



19th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG) 2026

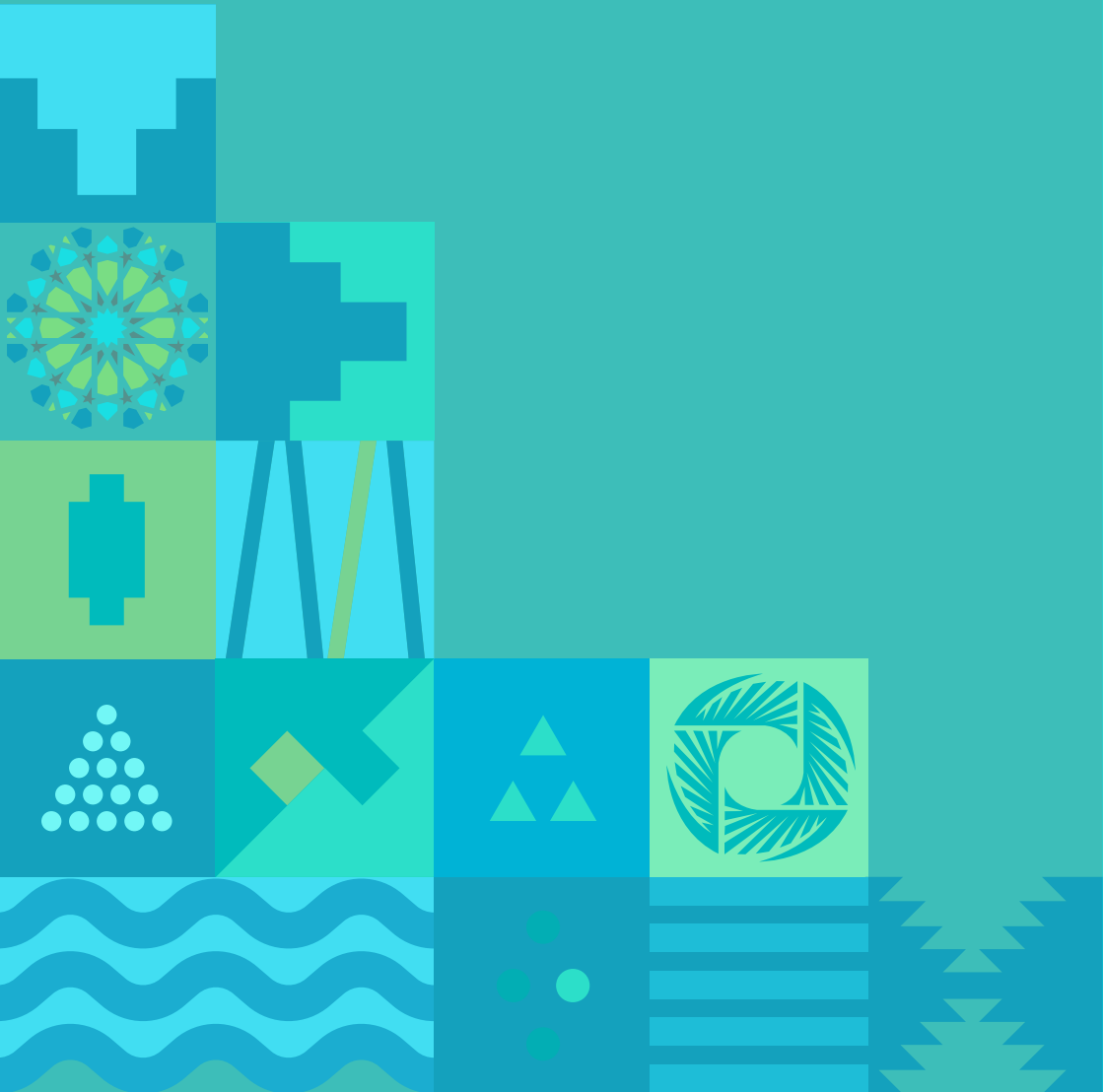
Fast Forward: Building a Better Future
for Gifted Education 2050

7 - 11
February 2026

University of
Business and
Technology (UBT)
Jeddah, Saudi
Arabia

The 19th APCG 2026

Fast Forward: Building a Better Future
for Gifted Education 2050





The 19th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG) 2026

About

The 19th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG) will take place at the University of Business and Technology (UBT), in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from , 7 – 11 February , 2026.

The conference will focus on the future of gifted education, exploring innovative approaches to help gifted individuals reach their full potential by 2050. It aims to foster international collaboration, showcase best practices, and address emerging challenges in the field. The APCG continues to unite a global community of educators, researchers, and thought leaders to shape the future of gifted education in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Key highlights of APCG 2026 include:

- Inspiring Keynotes & Panel Discussions
- Interactive Symposiums & Sessions
- GenAI Youth Summit
- Gifthone: Hackathon on Educational Innovation
- Launch of 1st Global Giftedness Index
- Global Networking Opportunities



APCG2026 MAIN CONFERENCE

“Fast Forward: Building a Better Future for Gifted Education 2050”

At its heart, APCG 2026 is a call to reimagine gifted education in a world that is constantly evolving. With challenges like globalization, emerging technologies, and increasing diversity, the need for adaptable and inclusive approaches has never been more urgent.

The conference will focus on five critical themes:

- Increased Diversity in Gifted Education
- Support for Twice-Exceptional (2e) Learners
- Personalized Learning Pathways
- Future-Ready Skills & Workforce Integration
- Global Collaboration & Equity in Access

With keynote addresses, research symposiums, and collaborative dialogues, the conference promises both **theoretical depth and practical impact**.

We are now inviting educators, researchers, practitioners, and policy experts from around the globe to submit papers that align with the conference central theme, **“Fast Forward: Building a Better Future for Gifted Education 2050”**



Call for Papers

Fast Forward: Building a Better Future for Gifted Education 2050

Sub-Themes:

- Increased Diversity in Gifted Education
- Support for Twice-Exceptional (2e) Learners
- Personalized Learning Pathways
- Future-Ready Skills & Workforce Integration
- Global Collaboration & Equity in Access

Whether your work focuses on inclusive policy, innovative pedagogy, or future-ready talent development, your voice is essential in shaping the vision for 2050. Don't miss this chance to be part of a transformative movement in gifted education.

Dates: 7 - 11
February, 2026

Venue: UBT
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Register for the conference
& submit your paper!

Visit us:
<https://apcg-2026saudiArabia.org>



APCG 2026 Keynote Sessions World Renowned Keynote Speakers



Abdullah Dahlan
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
University of Business and Technology,
Saudi Arabia



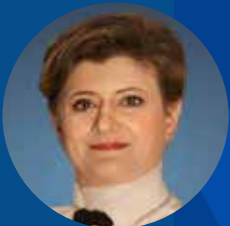
Abdullah Aljughaiman
Professor of Gifted Education at King
Faisal University, Saudi Arabia



Alaa Eldin Ayoub
Professor at Arabian Gulf University,
Bahrain



Albert Ziegler
Chair Professor of Educational
Psychology at Friedrich-Alexander
University Erlangen Nürnberg, Germany



Basma El Zein
Director General of Techno-Valley,
University of Business and Technology,
Saudi Arabia



Ching-Chih Kuo
Professor at National Taiwan
Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan



Elena Grigorenko
Professor of Psychology at the
University of Houston, USA



Heidrun Stoeger
Chair Professor for School Research,
School Development & Evaluation at
the University of Regensburg, Germany



Janchai Yingprayoon
Prince of Songkla University,
Consultant for Teaching and Research,
Faculty of Science and Industrial
Technology, Thailand



Sir Edward Byrne
Professor at King Abdulla
University of Science and
Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia



Jae Yup Jung
Professor at the School
of Education, University of
New South Wales, Australia



Lucie Cerna
Senior Analyst Equity,
Inclusions & Transitions,
Directorate of Education
& Skills, OECD

APCG 2026 Keynote Sessions

World Renowned Keynote Speakers



Rena Subotnik
Research Associate, Academic
Talent Development Program,
University of Berkeley, USA



Sung-il Kim
Professor of Education & Director
of Brain & Motivation Research
Institute (bMRI), Korea University,
South Korea



Todd Lubart
Professor of Psychology,
University de Paris, France





Pre-Conference Workshops

The Pre-Conference Workshops, will offer participants an engaging start to APCG 2026 through expert-led, hands-on sessions. Designed to provide practical strategies and fresh perspectives in gifted education, these workshops give participants the chance to dive deeper into key topics, connect with global experts, and enhance their overall conference experience.

Pre-Conference Workshops

Speaker	Workshop Title
Alaa Eldin Ayoub Professor at Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain	Developing Assessment Tools to Evaluate Gifted Programs
Basma El Zein Director of Techno-Valley, University of Business and Technology, Saudi Arabia	Hackathon Blueprint: From Planning to Execution
Fahd Al-Muaibali King Faisal University	Methods of Identifying and Supporting Twice-Exceptional Students
Hoda Husseiny Professor in Education, Academy of Educational Specialists Riyam Chaar Professor in Educational Leadership, Arkansas State University, Qatar Hasan Hajar KPI Training Director Centre, Lebanon	School Wide Enrichment Model (SEM) A Professional Development Workshop
Janchai Yingprayoon Prince of Songkla University, Consultant for Teaching and Research, Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology	Enhancing Creativity in Science Curricula in an Enjoyable Way
Malak Al-Abdul Latif Gifted Education Researcher, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia	Designing Gifted Programs: Principle and Modern Models
Paromita Roy Deputy Director of Jagadis Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS), India	Enhancing Leadership Among Gifted Students: Strategies and Skills

APCG2026 Symposiums Collaborative Dialogues Shaping the Future of Gifted Education

As a key feature of the APCG 2026 program, symposiums will bring together thought leaders, researchers, and practitioners to engage in dynamic, topic-focused discussions that explore critical issues, innovations, and research in gifted education. These sessions aim to foster collaboration, challenge perspectives, and generate actionable ideas that can be implemented across diverse educational landscapes.

We are honored to collaborate with a select group of **Symposium Partners**—leading institutions and organizations whose expertise and vision are helping to shape these pivotal conversations. Through their involvement, each symposium promises to deliver depth, relevance, and real-world impact.



Global Giftedness Index (GGI)

Launch of the First Global Giftedness Index (GGI)
One of the most impactful initiatives of APCG 2026 will be the launch of the Global Giftedness Index—the first of its kind.

The purpose of the Global Giftedness Index is to:

Promote Policy Reform: Inform evidence-based strategies for inclusive education.

Benchmark Global Progress: Compare how nations identify and support gifted learners.

Empower Youth: Position giftedness as a driver for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and future-of-work readiness.

Drive Equity and Opportunity: Highlight underserved regions & demographic gaps.



**WE
BUILD
THE
FUTURE**

APCG2026 GenAI Youth Summit

"The Next Generation of Thinkers"

The GenAI Youth Summit 2026 is a 5-day immersive learning journey for students aged 12–15 from across the globe designed to spark the minds and values of tomorrow's innovators.

With the theme **"GenAI: The Next Generation of Thinkers,"** the summit invites youth to explore how Artificial Intelligence intersects with ethics, nature, and culture.

From building AI models and storytelling with data, to decoding ancient inventions and solving local problems through logic-based challenges, students will dive into hands-on projects that blend cognitive science, culture, innovation, and future forward thinking.

Across five dynamic days, participants will reflect deeply, collaborate creatively, and emerge with the tools—and mindset—to shape technology that serves humanity.

Who Can Join?

- Students aged 12–15 years
- 10 students + 1 sponsored teacher chaperone to be selected from each country

Important Dates

Registration Opens: 25 April 2025

Paid Registration Closes: 15 December 2025

GenAI Youth Summit: 7 -11 February 2026



Register for
Youth Summit!



APCG2026 GenAI Youth Summit

Youth Summit Registration

GenAI Youth Summit 2026 is open to students aged 12–15 from all around the globe. Each participating country will select 10 students and 1 teacher chaperone to attend this immersive experience.

Registration Fees

SAR 1,200 per participant

- Includes accommodation, meals, and local transport
- Includes educational materials, sessions by leading experts & field activities
- Excludes flights, visa, and insurance expenses, which must be arranged and covered by participants or their schools.

How to Register:

All registration submissions must be made by schools or educational institutions on behalf of students via the official registration form. After registration, payment should be made accordingly on the website.

Registration Details:

- Individual registrations will not be accepted.
- Schools are encouraged to nominate students who display creativity, curiosity, and willingness to collaborate and explore new ideas.



Register for
Youth Summit!

Youth Summit Schedule		
Day & Theme	Sessions	Field Activities
7 February 2026 Let's Discover AI And The Mind 	AI basics & brain memory foundations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is AI? Stories & role play • Teachable machine intro: First AI project • Dreambot sketch: Draw your dream robot • Mission kickoff: Team up & problem brainstorming 	Arabic storytelling circle 
8 February 2026 Inspiration from the Past 	Arab innovation, memory in literature & math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reflection: What inspires me to create? • Emotion quest: Build a simple emotion recognition game • Poster creation: Connect Arab invention to AI today 	Field trip to King Abdullah Museum (KAUST) Arabic calligraphy & number games 
9 February 2026 Nature, Ethics & AI 	AI for good, strategy, memory & ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics discussion: Is all tech good? • Build AI model: From ecosystems to environmental threats • Campfire talk: How can AI protect nature? 	Desert trip & storytelling Stargazing & cultural reflection 
10 February 2026 Imagine the Future 	Creativity, memory, capacity & project refinement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI maker time: Build & refine AI final projects • GenAI recap: Reflection on youth summit experience • Pitch ready: Rehearse your pitch & talent night 	Beach visit: Clean-up game & ocean reflection 
11 February 2026 GenAI Celebration 	Expression, confidence & engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo day: Team project pitches & Q+A session • Celebration: Award ceremony & family picnic 	Evening travels 



Gifthone APCG2026 Hackathon on Educational Innovation

APCG 2026 will feature a Gifthone, a pre-conference hackathon on educational innovation. The Gifthone invites **students, educators, and developers between 15-30 years old** to co-create innovative solutions to real-world challenges in education. Finalists from the pre-conference event will be invited and sponsored to attend the Gifthone finale at APCG 2026, where they will pitch their ideas to a global audience of thought leaders and changemakers.

Theme: Educational Innovation

● Student & Faculty - The Human Core

Nurturing the values, wellness, health, and inclusivity of learners and educators.



● Pedagogy - The Quality of Education

The teaching and learning approaches, cultivating values, critical thinking, and peace building.



● Infrastructure - The Enabling Environment

Sustainable and tech-driven infrastructure supporting accessibility, resilience and environmental responsibility.



● Resources & Materials - The Content Ecosystem

The curricula, tools, and industry linkages that foster relevance, adaptability and innovations.



Important Dates

Gifthone Application Opens: 25 April 2025
Gifthone Application Closes: 15 June 2025
Virtual Gifthone Runs: August 2025 – January 2026
In-person Finale: 7 to 11 February 2026



Call For Mentors

Are you a researcher, educator, innovator, entrepreneur or professional passionate about nurturing talent?

We are looking for mentors to guide the next generation of gifted youth and young professionals as they compete in the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG2026) Gifthone—a global hackathon to reshape the future of education.

Why Mentor?

- Be part of a landmark international event
- Expand your network
- Make a lasting impact on future innovators

What's your Role?

- Mentor teams of young change makers
- Guide project development
- Offer feedback and guidance
- Help shape solutions to real-world educational challenges

Field of Expertise Needed

- **Education & Tech** – learning, pedagogy, tools
- **AI & Innovation** – smart cities, clean energy
- **Psychology & Wellbeing** – mental and physical health
- **Business & Impact** – startups, social change
- **Policy & Sustainability** – law, climate solutions



Apply before 1st September!





Conference Field Visits

School Visits: A Glimpse into
audi Arabia's Gifted Education in Action



Conference Field Visits

School Visits: A Glimpse into Saudi Arabia's Gifted Education in Action

As part of the conference experience, participants will have the opportunity to visit selected schools in Jeddah recognized for their innovative approaches to identifying and nurturing gifted students.

These visits offer a first-hand look at Saudi Arabia's evolving gifted education landscape—highlighting enriched curricula, talent development programs, and national strategies that support high-potential learners. It is a chance to witness theory put into practice, and to engage with educators and students shaping the future of learning in the Kingdom.



Why Visit Jeddah?

Where Modernity and Culture Meet

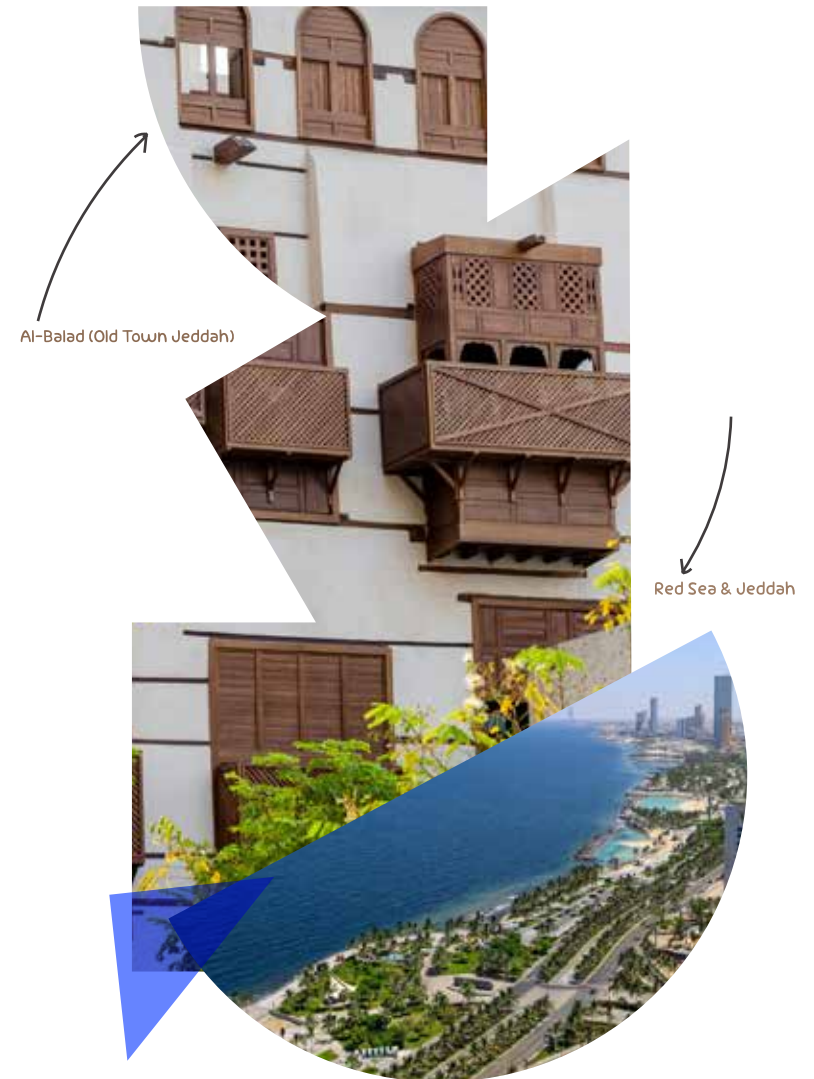
As the host city of APCG2026, Jeddah offers delegates the chance to explore one of Saudi Arabia's most dynamic cities—a coastal hub where heritage and modernity meet. Beyond the conference, visitors can enjoy its historic sites, cultural landmarks, and scenic Red Sea views.

Al-Balad (Old Town Jeddah) A UNESCO World Class Heritage

Al-Balad is the historic heart of Jeddah, known for its distinctive coral-stone architecture and intricately carved wooden balconies. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this area offers a glimpse into the city's rich heritage, with landmarks such as Nassif House and bustling traditional markets lining its narrow alleys.

The Red Sea & Jeddah Corniche A Coastal Escape with Marine Wonders

Jeddah's coastline along the Red Sea is renowned for its crystal-clear waters and vibrant marine life. The Corniche promenade offers scenic views, public art, and recreational paths, while boat tours and snorkeling excursions allow visitors to experience the region's coral reefs and underwater beauty.



Why Visit Jeddah?

Where Modernity and Culture Meet

Souq Al Alawi Traditional Markets with Timeless Charm

Souq Al Alawi, located in the old city, is one of the oldest and most authentic markets in the Kingdom. It features a wide array of traditional goods, including textiles, incense, jewelry, and local crafts. The souq also provides a cultural experience through its lively atmosphere and offerings of Arabic coffee and dates.



Why Visit Jeddah?

Where Modernity and Culture Meet

Museums of Jeddah Windows into the Region's History

Tayebat Museum: A cultural museum featuring regional history, Islamic artifacts, traditional clothing, and architectural displays from across the Arabian Peninsula.

Museum of Home Arts: A collection of historical furnishings and household items that reflect traditional life in Jeddah before the modern era.

Desert Camping A Tranquil Escape Under the Stars

Just beyond the city limits, Jeddah's desert offers a tranquil retreat among golden dunes and open skies. Enjoy traditional Bedouin hospitality, bonfires, and stargazing in a setting that blends adventure with calm. It's a unique way to experience the natural beauty of Saudi Arabia.



Museums of Jeddah

Desert

Museum of Home Arts



Old Traditional
Houses In Jeddah City

Join us for APCG2026! Fast Forward: Building a Better Future for Gifted Education 2050

Let this be your opportunity to engage, contribute, and connect with global efforts to support gifted learners—now and into the future.

Register for Main Conference

Connect with
global experts to
explore giftedness,
inclusion &
innovation



Submit Your Paper/ Abstract

Abstract & paper
submission
now open. Open to
educators,
scholars & practitioners
worldwide



Register for GenAI Youth Summit

A 5-day immersive
program for
students aged 12-15
from all across the
globe



Important Dates:

Call for Papers Deadline: 30 September 2025

Youth Summit Registration Deadline: 15 December 2025

Main Conference Deadline: 15 January 2026

APCG2026 Main Conference : 7 to 11 February 2026

Contact Information

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