing Digital Parenting Competencies
Nominee / key personnel	Project Manager: Associate Professor Dr Hatice Yildiz Durak <u>Researchers:</u> Professor Dr Bülent Dilmac; Professor Dr Sibel Somyurek; Professor Dr Suleyman Sadi Seferoglu; Professor Dr Tolga Guyer; Associate Professor Dr Mustafa Saritepeci; Associate Professor Dr Şeyhmus Aydogdu; Associate Professor Dr Ufuk Akbas
URL	http://ebeveyn.erbakan.edu.tr/
Submission	Digital technologies offer children many opportunities in educational terms, but also increase the possibility that they will encounter risks online. Parents should be responsible for keeping their children safe in online environments, and so need to be aware of the risks themselves and know how to direct their children. However, in 2015, the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) results found that, in Turkey, adults' competencies in digital technologies are generally at quite a low level. The aim of Necmettin Erbakan University's project was to design, develop and evaluate a mobile suggestion system to improve the digital parenting competencies (DPCs) of parents with children attending secondary school at K-12. Improving DPCs will support lifelong learning and make a significant contribution to efforts to protect children against online risks and threats.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	University of Makati
Submission title or project name	Bridging the city and campus: A cultural mapping initiative in Makati City
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://mb.com.ph/2024/06/11/makati-s-cultural-heritage-assets-showcased-in-digital-arts-collection-exhibit?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR220O4XRT6oXgTX0wjQg09a49SHeFXs2cAUMZz6aOLpL73ohHq-JgYPmJ4_aem_TbPIejLh4GssdY46VKHMjQ#m272nl4wbqwfupylsxh
Submission	In a city increasingly defined by skyscrapers and digital innovation, a unique project is quietly weaving a richer tapestry of community and heritage. In partnership with the city government, the University of Makati has embarked on a research-defining cultural mapping initiative, unearthing hidden cultural assets and forging stronger bonds between academia and the urban landscape of the Philippines' Central Business District. The project, launched in 2023, goes beyond simply documenting historical sites. It is a deep dive into the heart of Makati City, involving professors, students and local community members in identifying and preserving tangible and intangible cultural assets. From historical traditions to modern expressions of art, the project aims to capture the essence of Makati's multifaceted identity, often obscured by its image as a business centre. This project is a continuous endeavour that promises to reveal even more of Makati's hidden stories promoting participatory governance and further research.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	O.P. Jindal Global University
Submission title or project name	Unlocking the Silent Wombs: Unveiling the Socio-Institutional Drivers of Hysterectomy Disparities in India
Nominee / key personnel	Professor (Dr) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor; Dr Karan Babbar, Assistant Professor, Jindal Global Business School
URL	
Submission	In view of high rates of hysterectomy in India, this research aimed to unravel the complex interplay of social, cultural, economic and healthcare factors contributing to the surge of this surgical procedure with potential long-term health consequences among women. It focused primarily on the disproportionately high rates of hysterectomy in two Indian states, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Using a novel socio-institutional framework, the study employed a robust quantitative analysis of a nationally representative, large-scale dataset – the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) data. The research found that women with at least one male child were significantly more likely to undergo a hysterectomy, suggesting that patriarchal norms influence medical decision-making. The findings uncovered a significant “community prevalence effect” and raised concerns about the potential overuse of hysterectomy in private healthcare settings. This research provides crucial evidence for developing targeted and region-specific health policies addressing the multifaceted drivers of hysterectomy in India.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	Lovely Professional University
Submission title or project name	Tribal Folk Song: Preservation of Culture of Himachal Pradesh
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Manish Gupta; Dr Pavitar Parkash Singh; Dr Lata
URL	
Submission	The tribal folk songs of Himachal Pradesh hold immense cultural significance, representing the traditions and values of Indigenous communities such as the Gaddis, Kinnars, Lahaulis and Pangwals. These songs are integral to festivals, rituals and daily life, often celebrating nature, deities and local folklore. However, modernisation is increasing the risk of these traditions being lost. Preservation efforts are crucial to maintain these oral histories and to keep the cultural identity of the tribes alive. Initiatives such as documenting, recording and promoting folk songs through digital platforms, educational programmes and cultural festivals are essential steps in this direction. Moreover, encouraging research on tribal music and involving local artists can help revive interest in these traditions. Without such efforts, the rich musical heritage of Himachal Pradesh's tribal communities risks fading into obscurity .



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Submission title or project name	Project Plum Grove: A rural revitalisation prototype for sustainable placemaking through collaborative restorations
Nominee / key personnel	Thomas Wang-Leung Chung, Associate Professor, School of Architecture
URL	https://cusp-hk.com/research-project/project-plum-grove-i/
Submission	Project Plum Grove revitalises the abandoned 360-year-old Hakka village of Mui Tsz Lam through co-creative restorations to pioneer a sustainable rural revitalisation prototype for Hong Kong and beyond. The government-funded project revalues rural heritages, restores rural places with participation, and regenerates village communities for venue operation. Phase 1 (2020-22) restored two ruined houses with experimental designs that engaged multiple stakeholders. Phase 2 (2022-24) rebranded the Old House as a “Community Co-op” with innovations in new-old architectural fusions, joint restoration with a privately funded neighbour and long-term operation testing. Widely visited and publicised, the project empowered over 250 returning villagers, volunteers, students and NGOs, and catalysed many self-initiated works in the village. In 4 years, multiple impacts expanded to prototypes in other villages, receiving US\$6.08 million in competitive grants. With a multidisciplinary team, academic symposium, social enterprise and research centre set-up, this research-by-design demonstrates scalable, multi-stakeholder revitalisation that regenerates place via a collaborative process.