

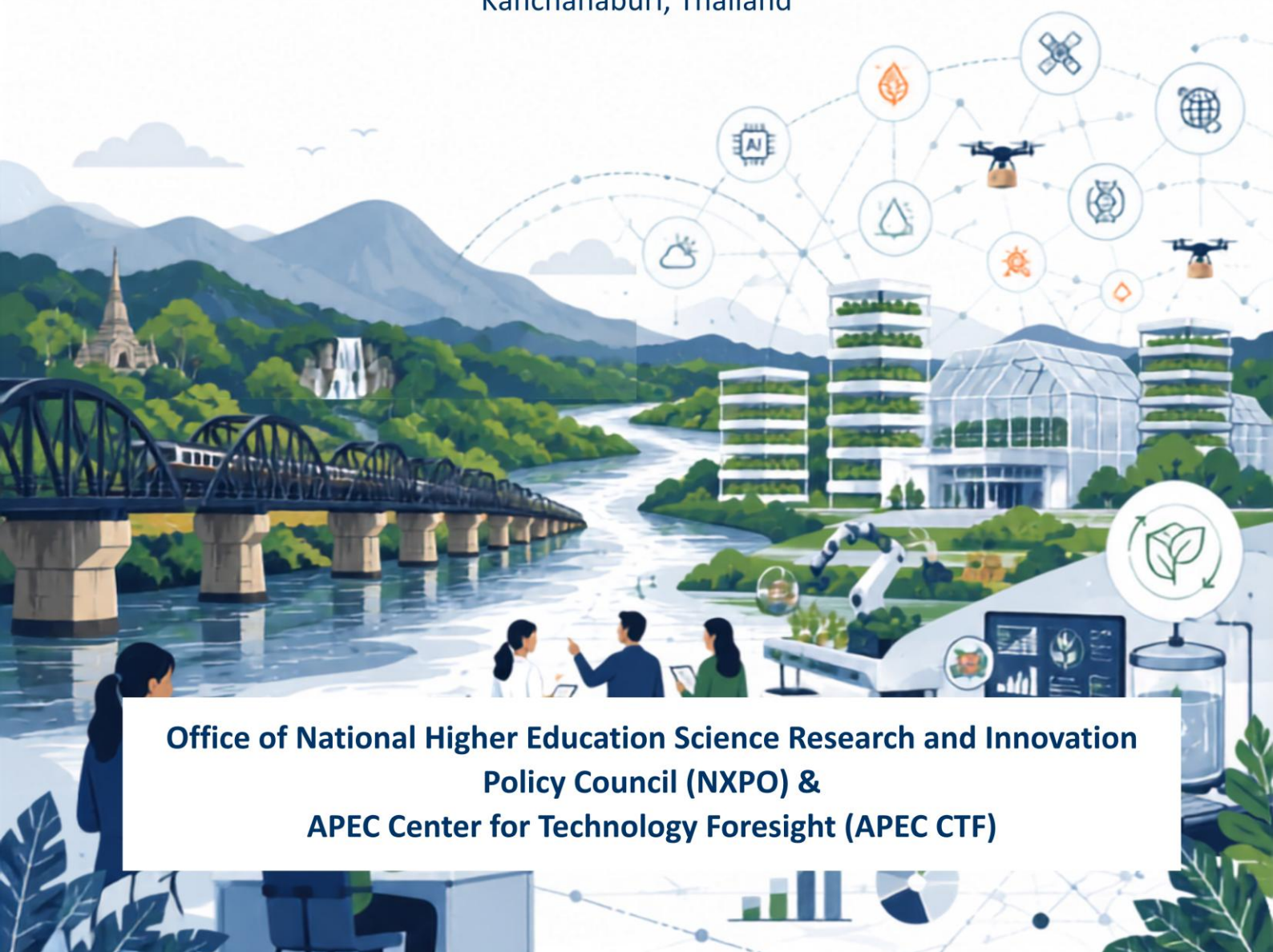


PRE-EVENT HANDBOOK

APEC Young Futurists

Frontier Technologies and Solutions for Future Food

28 September – 1 October 2026
Kanchanaburi, Thailand



Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation
Policy Council (NXPO) &
APEC Center for Technology Foresight (APEC CTF)

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Welcome

You were selected from applicants across APEC economies to take part in this program.

Over four days in Kanchanaburi, you will work alongside experts, mentors, and fellow young leaders to develop practical policy and innovation solutions for the future of food. This handbook is designed to help you prepare, so you can make the most of the experience from the moment you arrive.

Welcome to the APEC Foresight Workshop: APEC Young Futurists – Frontier Technologies and Solutions for Future Food, hosted by the APEC Center for Technology Foresight (APEC CTF) and the Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO). The workshop will be held from 28 September to 1 October 2026 in Kanchanaburi, Thailand.

The project's overall objective is to build the capacity of young scientists, researchers, policy analysts, and innovation professionals from APEC economies to anticipate and respond to future food security challenges through the application of foresight methodologies and frontier technologies. Trainees will take part in structured training, expert-led technology sessions, and team-based innovation activities to identify emerging challenges and opportunities in future food systems across social, technological, economic, environmental, and policy dimensions.

Workshop Objectives

- Build foresight and STI capacity among young scientists, researchers, policy analysts, and innovation professionals from APEC economies by equipping them with practical tools for horizon scanning, emerging signal analysis, scenario thinking, and technology roadmapping related to future food systems.
- Enhance trainees' understanding of frontier technologies and solutions for food security, including emerging innovations in future food, climate-smart food systems, digital agriculture, biotechnology, alternative proteins, smart supply chains, and other technology areas relevant to resilient agri-food systems.

Quick Guide at a Glance

Keep this page handy — it's the one you will likely come back to most.

Item	Information
Event	APEC Young Futurists 2026 — Frontier Technologies and Solutions for Future Food
Program dates	28 September – 1 October 2026
Arrival day	Sunday, 27 September 2026 (Bangkok)
Departure day	Friday, 2 October 2026 (Bangkok)
Venue	Dheva Mantra Resort, Kanchanaburi, Thailand
Arrival airports	Suvarnabhumi (BKK) or Don Mueang (DMK)
Language	English
Dress code	Smart casual (see FAQ)
Weather	26–34°C, late rainy season — pack a light rain jacket or umbrella
Per diem	THB 2,000 per trainee, provided on arrival
Emergency hotline	191 for general emergency number in Thailand 199 for fire 1669 for ambulance and rescue <i>Please save your own embassy's contact details before departure.</i>
Real-time updates	APEC Young Futurists 2026 WhatsApp group — QR code on the Contacts page

Travel & Transportation

Event Dates and Venue

The event will be held from 28 September to 1 October 2026 at Dheva Mantra Resort, Kanchanaburi, Thailand.

International trainees will be accommodated at Baan Wanglang Riverside, Bangkok, on 27 September 2026, before departing for Kanchanaburi. Trainees departing Thailand on 2 October 2026 will be accommodated at PAAK Hotel Suvarnabhumi, Bangkok, on the night of 1 October 2026, following the conclusion of the event.

Airport Arrivals

Airport transfers and group transportation are provided for all registered trainees. Trainees will be picked up from Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) or Don Mueang Airport (DMK) and transferred to the designated Bangkok hotel. On Day 1, trainees travel by train to Kanchanaburi, followed by transfer to the program hotel. Local transportation in Kanchanaburi is also provided for program activities and field visits.

Transportation Routes Provided by the Organizer

Route / Service	Description
Airport transfer	Pick-up from Suvarnabhumi or Don Mueang Airport to the designated Bangkok hotel
Bangkok hotel → train station	Transfer from the Bangkok hotel to Thon Buri Railway Station
Train transportation	Group train journey from Bangkok to Kanchanaburi on Day 1
Train station → hotel	Transfer from the arrival station in Kanchanaburi to the designated hotel
Local transportation	Transportation between hotel, program venue, and field visit locations
Return transportation	Group transfer from Kanchanaburi back to Bangkok
Departure transfer	Transfer for trainees departing from Bangkok, according to the official schedule

Visa Requirements

All travellers must present a valid passport with at least six months of remaining validity from the date of arrival in Thailand. Trainees are responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate visa documentation, if required, before travelling to Thailand.

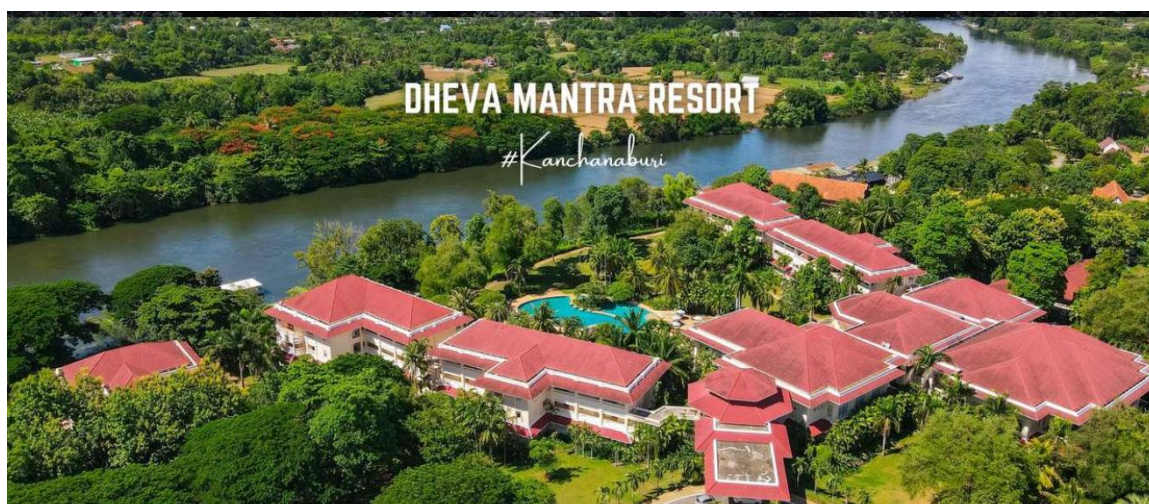
Please first verify whether you require a visa to enter Thailand by consulting the website of the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in your economy. Where applicable, you may apply through Thai diplomatic missions abroad or eligible online visa systems. Travellers from certain economies may be eligible for visa exemption for short-term stays — please confirm the latest requirements before departure, as immigration regulations may change. Trainees travelling with diplomatic or official passports should verify specific entry requirements with the relevant Thai authorities.

Note: Thailand's arrival card (TDAC) is a separate, mandatory digital arrival registration and is not a substitute for a visa. Trainees are requested to complete it prior to travel where applicable, via <https://tdac.immigration.go.th/arrival-card/>

Accommodation

Accommodation is arranged and covered by the organizer for all registered and confirmed trainees, in accordance with the official program schedule below.

Hotel	Location	Nights Covered	Check-in / Check-out
Baan Wanglang Riverside	Bangkok	1 night	27–28 Sept.
Dheva Mantra Resort	Kanchanaburi	3 nights	28 Sept–1 Oct.
The Park Nine Hotel Suvarnabhumi	Bangkok	1 night, departing trainees	1–2 Oct.



Dheva Mantra Resort, Kanchanaburi — program venue

Financial Support

Financial and logistical support for registered trainees is provided by the organizer, subject to confirmation of participation and the approved project arrangements. Support is available only to registered and confirmed trainees who attend the program in person and follow the official arrangements below.

Item	Covered by Organizer
Round-trip economy airfare (home economy ↔ Bangkok)	✓
Accommodation in Bangkok (arrival & departure nights)	✓
Accommodation in Kanchanaburi (program period)	✓
Group transportation & local transfers	✓
Program meals (3 meals/day, 28 Sept – 1 Oct)	✓
Per diem (in total THB 2,000 per trainee)	✓
Basic Travel insurance	✓
Personal expenses / shopping	✗
Laundry	✗
Costs from independent travel arrangements (see FAQ)	✗

Airfare

Round-trip economy-class air tickets to Bangkok are arranged via the most direct and economical route, subject to the organizer's approval. Trainees must submit confirmed travel details such as passport information and flight options. Any changes to approved arrangements must be communicated to the organizer in advance.

Accommodation & Meals

Accommodation is arranged directly by the organizer for the full duration of the official program (see Accommodation). Three meals per day are provided during the official program period. Trainees with dietary restrictions or allergies should notify the organizer when submitting travel confirmation (see FAQ).

Per Diem

A per diem of THB 2,000 per trainee is provided upon arrival to support incidental expenses during the program.

Welcome Reception and Networking Activities

Registered trainees are invited to official program meals, welcome activities, and networking sessions hosted by the organizer, supporting cross-economy exchange, peer learning, and the development of the APEC Young Futurists Network.

Your Program

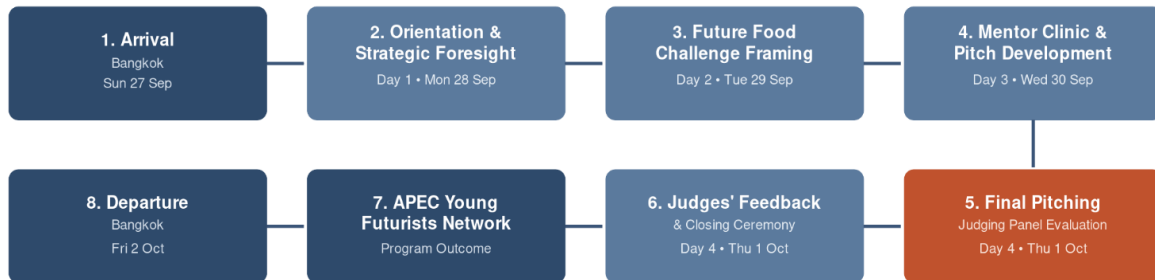
How the Program Fits Together

Across four days, the program moves through a clear sequence — from understanding the problem to pitching a solution. Use this as your mental model before diving into the detailed agenda.



Participant Journey

The diagram below shows how the workshop unfolds for each trainee, day by day, from arrival through to departure.



Expected Outputs

Throughout the program, each team works towards the following outputs, building progressively across the workshop days:

- **Future Food Change Agent Canvas** — developed during Day 2 sessions, defining the team's challenge, project purpose, and intended impact.
- **Pitch Deck** — developed on Day 3 using the official Future Food Change Agent Pitch Deck Template, refined through mentored sessions.
- **Policy & Innovation Proposal** — the team's proposed solution addressing future food security challenges, informed by mentor and expert guidance.
- **Final Team Pitch** — presented to the judging panel on Day 4.

Before preparing your presentation

All team outputs and presentations should comply with APEC terminology and branding requirements. Please refer to Appendix A — APEC Nomenclature Guidelines — before preparing your pitch deck.

Per the workshop methodology, the judging panel and mentors provide feedback on team proposals and pitches based on technical feasibility, policy relevance, inclusiveness, and regional applicability across APEC economies. Trainees are also required to complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the workshop.

Program Overview

Day	Date	Main Theme	Key Activities
Arrival Day	Sun, 27 Sept 2026	Arrival in Bangkok	Airport pick-up, hotel check-in, preparation for transfer to Kanchanaburi
Day 1	Mon, 28 Sept 2026	Orientation & Foresight Foundation	Travel to Kanchanaburi, ice-breaking, orientation, introduction to foresight, initial signal scanning
Day 2	Tue, 29 Sept 2026	Frontier Technology Training	Future food systems, systemic design & project formulation, Change Agent training, team project development
Day 3	Wed, 30 Sept 2026	Hackathon & Group Working	Team formation, problem framing, scenario-based solution design, mentor clinic, pitch development
Day 4	Thu, 1 Oct 2026	Pitching, Networking & Departure	Final pitch preparation, team presentations, expert feedback, Network launch, return to Bangkok
Departure Day	Fri, 2 Oct 2026	Departure	Departure from Bangkok and airport transfers

Detailed Daily Agenda

Arrival Day — Sunday, 27 September 2026

Time	Session	Description
Throughout the day	Arrival of Trainees	Trainees arrive in Bangkok, Thailand.
Afternoon–Evening	Hotel Check-in	Free time according to the official schedule. All trainees are required to stay at the accommodation arranged by the organizer for logistical, safety, and coordination purposes.

Day 1 — Monday, 28 September 2026

Time	Session	Description
06:30–07:00	Registration and Departure Preparation	Thai trainees meet directly at the designated railway station; trainees from other APEC economies are transported from the hotel. All trainees complete registration and final departure preparations.
07:00–07:30	Train Boarding and Seating	Trainees board the designated train carriage, store luggage, and take assigned seats.
07:30–12:00	Travel to Kanchanaburi — Opening, Orientation & Foresight Training	Group train journey from Bangkok to Kanchanaburi. Onboard: welcome remarks and program orientation, followed by Strategic Foresight Training: Foundations and Tools, delivered by APEC CTF, introducing foresight concepts, methodologies, and practical tools trainees will apply throughout the program.
12:00–13:00	Lunch	At a restaurant in Kanchanaburi
13:00–16:30	Ice-breaking Activity	Interactive activities to build rapport and create a collaborative learning environment.
16:30–18:00	Hotel Check-in and Refreshment Break	Trainees check in and prepare for the evening program.
18:00–19:30	Welcome Dinner	Networking dinner

Day 2 — Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Time	Session	Description
09:00–09:15	Recap of Day 1	Summary of foresight concepts and key signals identified.

09:15–09:45	Future Food Systems in APEC: Peru's Case Study	Expert session on food security, climate risks, supply chain resilience, and changing consumption patterns in APEC.
09:45–10:00	Coffee Break	Break
10:00–12:00	Future Food Change Agent Training — Session 1: Defining the Challenge and Project Purpose	Trainees are introduced to the Future Food Change Agent Canvas and work in teams to analyze challenges, systemic gaps, and opportunities, then define their project purpose and proposed intervention.
12:00–13:00	Networking Lunch	Lunch at hotel
13:00–16:00	Future Food Change Agent Training — Session 2: Designing Impact and Building the Change Ecosystem	Teams assess potential value via the Triple Impact framework (People, Planet, Prosperity) and map the wider change ecosystem — stakeholders, policy champions, experts, investors, and partners.
16:00–Evening	Networking Dinner	Dinner at a restaurant

Day 3 — Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Time	Session	Description
09:00–10:30	Mentor Clinic	Expert mentors provide feedback on teams' initial canvas — technical feasibility, policy relevance, inclusivity, and regional applicability.
10:30–10:45	Coffee Break	Break
10:45–12:00	Mentor Clinic (continued)	Teams consult a rotated set of mentors to refine their project concepts based on earlier feedback.
12:00–13:00	Lunch	Working lunch
13:00–14:30	Pitch Deck Development: Structure and Core Components	Introduction to the official Future Food Change Agent Pitch Deck Template — problem, 3P solution, roadmap, expected impact, and call to action.
14:30–14:45	Coffee Break	Break
14:45–17:30	Mentored Pitch Development Session	Teams develop and refine pitch decks with mentor guidance on feasibility, policy relevance, inclusiveness, scalability, and applicability.
Evening	Dinner and Team Working Session	Teams continue refining proposals and pitches.

Day 4 — Thursday, 1 October 2026

Time	Session	Description
09:00–10:00	Final Team Pitching Session	Teams present their Future Food Change Agent projects to the judging panel — challenge, solution, expected 3P impact, roadmap, call to action.
10:00–12:00	Judges' Feedback and Program Reflection	Judges and mentors provide constructive feedback; trainees reflect on key lessons and insights.
12:00–12:30	Closing and Certificate Presentation	Summary of outcomes, certificate presentation, announcement of outstanding proposals, closing remarks by APEC CTF – NXPO.
12:30–13:30	Lunch	Lunch at hotel
13:30–15:30	Return Journey to Bangkok	Group transportation from Kanchanaburi to Bangkok.
Evening	Free Time / Departure	Trainees departing that evening transfer directly to the airport; others check in to the designated airport hotel.

Departure Day — Friday, 2 October 2026

Time	Session	Description
Morning– Afternoon	Departure and Airport Transfer	Transportation from the designated hotel to the airport, arranged per each trainee's flight schedule.

Workshop Methodology

Target Audience

This program is intended for young scientists, researchers, PhD and postdoctoral students, policy analysts, and innovation professionals aged 20–30 from APEC economies who are engaged in food security, agri-food systems, frontier technologies, science, technology and innovation, or related policy areas.

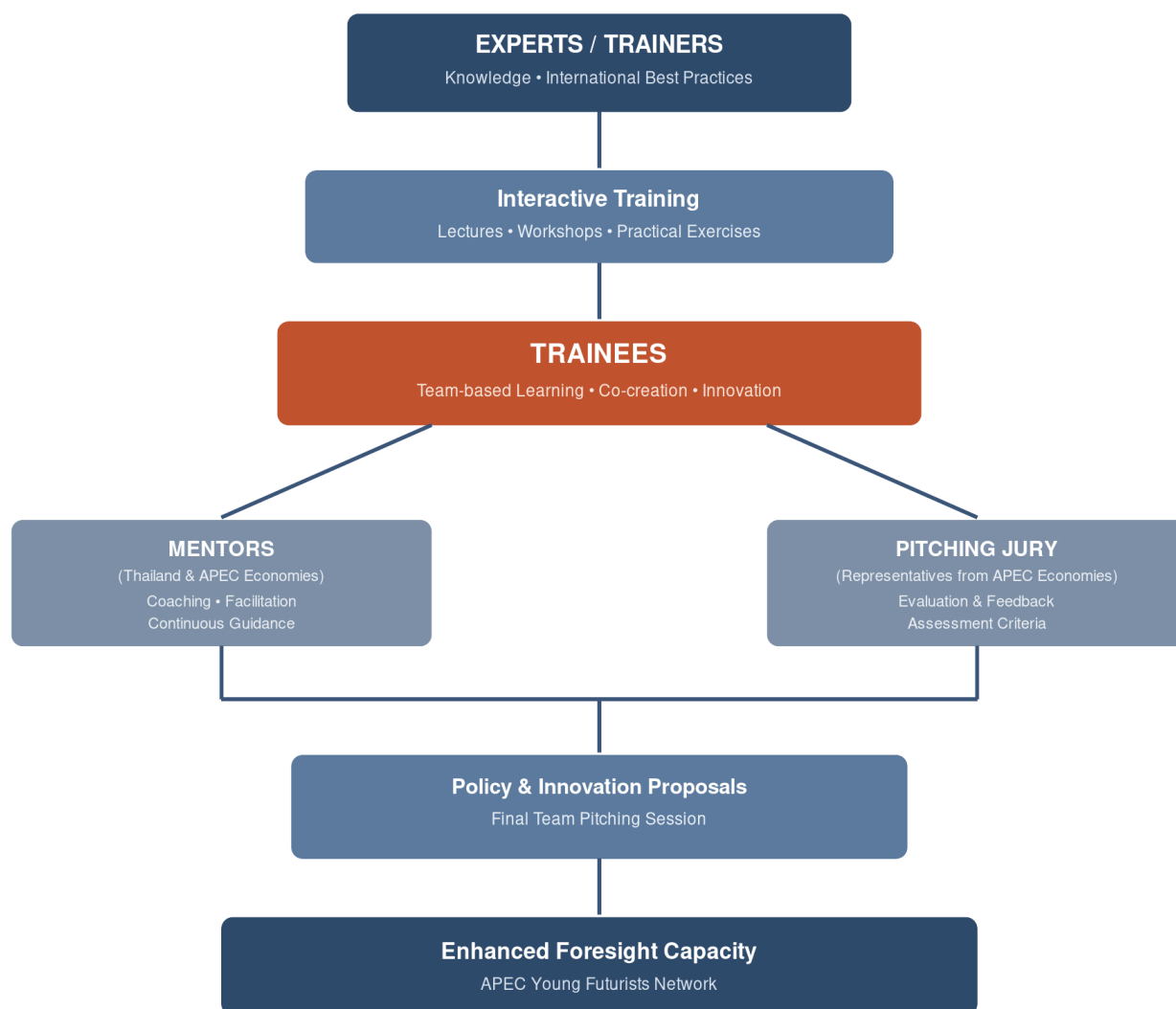
Trainees with interest or experience in foresight, future thinking, technology foresight, and strategic planning are particularly encouraged to participate. The program is especially valuable for early-career professionals and young researchers seeking to develop practical, inclusive, and policy-relevant solutions for resilient and sustainable food systems, alongside expert mentoring, cross-economy collaboration, and the opportunity to join the APEC Young Futurists Network.

Trainee Engagement and Support

Trainees are trained by experts from Thailand and APEC economies through interactive lectures, workshops, and practical exercises, with continuous guidance from mentors who facilitate group discussions, coach teams, and support the development of policy and innovation proposals. On the final day, each team presents its outcomes in a pitching session before a panel of distinguished judges from APEC economies — representing academia, industry, government, and international organizations — who evaluate presentations against agreed assessment criteria and provide constructive feedback.

Stakeholder Engagement Framework

The diagram below illustrates how the different stakeholder groups engage across the program, from expert-led training through to the final pitching session and outcomes.



Stakeholder	Role
Trainees	Actively participate in all training sessions, engage in workshops and team activities, develop policy and innovation proposals, and present final pitches.
Experts / Trainers	Deliver capacity-building sessions, share international best practices, and provide technical knowledge on foresight, future food systems, systemic design, and project development.
Mentors (Thailand & APEC Economies)	Facilitate team discussions, provide coaching and technical guidance, and support trainees in refining ideas and final presentations.
Pitching Jury (APEC Economies)	Evaluate final team pitches using agreed assessment criteria, provide expert feedback, and recognize outstanding proposals.

Evaluation

Trainees complete and submit an evaluation form at the conclusion of the workshop, sharing feedback on the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the workshop — including foresight tools, technology sessions, team-based activities, mentoring support, and overall delivery. Results are used to assess learning outcomes, improve future capacity-building activities, and inform the project summary report and policy recommendations for PPSTI.

Language

The workshop is conducted in English. All presentations, discussions, group activities, pitching sessions, and workshop materials are prepared and delivered in English.

Before You Travel

Checklist

A quick checklist to help you prepare ahead of departure:

- Passport valid for at least six months from the date of arrival in Thailand
- Visa or entry documentation, if required for your economy (see Visa Requirements)
- Confirmed flight information submitted to the organizer by the specified deadline
- Travel insurance (recommended)
- Emergency contact information on hand — including the organizer's hotline (see Emergency Contacts)
- Laptop and charger, plus a universal power adapter (Thailand uses 220V/50Hz)
- Personal medication, if needed
- Comfortable clothing and footwear for both indoor sessions and local travel
- Program ID badge collected at registration — required for boarding all official transportation
- WhatsApp installed, and joined the APEC Young Futurists 2026 group (see Contacts)
- Power bank and a spare copy of your passport (physical or digital)
- Reusable water bottle and a compact umbrella or light rain jacket

What to Prepare Before Arrival

This program is a hands-on workshop rather than a conference—come ready to contribute from Day 1:

- Prepare a short self-introduction, to be shared during the Day 1 ice-breaking activity.
- Think ahead about a food security or agri-food systems challenge relevant to your own economy — this feeds into the team challenge-framing exercise on Day 2.
- Bring a laptop, used for team-based canvas work and pitch deck development throughout the program.
- Review the workshop objectives and agenda in this handbook so you arrive familiar with the program flow and expected outputs.
- Optional: bring business cards for networking with fellow trainees, mentors, and jury members.

A Few Cultural Notes

A handful of practical notes to help you settle in comfortably in Thailand:

- A slight bow with palms pressed together (the “wai”) is a common greeting — you're not expected to know the etiquette perfectly, a smile and nod are always welcome.
- Modest dress is appreciated when visiting temples or religious sites, and shoes are typically removed before entering homes, temples, and some smaller establishments.
- The Thai Royal Family is highly respected — please be mindful in conversation and conduct.
- When giving or receiving items, especially with elders, using your right hand or both hands is considered polite.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I book my own accommodation instead of the organizer's arrangement?

Trainees are expected to stay at the accommodation arranged by the organizer to ensure smooth logistics, particularly for airport transfers, group transportation, and workshop activities.

When and how will I receive the per diem?

A per diem of THB 2,000 is provided to confirmed trainees upon arrival, to support incidental expenses during the program.

Do I need a visa?

This depends on your economy. Please check with the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in your economy — some economies may be eligible for visa exemption for short-term stays.

What language will the workshop be conducted in?

English. All presentations, discussions, group activities, pitching sessions, and workshop materials are prepared and delivered in English.

Will meals be provided?

Yes — three meals and two coffee breaks per day are provided during the official program period, 28 September to 1 October 2026.

Can I request vegetarian or halal meals, or flag a food allergy?

Yes. Please inform the organizer of any dietary restrictions or allergies when submitting your travel confirmation, so arrangements can be made in advance.

Can I arrive late, leave early, extend my stay, or receive cash instead of in-kind support?

As the workshop is held in Kanchanaburi, some distance from Bangkok, trainees are strongly encouraged to follow the official travel schedule to ensure smooth transportation and program coordination. The organizer is unable to convert in-kind support (accommodation, transportation, or meals) into cash or reimburse equivalent expenses. All support is provided in accordance with the project's policies and approved budget.

Will Wi-Fi be available, and is there a dress code?

Yes — complimentary Wi-Fi is available at the workshop venue and official accommodation throughout the program. Please arrange your own mobile data for use during travel and field activities, as connectivity may vary outside the venue. The dress code is smart casual for all workshop sessions; comfortable clothing and footwear are encouraged for travel and field visits. Any special events requiring different attire will be announced in advance.

What is Thailand's local currency and electricity standard?

The local currency is the Thai Baht (THB). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted at hotels, shopping centres, and many restaurants, though a small amount of cash is useful for local shops and

markets. Thailand operates on a 220V, 50Hz electricity supply with Type A, B, C, and O plugs — bring a universal travel adapter if needed.

Can I exchange money at the airport?

Yes, currency exchange counters are available at both BKK and DMK airports and throughout Bangkok. Rates in the city are often more competitive than at the airport.

Can I drink tap water?

Bottled or filtered water is recommended over tap water throughout the program. Drinking water will be provided at meals and workshop venues.

What is the weather like in Bangkok and Kanchanaburi during the workshop?

The workshop takes place during the late rainy season. Bangkok and Kanchanaburi are typically warm and humid, with daytime temperatures of 26–34°C (79–93°F); short periods of rain or thunderstorms, particularly in the afternoon or evening, are common. Pack light, comfortable clothing, a light rain jacket or compact umbrella, comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, and a light sweater or jacket for air-conditioned rooms and transport. Check the local forecast shortly before departure.

Contacts

Meet the Team



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Join Our WhatsApp Group

Scan the QR code below to join the “APEC Young Futurists 2026” WhatsApp group for real-time updates and assistance.



Appendix A — APEC Nomenclature Guidelines

All trainees should ensure that any workshop documents or presentations — including pitch decks — are mindful of APEC nomenclature. APEC is a group of economies; it is therefore inappropriate to use anything, such as flags or emblems, which may imply the “political status” of any member economy. Disputed maps should not be included in any presentation or material distributed at an APEC event.

Members of APEC should be referred to as “member economies,” “members,” or “economies.” Please do not use the words “country,” “nation,” or “national” in reference to APEC member economies.

Please also use the correct names of the APEC economies:

Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China (China also acceptable); Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Republic of the Philippines (the Philippines also acceptable); the Russian Federation (Russia also acceptable); Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America (the USA, the US, or the United States also acceptable); Viet Nam.

Thank you

Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO)
APEC Center for Technology Foresight (APEC CTF)
Thailand

