

APU GLOBAL NEWS LETTER



APU Secures Historic MCMC Research Grant

In a defining moment for APU, Asst. Prof. Dr. Lau Chee Yong of the School of Engineering has secured the prestigious Digital Society Research Grant (DSRG). This landmark achievement, a first for the university after six years of persistent effort, cements APU's reputation as a rising leader in impactful, industry-collaborative research.

APU & HTMi: Swiss Excellence with Malaysian Innovation

APU's School of Global Hospitality and Tourism has launched the APU and HTMi Switzerland - Kuala Lumpur Centre, the first of its kind in Malaysia. This bespoke partnership offers students a unique dual-award qualification, blending Swiss hospitality excellence with Malaysian innovation & even includes an optional two-week study trip to Switzerland

Anti-Bullying Solutions at Parliament

APU Psychology Lecturer, Zaliha Idris presented an innovative national framework at a parliamentary town hall, calling for a holistic approach to "a social crime." Her plan includes "Anti-bullying 360° taskforces" for rapid response, a "Crisis SOP 1:3:7" for accountability, and a "Digital Counter-Narrative Taskforce" to combat online threats.

APU GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Welcome to the APU Global Newsletter, showcasing how our community advances innovation, strengthens international partnerships, and delivers real-world impact. This edition highlights university-wide achievements and our expanding research culture as we pursue future collaborations and global engagement. We look forward to partnering with you in meaningful ways ahead together.
~ Prof. Ho Chin Kuan.

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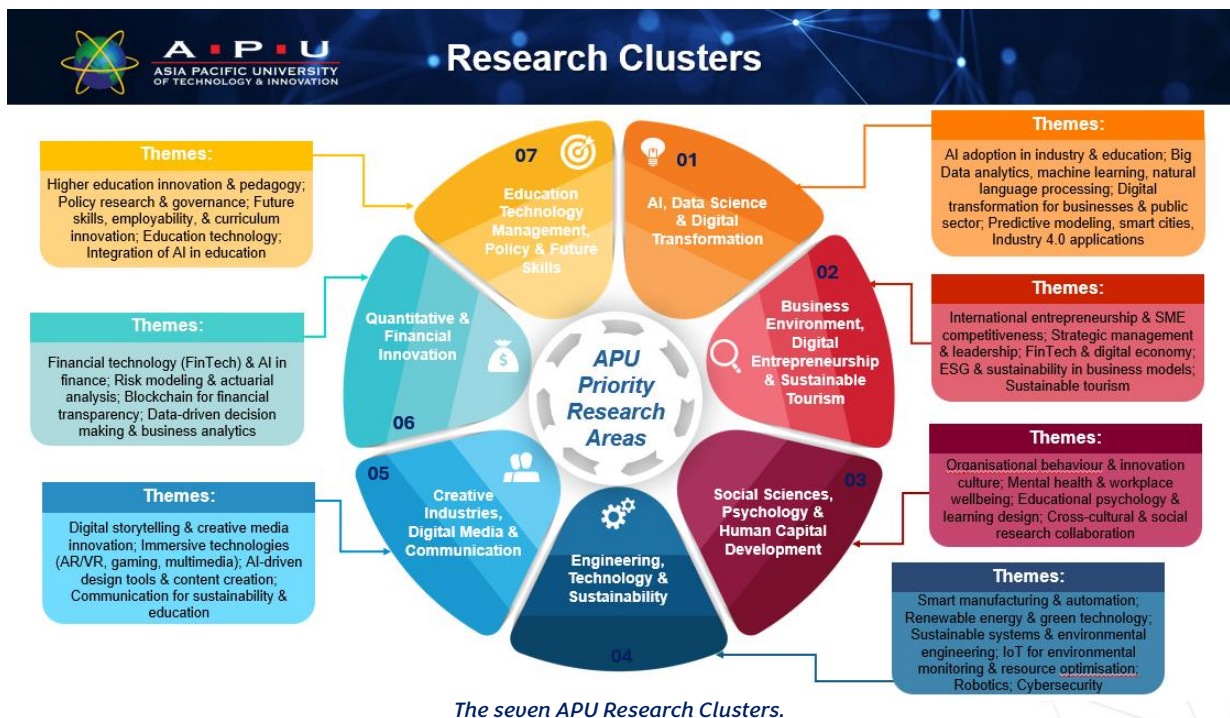
APU Research Clusters

APU Spearheads Interdisciplinary Research with Strategic Research Clusters

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) is proud to introduce its strategic Research Clusters—an essential component of our university-wide effort to advance high-quality, frontier research and strengthen global academic engagement. These clusters form the foundation of APU's research ecosystem, promoting cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary collaboration across our academic schools and fostering meaningful connections with international partners to address complex global challenges.

This initiative is not merely an internal restructuring; it represents our commitment to developing research that is rigorous, relevant, and intellectually impactful. By moving beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries, we are cultivating an environment where diverse fields—ranging from technology and computing to business, humanities, and design—interact to generate new knowledge. Each cluster functions as a specialised research hub, driving progress in areas that will shape the next decade, including artificial intelligence, digital advancement, sustainability, and human-centred systems.

The APU Research Clusters are aligned with national research priorities and anchored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that our scholarly contributions support both scientific advancement and a more equitable, resilient, and globally connected future.



The seven APU Research Clusters.

Our Seven Pillars of Innovation

APU's seven Research Clusters were designed as a fully integrated framework that brings together the collective strengths of all academic schools. Each cluster is not led by a single discipline, but supported by multiple schools—ensuring every school contributes meaningfully to APU's research direction and no discipline stands in isolation.

This university-wide structure enables deep cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary collaboration across the School of Technology (SoT), School of Business (SoB), School of Marketing and Management (SoMM), School of Engineering (SoE), School of Computing (SoC), School of Accounting and Finance (SoAF), the Digital Learning Hub (DLH), and other specialised Schools such as SoMAQS, SGHT, SoP, and SoMAD. Together, these schools form a cohesive ecosystem aligned with the seven clusters below:

Our clusters are:

- AI, Data Science & Digital Transformation
- Business Environment, Digital Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Tourism
- Social Sciences, Psychology & Human Capital Development
- Engineering, Technology & Sustainability

- Creative Industries, Digital Media & Communication
- Quantitative & Financial Innovation
- Education Technology Management, Policy & Future Skills

Each cluster is supported by multiple schools working together, as reflected in the detailed matrix of “Relevant APU Schools”. Through this integrated, shared-ownership approach, the clusters advance a broad spectrum of high-impact research themes—from Big Data analytics, FinTech, and cybersecurity to renewable energy, mental health and wellbeing, sustainable tourism, digital media, and the integration of AI in education.

Collaboration Opportunities and Global Research Engagement

The launch of our Research Clusters marks an important milestone for APU, but the true potential of this initiative rests in collaboration. Through the Strategic Research Institute (SRI), APU extends an open invitation to researchers, academics, and global institutions seeking to advance knowledge, co-develop impactful scholarship, and address complex challenges through cross-disciplinary expertise. While we welcome participation from industry, government bodies, NGOs, and the wider community, our primary focus is to strengthen academic partnerships and enhance international research integration.

We are actively building networks with partners who share our commitment to advancing high-quality research. Whether you are a scholar seeking co-authorship opportunities, a university exploring cross-institutional research, or a postgraduate community looking for collaborative supervision, our seven Research Clusters provide a robust platform for engagement across disciplines.



Opportunities for Academic and Research Partnership

Our clusters offer a diverse range of themes for collaboration. We invite you to engage with our experts on:

- **Academic Collaboration:** Joint publications, academic exchanges, co-supervision of postgraduate students, and global multi-institution research projects.
- **Joint Research Projects:** Engage with our interdisciplinary teams to address complex societal, technological, environmental, economic, and human-centred challenges.
- **Technology:** AI, data science, machine learning, cybersecurity, IoT, and robotics.
- **Business:** FinTech, sustainable business models, digital economy, ESG, international management, and public-sector transformation.
- **Social Impact:** Mental health and wellbeing, organisational behaviour, cross-cultural studies, educational psychology, and human capital development.
- **Sustainability:** Renewable energy, green technologies, environmental systems, and communication for sustainability.
- **Creative Media:** Immersive technologies (AR/VR), digital storytelling, multimedia design, and AI-assisted content creation.

Matching Grants and Co-Funded Research Opportunities: To support meaningful partnerships, APU offers pathways for matching grants and a range of co-funded research schemes. These mechanisms allow partners to leverage shared resources and expertise, enabling progress that is academically rigorous and globally relevant. Through such collaborations, we aim to accelerate discovery, advance scholarly leadership, and contribute to research ecosystems both locally and internationally.

We welcome discussions on how a partnership with APU can contribute to your institutional research priorities while advancing shared global goals.

Contact the Director, SRI

To discuss a potential collaboration, explore research themes, or inquire about matching grant options, please get in touch with the Director of the SRI, APU.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Falahat

Director, SRI, APU

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Let's innovate, collaborate, and transform the future together.

International Collaboration Update

APU Partners with HTMi Switzerland to Advance Global Hospitality and Tourism Education

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), has launched the APU-HTMi Switzerland Kuala Lumpur Centre, the first Swiss-established hospitality education hub in Malaysia. The centre was officially introduced on 25 August 2025 during the Global Hospitality and Tourism Forum (GHTF) 2025 and the 11th International Conference on Hospitality and Tourism (ICOHT) 2025.

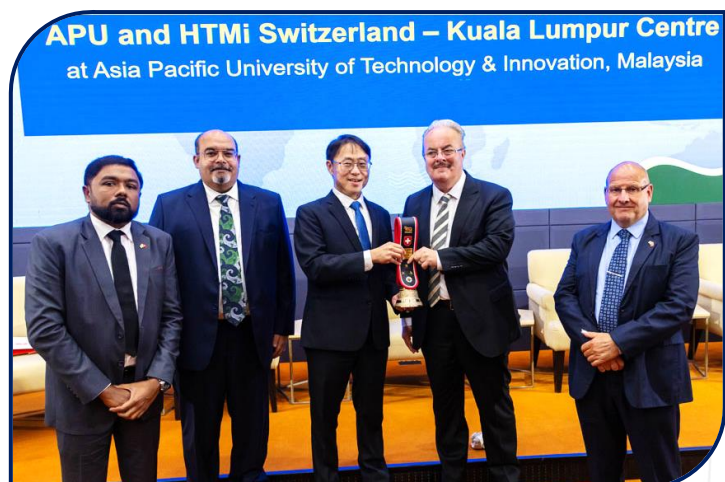
This collaboration between APU's School of Global Hospitality and Tourism (SoGHT) and the Hotel and Tourism Management Institute (HTMi) Switzerland strengthens academic cooperation and enhances international exposure for students. The centre offers jointly developed programmes combining Swiss hospitality standards with APU's Malaysian academic expertise, supported by applied learning and global industry relevance.

Students enrolled in selected programmes will benefit from a dual-award pathway, receiving degree qualifications from both APU and HTMi Switzerland. Eligible programmes include:

- 🌐 **Diploma in Events Management**
- 🌐 **Diploma in Hotel Management**
- 🌐 **Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Hospitality and Tourism**

Students in the Bachelor's programme may also participate in an optional two-week study trip to HTMi Switzerland, supported by APU through subsidised accommodation, meals, transfers, and programme fees.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to internationalisation, academic excellence, and talent development in the hospitality and tourism field. It strengthens APU's global academic network while providing students with enriched learning pathways and international mobility opportunities.



From left: Mr Vinoth Prakas, HTMi Switzerland VP Global Partnerships; Prof Dr Kashif Hussain, APU Sr Head SoGHT; Prof Dr Ho Chin Kuan, APU VC; Mr Ian R J Larmour, HTMi Switzerland CEO; and Mr Charles Hains, HTMi Switzerland VP Global Academics.

International Collaboration Update

APU and Durban University of Technology (South Africa) Strengthen Global Research Collaboration

The Strategic Research Institute (SRI) of the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) recently hosted a ten-day academic engagement with Professor Zamokuhle Mbandlwa, the first visiting professor from Durban University of Technology (DUT), South Africa. The visit culminated in a seminar themed “Collaborate Globally, Innovate Locally,” marking an important milestone in APU’s international research strategy. Led by SRI, the engagement focused on strengthening institutional ties through joint research development, academic exchange, and research capacity building—aligning both universities around shared global research priorities.

Insights from the Global South

Prof Mbandlwa highlighted common opportunities and challenges across the Global South, emphasising the importance of collaborative scholarship in addressing public administration, economic development, and knowledge-driven growth. His perspectives helped frame future areas for academic integration between APU and DUT.

Cross-Disciplinary Engagement at APU

The visit brought together academics from the School of Engineering (SoE), School of Accounting and Finance (SoAF), School of Marketing and Management (SoMM), and SRI. Discussions explored co-authored publications, postgraduate co-supervision, staff and student exchanges, and joint grant applications, demonstrating strong cross-disciplinary momentum.



From left: Prof Ts Dr Murali Raman, APU DVC, presents a token of appreciation to Prof Zamokuhle Mbandlwa, visiting professor from DUT, while Prof Dr Mohammed Falahat, SRI Director, looks on.

A notable outcome was the presentation of a joint book proposal, “Bridging Continents: Technological Innovation and Growth in Asia and Africa,” aimed at analysing development trajectories across both regions.

Building Sustainable Research Pathways During his stay, Prof Mbandlwa collaborated with SRI researchers on three manuscripts targeted at Scopus Q1 journals, addressing comparative studies on Special Economic Zones, higher education collaboration models, and leadership in research-driven institutions. These efforts lay the foundation for an enduring and productive research alliance.

APU acknowledged Prof Mbandlwa’s contributions in a closing session officiated by Professor Ts Dr Murali Raman, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Development & Strategy), alongside Prof Falahat.

A Strengthened Academic Alliance This collaboration marks a significant step in APU’s mission to expand its global research footprint. Both APU and DUT have committed to advancing shared research goals through joint publications, collaborative grants, academic exchanges, and continued cross-disciplinary engagement.

Community Engagement

APU Expert Shares Evidence-Based Anti-Bullying Framework at Malaysian Parliament

Zaliha Idris, Crisis Management and Communications Lecturer from the School of Marketing and Management (SoMM), presented an evidence-based proposal on combating bullying at the Parliamentary Town Hall, “Stop Bullying: The People’s Voice, Our Responsibility,” held on 10 September 2025. The session was organised by the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Women, Children and Community Development.

A Structured Framework for National Response Ms Zaliha outlined a comprehensive framework titled “Combating Bullying in Schools and Communities,” emphasising coordinated action and accountability. Her proposal includes establishing Anti-Bullying 360° Taskforces at each District

Education Office, integrating schools, PTAs, NGOs, and community stakeholders to support behavioural audits and secure reporting mechanisms.

She also recommended implementing a “Crisis SOP 1:3:7” protocol—report within 1 day, investigate within 3 days, and act within 7 days—supported by designated Crisis Communication Desks in schools.



Addressing Digital and Psychological Dimensions To respond to online harassment, Ms Zaliha proposed forming a Digital Counter-Narrative Taskforce comprising government agencies and researchers to monitor digital harm and coordinate targeted awareness campaigns.

For long-term, data-driven policy, she introduced the concept of a National Anti-Bullying Observatory (NABO) and recommended Mobile Psychosocial Intervention Units to provide immediate, on-site mental health support in severe cases.

Her engagement reflects APU's commitment to contributing expert insights to national policy discussions and advancing community-focused, research-informed solutions to pressing social issues.



Community Engagement

Empowering Refugee Communities Through Shared Learning and Student-Led Outreach

The Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), through its Women Empowerment Club (APUWEC) under the DIGITAL Student Chapter Flagship, organised a community outreach programme at the Ayaz Sewing Centre in Selayang, Selangor, in August 2025. The initiative aimed to strengthen educational inclusion, support refugee welfare, and advance APU's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Led by student project managers Rishita Gloria Rozario and Nuramisha Abdul Manaf, with guidance from advisor Dr Meera Eeswaran, the programme brought students and refugee families together for a day of meaningful engagement. Activities included educational sessions for children on the importance of schooling and personal safety, followed by creative and skill-sharing activities that encouraged interaction, empathy, and mutual learning.

A keynote message from Ms Eshwin Kaur, Miss Supranational Malaysia 2025, further inspired participants by emphasising resilience, aspirations, and personal development.

To support ongoing community needs, APUWEC contributed essential resources—such as sewing machines, clothing, toys, and books—demonstrating APU’s continued commitment to student-led community service and inclusive development.



A Day of Connection and Learning

The programme kicked off with introductions and icebreakers, creating a welcoming atmosphere. Refugee children participated enthusiastically in educational sessions, learning about the importance of education and essential safety topics like ‘good touch’ and ‘bad touch’. This directly contributed to SDG 4 by ensuring inclusive learning opportunities. The children’s active participation brought a lively energy.

The learning continued with action songs, games, and creative activities, filling the centre with smiles. This was followed by skill-sharing sessions where both students and refugees exchanged practical skills and cultural experiences, bridging the gap between their communities and encouraging mutual understanding.

Inspiring Words and Lasting Impact

A special highlight was an inspiring speech from Ms Eshwin Kaur, Miss Supranational Malaysia 2025. She encouraged the children to dream big and pursue their goals with determination, a message that resonated deeply with all attendees.

Beyond the day’s activities, APUWEC made a significant impact by delivering donations worth nearly **RM1,000**. These included much-needed resources such as second-hand sewing machines, clothes, toys, and books, reinforcing APU’s commitment to student-led community service.

EMPOWERMENT



APU WOMEN EMPOVEREMENT CLUB (APUWEC)
AYAZ SEWING CENTRE, SELAYANG, MALAYSIA.
AUGUST 2025
SHARED LEARNING & GROWTH

Community Engagement

Between Borders: APU Event Dives into the Struggles of Refugee Communities

The School of Psychology (SoP) at Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) deepened students’ understanding of humanitarian issues through a guest lecture titled “Between Borders: Stories and Struggles of Refugees in Malaysia.” Held on July 29, 2025, the event aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Organised by **Mr Tan Wei Yu**, SoP Lecturer, the lecture was designed to expose students to the lived experiences of refugees in Malaysia. It featured representatives from **ElShaddai Centre Berhad**, who shared both professional insights and powerful personal stories from refugee communities. The

session explored critical topics, including the legal status of refugees, their access to healthcare and education, and the psychological well-being of refugee children.



Deepening Student Learning and Engagement

Throughout the lecture, students from both the Psychology and International Relations programmes immersed themselves in the discussions, listening attentively to first-hand accounts and drawing meaningful connections to their fields of study. They actively participated in the Q&A session, asking thoughtful questions that sparked deeper dialogue on education, mental health, and the specific challenges faced by these communities.

Furthermore, guided reflections and peer discussions encouraged students to examine complex themes of resilience and inequality, fostering a stronger appreciation for diverse cross-cultural perspectives. This direct engagement not only broadened their understanding of global refugee issues but also inspired them to consider how their future careers in psychology and international relations can contribute to advocacy, policy development, and community support.

Building Empathy and Future Collaboration

Ms Dhevaania C Gendsen, a lecturer at SoP, highlighted the lecture's impact, noting it reminded students that "every struggle carries a story of resilience and hope." She added, "It challenged our students to see beyond borders and embrace empathy as the foundation of real change, reminding us that education is not only about knowledge, but also about humanity and responsibility."

The event stood as a testament to the value of bridging classroom learning with real-world humanitarian experiences. Following its success, the SoP looks forward to expanding its collaboration with ElShaddai Centre Berhad through more community-based learning initiatives, further empowering students to engage with and contribute meaningfully to diverse social contexts.



Student Mobility and Cultural Activities

China's Shaanxi University of Science & Technology Students Embark on a Cross-Border Study Programme at APU

To strengthen international academic ties, Malaysia's Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) recently welcomed Mechatronics Engineering students from China's Shaanxi University of Science & Technology (SUST). This inaugural, week-long summer camp was designed to give the delegation a rich blend of academic and professional development. The camp laid the foundation for a promising new partnership between the two universities, fostering cross-cultural collaboration.



Throughout their intensive week, the SUST students were immersed in a diverse curriculum. They participated in specialized workshops covering essential skills, including modules on practical English, research methodology, and advanced technical topics tailored to their mechatronics engineering discipline. Beyond academics, the programme was complemented by enriching cultural experiences, offering the students a taste of Malaysian heritage. This holistic approach enhanced their skills and successfully cemented the new institutional partnership through shared learning.

Culture and Friendship Take Centre Stage at Rasa Sayang 2025

The Asia Pacific Language Centre (APLC) at APU concluded its biggest-ever Summer English Camp with “Rasa Sayang 2025,” a grand finale celebrating unity and culture. Held on August 15th, the event drew over 450 students and staff to a dazzling showcase of Malaysian traditions. What made the celebration extraordinary was its inclusivity: every single Summer English Camp student participated, transforming the campus into a living stage of colour and rhythm.



The evening was filled with vibrant performances, including a powerful Silat demonstration by Gelanggang Silat, an electrifying Diabolo act, a thrilling Karate showcase, and the graceful Zapin Borneo by the Rentak Tari Dance Academy. The event also featured the APLC Merdeka Video Project Awards, recognizing student creativity with trophies and certificates. For many participants, like Saaya from Japan and Valeriia from Russia, performing on stage was a personal breakthrough. Saaya felt her shyness “fade off,” while Valeriia “felt brave and proud” after her teachers encouraged her. Organizers praised the inspiring teamwork between students and teachers, calling it a fitting finale that created memories beyond a Summer English Camp for the largest camp in APLC’s 17-year history.



Student Mobility and Cultural Activities

APU Students Gain Experience at Asia Pacific PetroBowl 2025 Competition

Five students from Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), representing the APU Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter (APU SPE SC), recently participated in the PetroBowl Asia Pacific Regional Qualifiers 2025. Held at Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP), the prestigious event is a fast-paced quiz organized by SPE International. The team, mentored by Ir Dr Wong Siew Fan, Ir Eur Ing Ts Dr Harvin Kaur Gurchran Singh, and Muhammad Safri Basruddin, was challenged on topics including petroleum engineering, energy geopolitics, and global energy affairs.

The competition provided a key opportunity for students to strengthen their technical understanding, enhance soft skills like strategic thinking and teamwork under pressure, and network with peers. Although the APU team did not secure a winning title, their participation reflected a strong academic foundation and commitment to growth. The APU SPE SC remains committed to building on this momentum and striving for greater achievements in future competitions.



A Dazzling Spectacle: APU Celebrates Bollywood and Bhangra Night 2025

Bollywood and Bhangra Night 2025 brought a dazzling spectacle of joy, spirit, and cultural vibrancy to Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU). The much-anticipated annual event united the campus community for an unforgettable evening, celebrating the rich traditions of Indian culture. The stage was set ablaze with high-energy performances. Glamorous Bollywood numbers, embodying the timeless appeal of Indian cinema, captivated the audience with expressive storytelling. These were matched by the powerful rhythms and vibrant choreography of Bhangra, which drew thunderous applause throughout the night. Each dance was more than entertainment; it was a burst of cultural pride.



Stirring vocal performances, from infectious tracks that set an infectious rhythm to romantic ballads, highlighted music's power to transcend borders and keep the audience spellbound. The entire night was a brilliant showcase of artistic brilliance, transforming the campus into a space of shared experiences and reflecting APU's thriving creative spirit. It was a dazzling showcase of cultural expression, reflecting APU's thriving creative spirit and the power of the arts to unite people in joy and connection. With the remarkable success of this year's edition, anticipation is already building for Bollywood and Bhangra Night 2026.



Strategic Research Workshop Series

Strategise Your Publishing Journey: Demystifying the Path to Academic Publishing

On 2 July 2025, the Strategic Research Institute (SRI) at APU continued its mission to strengthen the university's research culture through a workshop titled *"Strategise Your Publishing Journey."* The session provided APU academics with valuable insights into how journal submissions are evaluated and the common challenges researchers face when preparing manuscripts for high-impact outlets.

The workshop emphasised APU's commitment to supporting researchers at every stage of the publication process. Participants were guided through practical strategies for improving manuscript quality, understanding editorial expectations, and positioning research for greater visibility and impact.

A key message highlighted during the session was the importance of treating publishing as a continuous learning process. Researchers were encouraged to participate in peer review, refine their academic writing practices, and engage actively with scholarly communities to strengthen their publication readiness.

The workshop also introduced early plans for a potential Scopus-indexed conference to be hosted at APU in partnership with Emerald Publishing—an initiative aligned with the university's long-term strategy to expand scholarly dissemination and create more platforms for APU researchers to showcase their work.



This workshop marks another step forward in APU's ongoing efforts to build research capacity, empower its academic community, and advance the university's trajectory towards stronger global research engagement.

Writing for the World: Strengthening APU's High-Impact Publishing Culture

As part of APU's ongoing efforts to enhance research capability across all schools, the Strategic Research Institute (SRI) organised a focused workshop on high-impact publishing on 28 July 2025. The session formed a key component of the university's broader strategy to build a strong, sustainable, and internationally connected research environment.

The workshop provided APU academics with practical guidance on structuring manuscripts, setting clear research objectives, and aligning studies with global scholarly expectations. Participants gained valuable insights into effective academic writing practices, interdisciplinary approaches, and strategies for positioning their research within international discourse.

A dynamic Q&A session highlighted APU's growing emphasis on cross-disciplinary work, with discussions covering publication strategies, emerging technologies such as XR, and the importance of contextualising research within global trends. The conversation reinforced a shared understanding that impactful scholarship requires clarity, relevance, and strong methodological grounding.

The workshop also introduced early planning for a Scopus-indexed conference to be hosted at APU in collaboration with Emerald Publishing, reflecting the university's commitment to expanding publication avenues and strengthening its global research footprint.

Overall, the session served as an important catalyst in APU's mission to support its academic community, nurture high-quality research output, and advance the university's standing as a contributor to global knowledge creation.





Strategic Research Workshop Series

Supervising for Success: APU Workshop Sparks New Approaches to PhD Mentorship

PhD PhD supervision is a cornerstone of strong research culture, yet it remains a common challenge across universities. To support supervisors and strengthen postgraduate research outcomes, the Strategic Research Institute (SRI) organised a targeted workshop on 14 August 2025 as part of APU's commitment to enhancing research quality and academic mentorship across all schools.

The session focused on practical strategies for structuring PhD supervision, guiding students toward timely completion, and embedding scholarly publication throughout the doctoral journey. Participants explored approaches such as integrating systematic literature reviews, meta-analyses, and empirical studies into a coherent publication pathway—helping students build a solid research portfolio while progressing through their thesis.

A key discussion point centred on APU's growing emphasis on research relevance and contemporary problem-solving. Supervisors were encouraged to guide students toward addressing real-world challenges and engaging with current debates rather than relying on outdated theoretical frameworks. The dialogue also reaffirmed the continued importance of rigorous methodologies such as meta-analysis in high-quality scholarship.

Opened by SRI Director, Prof. Dr. Falahat, the workshop supported APU's wider research development agenda by equipping supervisors with clearer frameworks, shared practices, and enhanced confidence in navigating postgraduate supervision. It reflects APU's ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive, research-active academic community and ensuring its postgraduate scholars contribute meaningfully to global academic discourse.



From Philosophy to Practice: GSoB and SRI Strengthen Core Research Competencies for Postgraduate Scholars

APU's Graduate School of Business (GSoB), in collaboration with the Strategic Research Institute (SRI), recently conducted a two-part workshop series designed to strengthen foundational and applied research skills among more than 100 postgraduate students. This initiative forms part of APU's broader effort to build research literacy and enhance methodological confidence across all disciplines.

The first session, held on 29 September, introduced students to essential research philosophies and the theoretical foundations that guide scholarly inquiry. Participants explored key concepts such as ontology, epistemology, research paradigms, and the importance of minimising bias in academic work. The session helped students understand how different worldviews influence research design, evidence interpretation, and the framing of research problems.



The second session on 13 October focused on translating these philosophical underpinnings into practical methodological choices. Through accessible analogies and case examples, students examined the strengths and limitations of quantitative and qualitative approaches and discussed the importance of methodological complementarity. A key takeaway was the value of integrating mixed methods to address both the “what” and the “why” behind complex research questions—particularly in areas involving human experience and behaviour.

Together, the sessions provided a structured pathway from conceptual understanding to applied research practice, equipping APU’s postgraduate scholars with the tools needed to design rigorous studies, select appropriate methods, and produce meaningful, context-rich research.

Celebrating Research Partnership & Alumni Highlights

APU Marks a Milestone with Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission’s Digital Society Research Grant

APU has achieved a major institutional milestone by securing the Digital Society Research Grant (DSRG) awarded by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). This marks the first time APU has been awarded an MCMC research grant, signalling the university’s strengthening presence within the national research landscape.

The successful award reflects APU’s growing capacity to compete for externally funded research, particularly in areas aligned with national digital priorities. It demonstrates the maturity of APU’s research ecosystem, the collective efforts of its academic community, and the university’s commitment to advancing impactful, policy-relevant, and future-oriented research.

This milestone supports APU’s strategic ambition to expand national and global research partnerships, contribute to digital society development, and enhance its reputation as an emerging research-intensive institution.



Asst Prof Dr Lau Chee Yong (third from left) receives the Digital Society Research Grant award from Emeritus Prof Dr Tharek Abdul Rahman, Advisor to MCMC. The ceremony is witnessed by Ms Shirley Kuan Chien Hui (far left) and Ms Malini Ramalingam (second from right) from MCMC



Asst Prof Dr Lau Chee Yong (sixth from left) presents a token of appreciation to Mr Jared Ho (centre), Head of Sustainability at POS Malaysia. Also pictured is Ms Fiona Liao (fourth from left), Group Chief Marketing, Communications & Sustainability Officer, alongside other team members.

APU's HealthSync Secures Gold at Virtual Innovation Competition 2025

APU strengthened its reputation for applied research and technology-driven problem solving through the success of HealthSync, which won a Gold Medal at the Virtual Innovation Competition (VIC) 2025 in the Tertiary (Science and Technology) category.

Developed within APU's strong software engineering ecosystem, HealthSync represents the university's commitment to addressing real-world challenges through emerging technologies. The blockchain-enabled platform integrates secure patient data management with AI-supported health advisory features, medicine authentication, and streamlined appointment scheduling—showcasing APU's ability to translate classroom learning and research engagement into impactful digital solutions.

The achievement reflects the effectiveness of APU's academic guidance, project supervision, and emphasis on innovation-led problem-solving as part of its broader research and teaching mission. It also demonstrates the university's ongoing efforts to nurture student-led research outputs that contribute meaningfully to society and align with national and global priorities in healthcare digitalisation.

HealthSync's recognition at VIC 2025 further reinforces APU's position as an institution that encourages interdisciplinary thinking, supports the development of future-ready digital solutions, and empowers its learners to generate impactful contributions within Malaysia's growing digital ecosystem.



Celebrating Research Partnership & Alumni Highlights

APU Hosts DMU Leicester for Week-Long Psychology & Cultural Exchange

The School of Psychology (SoP) at Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), in partnership with the APU Psychology Society, recently concluded the De Montfort University (DMU) Global Visit to Malaysia. This week-long academic and cultural exchange programme, held from June 25th to July 1st, 2025, brought together undergraduate psychology students and lecturers from APU and DMU Leicester.



The programme was designed to foster a rich blend of intellectual exchange, leadership development, and intercultural learning. This initiative aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

From Classroom to Conference Stage: APU's MSc in Artificial Intelligence Programme Strengthens Postgraduate Research and Academic Pathways

The Master of Science (MSc) in Artificial Intelligence programme at Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) continues to demonstrate its strength in developing research-capable, industry-ready graduates. Through a supportive academic environment and strong supervisory guidance, the programme has enabled postgraduate learners to transition successfully into advanced research roles, teaching positions, and professional AI pathways.

A recent highlight of this programme's impact was the recognition received at the International Conference on Learning Technology for Education Challenges (LTEC) 2025, where research produced within the MSc AI ecosystem earned the Best Presenter Award. This success reflects the programme's emphasis on rigorous research training, scholarly publication, and active participation in international academic forums.

APU's approach integrates postgraduate learning with mentorship, research exposure, and opportunities to engage with global academic communities. Through conferences, collaborative projects, and hands-on research experience supervised by APU's academic leaders, students gain the confidence and capability needed to contribute to emerging AI fields.



Coey Low (third from left) holds her Best Presenter Award, presented by a distinguished group of academics (from left) Dr Nurliyana Juhan, Professor Lorna Uden, Dr Makdi Masnoddin, and Associate Professor Dr Fauziah Sulaiman

The achievement reinforces the value of APU's postgraduate programmes in cultivating research-oriented professionals and strengthening the university's presence in global AI scholarship.



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ABOUT APU

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), Kuala Lumpur is Malaysia's Premier Digital Tech University and the first in the nation to be awarded a QS 5 Stars Plus rating. We are a university where a unique fusion of technology, innovation, and creativity works effectively to prepare graduates for global careers.

Home to a vibrant community of over 14,000 students from more than 130 countries, APU offers a truly cosmopolitan learning environment. We are focused on nurturing future-proof professionals, reflected in our 100% graduate employment rate.



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A COMMUNITY OF INNOVATORS

APU is where technology, innovation, and creativity converge. We are committed to nurturing global professionals who are ready to solve the complex challenges of tomorrow