

Announcement of the 10th Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development

The Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development (YICMG) is a youth diplomacy initiative designed for higher education institutions and students in the Lancang-Mekong region. It aims to broaden students' vision, enhance their global competence, and cultivate their skills in innovation and entrepreneurship. This competition serves as a channel for mutual understanding among the youth, as well as a mechanism for regional development and youth project incubation.

YICMG2026 is jointly organized by Fudan University, Wuhan University, Shanghai International Culture Association, and other institutions. In July 2026, the Finals will be held in Wuhan, China, with the theme of "Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Industrialization, and Technological Innovation." We now invite passionate and driven students to sign up for the Preliminary to seize this opportunity to contribute their perspectives and ideas to tackle the pressing issues of Infrastructure, Industry, and Technology. Join us in shaping a brighter future for the Lancang-Mekong region and beyond!

I. Rules of the Competition

The Preliminary of YICMG2026 invites undergraduate students to form an Initial Team to develop an innovative Project addressing challenges in the Lancang-Mekong region related to the theme "Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Industrialization, and Technological Innovation."

This year, the preliminary round is organized under the "Six-Country Zone" model, supplemented by a separate "International Organization Track". Approximately 30 outstanding Initial Teams will be selected to advance to the Finals.

Under the "Six-Country Zone" model, all entries must be submitted to the Competition Organizing Committee and will be evaluated independently by each national zone, led by its respective core university. If a country does not have a designated core university for the preliminary round, the Competition Organizing Committee will convene an expert panel to conduct the evaluation.

For the International Organization Track, the Mekong Institute will organize an expert panel to review the submitted projects.

For detailed information on all stages of the competition, please refer to ***Attachment 1***.

II. Eligibility

2.1 Contestants should participate in the Preliminary of YICMG as an Initial Team composed of 2-5 undergraduate students from the same university.

2.2 Each Initial Team should be recommended by 1 or 2 mentors to ensure that the Project is completed by the contestants independently.

2.3 Each Initial Team should obtain the consent of its university to participate in the competition.

2.4 Projects that have already won awards in other similar competitions are not eligible.

III. Registration

3.1 Initial Teams must complete their registration before February 23rd, 2026 at 23:59 (Beijing Time, UTC+8) at the following website:

<https://wj.qq.com/s2/25084975/7bc5/>

Registration after the deadline will not be accepted, unless otherwise invited by the International Organizing Committee.

3.2 Successfully registered Initial Teams will receive a confirmation email within one week.

3.3 During the registration process, if the website goes down, please fill in ***Attachment 2*** and send it to YICMG2026@163.com to complete the registration.

IV. Project Submission

4.1 Project submission is organized by each university's Coordinator.

4.2 Initial Teams must submit their Projects to the university's Coordinator by the internal deadline set by the university. Each submission must include both the original document in docx format and a scanned PDF file with the required signatures. Files should be named “Track Number_Team Leader Name_Project Title”.

4.3 The university's Coordinator is responsible for collecting all submissions, verifying that they meet the requirements, and organizing them. After verification, all docx files should be compiled into one compressed folder, and all PDF files into another compressed folder. The Coordinator must submit both folders to the following link by March 24th, 2026, at 23:59 (Beijing Time, UTC+8):

<https://wj.qq.com/s2/25187651/9925/>

Late submissions will not be accepted, unless otherwise invited by the Competition Organizing Committee.

4.4 Initial Teams from Fudan University should submit their Projects directly to YICMG2026@163.com by March 24th, 2026, at 23:59 (Beijing Time, UTC+8), with the same requirements mentioned above.

4.5 The signatures of the contestants, their mentors and their universities indicate the team's guarantee of the authenticity and originality of all submissions, their agreement to abide by the rules and requirements of the competition, their acknowledgment that any violation will result in disqualification, and their agreement that the Competition Organizing Committee retains the right of further publicity, dissemination, and publication of all the submitted Projects.

4.6 The evaluation process will include AIGC detection. AI tools may only be used for language polishing, while all ideas, content, data, and writing must be independently completed by the contestants. Projects primarily generated by AI will not be accepted.

4.7 During the project submission process, if the website goes down, the submission can be completed by sending the docx and PDF files to the same e-mail address.

V. Project Requirement

Each Initial Team should take into account the theme of the competition (*Attachment*

3) and submit an innovative Project addressing practical governance and development challenges in the Lancang-Mekong region.

Projects may focus either on the Lancang-Mekong region as a whole, taking into account the diverse needs and concerns of the six countries, with feasible and operable solutions or products, or on the domestic context of the team's home country, highlighting national characteristics while demonstrating potential for replication or adaptation in other Lancang-Mekong countries.

The project should consist of the following elements:

5.1 Project Introduction: Introduce the project title and the core content within 500 words.

5.2 Theme Interpretation: Elaborate on the Project's background and strategies in relation to the theme of the competition.

5.3 Problem Analysis: Conduct an in-depth analysis of the issues the Project aims to address, with attention to the practical feasibility and implementability of the proposed solutions. You may also explore aspects such as market analysis, feasibility analysis, or other relevant assessments.

5.4 Project Design: Design a comprehensive and implementable plan which may include a marketing strategy, organizing framework, and budget allocation, or other necessary components.

5.5 Project Outlook: Outline the project's future prospects, including its potential for scaling, replication, or promotion in other relevant contexts, as well as possible opportunities and challenges.

Please use the template provided in ***Attachment 4*** to write your Project and ensure that all formatting requirements are met.

VI. Competition Process

6.1 The results of the Preliminary will be released before May 2026.

6.2 Initial Teams that make it to the Finals will have 5 days to confirm their

participation.

6.3 The Finals of YICMG2026 will be held in Wuhan, China in Mid-July, 2026. Any changes to the schedule will be announced separately.

VII. Frequently Asked Questions

7.1 Are there any fees associated with YICMG?

YICMG does not charge any application fee. The Competition Organizing Committee will cover the fees for the final competition which includes accommodation and one-way travel (to the host city).

7.2 Do contestants have to apply for passports and visas by themselves?

Yes. Passport and visa application shall be done by the contestants. If you have any queries, feel free to contact us. The Competition Organizing Committee will supply essential documents to assist with passport and visa applications.

7.3 Can international students participate in the competition?

Yes. International students can participate in the competition on behalf of their universities.

VIII. Contact Information

You may contact the Competition Organizing Committee if you have any questions:

Competition Organizing Committee of YICMG,

Person in Contact: Ma Yifei, Tang Linhuan

Phone Number: +86-21-65642562

Mail Address: YICMG2026@163.com

Address: Room 604 of Liberal Arts Building, 220 Handan Road, Shanghai, China