

THE AWARDS
ASIA
2022



The winners

Introduction



Universities have never been more needed than they are now. That's not a new sentiment, but it's worth restating.

As the world works to recover from the Covid pandemic's devastating impact, the countries that will be most successful in restoring the health of their populations, their economies and their wider societies will find accomplished guides to new and better futures in our higher education institutions.

This is the fourth year for the *Times Higher Education Awards Asia*, which have already showcased many wonderful examples of universities doing what they do best: adapting brilliantly to novel challenges. Throughout, their core missions remain the same: cultivating new ideas; helping students grow into productive and engaged citizens; working collaboratively to tackle problems locally, nationally and internationally; and contributing to efforts to build strong and resilient societies in which people can flourish.

There is no shortage of challenges, and geopolitical uncertainties threaten more upheaval, but the evidence in this brochure attests that Asia's universities are equipped with the vision, resources and will to rise to any task.

I'd like to thank the judges this year, and particularly our esteemed external panel for bringing their talents to the process. With their experience and critical insight, they rigorously assessed nearly 500 entries – a mammoth undertaking leavened by the delight of discovering such a wealth of quality and innovation. The stories that follow are the cream of the crop. We found them fascinating and inspiring, and we hope you do as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Baty". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Phil Baty, chief knowledge officer
Times Higher Education

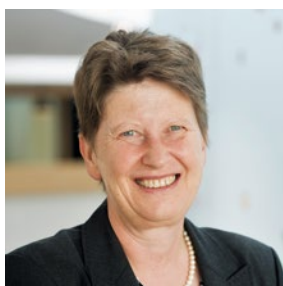


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Judges



Christine Ennew
Provost,
University of Warwick



Simon Marginson
Director,
*ESRC/OFSRE Centre
for Global Higher
Education, department
of education,
University of Oxford*



Yuko Harayama
Professor emeritus,
Tohoku University



Timothy Tong
CEO,
AMTD Foundation



Bashir Makhoul
President and
vice-chancellor,
*University for the
Creative Arts*



Leadership and Management Team of the Year

Nanyang Technological University
Singapore

A process of digital transformation and administrative reform launched at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 2017 meant that when Covid-19 hit hard, the university was ready.

“We were able to respond rapidly, prioritising the safety and well-being of 40,000 students and employees while ensuring learning and business continuity,” the university explained in its winning submission.

The reforms, designed to ensure that the university was more focused on its stakeholders, have resulted in improved organisational effectiveness, better use of technology to enhance learning and collaboration, and more teamwork and consultation in the leadership team. Alongside other senior appointments, a chief administrative officer was brought in to lead change, and that role has since been elevated to senior vice-president, administration.

As well as transforming its technology infrastructure and administration, NTU also made a bold and powerful commitment to a sustainable future. In 2021, it became the world’s first university to publicly issue a sustainability-linked bond, under a 10-year, S\$1 billion (£564 million) medium-term note programme. At the same time, NTU announced a new Sustainability Manifesto to guide its sustainability efforts over the next 15 years.

Our judges said NTU had “achieved an outstanding rate and quality of development in recent years and has become one of the global leaders of the sector”. The panel concluded: “NTU clearly showed that it is reflexively innovating in many areas. The pandemic has been handled well, and the innovations in teaching and learning are impressive.”



Workplace of the Year

Seoul National University *South Korea*

Some challenges are common to universities everywhere, which makes innovative approaches to tackling them of global interest.

One such challenge is how best to engage and mentor younger members of staff, who represent the future of a university but can feel excluded from its decision-making.

In April 2021, Seoul National University (SNU) set out to address this with those who were early in their careers as university administrators, and to find ways to bring their ideas and perspectives into institutional plans.

This initiative was led by the University Innovation Centre, which launched the SNU Junior Board with a view to tackling the sense of a “generation gap” within the workforce, bringing together staff in their twenties and thirties to help develop new strategies to address university-wide challenges.

Gathering every month despite the disruption of the Covid pandemic, the Junior Board addressed issues including workplace culture and environmental, social and governance matters.

As part of the scheme, a new mentoring programme was established; in a two-month pilot, this brought together senior and junior staff from 14 university departments.

The judges praised SNU for looking beyond the immediate demands of the pandemic to address broader workplace issues that were fundamental to the future success of the university.

They said: “The Junior Board was a way to expose younger staff to a range of university issues and give them the opportunity to understand institutional challenges, suggest solutions and share ideas and expertise. The model builds and empowers a staff network, and there is evidence that the ideas generated are feeding through to senior management.”



International Strategy of the Year

İzmir Institute of Technology
Turkey

Like many universities, İzmir Institute of Technology's internationalisation efforts were formerly restricted to exchange programmes and ad hoc initiatives by individual faculty members. However, a new executive board has shaken this up, injecting a fresh outlook and powerful new ideas into the institution's strategy.

Two main goals underlie the approach: prioritising science diplomacy and science ambassadors to further regional and international peace; and establishing İzmir as a magnet for international talent that can help to reverse the brain drain caused by the challenges of the region.

To ensure that staff would embrace its new policy, the Turkish university implemented a restructure, appointing an adviser to the rector with full responsibility for internationalisation, creating vice-chairs of internationalisation in each department, and doubling the number of staff in the International Relations Office.

It also expanded its membership of global networks to encompass all regions, introduced

a flexible online registration process for international students in response to the pandemic, and provided on-campus accommodation and start-up research grants to international faculty to help compensate for their salaries, which are set by the state and cannot be higher than that of their Turkish peers (at a time when the Turkish lira has been losing value).

These initiatives have already been effective. İzmir has achieved more than a sixfold increase in internationally funded research and the number of associated scientific publications; tripled its number of full-time international undergraduates and become an attractive destination for students from the region's more fragile states; and boosted the number of international academics by 50 per cent.

The judges said İzmir was implementing an "outstanding strategy" that operated "under difficult circumstances", noting that "many of its achievements have been evidenced both numerically and qualitatively".

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Teaching and Learning Strategy of the Year

Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong

Engaging with and supporting communities beyond the campus boundary is seen as a central role of universities. But for many institutions, this remains an add-on involving only a small number of staff and students.

Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), however, has institutionalised civic engagement by placing it at the core of its education strategy. As part of the university's drive to foster civic-minded students, it introduced to the undergraduate curriculum a service learning programme that combines academic learning with active community service. This enables students to apply their classroom knowledge to the benefit of society, while teaching them how to collaborate and solve problems – skills that will help them to play an active role in society.

Since it launched in 2012, nearly 29,000 students have enrolled on the programme, contributing more than 1 million service hours to projects that include providing STEM education to an online

tele-engineering initiative focused on designing and installing energy-efficient stoves and solar power provision in rural villages in Rwanda. The university has recognised 48 service learning staff with teaching and service awards, while the programme itself has been widely praised by industry bodies in Hong Kong and overseas.

The judges said the service learning programme “gives students a chance to apply what they have learned in their professional fields to solving real-life problems. In this way, PolyU instils a sense of social responsibility in its students.”



THE DataPoints Impact Award

Diponegoro University
Indonesia

Despite the world's attention being firmly fixed on the search for answers to the Covid crisis in the past couple of years, universities have continued to lead the battle against climate change through their cutting-edge research, but also on-campus measures addressing issues such as energy use, transport and environmental policies. To highlight those universities in Asia that have been taking sustainability to heart, our team examined *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings data to assess which institutions in the region scored highest in terms of setting an example in the race to net zero.

To do this, we concentrated on the four United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals with Impact metrics that can be linked to institutional efforts on climate change and the environment: SDG 7 (access to affordable and clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and, most relevantly, SDG 13 (climate action).

By assessing universities' own actions in areas including energy efficiency and sustainability, environmental education and net zero carbon commitments, we were able to single out some of those going the extra mile.

Represented on the shortlist were five nations or regions, with a strong performance from institutions in Indonesia, a country that faces particular challenges from climate change. The winner of the *THE* DataPoints Impact Award is Diponegoro University, an institution in Semarang, central Java, which performed impressively well on the climate action SDG in the 2021 rankings data, combining strong scores for net zero carbon emissions targets, low-carbon energy use and environmental education.



THE DataPoints Research Improvement Award

Savitribai Phule Pune University
India

Research performance in many parts of Asia has been on an upward trajectory in recent years, aided by government and industry investment, and the results have helped to fuel some of the world's most rapidly developing economies. Some of the universities at the leading edge of this change are now firmly established as top 100 institutions in the overall *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings. But others that have rapidly raised their research game have received little recognition for their efforts.

To highlight some of these underrated performers, the data team at *THE* dug into its wealth of university rankings data and explored the underlying figures on research – in terms of quantity and quality. The analysis identified eight institutions that have significantly boosted their research capacity or have left a noticeable footprint in terms of their impact.

Among this shortlist, which spread across five nations or regions, were India's Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, which has used international collaborations in key fields such as food security and advanced manufacturing to drive performance forward, and China's Wuhan University, whose scientists were at the leading edge of emerging research in the wake of the 2020 coronavirus outbreak.

However, India's Savitribai Phule Pune University came out on top after a boost in its research performance that, according to the rankings data, has been founded mainly on greater productivity but also gains in citation impact. The institution – whose biggest disciplines by research volume are computer science and engineering – also doubled its scholarly output between 2011 and 2020. It has also boosted the share of its research that is among the most highly cited, helping it to beat the world average for field-weighted citation impact in 2018 and 2020.



Excellence and Innovation in the Arts

Lahore University of Management Sciences *Pakistan*

An interdisciplinary project at Lahore University of Management Sciences creatively united cultural heritage and historical research practice with cutting-edge technologies to help bring to life artefacts from Pakistan's Sikh period, in the process creating new opportunities for collaboration beyond the university.

Materials from the iconic Lahore Fort's Sikh Gallery were given a visual online showcase in Sikh Virsa Pakistan, the first website of its kind in the region, which narrates a journey through Sikh culture and history. The project aims to make culture more accessible and relevant, bringing the arts to new audiences.

Sikh Virsa Pakistan has led to the creation of a new undergraduate history course that has engaged students in the humanities,

social sciences and pure sciences in learning to use computer software to complement traditional research and learning methods. It has also inspired other museums to develop similar projects.

Describing the initiative as “impactful and collaborative”, the judges said: “Through internal, multidisciplinary collaboration between the computer science and history departments, a new project has emerged – a new but not necessarily exclusive way of looking at and reading history.”



Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Burapha University
Thailand

When the pandemic was raging and hospitals were struggling to contain the spread of disease, Thailand's Burapha University stepped in with a platform that allowed doctors to monitor thousands of patients remotely.

To date, more than 45,000 patients who were in Covid-19 isolation have used the "WeSAFE@HOME" platform created by Burapha's Faculty of Engineering. Patients are able to submit their vital signs and daily medical developments to a doctor, and WeSAFE@HOME allows a single physician to monitor up to 100 patients at a time – compared with 15 or 20 in conventional care.

Burapha University Hospital also benefited from the technology, which facilitated the continuation of essential training and care involving its student nurses and nursing teaching staff, who were

unable to see patients in person because of Covid-19 safety precautions. Nurses' ability to liaise with patients remotely considerably relieved the workload on front-line medical staff.

Beyond its usefulness in responding to the pandemic, the platform is an indispensable tool in countries such as Thailand, where many remote and rural areas lack sufficient medical care. In addition to being used in leading Thai medical centres such as Chulalongkorn Hospital, the technology has been used further afield, in smaller district hospitals in Chiang Rai and Suphan Buri provinces.

Judges praised Burapha for its "timely and innovative response to the needs of hospitals" and for enabling the university's teaching hospital to mobilise "hidden medical resources" in the form of nurses working remotely.

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Seeds for the Future Program in Thailand

Global ICT Human Resource Development Program

Seeds for the Future is Huawei's flagship global CSR program. The program was launched in 2008 and 12,000 students from 139 countries and regions participated in the past 13 years. The program in 2021 gathered over 3500 students from more than 117 countries. Seeds for the Future aims to nurture global ICT talent and develop bridge communication between countries and cultures.

The program provides students from various countries with the opportunity to learn about fields of digital technologies such as 5G, AI, and semiconductors etc. It also promotes a greater understanding and interest in the telecommunications field. Though ICT expertise and experience sharing in the global business environment, and students' accumulation of ICT expertise and skills will contribute to the development of the global ICT industry.



Program Schedule



2022 in August

Target Audience

Science Student/graduate student in Japan. GPA 3.0 or above
(Number of Participants:12)

Language

English (The class will be organized with students from more than 3 countries)

How to participate

Training camp in Thailand (1 week)

Participation fee

Free (Huawei will cover costs including travel and accommodation costs.)

Application Material

- A resume
- A transcript that proofs academic records
- A cover letter (400-600 words) and/or a 3-minute personal video demonstrating your interest in ICT and in China, and your suitability and enthusiasm for the program.
- An online interview might be necessary in some cases.
- Other materials. (e.g. Academic paper)

June 22

How to Apply

Applications must be sent before 20th June 2022, outcomes will be released on 11th July. Please send your resume and other required materials to the following email.

● **Email: Yu.Yang@huawei.com**

- There is no obligation in lieu of taking the class.
- After completion, an electronic completion certificate is awarded.
- Huawei gift to Participants.

Outstanding Support for Students

Taylor's University Malaysia

Supporting students' well-being and providing them with a sense of purpose were the key goals of the Malaysian university that topped this category.

To achieve those goals, Taylor's University created a three-part programme. The first part focused on individual students' mental health, including providing psychosocial support in the form of twice-yearly welfare calls, counselling sessions, self-help tools and mindfulness activities.

The second part aimed to increase the sense of community in the student body through monthly social events, a communal pantry where students could share food, and clubs to help students meet peers.

The final element was a community project that sought to tackle menstruation poverty among refugees living in Malaysia. In 2021, more than 1,900 reusable pads were made by students and refugees and donated to more than 1,000 women.

Student-made resources were also distributed to non-governmental organisations to facilitate their own pad-making workshops. This project aimed to increase students' sense of purpose through responding to community needs.

A survey found that 95 per cent of students who participated in the programme reported a positive impact on their emotional well-being.

The judges remarked that "the three linked components – individual support, community-building and prosocial behaviour – have a clear logic, and there is a diversity of initiatives, particularly in the context of the first two. The externally focused work to build a sense of purpose has important impacts for female refugees in Malaysia."



Student Recruitment Campaign of the Year

Amity University Online India

The barriers to women's success in the workplace remain strong, and in countries such as India they are perhaps particularly high.

In a bid to tackle this – and in light of survey results showing that women are half as likely as men to sign up for digital education – Amity University Online marketed its courses as a “second chance” for women to pursue their dreams.

Kicking off a high-profile online campaign on International Women's Day, Amity shared the story of online MBA student Sneha Sharma – a Formula 4 racer and pilot – with more than 400,000 women. That was the first of many success stories that were shared to highlight women who had restarted their careers after a break or continued learning alongside their jobs.

This was backed up by a week-long series of events led by female industry leaders on Instaclass, which provides bite-sized learning via Instagram.

Amity also introduced a 20 per cent scholarship for women seeking to return to the workplace across all of its courses, and more than 300 women have taken advantage of it.

And the university introduced a referral system allowing friends, families and colleagues to direct would-be students to potential courses, creating a supportive environment for study and upskilling.

Our judges noted Amity's success in “reaching out to female working professionals and providing educational opportunities that might otherwise not be available to them”.

In conclusion, the judging panel said: “The systematic approach consisting of recognition, rewards and relationship components has resulted in broad awareness of their student recruitment campaign, and more than 300 female working professionals have enrolled in their programmes.”



