

Concept Paper for the 2026 Student Innovation Showcase

Overview

Stanford University's [Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center](#) (APARC) and the [Ban Ki-moon Foundation for a Better Future](#), with support from the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability and Singapore Management University, are convening the Student Innovation Showcase during the fifth annual [Trans-Pacific Sustainability Dialogue](#) (TPSD) on October 25, 2026 in Singapore to accelerate progress toward ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns — the vision encompassed in [Sustainable Development Goal 12](#) (SDG 12).

Since its [inaugural convening](#) in 2022, the Dialogue has brought together leaders across SDG themes from [energy security](#) (SDG 7); [industry, innovation, and infrastructure](#) (SDG 9); and [sustainable cities and communities](#) (SDG 11) to forge actionable strategies for an equitable future. The 2026 Student Innovation Showcase continues this legacy, positioning youth-led innovation at the heart of global sustainability efforts.

Opportunity

Building on the Dialogue's mission to bridge science, policy, and community action, the Student Innovation Showcase seeks to empower the next generation of leaders to design groundbreaking, integrative design solutions that address unsustainable resource use, waste generation, and inequitable access. By fostering collaboration across technology, policy, and social innovation, the Showcase aims to accelerate progress toward SDG 12's vision of decoupling economic growth and innovation from environmental harm.

With global progress toward SDG 12 lagging as evidenced by rising material footprints and persistent gaps in policy frameworks, the need for scalable, interdisciplinary solutions has never been more urgent. The Student Innovation Showcase responds to this challenge by first elevating youth-led innovations in circular economies, sustainable supply chains, and resource stewardship; bridging divides between high-, middle-, and low-income economies through equitable, context-sensitive design; and leveraging the SDG 12 framework to address systemic inequities and foster science-to-policy and industry connections. Participants will contribute to a growing network of researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders committed to reimagining production and consumption patterns for a just, low-carbon future.

Student Innovation Showcase

Student teams of up to five undergraduate and graduate students from Stanford University, ASEAN nations, and TPSD partner countries, such as South Korea and Mongolia, will pitch solutions aligned with SDG 12 focus areas, including the following: circular economy innovations, energy-efficient technologies, sustainable supply chains and ethical consumption, regenerative food systems, integrative urban design, and behavioral and policy interventions.

Submissions of a package detailing the problem statement, solution, impact, and implementation plan through a 3-page concept note, 3-minute pitch video, and 3 slides will be evaluated for presentation, innovation, feasibility, interdisciplinary integration, and social and sustainable impact by a panel of sustainability, policy, and industry experts. Successful teams will receive the Ban Ki-moon Award, along with networking, mentorship, and incubation opportunities to scale their solutions.