



The Competition Rules of the 9th Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development

The theme of the 9th Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development is Equity and Quality in Education.

I. The Preliminary

In the Preliminary, undergraduate students from partner universities should form an Initial Team of 2-3 members within their university. Each Initial Team should take into account the theme of the competition, the specific situation of the governance and development of the Lancang-Mekong region and the domestic conditions of their country, and submit an innovative Project tackling actual problems of the governance and development of the region before the submission deadline. Upon receipt of the Project, the International Organizing Committee (IOC) will arrange for the judges of the International Expert Committee to conduct evaluations and select 25-30 outstanding Initial Teams to advance to the Finals.

II. The Finals

The Finals will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in the summer of 2025 and will be divided into two rounds.

In the first round, contestants will compete as part of their Initial Teams, participating in the "Project Roadshow" and "Project Presentation" sessions. Two awards will be determined during this round: the "Most Valuable Question" and the "Most Creative Team."

In the second round, the International Organizing Committee will randomly divide all contestants into Transnational Teams of 6-9 members each and assign each team with a Project from the Preliminary. Each team should further refine and improve the assigned Project, transforming it into a Transnational Project, and present it in the "Transnational Project Presentation" session. In the second round, two prizes will be awarded: "Best Transnational Team" and "Best Project for Incubation."

2.1 First Round

2.1.1 Project Roadshow

In this session, Initial Teams may present the core strengths and innovations of their Projects through diverse formats, including but not limited to poster exhibitions, simulated demonstrations and detailed explanations. The Organizing Committee strongly encourages teams to use multimedia materials (e.g. videos, prototypes, visual models, minimum viable products, etc.) and cultural elements (e.g. ethnic costumes, traditional dances, local cuisine, etc.) to enrich their roadshow, enhance audience engagement and create an immersive experience.



2.1.2 Project Presentation

After the Project Roadshow, each Initial Team will present its Project through a PPT presentation. Each team will have 10 minutes to present their Project and 5 minutes to answer questions from the judges.

In the first round of the Finals, the winners of two awards: “Most Valuable Question” and “Most Creative Team” will be determined based on both the Project Roadshow and Project Presentation sessions.

2.2 Second Round

2.2.1 Formation of Transnational Teams

The Formation of Transnational Teams will take place after the first round of the Finals. In order to promote mutual exchanges and learning among contestants from different countries, the International Organizing Committee will randomly divide all contestants into Transnational Teams of 6-9 members each and assign each team with a high-scoring Project from the Preliminary. Members of the Transnational Team will work together in the remaining of the Finals to refine and improve the assigned Project, incubating it into a more comprehensive Transnational Project.

2.2.2 Field Trip

During the Field Trip, contestants will visit a number of locations with local characteristics selected by the organizing committee based on the theme of the Finals. The Field Trip is designed to provide valuable opportunities for the contestants to broaden their horizons, engage in mutual learning, and test their theoretical knowledge through practical experience.

2.2.3 Lancang-Mekong Café

In the Lancang-Mekong Café session, judges and entrepreneurship mentors will remain stationed while Transnational Teams rotate between them. Each team will have the opportunity to engage with a different expert every 15-20 minutes, discussing ideas for optimizing their Transnational Projects under the guidance of each expert. This process continues until every team has interacted with all the experts.

2.2.4 Lancang-Mekong Youth Golden Initiative

The Lancang-Mekong Youth Golden Initiative is a youth-led action initiative dedicated to promoting governance and sustainable development within the Lancang-Mekong region. Its aim is to foster consensus, amplify the voices, and encourage collective action of the youth from the six countries. Prior to the Finals, aligning with the theme of the competition, the International Organizing Committee will gather extensive input from contestants to draft an initial Initiative. During the Finals, contestants will engage in in-depth discussions of the draft within their Transnational Teams. The International Organizing Committee and the International Expert Committee will consolidate these discussions into a refined version of the Lancang-Mekong Youth Golden Initiative. This document will be presented by representatives from the six countries at the closing ceremony, and, where appropriate, may also be submitted to higher-level institutions for consideration.



2.2.5 Free Discussion

Free Discussion provides Transnational Teams with an opportunity to collaborate and enhance the Project assigned to them. In this session, team members can brainstorm, share ideas, and refine their Project to ensure it is well-prepared for the upcoming Transnational Project Presentation.

2.2.6 Transnational Project Presentation

In this session, each transnational team will present their finalized Transnational Project through a PPT-based presentation. The teams will have 5 minutes to present and 5 minutes to answer questions from the judges.

During the second round, judges will evaluate the teams based on the quality of their Transnational Project Presentations and their overall performance across all second-round activities. Votes will determine the winners of two awards: "Best Project for Incubation" and "Best Transnational Team," with the results announced at the closing ceremony.

This document is provided solely for reference during the Preliminary and is subject to change. The final right of interpretation rests with the organizer.

