



# 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> APCG 2026

**Fast Forward:** Building a Better Future  
for Gifted Education 2050





The 19<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG) 2026

## About

The 19<sup>th</sup> 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’s 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!

Visit us:  
<https://apcg2026-saudi-arabia.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
<b>Abdullah Al-Omari</b> PhD Student in Gifted Education, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia	The Hidden Code of Creativity: Co-Creation between Gifted Learners and Generative AI
<b>Alaa Eldin Ayoub</b> Professor at Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain	Developing Assessment Tools to Evaluate Gifted Programs
<b>Basma El Zein</b> Director of Techno-Valley, University of Business and Technology, Saudi Arabia"	Hackathon Blueprint: From Planning to Execution
<b>Eng. Sami Al Hussayen</b> Managing Partner, Thakaat, Saudi Arabia	Harnessing AI in Gifted Education: Enhancing Research and Program Design
<b>Fahad Ali Almuaili</b> Specialist in Gifted Education, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia	Methods of Identifying and Supporting Twice-Exceptional Students
<b>Hamed Aziz Hamed Al-Shehri</b> Educator and Researcher in Gifted Education, Ministry of Education, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia	Parental Care for Diverse Populations of Gifted Students
<b>Hasan Hajar:</b> KPI Training Director Center, Lebanon <b>Hoda Hussein:</b> Professor in Education, Academy of Educational Specialists <b>Riyam Chaar:</b> Professor in Educational Leadership, Arkansas State University, Qatar	School Wide Enrichment Model (SEM) A Professional Development Workshop
<b>Janchai Yingprayoon</b> Prince of Songkla University, Consultant for Teaching and Research, Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology"	Enhancing Creativity in Science Curricula in an Enjoyable Way
<b>Kimberley L. Chandler</b> Director of Academics and tudent Life, John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, USA	Curriculum Development in Gifted Education: Supporting the Needs of Advanced Learners
<b>Malak Al-Abdul Latif</b> Gifted Education Researcher, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia"	Designing Gifted Programs: Principle and Modern Models
<b>Paromita Roy</b> Deputy Director of Jagadis Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS), India	Enhancing Leadership Among Gifted Students: Strategies and Skills

Register for  
Pre-Conference Workshop





## 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.



# Symposium Partners





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







## Gifthone APCG2026 Hackathon on Educational Innovation

APCG 2026 will feature 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 their 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 to be a Mentor



APCG 2026 JEDDAH





## Conference Field Visits

School Visits: A Glimpse into

Saudi 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*

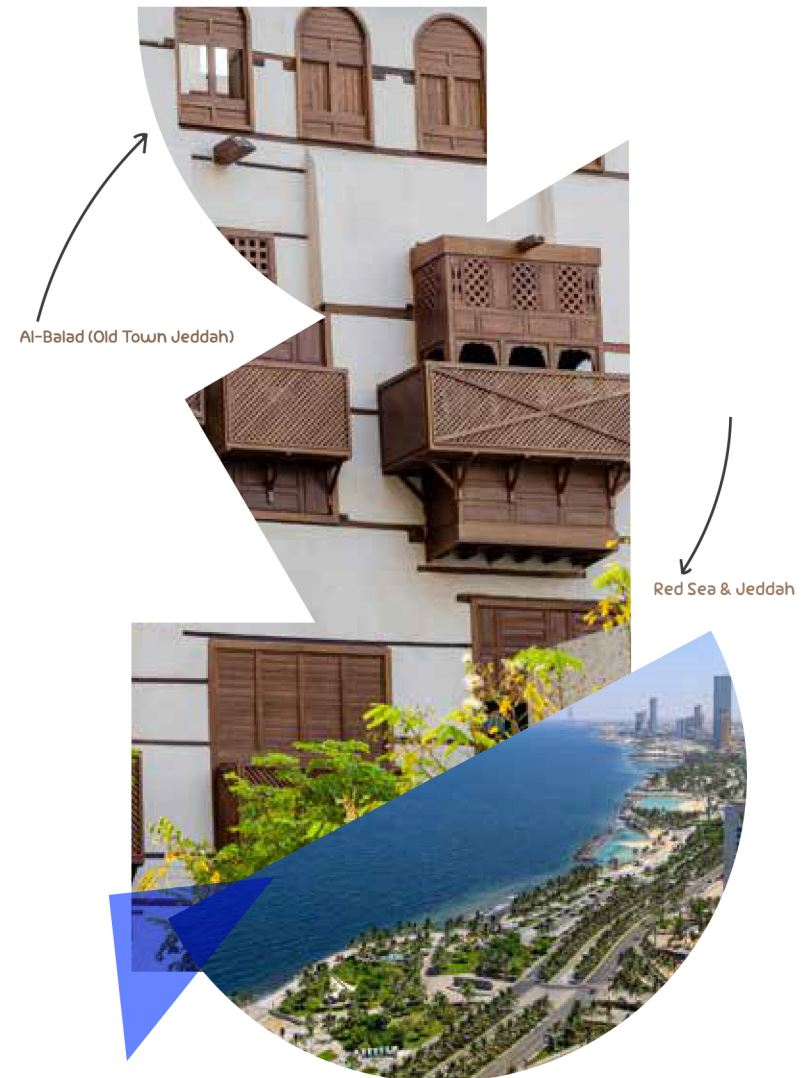
As the host city of APCG2026, Jeddah offers delegates the chance to explore one of Saudi Arabia's most dynamic cities—a coastal hub where heritage and modernity meet. Beyond the conference, visitors can enjoy its historic sites, cultural landmarks, and scenic Red Sea views.

### 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.







## 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



Apply to be a  
Gifthone Mentor



Register for  
GenAI Youth Summit



Register for  
Pre-Conference Workshop



### Important Dates:

APCG2026 Early Bird Registration Deadline: 15 December 2025

APCG2026 Regular Registration Deadline: 15 January 2026

Youth Summit Registration Deadline: 15 December 2025

APCG2026 Main Conference: 7 – 11 February 2026

### Contact Information

[info@apcg2026-saudiArabia.org](mailto:info@apcg2026-saudiArabia.org)

[www.apcg2026-saudiArabia.org](http://www.apcg2026-saudiArabia.org)





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