

APU GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



A P U
ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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Top News

Prestigious grants boost
APU's research leadership

APU journals advance towards
global indexing: Journal of Applied
Technology and Innovation and
Electronic Journal of Business and
Management

APU's Rise in Global and Sustainability Rankings

APU rises to #528 in the QS World
University Rankings 2027, placing among
the Top 2% worldwide and strengthening
its global visibility.

The university also advances to the 401-
600 band in the THE Sustainability Impact
Ratings 2026, with stronger SDG progress
across education, inclusion, climate action,
decent work and partnerships.



New Global Partnerships
Formed

06/26

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 Rises in Global Rankings and Strengthens Sustainability Impact on the World Stage



APU has achieved a major global recognition leap, reaching its highest-ever position at #528 in the QS World University Rankings 2027. Rising from #597, the university now stands among the Top 2% worldwide, supported by strong international student diversity, employer reputation, international faculty strength and student experience shaped by global engagement and academic confidence.

Highlights: Global rankings with stronger visibility

- APU reaches #528 in QS rankings.
- Top 2% worldwide with strong global reputation.

APU also advanced in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026, rising to the 401-600 band from 801-1000 in 2025. The recognition reflects stronger SDG performance in quality education, reduced inequalities, climate action, decent work and partnerships, showing how APU translates institutional ambition into measurable global sustainability impact and responsibility with practical community value.

Highlights: From funding success to impact

- Sustainability progress with measurable impact.
- Progress spans education, inclusion, climate and partnerships.



APU Strengthens National Research Leadership with Prestigious Grants from MOHE, MCMC and Global Industry Partners



APU's grant success marks a decisive shift from promising research activity to visible national leadership. Through competitive support from MOHE, MCMC and global industry partners, the university is advancing projects in tourism, digital citizenship, cyberwellness, engineering and STEM education. The story is simple: partners now see APU as a serious knowledge engine with credible delivery capacity.

Highlights: Research built for national relevance

- National grants strengthen APU research credibility.
- Projects connect tourism, digital citizenship and engineering innovation.

Behind the grants is a broader institutional signal: APU is not chasing isolated awards, but constructing a research pipeline where academic expertise meets real-world demand. Through the Strategic Research Institute, Research Management Centre and cross-school collaboration, APU is strengthening its role as a partner for government, industry and international research bodies seeking practical, evidence-based and future-facing solutions.

Highlights: From funding success to impact

- Funding success signals stronger institutional readiness.
- Partners can enter practical projects with stronger delivery confidence.



APU Powers AI Research with NVIDIA-Driven Supercomputing Lab



APU is strengthening its research and innovation infrastructure through Malaysia's first NVIDIA-powered DGX SPARK AI Supercomputing Lab. Designed for education and innovation, the lab gives researchers and students access to advanced AI infrastructure normally associated with major research centres and technology companies. It positions APU as a serious platform for applied AI experimentation and future-ready digital output.

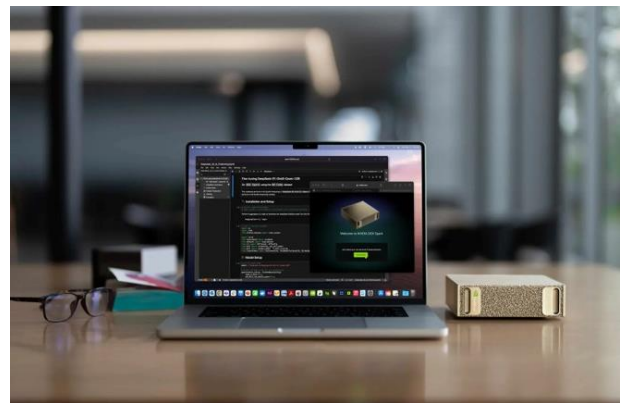
Highlights: AI infrastructure for serious innovation

- APU builds NVIDIA-powered AI capability.
- Lab supports research, learning and applied AI development.

The lab's architecture gives APU strong capacity for advanced AI work, including large language model training, fine-tuning, deep neural networks and large-scale data analysis. With NVIDIA GB10 Grace Blackwell Superchip technology, 128GB unified memory and up to 1 PetaFLOP of AI performance, the facility creates stronger pathways for research collaboration, industry projects and AI-driven innovation.

Highlights: Supercomputing power for research collaboration

- Facility supports advanced AI model development.
- Infrastructure enables stronger industry and research partnerships.



APU Researchers and Students Shine at ERA Asian Research Excellence Awards 2025



APU's performance at the ERA Asian Research Excellence Awards 2025 gave the university a bright regional stage. Recognition in sustainable business, management and engineering innovation showed that APU's research culture is not narrow; it is growing across disciplines. The awards also affirmed a larger institutional argument: research excellence becomes stronger when students and academics advance together.

Highlights: Recognition across research communities

- Regional awards spotlight APU research maturity.
- Recognition crosses business, management, engineering and student innovation.

The student projects gave this recognition its most exciting edge. A smart microgrid ecosystem and an AI-enabled cardiovascular risk detection system turned classroom learning into visible innovation. These were not decorative student exercises; they addressed energy resilience, preventive healthcare and public value, showing prospective collaborators that APU trains talent capable of solving urgent real-world problems.

Highlights: Student innovation with real promise

- Student innovation addresses urgent public needs.
- Projects target smart energy systems and preventive healthcare.



APU XR-Studio Advances Immersive Sports Innovation Through VR/MR Hypoxic Simulator



APU XR-Studio has developed a VR/MR Multiplayer Hypoxic-Effects Simulator that turns extreme environmental training into a safe, repeatable research experience. Using Meta Quest 3 headsets, motion technology and shared virtual environments, the platform allows multiple users to study performance, decision-making and behaviour under simulated altitude, low-oxygen, carbon dioxide, temperature and wind conditions with realism and control.

Highlights: Immersive research with environmental realism

- XR-Studio expands immersive research depth.
- Simulator recreates altitude, hypoxia, heat, wind and CO₂.

The project extends across sports science, emergency response, rehabilitation, engineering education, human factors and AI-driven adaptive simulation. Its recognition as a Sports-Inno Challenge 2025 finalist, together with Most Impactful Innovation Award and Outstanding Contribution Certificate at HPSC 2025, shows how APU is translating immersive technology into national sports innovation and ASEAN-level research visibility for partners.

Highlights: Sports innovation with regional visibility

- Recognition strengthens APU's sports innovation profile.
- Awards signal practical value for research and training.



APU Google for Education Centre of Excellence Drives AI Learning and Regional Impact



APU Google for Education Centre of Excellence (AGCoE) has quickly grown from a launched facility into a regional hub for applied AI, digital learning and industry readiness. Its participation in Google's Leadership Series in Singapore placed APU among forward-looking Asian institutions shaping AI in higher education, with insights from Google's AI Living Lab and collaborative sandbox models.

Highlights: AI leadership beyond campus

- AGCoE strengthens APU's regional AI profile.
- Google engagement supports future-ready higher education transformation.

Beyond international visibility, AGCoE is scaling impact through Edge Computing curriculum deployment to APU counterpart campuses in Nepal, including LBEF and Informax. More than 200 regional students have accessed Google Cloud-based hands-on labs, while faculty cross-training and CloudMile collaboration strengthen industry relevance, technical ecosystems and pathways between learning, innovation and employment.

Highlights: Regional expansion + industry value

- Edge Computing training reaches regional students.
- CloudMile collaboration connects learning with enterprise-ready practice.



APU and Kazakhstan's UIB Strengthen Cross-Regional Research Collaboration for Policy-Relevant Impact



The value of the exchange was its practical direction and scholarly discipline. Rather than ending with polite institutional language, the conversation moved towards shared datasets, joint publications and grant possibilities. With APU schools contributing expertise across business, computing, engineering and management, the collaboration creates promising space for work on AI, inequality, ESG and future skills.

Highlights: From dialogue to research pathways

- Dialogue moved towards publishable research outcomes.
- Shared data can support stronger cross-regional policy evidence.

APU's engagement with Kazakhstan's UIB opened a timely research bridge between Southeast Asia and Central Asia. The discussion centred on digital economy development, ESG modernisation and evidence-based policy, with external scholars bringing strong expertise in data and regional transformation. For APU, the visit strengthened its ambition to lead comparative Global South research with vital relevance.

Highlights: Research across shared regional challenges

- UIB partnership expands Global South research.
- Comparative themes include digital economy and ESG policy.



APU-SUST Partnership Marks New Chapter in Academic and Research Collaboration



The partnership is especially attractive for engineering research and postgraduate development. Through adjunct supervision links and academic exchange, both institutions can develop postgraduate work in robotics, intelligent manufacturing, mechanical engineering and applied systems. For industry-facing collaborators, it connects academics with practical path for innovation, production and future industrial competitiveness.

Highlights: Engineering collaboration with practical depth

- APU engineering collaboration gains postgraduate depth.
- Priority areas include robotics, manufacturing and applied systems.

APU's partnership with Shaanxi University of Science and Technology gives the university a stronger platform in China's applied technology landscape. The MoU supports joint research, postgraduate supervision, academic exchange and engineering-focused collaboration. Its significance lies in structure: it creates a working pathway for sustained knowledge exchange rather than a one-off ceremonial visit or passing conversation.

Highlights: Structured partnership with China

- SUST partnership deepens China research engagement.
- MoU supports research, postgraduate supervision and academic exchange.



Empowering Researchers to Navigate the Generative AI Era



The session's strongest message was not fascination with tools; it was responsibility. Researchers were encouraged to use AI as an assistant, not an author, judge or substitute for expertise. By emphasising disclosure, verification, ownership and ethical prompting, APU signalled that future-ready research must be both technologically agile and academically trustworthy in every discipline today everywhere.

Highlights: Responsible AI, stronger scholarship

- Responsible AI remains the central message.
- Transparency and ownership protect credible knowledge production standards.

APU's Gen-AI research clinic placed an urgent question before researchers: how can artificial intelligence improve scholarship without weakening scholarly judgement? Led by a Established Professor from the University of Galway, the session examined how AI can support literature screening, synthesis, manuscript preparation and research organisation while keeping human reasoning firmly at the centre of credible inquiry.

Highlights: Research skills for the AI moment

- Gen-AI clinic sharpens research practice.
- Tools support literature screening, synthesis and manuscript preparation.



APU Strengthens Global Research Ambitions with Strategic Roadmap for International Journal Recognition



The discussion positioned APU's journals as platforms with growing international promise, further reinforced by their recent indexing in the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). Beyond citation strength and multidisciplinary reach, the session emphasised editorial diversity, transparent review processes and digital discoverability. For future contributors, APU is building journals with stronger visibility, authority and global scholarly reach

Highlights: APU journals gaining serious momentum

- APU journals show international promise.
- Journal strategy strengthens APU research infrastructure.

APU's strategic session on MyCite and Scopus recognition placed journal development at the centre of institutional research growth. With guidance from the Ministry of Education's Infometrics Citation Centre, editorial teams examined indexing standards, peer-review governance, publication consistency and international visibility. This was not housekeeping; it was infrastructure-building for global scholarship and stronger collaboration ahead internationally.

Highlights: APU Journals

- Electronic Journal of Business and Management (EJBM) – <https://ejbm.apu.edu.my>
- Journal of Applied Technology and Innovation (JATI) – <https://jati.apu.edu.my>



Three APU SRI Researchers Join the World's Top 5% Scientists



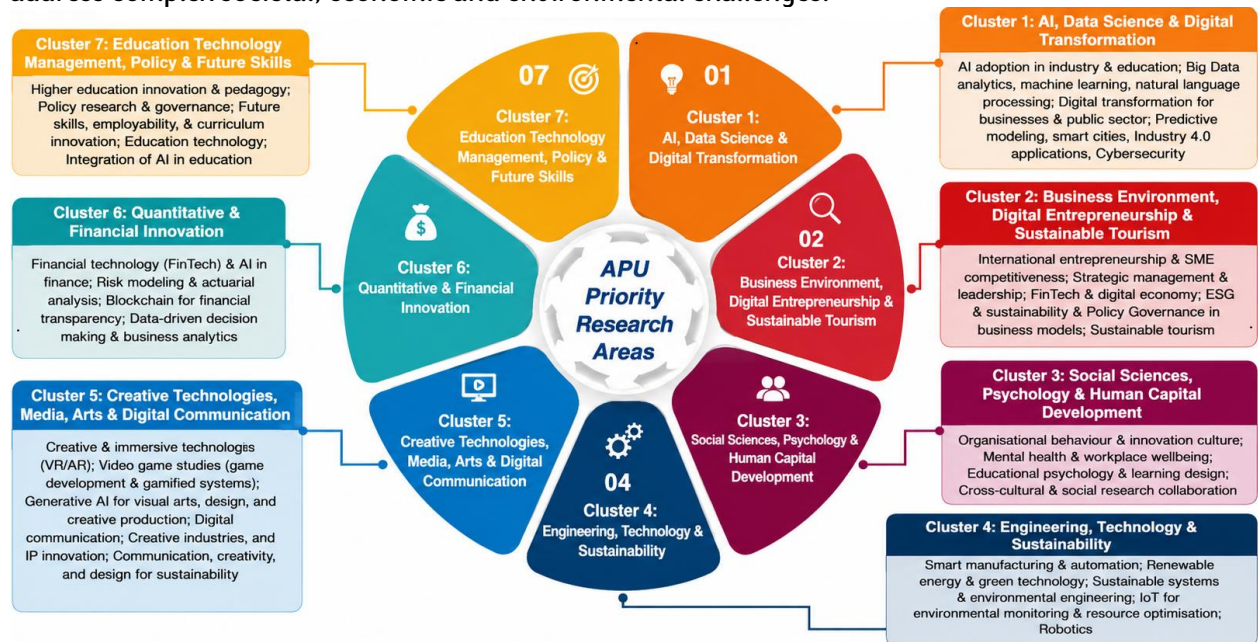
Three researchers from APU's Strategic Research Institute (SRI) have been recognised among the World's Top 5% Scientists in the SciRank Global Scientist Index 2025. Prof. Dr. Hiram Ting, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Jamal Abdullah Al-Ghuri and Asst. Prof. Dr. Nohman Khan were honoured for sustained influence across business, behavioural science, engineering, artificial intelligence and sustainability, strengthening APU's growing global research visibility.

Highlights: Global recognition across disciplines

- Three SRI researchers enter SciRank's Top 5%.
- Recognition spans business, engineering, AI, sustainability and behavioural science.

APU Spearheads Interdisciplinary Research through Strategic Research Clusters

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) continues to strengthen its research ecosystem through seven Strategic Research Clusters designed to advance high-quality, interdisciplinary and globally engaged scholarship. These clusters bring together expertise across APU's academic schools, creating a shared platform where technology, business, engineering, finance, social sciences, creative media, hospitality, psychology, education and digital learning interact to address complex societal, economic and environmental challenges.



Aligned with national priorities and the SDGs, APU's seven research clusters span AI, entrepreneurship, social sciences, engineering, creative technologies, finance and education. Through SRI, APU welcomes universities, researchers, industry, government and NGOs to pursue joint publications, postgraduate supervision, exchanges, multi-institution projects, matching grants and globally relevant research partnerships with impact.

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.

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ABOUT APU

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), Kuala Lumpur, is Malaysia's Premier Digital Tech University and among the first institutions in the nation awarded a QS 5 Stars Plus rating. Its fusion of technology, innovation, creativity and industry-aligned learning prepares graduates for confident careers in changing global environments.

With more than 17,000 students from over 130 countries, APU offers a cosmopolitan community shaped by applied education, research, industry engagement and global partnerships, while nurturing future-ready professionals with a 100% graduate employability rate.



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