

Gen SEA Summit 2026

“Building Amidst Chaos”

16–18 July 2026 | Khon Kaen, Thailand | Invitation-Only

Co-Hosts	SEA Bridge & Khon Kaen University (KKU via APDS & KKBS)
Venue	Khon Kaen, Thailand (KKU Science Park & KICE)
Co-Hosts	SEA Bridge & Khon Kaen University (KKU — APDS & KKBS)
Concurrent Events	Isan Creative Festival 2026 & Isan Creativity & Innovation Summit (ICIS) 2026
Attendance	350+ curated delegates 10+ countries 50+ partner organisations 30+ universities
Format	Invitation-only; limited seats

01 ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Gen SEA Summit is an annual regional convening bringing together high-potential youth, early-stage ventures, universities, investors, and policymakers across Southeast Asia. The summit provides a structured platform for curated connection, sector-focused dialogue, and actionable partnership that will bear fruit 3-5 years from now.

The 2026 edition is the first held outside Bangkok, hosted in Khon Kaen — Thailand's northeastern gateway city with direct connectivity to Laos, Vietnam, and the Greater Mekong Subregion. The choice of venue reflects the summit's commitment to inclusive regional development and positions Thailand as an ASEAN innovation hub beyond its capital.

The summit runs in conjunction with Isan Creative Festival 2026, one of Thailand's largest creative industry events (321,000+ visitors in 2024), and ICIS 2026, an academic and industry conference hosted by Khon Kaen University.

02 FIVE INDUSTRY OF FOCUS: WFACE

W	Wellness & Longevity	Biohacking, mental wellness, longevity science, and democratising healthy living across ASEAN.
F	Food & Nutrition	Foodtech, clean nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and food innovation.
A	AI & Digital Technology	AI-native platforms, applied technology, and digital frontiers reshaping ASEAN business.
C	Creative Economy & IP	New IP concepts, creative industries, and cultural-economic brand building.
E	Education 5.0 & Global Careers	Future careers, cross-border talent pipelines, and next-generation education systems.

03 WHY THIS MATTERS

For the ASEAN region: Southeast Asia's next generation of builders does not belong to any single country. Gen SEA Summit creates a shared space where youth talent from across the region meets the ecosystem that will support them. For each participating country, it is an opportunity to introduce their best emerging talent to regional partners, investors, and policymakers at the right moment.

For universities and institutions: The summit creates direct pathways between university talent and regional partners, industry, investors, and policymakers, enabling collaboration that extends well beyond the event.

For private sector and sponsors: Early access to a curated pipeline of high-potential ASEAN youth talent and ventures, with structured mechanisms for pilot projects, case sponsorships, and long-term recruitment.

For youth and delegates: A trusted, high-calibre room with peer leaders from 10+ countries, access to mentors and investors, and a direct voice in the post-summit Youth White Paper distributed to ASEAN policymakers.

04 POST-SUMMIT OUTPUTS

Youth-Led White Paper: Co-authored by delegates and distributed to ASEAN ministers, permanent secretaries, ambassadors, and 50+ ecosystem partners. Focused on actionable recommendations, not only concepts by young leaders of our region.

Follow-up commitments: Target: THB 10 million+ in grants, pilots, commercial engagements, and institutional partnerships within six months of the summit.

Talent & venture pipelines: Structured programmes activated through 2026–2027: SEA Bridge Fellowship Programs: ASEAN 1967 Fellowship, Bridge-to-Venture, Bridge-to-Market, and other partner initiatives.

Partnership formalization: Institutional MoUs and collaboration roadmaps progressing into concrete agreements for 2027 and beyond.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

The following programme is indicative. Final scheduling will be confirmed by June 2026.

Day 0 | Thursday, 16 July 2026 — Welcome & City Immersion

Arrival, registration, and welcome by SEA Bridge and KKU
Early access to Isan Creative Festival 2026
Partner welcome dinner (evening)

Day 1 | Friday, 17 July 2026 — InspirationTalks, Panel Discussions & Youth Showcases

09:00 | Opening Ceremony & Keynote Address

Formal opening of Gen SEA Summit 2026
Speaker: Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research & Innovation (Invited)

09:30 – 10:30 | Wellness & Longevity

Keynote talks & panel discussions
Curated youth venture showcase
Speaker: Sector leaders in Wellness & Longevity

10:40 – 11:40 | Food & Nutrition

Keynote talks & panel discussions
Curated youth venture showcase
Speaker: Sector leaders in Food & Nutrition

12:00 – 13:15 | Networking Lunch

Hosted lunch; structured networking by sector and interest area

13:30 – 14:30 | AI & Digital Technology

Keynote talks & panel discussions
Curated youth venture showcase
Speaker: Co-Founder & CTO (Prodvana; exited to Databricks) and other sector leaders in AI & Technology (TBC)

14:40 – 15:40 | Creative Economy & IP

Keynote talks & panel discussions
Curated youth venture showcase
Speaker: Dean of College of Music, Mahidol University and other sector leaders in Creative Economy (TBC)

15:50 – 16:50 | Education 5.0 & Global Careers

Keynote talks & panel discussions
Curated youth venture showcase
Speaker: Sector leaders in Education & Careers

18:30 | Isan Gala & Global Talent Recognition Ceremony

Awards ceremony recognising outstanding youth talent and ventures
Attended by government representatives, partners, and all delegates

Day 2 | Saturday, 18 July 2026 — Alignment, Bilaterals & Deal-Making**09:00 | Opening Speech on ASEAN Youth Entrepreneurship & Cross-Border Innovation Policy**

Opening Speech

*Speaker: Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs (Invited)***Track A — Policy & Partner Roundtables**

Closed-door sessions

Participation by invitation; senior government, institutional, and private sector representatives

*Example topics (illustrative, subject to confirmation):**Thailand–Vietnam 50th Anniversary: Youth Entrepreneurship & Innovation Dialogue**Thailand–Philippines 77th Anniversary & ASEAN Chair 2026**ASEAN–Australia Young Leaders Continuing Dialogue**Sweden / Nordic Innovation Collaboration with Thailand and ASEAN**OECD × ASEAN: Youth, Innovation, and Economic Integration**JCI Network & Regional Youth Leaders***Track B — Investor & Client Meetings**

Curated, pre-matched 1:1 and small-group meetings (not open pitching)

Agenda: early-stage deal discussions, pilot project matching, and talent introductions

Parallel — ICIS 2026 & Isan Creative Festival

Isan Creativity & Innovation Summit (ICIS): 1,000+ academic and industry participants at KKU Science Park

Isan Creative Festival: open to all delegates; creative industry installations and showcases across Khon Kaen