Knowledge Manufacturing with Researchers, Startups, Corporations and Educators

Nest Garage

2026.6
VOL.29

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Education Development:
24 Years of Leave a Nest:
Growing Together for the Future
of STEM Education in Asia

Human Development:
Nurturing Talent: Bridging Research,
Skills, and Innovation Across Border

Research Development:
Beyond Boundaries:
Redefining the Global Researcher
in Southeast Asia and Japan

Frontier Development:
Connected Ecosystems,
Shared Future

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Leave a Nest

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Issuer
Leave a Nest Singapore Pte. Ltd.
(201016851H)
71 Ayer Rajah Crescent
#06-11/12
139951, Singapore

Designer in Malaysia
Impexa Solutions
Lot 35476-2 Dataran Austin
Jalan Austin 1, Wakaf Tembesu,
21300 Kuala Terengganu,
Terengganu

SPECIAL FEATURE

EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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RESEARCH & FRONTIER DEVELOPMENT

RD Research Development

FD Frontier Development

Chief Section Editor
Hakim Sahidi

Section Editors
Dr. Suzianti Iskandar Vijaya
(RD Section leader)

Mahirah Basri
(FD Section leader)

Editors
Ambrose Chia
Bryan Foronda
Farha Husna Ramli
Dr. Hadi Akbar Bin Dahlan
Khalid Khalil

Writers
Dr. Dania Qarrina Azman
Fernanda Susilo
Edriel Lee
Haruka Sakurai
Jomer Ruego
Krisha Corbo
Dr. Mohd Izwan Zainol
Neil Clarence Diaz
Dr. Nursyuhada Othman
Ruchira Karjee
Priyavadana Meyyappan

Designer in the Philippines
Mulave Studios
2nd Floor, AAMC Barbo Bldg, Jalandoni St.
Jaro Iloilo City, Philippines

Printing Company
KHL Printing Co Pte. Ltd.
57 Loyang Drive, Singapore 508968

Accea Malaysia
Mezzanine Floor. Bangunan Amoda,
22 Jalan Imbi, 55100 Kuala Lumpur

VJ Graphics Arts Inc/iPublish
115 Mother Ignacia Avenue Quezon City
1103 Metro Manila Philippines

ON THE COVER

Dato Ir. Ts. Sudarnoto Osman

Chief Executive officer, Sarawak Digital Economic Development Corporation

Dato Ir. Ts. Sudarnoto Osman is the CEO of SDEC, driving Sarawak's digital transformation. A Tohoku University graduate, he built his career across Matsushita, Celcom, Maxis, and SACOFA. In SDEC, he is leading initiatives like MySRBN and Digital Innovation Hubs, and pioneering a 6-way 4G MOCN. He was recognised as a 2025 Asia HRD 'Movers & Shakers' honouree.

Leave a Nest UNITED KINGDOM
IDEALondon, 69 Wilson St, London EC2A 2BB, UK

Leave a Nest AMERICA
3350 Scott Blvd. #5502, Santa Clara, CA 95054

Leave a Nest
Iidabasimiyuki Bld. (Reception : 4F floor) , 1-4, Shimomiyabicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0822, Japan

ASIAN ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

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OUR KNOWLEDGE MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM

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DEEP TECH VENTURE OF THE YEAR

Germination Fund

Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference

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LVNS RESILIENCE PROJECT

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Leave a Nest

The Knowledge Manufacturing Company

Global Algae Summit

Sustainable Aquaculture Summit

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GBP
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Entrepreneur LIFE-TECH AWARD

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マリンチャレンジプログラム

Ki_Ni_Naru Project

REGIONAL TURNING POINTS ACROSS THE LEAVE A NEST GROUP

As Leave a Nest group celebrates its 24th anniversary in ecosystem and leadership development, each regional subsidiary is entering a different stage of growth. In Leave a Nest's philosophy, organizational growth is measured in profound 12-year eras, the first cycle dedicated to building foundational platforms and the second to fueling expansion.

This feature highlights the perspectives of three regional leaders managing their ecosystems at distinctly different milestones: Mr. Shohei Michael Maekawa leads Leave a Nest Singapore, an established hub well into its second 12-year cycle of global expansion; Mr. Abdul Hakim Sahidi guides Leave a Nest Malaysia, which has proudly completed its first cycle and is stepping into its next era; and Ms. Ronezza Delos Santos leads Leave a Nest Philippines, the youngest subsidiary currently laying the crucial early groundwork of its first cycle. Together, they reflect on ecosystem building, local realities, and a shared regional vision.

Regional Managing Directors (from left) Mr. Shohei Michael Maekawa, Mr. Abdul Hakim Sahidi, and Ms. Ronezza Delos Santos.

Regional Growth Cycles and Local Perspectives

For the regional leaders, each milestone represents a different phase of growth and responsibility. Mr. Michael views this period as a significant milestone as Leave a Nest Singapore celebrates its 15th year. Reflecting on the office's journey, he acknowledges how its role has evolved over time. Rather than remaining solely a centralized Southeast Asian hub, Singapore now aims to become a *"Global Knowledge Hub,"* bridging Southeast Asia with other parts of the world.

For Mr. Hakim, the journey reflects the steady growth of Leave a Nest Malaysia over the past 12 years. When he first joined, the Malaysian office was still in its early stage. Over time, he has seen the organization grow steadily, eventually becoming the Southeast Asia Headquarters. Looking ahead, he hopes Southeast Asia will be recognized globally as a contributor to deep tech innovation while continuing to bridge academia, industry, government, and society.

Meanwhile, Ms. Ezza views the anniversary as entering a *"new season"* with renewed approaches, while appreciating the partnerships that laid the local foundations and bringing more people into meaningful challenges.

Southeast Asia's regional leaders engage in strategic discussions to shape the next cycle of growth

Ecosystem Strategies: Bridging Silos and Empowering Challengers

Today's leaders continue navigating the complexities of their respective regions. In Singapore, Mr. Michael leverages the country's strategic geographical location, a place where innovators from around the world naturally gather. As a *"Global Knowledge Hub",* Leave a Nest Singapore focuses on bridging different parts of the world together to foster international co-creation.

Conversely, Mr. Hakim notes that Malaysia's biggest challenge is not a lack of talent, but the fragmentation of the ecosystem. Universities, startups, industries, and government agencies often operate in silos, it is difficult to move technologies from research into real-world implementation. To overcome this, his team focuses on identifying gaps in Malaysia's innovation ecosystem, bridging academia with society, and nurturing projects that can create jobs and technological adoption.

In the Philippines, Ms. Ezza emphasizes the unique role of young leaders as *"challengers."* She believes they must be willing to create new ideas while remaining open to learning, adapting, and even failing. By bringing fresh perspectives, they help navigate existing and emerging systems. For her, leadership means creating opportunities for others to take on meaningful challenges together, ensuring the ecosystem begins to grow strong roots.

The team convenes for the 3rd Southeast Asia Members Gathering, strengthening cross-border collaboration

The Next Era of Leadership: Deepening the Core Philosophy and Local Adaption

As Leave a Nest enters the *"Ten phase,"* focused on passing leadership to the next generation, Southeast Asian offices are also entering new stages of growth. Mr. Michael emphasizes that every member must deeply understand the company's core philosophy to ensure the organization continues moving in the right direction. Central to this philosophy is the role of the Science Bridge Communicator (SBC), individuals who connect science with society and transform knowledge into real-world action.

In the Philippines, Ms. Ezza promotes this philosophy through science experiment workshops that inspire young people and nurture future Science Bridge Communicators. Meanwhile, Mr. Hakim focuses on empowering younger leaders through early exposure to strategic discussions and cross-border collaborations, helping them develop ownership and the mindset to solve societal challenges independently.

At the same time, the leaders recognize that while Leave a Nest's core values must remain consistent, their implementation should adapt to local realities. Together, Ms. Ezza and Mr. Hakim emphasize the importance of addressing regional challenges such as food security and climate resilience while maintaining the organization's shared mission and values. Through changing environments and challenges, Leave a Nest continues strengthening unity, cultivating resilient leaders, and building the foundation for sustainable long-term growth.

Charting Distinct Ecosystems Towards the Next Era

While Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines are at different stages of ecosystem development, the leaders view these differences as the region's greatest strength. Their shared mission remains clear: tackling real-world issues together with stakeholders while advancing science and technology for global happiness.

Mr. Michael hopes to establish global bridge projects across all continents, envisioning a future where Leave a Nest members build networks across countries and industries. Mr. Hakim hopes Southeast Asia will be recognized globally as a contributor to deep tech innovation, measuring leadership success through the emergence of a strong next generation capable of independently driving regional initiatives. Meanwhile, Ms. Ezza hopes to witness the long-term impact of the seeds her team is planting today, eager to see former students return as researchers and entrepreneurs ready to break barriers preventing great ideas from flourishing.

To collaborate effectively, the leaders advocate focused specialization: Singapore on the *"Global"* stage, Malaysia on the *"Southeast Asia & Muslim"* markets, and the Philippines on "Local" development. Across different stages of growth, each subsidiary continues building its ecosystem rooted in a shared mission while contributing to the broader journey of Leave a Nest.

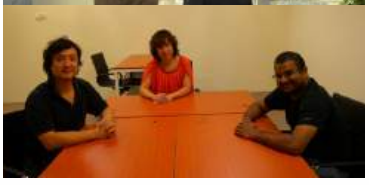
For further details on Leave a Nest's global initiatives and to follow our ongoing journey, please visit: **https://global.lne.st**

24TH YEAR JOURNEY OF LEAVE A NEST GROUP

From Science Bridge Communication to Knowledge Manufacturing Company

2001.12	Founded. Conducted a lecture on algal photosynthesis by young researchers.
2002.06	Established Leave a Nest Co., Ltd. Started the "Science Experiment Classroom" business as *"Leave a Nest for Bio-Education."*
2003.04	Began development of the Bio-Communicator (now Science Bridge Communicator) training system.
2005.06	Established the Central Research Institute (now Knowledge Entrepreneurship Research Center). Began research on algae and genetic testing.
2006.08	Opened the Kansai Office (later the Osaka Head Office).
2010.12	Established subsidiary Leave a Nest Singapore Pte. Ltd.
2011.08	Established subsidiary Leave a Nest America Inc.
2012.03	Established the "Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference" and held the 1st annual meeting.
2013.01	Established subsidiary Leave a Nest Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.
2013.01	Established Leave a Nest Knowledge Entrepreneurship Research Center (I2K).
2014.03	Started seed acceleration program "TECH PLANTER." Held the 1st Tech Plan Grand Prix.
2016.01	Established subsidiary Leave a Nest United Kingdom Ltd.
2017.03	Overseas expansion of TECH PLANTER across more countries.
2018.01	Established "Super Factory Group" to handle global prototyping.
2018.04	Opened "Center of Garage," an incubation facility connecting global ventures with local factories.
2019.01	First overseas expansion of the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference (Malaysia).
2019.08	Established Glocalink Singapore Pte. Ltd. (now 144 Ventures), focusing on SE Asia.
2020.02	Conducted company split to establish Leave a Nest Capital Co., Ltd.
2020.03	Established Real Tech Holdings Co., Ltd. (now UntroD Capital Japan) as a subsidiary.
2021.03	Established subsidiary Leave a Nest Philippines, Inc.
2022.08	Transitioned to a Co-President system. Established Leave a Nest Knowledge Co., Ltd.
2024.01	Established "Center of Garage Malaysia," the group's first overseas incubation base.
2024.06	ADvance Lab (now LINOA) became a subsidiary.
2024.08	Announced new group structure. Leave a Nest Malaysia becomes the SE Asia HQ.
2025.12	24th Anniversary of Founding.

Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference

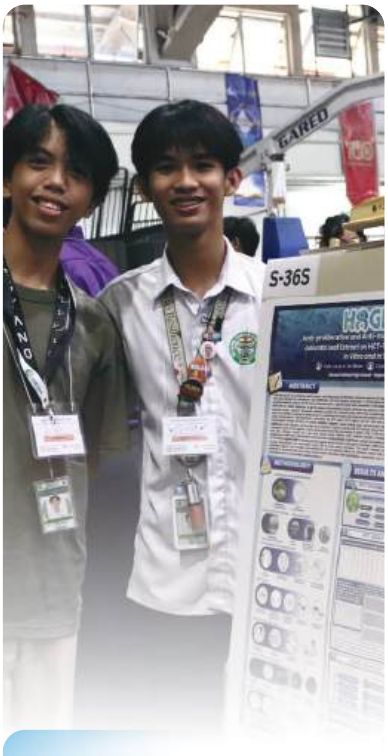


Exploring Deep Tech & Solving Deep Issue
TECH PLANTER.

144 Ventures

Advancing Science and Technology for Global Happiness

24 YEARS OF LEAVE A NEST: GROWING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF STEM EDUCATION IN ASIA



Innovation grows stronger when we grow together. Science is more than discovery, it is collaboration.

From students to researchers, teachers to industry partners, every collaboration shapes the future of STEM in Asia. Together with educators, industries, and ecosystem partners across Southeast Asia, we continue empowering the next generation to turn research into meaningful change.

As young researchers share their ideas and innovations, we celebrate the power of working together to shape a better future through STEM.

Shaping the next generation of scientists is not a one-man show. It is a collective effort. The progress we see today reflects strong collaboration between industry, academia, NGOs, and ecosystem builders, all working towards a shared vision of nurturing future talent through science and technology.

This is why, as we celebrate the 24th anniversary of Leave a Nest Group, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all our valued partners who have grown alongside us in advancing education across Asia.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm that building the future of STEM education requires continuous collaboration, shared commitment, and collective action. Together, we will continue to advance science and technology for the pursuit of global happiness.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

TWO WORLDS, ONE MISSION:
HOW SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN ARE REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

By Fariz Syafiq, MSc

Across Japan and Southeast Asia (SEA), a quiet transformation in education is taking shape—one driven by collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to the next generation. At the center of this movement are two leaders working in distinct yet interconnected landscapes: Aki Seno, Head of Education Development for Leave a Nest Japan and Dr. Ezral Ghazali, Head of Education Development for Leave a Nest Malaysia. While their regions present different challenges, their work reveals a powerful common thread: when educators, industry, and communities come together, the future of learning can be reimagined in ways that are both locally grounded and globally relevant.

Ms. Aki Seno,
Head of Education Development for Japan

Japan: Building Platforms and Finding "Nakama"

In Japan, Aki Seno brings 13 years of experience within the company, including five years in Education Development. The challenge in Japan was not a lack of technology, but rather a lack of interest in STEM, and a gap in guidance and support. While some high school students already started to show strong interest in independent research, many teachers lacked the tools to mentor them effectively.

Instead of viewing this as a systemic failure, Ms.Seno and her team took a supportive approach. They began organizing seminars to empower educators, helping them better guide their students. Through these engagements, they uncovered another key issue, students had no platform to showcase their research. This realization led to the creation of Science Castle, a science conference for high school students, which has since become a cornerstone platform for young researchers.

For Ms. Seno, the mission is deeply tied to community sustainability. In a country facing population decline, she views collaboration in education as a long-term solution. Central to this vision is the concept of "nakama," or trusted partners, who will help carry this mission forward.

Southeast Asia: Agility, Adaptation and Local Pride

In Southeast Asia (SEA), Dr. Ezral has been navigating a highly dynamic landscape for the past four years. When the initiatives first launched out of Malaysia, the region faced a challenge similar to what Japan experienced decades ago, a lack of interest in STEM.

As the initiatives expanded beyond Malaysia into neighboring countries, it became clear that a direct replication of Japan's model would not work. Southeast Asia's diversity demands localized strategies, as each country presents its own unique educational challenges. Today, the region is not just focused on generating interest, but on keeping pace with rapidly evolving technologies. With students learning faster than ever in the age of AI, the Education Development team must constantly stay ahead to effectively guide them.

To meet this demand, SEA's approach has been remarkably agile. Rather than simply importing Science Castle, the team evolved it. Recognizing that students needed support in conducting research, they mixed in other pillar initiatives such as the Science Castle Grant, along with new continuous support initiatives such as "Dr. X" that helps Japanese students challenge presenting their research outside of Japan, providing guidance before and after project development.

Dr. Ezral Ghazali,
Head of Education Development for Malaysia

Expanding globally through local collaboration

From Southeast Asia's perspective, Dr. Ezral sees immense value in Japan's ability to integrate industry into education. In Japan, companies actively contribute to nurturing the next generation, with companies like Rohto, Suntory, and Ajinomoto playing key roles. He hopes that SEA can cultivate similar partnerships, encouraging local industries in countries like Malaysia and the Philippines to see STEM development as a shared responsibility.

At the same time, Japan recognizes the strengths of Southeast Asia's localized approach. As the company aims to expand into 60 countries, Ms. Seno highlights the importance of having local teams who understand cultural nuances. This adaptability, which SEA has demonstrated so effectively, is essential for scaling education initiatives globally.

A Shared Hope for the Future Generation

Looking ahead to 2030, both regions share a unified vision centered on student growth. From Southeast Asia's perspective, Dr. Ezral defines success through student outcomes. His greatest motivation comes from seeing students secure international scholarships and placements in top universities. Ultimately, he hopes for a future where students genuinely enjoy learning science and no longer perceive it as difficult or inaccessible.

From Japan's perspective, Ms. Seno envisions a seamless educational journey that extends beyond the classroom. She hopes that students who begin their journey through Science Castle will continue to grow through advanced research opportunities, and even go on to build their own companies, while joining Leave a Nest's other initiatives aimed at supporting other sectors of the STEM ecosystem.

At its core, whether through Southeast Asia's adaptive strategies or Japan's structured platforms, the mission remains the same: to empower the next generation, build a supportive ecosystem, and ensure that every student has the opportunity to shape the future.

Ms. Aki Seno and Dr Ezral Ghazali having a meeting over at Tonari

STEM EDUCATION MADE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH SCIENTISTS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

By Ronezza Delos Santos, BSc

"It takes a village to raise a child." In today's context, impactful STEM education requires more than isolated CSR efforts—it requires an ecosystem. No longer the sole responsibility of schools, STEM education thrives when corporations, government institutions, and mission-driven organizations work together to expand access, tools, and real-world learning opportunities.

Where Scientific Curiosity Begins

A scientist's journey rarely starts in a laboratory — it begins with curiosity.

As a child, Jeremy De Leon was fascinated by microscopes and telescopes, dreaming of having his own laboratory. Without access to proper equipment, he improvised and transformed a storage room into a makeshift lab using repurposed materials. This early ingenuity laid the foundation for his future work.

Jeremy later pursued BS Manufacturing Engineering at Mapúa University, where he developed Make-roscope: a portable, keychain-sized microscope compatible with smartphones and tablets. Designed to be affordable and accessible, the tool reflects his mission: *"let every kid feel like they are scientists, without costing so much."*

This vision of accessible, hands-on science naturally found synergy with organizations working to scale STEM education impact.

Mr. Jeremy de Leon
Inventor, Make-roscope ®
Founder, JereMAKE

Collaboration as a Catalyst

Leave a Nest, founded by scientists, has long championed experiential STEM learning under its philosophy: *"Turning Everyday Wonder into Scientific Adventure."* Its partnership with JereMAKE demonstrates how aligned visions can translate into scalable educational impact.

One of their early collaborations took place in Bataan, through a teacher training program with the Department of Education. By introducing scientist-developed tools like Make-roscope, the initiative empowered educators to deliver more engaging, inquiry-based STEM lessons, thus multiplying impact at the classroom level, as trained educators bring these methods back to their own schools and students.

The partnership has since expanded to student-focused programs such as the *Ki ni Naru Project* and *Science Castle Philippines*, where learners explore scientific concepts through hands-on discovery and curiosity-driven learning.

Teachers trying out Make-roscope during the SDO Bataan QPMI Teachers' Summit and Science Castle Philippines

Students trying out Make-roscope during the Ki ni Naru Project and Science Castle Philippines

Most recently, Leave a Nest and JereMAKE partnered with Japan-based IT firm Focus Systems Corporation to deliver a biodiversity workshop at Southville International School and Colleges. Students conducted observations within their own campus ecosystem, gaining a new appreciation for local biodiversity while developing foundational research skills. Beyond implementation, corporate partners like Focus Systems were actively involved in program delivery, creating opportunities for employee engagement, brand visibility, and long-term community impact.

Biodiversity workshop with JereMAKE, Leave a Nest and Focus Systems Corporation at Southville International Schools and Colleges

Building a Sustainable STEM Ecosystem

These collaborations illustrate a broader principle: impactful STEM education is built through coordinated ecosystems.

Many CSR initiatives in education focus on donations or one-time support. While valuable, these efforts often lack continuity and clear learning outcomes. In contrast, partnership-driven programs—where companies contribute technology, expertise, and long-term engagement—create sustained, measurable impact at both the educator and student levels.

Organizations like Leave a Nest and JereMAKE play a critical role in enabling these partnerships—bridging scientific expertise, educational access, and program design ensuring initiatives are not only impactful, but also scalable and repeatable across different contexts.

By engaging in such partnerships, companies can help shape a generation equipped not only with knowledge, but with the curiosity and problem-solving skills essential for the future workforce.

An Invitation to Collaborate

Advancing STEM education requires shared vision and coordinated action. Companies looking to evolve their education-focused CSR into scalable, hands-on STEM programs are invited to explore partnerships with Leave a Nest and JereMAKE.

To explore how your organization can contribute to STEM education through these initiatives, connect with us at **info-asia@lne.st** or **admin@jeremake.com**.

GROWING YOUNG RESEARCHERS THROUGH STEM CO-CURRICULAR PATHWAYS

By Anis Nadyra Zifruddin, PhD

When we think about STEM education, we often picture textbooks, formulas and classroom lessons. However, the true spirit of STEM begins when students dare to ask questions, test ideas, fail, improve and try again. Through co-curricular activities such as camps, workshops, innovation challenges and research-based platforms, students are given a more open and hands-on space to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics while building confidence, communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

In Malaysia, the Sports, Co-Curricular and Arts Division (BSKK), Ministry of Education (KPM), the Ministry believes that STEM and research are not seen merely as academic content but as part of a holistic learning ecosystem. The aim is to give students opportunities to experience learning beyond formal lessons, especially through activities that encourage exploration, teamwork and real-world application.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

One strong example is the PISTEK Programme (Pertandingan Inovasi, Teknologi & Kejuruteraan) which exposes students to inquiry-based learning, invention, innovation and project-based activities. Rather than simply answering questions from a textbook, students are encouraged to identify real problems, develop ideas, build prototypes and test their solutions. While this process may seem simple from the outside, it often becomes students' first real experience of thinking like young researchers. The true value of programmes like PISTEK is not only seen in the final product or competition result, but in the growth that happens along the way as students become more confident in presenting their ideas, learn to work better as a team, improve through failure, and build patience, resilience and stronger problem-solving skills.

The Ministry also recognises that student development cannot be measured by trophies alone. Participation and achievement are recorded through school-based assessment, namely the Pentaksiran Aktiviti Jasmani, Sukan dan Kokurikulum (PAJSK), while competitions use rubrics that assess critical thinking, creativity, innovation and problem-solving. Teachers and mentors also play an important role in observing students' progress, especially in areas such as leadership, confidence and communication. More importantly, real impact can be seen when students become braver in asking questions, more confident in defending their ideas and more analytical in the way they approach problems

Research projects being presented at the international conference Science Castle Asia 2025, highlighting young researchers' confidence, communication skills, and enthusiasm for sharing scientific ideas with the wider community

Embracing Challenges Through Collaboration and Partnerships

Strengthening STEM through co-curricular activities also comes with challenges, as schools across Malaysia differ in facilities, access to mentors and available resources. To bridge these gaps, the Ministry continues to expand access through hybrid and online programmes, urban-rural school collaboration, and partnerships with universities, industries and research organisations. These efforts help ensure that more students have the opportunity to explore and grow in STEM, regardless of their background or school context. Collaborations with organisations such as Leave a Nest and platforms like the Science Castle Series further connect students to real research ecosystems, giving them the chance to present their work, receive professional feedback and interact with peers globally.

FROM PETRA JAYA TO TOKYO:

SARAWAK'S YOUNG SCIENTISTS TAKE ON THE WORLD STAGE

By Aisyah Robi, MPhil

BIG IDEAS BIGGER IMPACT!

The road to scientific innovation often begins with a simple question, but for two determined teams from Yayasan Sarawak International Secondary School (YSISS) Petra Jaya, it led all the way to Tokyo, Japan. Representing Sarawak at the prestigious Science Castle World, these students evolved from local researchers into international ambassadors of innovation. Their journey was not merely about competition; it was a testament to the power of youthful curiosity and the untapped potential within Sarawak's natural landscape. By transforming local waste into high-value solutions, they demonstrated that the next breakthrough in global sustainability could emerge from the minds of Sarawakian youth.

The **"Algae-Pack: The Next-Gen Biodegradable Solution"** team brought a bold, forward-thinking solution to the global stage, addressing the escalating crisis of plastic pollution. Inspired by Sarawak's advancements in algae-based biofuels, they posed a simple yet powerful question, why not use this abundant resource to replace single-use plastics? Their experience in Tokyo reinforced an important lesson, science is a universal language of collaboration. By sharing their innovation with peers from around the world, they realized that extraordinary solutions can come from ordinary students driven by curiosity and determination.

At the same time, the **"Durian Pith Fibers as a Potential Raw Material for Kraft Paper"** team reimagined one of Malaysia's most iconic fruits. While durian is globally known for its pungent aroma, these young researchers saw untapped potential in its discarded husks. Through meticulous experimentation and hands-on effort, they extracted cellulose from the durian pith to produce a durable, odorless craft paper. Their work stood out in Tokyo not only for its originality, but also for the strength of their data, proving that even "waste" can be transformed into a premium resource.

YSISS students turning curiosity into innovation through hands-on scientific exploration.

Two teams, one mission: innovation for a sustainable future.
The Algae Pack and Durian Pith teams from YSISS Petra Jaya, united in curiosity, driven by purpose.

TURNING WASTE INTO WORTH!

Turning waste into worth, the Durian Pith team transforms discarded husks into sustainable innovation.

Reflecting on their time in Tokyo, both teams returned to Sarawak with far more than accolades. They gained a deeper understanding of what it truly means to be a scientist. Beyond microscopes and lab coats, they learned that a researcher's most valuable tools are resilience, curiosity, and a willingness to learn from failure. Whether adapting to unexpected chemical reactions or collaborating across disciplines, their experiences carried a powerful message back to their peers at YSISS Petra Jaya, innovation has no age limit. By representing Sarawak on the world stage, these young pioneers have set a new benchmark for student research, proving that with passion and perseverance, even the most local ideas can make a global impact.

LOCAL IDEAS. GLOBAL IMPACT!

VOICES OF GROWTH AND COLLABORATION:
CO-CREATING FUTURES WITH OUR PARTNERS

By Anis Nadyra Zifruddin, PhD & Izzaty Ismail, PhD

Through TECH PLANTER, **Jeremake** found in Leave a Nest not just a platform for innovation, but the beginning of a meaningful partnership rooted in shared growth, trust, and the co-creation of futures.

Our collaboration has opened pathways for educational initiatives, strategic networks, investment opportunities, and partnerships that continue to strengthen our commitment to building solutions with lasting social impact.

We partner with Leave a Nest because they cultivate innovation with patience, purpose, and a genuine spirit of family empowering organizations like ours to grow, learn from failure, and solve problems together.

Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) partners with Leave a Nest because we share a commitment to co-creating futures through meaningful collaboration, innovation, and educational development that places student learning at the center.

Through initiatives such as the Benchmarking Tour at Japan that helps us develop new approach of teaching, Science Castle that help our students' research and the Biodiversity Science Workshop, where our students engaged in hands-on exploration, fieldwork, discussion, and reflection experiences that made learning more enduring, relevant, and inspiring beyond the classroom.

We value this partnership for its ability to spark curiosity, deepen scientific understanding, and empower both learners and educators to imagine and build a better future together.

We have collaborated with Leave a Nest Philippines, Inc. through the co-development of Waku Waku project, a non-cognitive assessment platform for holistic student development, and with Focus Systems on an IoT attendance device for schools. Through Leave a Nest, Livro Systems Inc. and **Wela** connected with international partners who share our vision of using innovation and technology to improve education.

These partnerships opened opportunities for cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange between the Philippines and Japan. Leave a Nest has been instrumental in linking us with the right partners, helping transform ideas into practical solutions with meaningful impact.

Their support strengthened our team's perspective on global collaboration and inspired us to continue building solutions for schools, students, and communities.

One of the most memorable parts of collaborating with Leave a Nest through Science Castle was getting to interact directly with the students and hear the thinking behind their projects. You could really see the passion and effort they put into both their research and the way they communicated their ideas. It honestly reminded our team how much potential young people have when they are given the right platform and support.

We'd definitely encourage other organisations to partner with Leave a Nest. The experience felt very genuine and meaningful, and we're grateful to have been part of something that gives youths the confidence and opportunity to share their ideas.

Y:WAIT was honoured to be invited as a partner and judge for Science Castle 2026, organised by Leave a Nest. We were deeply impressed by the diversity of projects presented by middle school students across Southeast Asia. Each team brought forward innovative ideas rooted in real problems they observed within their own communities, reflecting both creativity and strong social awareness. Science Castle created an inspiring platform where students from different backgrounds and age groups could confidently share their ideas, learn from one another and spark meaningful conversations around innovation and technology. It was truly encouraging to witness the next generation of changemakers in STEM!

Science Castle continues to strengthen its role as a platform that connects students, educators, industries, and organizations through the advancement of STEM education and research culture. More than just a student research presentation event, Science Castle has evolved into a collaborative ecosystem where passionate partners work together to nurture future STEM leaders and inspire scientific curiosity among younger generations.

Cyberview Sdn Bhd has been a dedicated partner of Science Castle Asia since its first Malaysia edition in 2023. The organization continuously supports STEM participation among students by creating opportunities for young talents to explore science and research beyond classrooms. Cyberview described SCA as a "great event to increase participation of students in STEM."

Ajinomoto (Malaysia) Berhad, (AMB) has significantly contributed to the growth of Science Castle in Malaysia for two consecutive years. Beyond supporting Science Castle Asia, AMB also participated in the first Science Castle Grant, providing students with research and mentorship opportunities. AMB expressed satisfaction with the programme's organization, engagement, and overall implementation.

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) expressed satisfaction with Science Castle, highlighting its strong organization and diverse international participation. MDEC noted that the programme provided valuable brand visibility and meaningful engagement within the STEM education ecosystem. The organization hopes Science Castle will continue growing to inspire and impact more students and teachers.

Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation Berhad (SDEC) highlighted the value of engaging with students and teachers through Science Castle and expressed interest in future collaborations.

Sugarbomb Worldwide Sdn Bhd emphasized the programme's contribution to CSR and ESG initiatives, showcasing Science Castle's impact on education, community development, and sustainability efforts.

Partners and collaborators praised Science Castle for its strong organization, meaningful content, and inspiring atmosphere that engaged students and educators across the region. As Science Castle expands throughout Asia, continued partner support drives its mission to cultivate innovation, research culture, and scientific thinking while empowering the next generation of impactful STEM leaders.

BE PART OF ASIA'S LEADING STEM PLATFORM

SCA2026 PARTNERSHIP CALL

Science Castle Asia 2026 (SCAsia2026) is an international platform dedicated to fostering scientific inquiry, research capability, and cross-border collaboration among high school students across Asia. The programme brings together students, educators, researchers, and industry stakeholders to support the development of future leaders in science and technology.

Leave a Nest calls upon strategic partners to collaboratively drive the next phase of impact in nurturing future STEM leaders across the region.

BACKGROUND

SCAsia2026 provides selected high school students with the opportunity to present their research projects in an international setting, receive feedback from experts, and engage in meaningful exchanges with peers from different countries. The programme emphasizes the importance of research-driven learning, critical thinking, and real-world problem solving.

Through this platform, Leave a Nest aims to strengthen the STEM ecosystem by bridging education with industry and research institutions.

SCIENCE CASTLE ASIA 2026

22-23 AUGUST 2026
Dewan Tuanku Canselor
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia
(USIM), Nilai, Malaysia

Organizer: Leave a Nest — The Knowledge Manufacturing Company
Co-organizer: USIM
Partners: UTMy, YAYASAN MRDIY

Call for Partnership

Science Castle is a free research conference platform for high school students across Asia to share their research in science, technology, and engineering.

Showcase your brand to a diverse audience, reinforcing your commitment to education, innovation, and fostering scientific curiosity.

Elevate your brand through strategic product placement where your **products will be seamlessly integrated into the event**, reaching and engaging young students, teachers and parents from seven countries.

Engage with the future generation, making a positive impact on their educational journey and demonstrating your dedication to shaping a brighter future for communities across Asia.

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS FOR SCASIA2026 IS INTENDED TO:

- SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-QUALITY STUDENT RESEARCH
- FACILITATE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BETWEEN ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY, AND SCHOOLS
- PROMOTE AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN STEM-RELATED FIELDS
- CONTRIBUTE TO THE CULTIVATION OF FUTURE TALENT ALIGNED WITH INDUSTRY AND SOCIETAL NEEDS

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Leave a Nest welcomes partnerships in several areas, including but not limited to:

- Provision of awards or specific research categories to specific teams in the conference
- Contribution to programme content through shared creation of workshops or lectures
- Support for student participation, including travel and accommodation
- Joint development of thematic initiatives aligned with partner expertise

All collaborations will be structured to ensure mutual value, alignment of objectives, and meaningful engagement.

Activities at Science Castle

Previous Partners

INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

Science Castle Asia represents a sustained effort to build a strong foundation for STEM education and innovation in the region. The involvement of partners is essential in ensuring the continuity and relevance of this initiative. For more information and updates regarding SCAsia2026, **please visit https://castle.lne.st/SCAsia2026**

SCIENCE CASTLE

A SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE CASTLE SINGAPORE 2026 GRAND WINNER:

A SMARTER WAY TO MONITOR PIG HEALTH

By Mark Chiam, BSc

Science Castle is a platform created by Leave a Nest for high school students, providing them with an opportunity to share their research and innovative projects, emphasizing Science, Technology, and Engineering, with the ultimate goal of addressing worldwide social challenges.

Kai Zhe presenting his research findings to the panel and audience

Innovation often begins with something personal. Before arriving in Singapore in 2025 to study, Kai Zhe visited his hometown in Malaysia during Chinese New Year, where his grandfather runs a pig farm. At the time, African Swine Flu outbreaks in Johor and Penang forced widespread farm closures and mass culling. Witnessing this firsthand, and recalling long standing inefficiencies in how farmers monitor livestock health, he saw an urgent need for a better solution. Together with his teammate Jason, he began developing a computer vision system aimed at helping farmers detect early signs of illness more effectively.

Their research focused on lethargy as a primary indicator of poor health in pigs. While they initially explored methods such as thermal imaging and pose estimation, limited data led them to adopt a more practical approach. Using a large dataset of pigs with bounding boxes, they extracted motion metrics and analyzed behavioral patterns within pens. By comparing individual pigs against their peers, the system identifies those moving significantly slower over time and flags them for further attention. The model achieved an accuracy of 95.6 percent, with results that were manually validated, demonstrating that reliable health insights can be obtained using accessible visual data.

Kai Zhe and Jason addressing questions during the judges' Q&A session

Kai Zhe and Jason receiving the Grand Winner Award

The project was later presented at Science Castle Singapore 2026, where Kai Zhe and Jason not only engaged with innovators across various fields but also emerged as Grand Winner of the competition. The experience was both immersive and motivating, reinforcing the value of building solutions driven by genuine curiosity. They also received an invitation to collaborate with a Japanese agricultural company working on similar challenges. Moving forward, the team plans to expand their model by incorporating more diverse datasets and partnering with research institutions to prepare the system for real world testing and deployment.

ANNOUNCING!

SCIENCE CASTLE

STEP INTO SCIENCE CASTLE WORLD 2026

By Mohamed Shazada, BBs

INTRODUCING SCIENCE CASTLE WORLD 2026

What if there was a place where your scientific curiosity wasn't just encouraged but celebrated on a global stage? Science Castle World is exactly that. Designed as a vibrant playground for young innovators, it brings together passionate students from around the world to explore bold ideas, collaborate across disciplines, and turn imagination into meaningful action.

More than just an event, it's an experience and it is one that empowers you to think bigger, connect deeper, and build solutions that matter.

WHAT MAKES SCIENCE CASTLE UNIQUE?

Science Castle, a flagship initiative by Leave a Nest, is a multidisciplinary research conference tailored for high school students. Whether your interests lie in environmental science, engineering, healthcare, or social innovation, this is a platform where your ideas are valued and nurtured.

Inspired by the spirit of Osaka Castle which is a symbol of unity and progress, Science Castle has grown into an international movement. Science Castle World represents its most exciting evolution yet: a global gathering of young minds ready to shape the future together.

WHY YOU SHOULD BE THERE

Across two immersive days, you'll present your research, exchange ideas, and receive valuable feedback from experts. Choose to showcase your work through engaging oral presentations or interactive poster sessions.

Academia Day connects you with researchers who will help refine your ideas, while Industry Day challenges you to think beyond theory and work alongside professionals to translate your research into real-world impact.

This isn't just about presenting a project,it's about starting a journey.

Join the Movement

Be part of the inaugural Science Castle World at the Institute of Science Tokyo, Ookayama Campus, on 12-13 December 2026. Step forward, share your vision, and help build the future one idea at a time.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FROM JUNE 1, 2026.
You can learn more about the event through **https://castle.lne.st/en/schedule/scw2026/**

UPCOMING SCIENCE CASTLE EVENTS OF 2026

SCIENCE CASTLE JAPAN
Date: 6 June 2026
Venue: Kansai University, Senriyama Campus

SCIENCE CASTLE ASIA
Date: 22-23 August 2026
Venue: Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Negeri Sembilan

SCIENCE CASTLE WORLD
Date: 12-13 December 2026
Venue: Tokyo University of Science, Ookayama Campus

NURTURING TALENT: BRIDGING RESEARCH, SKILLS, AND INNOVATION ACROSS BORDERS

Where opportunities begin by building networks and gaining insights.

Building the future-ready talent and next generation of leaders.

Showcasing talent in action, building communication and leadership for careers.

Over the past two decades, Leave a Nest has remained committed to strengthening science and technology talent development through close collaboration with partners across academia, industry, and government. Together, these partnerships play a vital role in empowering researchers and young talents with the mindset, skills, and global exposure needed to thrive beyond academia.

Through joint initiatives such as career development programmes, transferable skills workshops, international exchanges, and venture-building opportunities, this section highlights how collaborative efforts enable talents to translate research into real-world impact.

By connecting partners and talents across borders, particularly within Southeast Asia and Japan, Leave a Nest continues to nurture a new generation of researchers equipped with entrepreneurial thinking, essential soft skills, and a global perspective to drive innovation and contribute to sustainable ecosystem growth.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (HD) ACROSS BORDERS: FROM JAPAN'S FOUNDATIONS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA'S TRANSFORMATION

By Koki Mandai, BA

In the Leave a Nest Group, Human Development (HD) has always gone beyond conventional Human Resource (HR) development. While primarily focusing on university students and young researchers, it emphasises nurturing individuals' questions and passions through their growth as human beings. A conversation between Mr. Shota Nakashima, the newly appointed Head of the HD Division in Leave a Nest Japan, and Ms. Aisyah Abdul Hamid, Head of the HD Division in Malaysia, reveals the history, evolution, and future direction of HD across regions.

History of the Human Development Division in Leave a Nest

For Mr. Nakashima, the origins of HD in Japan are closely tied to a structural challenge that defined an entire generation: the postdoctoral employment crisis. Until today, significant numbers of PhD holders struggled to secure stable employment, while companies saw little reason to hire these specialised individuals. This disconnect exposed a deeper issue: a lack of roles where advanced knowledge could be utilised.

In response, HD in Japan began by creating entirely new roles, most notably the "Science Bridge Communicator." This became the foundation of Leave a Nest's contribution to society. Together with the Education Development division, early initiatives focused on expanding the capabilities of PhDs through skill development seminars that encouraged them to think beyond academics. Over time, these initiatives formed a more structured ecosystem. The establishment of Leave a Nest University in 2021 marked a major milestone, providing a platform for individuals to develop themselves across different stages of their careers. Yet, the core challenge remained unchanged: how to create opportunities where none existed before.

Mr. Shota Nakashima, Head of HD Division Japan (Left) and Ms. Aisyah Abdul Hamid, Head of HD Division Malaysia (Right)

In SEA, the starting point was different, though with similar underlying questions. As Ms. Aisyah explains, the issue was not only about employment, but about alignment. Across the region, there is a mismatch between what students learn and what industries need. This gap is especially evident in rapidly emerging sectors, where the pace of change outstrips traditional education systems. For instance, researchers who aspire to become entrepreneurs often lack the knowledge required to translate their ideas into viable businesses. These gaps highlighted the need for a new approach focusing on creating pathways.

HD in SEA responded by building platforms to bridge these divides. Programs such as the Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Training (SCENT) introduced undergraduate students and young talents to real-world applications within the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Compared to Japan, HD efforts in SEA place a stronger emphasis on entrepreneurship, reflecting the region's immediate societal needs.

Despite these regional differences, both Japan and SEA share a common outcome. HD serves as a mechanism to address talent shortages by enabling individuals to create opportunities, rather than waiting for them.

Human Development Division Initiatives Today

Today, in Japan, HD has expanded its role by "filling in the gaps" within existing systems. Mr. Nakashima notes that this flexibility stems from the way HD interacts with other divisions. Through collaborations, HD has broadened its scope to engage with multiple stakeholders.

Initially, Japan's HD focused on individuals, helping them identify their questions, passions, and personal missions. While this remains foundational, the focus is now shifting toward collective impact. With current platforms, there is a growing emphasis on collaboration beyond individuals, aiming to combine multiple institutions. This reflects a deeper understanding that meaningful change requires people to fully collaborate.

In SEA, the present challenges have grown more complex. There is still a strong need to create alternative pathways for talents who cannot further pursue academic careers. While entrepreneurship continues to play a central role, HD has expanded to include supporting individuals within organisations. Simultaneously, there is an increasing focus on strengthening connections between education and industry to ensure that skills developed are aligned with real-world demands.

For Ms. Aisyah, this represents both an opportunity and a challenge. Building systems that connect talent development with economic needs requires long-term commitment. It also demands collaboration across multiple entities. The goal today is to build an ecosystem where their skills can be fully utilised within the landscape of SEA.

The Future of Human Development

Looking toward 2030 and beyond, in Japan, Mr. Nakashima envisions embedding the principles of HD into society itself. This includes extending concepts such as Science Bridge Leaders, currently cultivated within Leave a Nest, into external organisations. The aim is to make HD a natural part of institutional frameworks, rather than a standalone initiative.

In SEA, the vision is equally forward-looking but grounded in regional realities. Ms. Aisyah sees HD as a bridge connecting people's skills with the needs of the economy. This includes introducing structured frameworks for leadership into corporate environments, while continuing to support talents in building adaptable capabilities. Expanding collaborations beyond educational institutions marks an important step toward broader adoption.

Across both regions, one principle remains constant. HD is not about producing individuals who fit into existing systems. It is about empowering people to shape those systems themselves. As Mr. Nakashima emphasises, "the distinction between Human Development and Human Resource Development reflects our belief that the focus is on developing how people think and work, for themselves and for society, not for a specific organisation."

As Japan and SEA continue to learn from one another, their shared journey reflects a broader aspiration. It is a vision that extends beyond organisational success: the pursuit of global happiness through the development of people.

Leave a Nest University Initiative from HD Division Japan

Leave a Nest University Initiative from HD Division SEA

NATION BUILDING WITH SCIENCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

By Josemaria Sison, BSc

1st Place Awardee (Team NutriLink) during the STTP Region VI Demo Day

Solving Complexities with Scientific Innovations

Nation-building is an inherently complex process that requires an understanding of the past, present challenges, and future plans, making progress difficult to navigate. However, for Engr. Rowen R. Gelonga, Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in Western Visayas (Region VI), points to initiatives like the Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Training Program (STTP) as one possible approach to addressing these complexities. The multi-month program, which was implemented by Leave a Nest Philippines under consignment from DOST, introduces undergraduate DOST scholars to a research-driven, business-oriented mindset inspired by Japanese practices, with the aim of translating scientific innovations into viable commercial ventures.

Bridging the gap between the Sciences and Business

The goals of STTP were to present entrepreneurship as a viable path for those studying under the sciences, to broaden how careers in science and technology are perceived, and to encourage the creation of sustainable deep-tech startups. Through the program, DOST scholars are given opportunities to engage with business incubators, refine their ideas, and explore potential pathways to implementation. The program also emphasizes a skill-building aspect by identifying how scientific knowledge can be applied in practical and market-oriented contexts. According to Engr. Gelonga, participants would view entrepreneurship as a legitimate extension of their scientific training with some participants having moved forward by integrating into Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) and developing startups, while others continue to refine their concepts, suggesting varying levels of progress and long-term impact.

Refining and perfecting what works

On the other hand, sustaining and expanding efforts such as STTP presents its own challenges. For instance, many Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) face gaps in innovation capacity, highlighting the need for consistent and long-term interventions rather than one-off programs. Despite this, the implementation of the STTP and similar programs remain feasible by ensuring continuity, scalability, and measurable outcomes, allowing for programs like STTP to become realistic and achievable.

Paving the road for development

Overall, the STTP can be viewed as a stepping stone to support innovation-driven development. It offers participants tools to explore entrepreneurial pathways while contributing to regional economic activity. At the same time, its long-term effectiveness will likely depend on sustained institutional support, continuous refinement, and the ability to address systemic challenges within the local innovation ecosystem. Looking at the potential of STTP, the challenges ingrained in nation building become addressable through a proper implementation, not only in a localized area, but throughout the different regions in the country. As Engr. Gelonga describes it, the STTP program is a “game changer” when it comes to regional development, ultimately serving as one of the first steps to building a nation.

Engr. Rowen Gelonga,
Department of Science and Technology
Regional Director in Western Visayas (Region VI)

TRAINING FOR IMPACT:
WHERE STTP SHAPES THE NEXT GENERATION OF TECHNOPRENEURS

By Jomer Ruego, BSc

For many students, research starts as a requirement. It is something you complete to pass a subject or graduate. But that view can change. Through programs like the Scholars Technopreneurship Training Program, a six-month training program led by the DOST Science Education Institute with Leave a Nest Philippines as the training provider, early-career researchers are guided to move beyond academic work. The program brings together students from different fields and challenges them to translate their research into practical solutions by working on real problems, engaging with communities, and developing ideas into viable concepts. In this setting, research begins to take on a different meaning. It becomes something that can move beyond the classroom and into the real world.

Rico and their startup concept Chloromeds, a halal, microalgae-based drug line

One of the key lessons he carried forward was the importance of looking at local contexts. Through STTP, he saw that many regions remain underexplored despite having strong potential. He began to view local resources not as limitations but as opportunities for innovation. This mindset continues to shape his work today as a science research analyst, where he focuses on practical applications such as natural products, food production and animal health. His work reflects a shift toward research that responds directly to community needs, grounded in both scientific knowledge and local relevance.

Team PhotoSynth receiving awards during the STTP Region XII Demo Day

Rico John Gorieza and team PhotoSynth during the STTP Region XII Demo Day

This shift is clear in the experience of Rico John Gorieza. As a registered microbiologist, he was already familiar with laboratory work, but STTP pushed him to approach research differently. The program required participants to move beyond theory and develop solutions grounded in real needs. For over six months, his team, Photosynth, worked on building a concept that responds to their region, focusing on a halal-certified, microalgae-based drug line called ChloroMeds. The process involved not only applying scientific knowledge but also understanding the community, identifying gaps, and shaping ideas into something usable. Through this experience, his perspective changed from viewing research as an academic requirement to seeing it as a way to contribute beyond the laboratory.

Photosynth, along with other teams from Region XII, showcasing their startup during the National Science and Technology Week 2025

At the same time, the path for young researchers is not easy. Limited funding, access to opportunities, and the need for guidance remain real challenges. As Rico explained, "you cannot materialize research without the people who came before you ... they have the experience and lessons to help bring it into reality." Programs like STTP help address these gaps by providing exposure, mentorship, and a space to develop ideas. For early-career researchers, the next step is to seek out these opportunities and take action. Engaging in programs like STTP can open pathways to develop research further, connect with support systems, and turn ideas into solutions that extend beyond the laboratory.

A SMALL IDEA, A BIGGER MISSION:
SHO CHEN'S D-0. JOURNEY

By Ayu Permata Halim Mendoza, BSc

"I came into D-0. with a product idea, and I'm leaving with a mission to build global nutrition infrastructure."

For Sho Chen, founder of EYO, entrepreneurship began not with ambition, but with his personal journey. After undergoing multiple surgeries, he saw firsthand how patients struggled with inaccessible and unsuitable nutrition options. This sparked a central question: how can good nutrition be made accessible to those who need it most?

From Product Idea to System Thinking

When Sho joined the D-0. programme, he was seeking clarity rather than scale. His initial idea was a simple, product-focused solution - a nutrition powder sachet designed to be allergen-free and elderly-friendly. At the time, his approach centred on formulation and distribution. While confident in the problem, he was unsure whether the product alone was the right solution at scale.

A key shift came through exposure. Interactions with doctors, researchers, and hospital stakeholders challenged his assumptions and broadened his perspective. What began as a product evolved into something much larger, a system. EYO is now developing into an AI-powered nutrition ecosystem, integrating health data to deliver personalised nutrition in real time.

EYO All-in-1 Allergen-free Nutrition Powder Drink (Left)
EYO's nutrition vending machine (Right)

Mr. Sho Chen, Founder & CEO of EYO (Left)
Ms. Anastasia Stephanie Angelica, Co-Founder & Chief Product & Strategy Development Officer (Right)

Building the Team & Expanding the Vision

This evolution was not only technological, but also collaborative. During this journey, Sho brought on a new co-founder, Anastasia, who joined EYO after meeting him through a sustainability-focused project. Anastasia brought complementary expertise in product development, flavours, and manufacturing, as well as a strong understanding of consumer markets. Her perspective helped shape EYO's product direction, expanding into retail-ready offerings, new flavours, and positioning for everyday users such as busy professionals. This marked a shift from a solo, product-driven effort to a more multidisciplinary, team-based approach.

Personal Growth & Future Vision

Personally, Sho also underwent a significant change. He moved from prioritising speed to embracing patience and strategic thinking, focusing on building strong foundations and partnerships. His definition of a "good idea" evolved from simply creating a useful product to building something scalable, meaningful, and long-lasting.

Looking ahead, EYO aims to scale globally, building the world's dominant nutrition platform across healthcare, consumer, and institutional markets to make personalised nutrition as accessible as a daily coffee.

Reflecting on his journey, Sho emphasises the importance of focusing on one's core question and mission. While D-0 provides the environment and support, progress ultimately depends on taking action. "The most important thing is that you move forward, even from D-0.01 to D-0.1."

VOICES OF GROWTH AND COLLABORATION:
CO-CREATING FUTURES WITH OUR PARTNERS

By Jewel Santos, BA

At the heart of every meaningful collaboration is a shared vision that goes beyond organizational goals and reflects a deeper commitment to human development. Through partnerships with Leave a Nest, organizations across Singapore and the Philippines have engaged with emerging talent, explored new ideas, and expanded their impact in meaningful ways. They move beyond participation and into spaces where innovation is shared, challenged, and continuously reimagined.

These are their stories. Each one offers a glimpse into how collaboration becomes a catalyst for growth, revealing the transformative power of working together toward a common purpose.

SINGAPORE

Atlas Robotics joined Leave a Nest in the AddVenture Forum and TECH PLANTER. They shared that the AddVenture Forum was "an invaluable opportunity to connect with young minds and hear fresh perspectives on robotics," especially in the context of the AI revolution.

Vark Technologies joined AddVenture Forum where they were able to share their story. They described the engagement as highly impactful, noting that it helped them "connect with extremely bright and talented individuals" while benefiting from "extremely professional" events and strong support from the Leave a Nest team.

Leave a Nest supported ugo, Inc.'s local talent acquisition efforts through the AddVenture Forum (AVF), connecting them with universities like the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). They described Leave a Nest as "a true partner," emphasizing how the collaboration strengthened their ability to gather insights, adapt, and grow with confidence.

PHILIPPINES

Science College Government of De La Salle University defined the partnership with Leave a Nest as a creation of a dynamic and immersive platform for innovation. They shared that the AddVenture Forum 2026 was "envisioned as a space where science, innovation, and purpose come together," bringing together diverse stakeholders in one environment.

Adamson University and AdUNEST's partnership with Leave a Nest has taken shape through various programs which gave students and incubatees the rare chance to step beyond campus boundaries and test their ideas in a wider innovation ecosystem. As they shared, "mentorship, feedback, and exposure helped turn hesitation into confidence and concepts into actionable ventures."

Through its participation in Leave a Nest's AddVenture Forum, Apex Mining has strengthened its engagement with students while showcasing the diverse opportunities within the mining industry. Describing the event as "a great opportunity to interact with the talents of the future," the company shared that the collaboration not only inspired aspiring professionals, but also offered valuable insights into what young people seek in a meaningful workplace.

Across these partnerships, a clear pattern emerges. Each collaboration created opportunities not only to connect, but to think differently, grow strategically, and take meaningful steps forward. Whether through engaging with emerging talent, expanding networks, or refining global strategies, these experiences reflect how collaboration with Leave a Nest becomes a catalyst for both innovation and long-term impact.

KIZUNA IN ACTION: VOICES FROM MALAYSIA'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

By Muhammad Basril Muhammad Asri, MSc

In this special feature, we turn the spotlight on the visionary partners who form the backbone of our mission in Malaysia. Through the spirit of Kizuna, the enduring bonds of connection, Leave a Nest has collaborated with industry leaders and ecosystem builders to bridge the gap between science and society. From advancing STEM education to scaling deep tech solutions, Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC), Pelangi Publishing Group, Tupai AI, Aerodyne Flight Institute, and Chumbaka share their reflections on our journey together. These testimonials offer a window into the collaborative synergy that continues to drive "Knowledge Manufacturing" and sustainable growth across the region.

MS. NUR HARTINI BINTI MARDAN
Manager, Tech & Talent Transfer, Research & Product Development Dept

SDEC has partnered with Leave A Nest Malaysia through TECH PLANTER for three years (2024 - present) and joined TECH PLANTER Vietnam, gaining valuable ASEAN-wide networks for technology exploration, collaboration, and deployment opportunities.

DR. POH SWEE HIANG
Content Director & Accredited Trainer, Pelangi Publishing Group

For the third consecutive year, Pelangi has collaborated with Leave a Nest on the Great Teacher Summit, gaining invaluable insights into STEM education through the eyes of both teachers and students.

MR. EDMOND YAP KOK ONN
Chief Executive Officer, Tupai (AI Teacher Sdn Bhd)

We appreciate Leave a Nest's industry and ecosystem introductions to ecosystem partners within Sarawak and look forward to further collaborations in the near future as Tupai expands our footprint in East Malaysia.

MR. IZHAM BIN ZAKARIA
Chief Executive Officer, Aerodyne Flight Institute

Aerodyne Flight Institute is a proud partner of Leave a Nest Malaysia, in inspiring young minds and driving tech entrepreneurship. Great to be part of this annual program!

DR. CHEW YEN SENG
Chief Executive Officer, Chumbaka Sdn. Bhd.

Collaboration is essential to strengthening Malaysia's STEM ecosystem, especially through events like GTS, by uniting diverse expertise to empower the next generation of innovators and drive sustainable national growth through shared vision.

NURTURING FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH THE NEST LEADERSHIP CAMP 2026

By Siti Shazwani, PhD

Leave a Nest
NEST Leadership Camp
"Empowering Leaders, Igniting Change, Fostering Science"

How NEST Leadership Camp (NLC) started?

The NEST Leadership Camp (NLC) was initiated by Leave a Nest Malaysia, starting with university student volunteers at Science Castle Asia 2023, to nurture future leaders with strong communication and leadership skills. Recognising the gap between scientific knowledge and effective public engagement among university students, the programme integrates the Science Bridge Communication (SBC) approach with hands-on experiences, enabling participants to become confident communicators and active contributors to the STEM community. Today, the programme has expanded across our flagship initiatives, creating a vibrant ecosystem that empowers youth and the next generation of changemakers.

Continuing the Growth Journey

The NLC 2026, continues to play a vital role in shaping the next generation of student leaders. Designed as a dynamic leadership training platform, the program integrates leadership development with scientific engagement, offering participants a unique and meaningful learning experience.

The latest edition of NEST Leadership being held on 11th April 2026, the camp gathered 27 UiTM Kota Samarahan students in an immersive one-day program filled with interactive sessions and real-world insights. Participants were exposed not only to leadership principles but also to the importance of communicating science effectively to society.

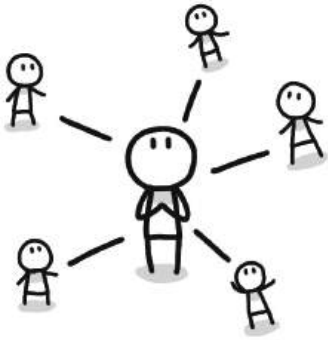
A key highlight of the camp was the SBC session, which emphasized translating complex scientific ideas into simple, engaging, and impactful messages for the community. This was complemented by Leadership sessions focusing on trust-building, purpose-driven teamwork, and empowering individuals, core qualities essential for leading volunteer-based initiatives.

In addition, participants gained valuable perspectives through volunteerism sharing sessions, where real-life experiences demonstrated how community involvement can cultivate critical skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. The program also included stewardship briefings for upcoming flagship events such as the Great Teacher Summit (GTS) and Science Castle Malaysia (SCMY), preparing participants to take on active roles in future projects.

Beyond knowledge-sharing, the camp emphasized practical preparation. From understanding detailed roles during events to participating in simulations and briefings, NLC ensures that participants are not only inspired but also well-equipped to execute responsibilities effectively. The program reflects a strong commitment to developing capable, confident, and socially responsible leaders.

As part of its continuous effort to strengthen project readiness and volunteer capability, the NEST Leadership Camp is now open as a preparatory training program for any upcoming Leave a Nest initiatives. This program is highly recommended for individuals or teams who wish to enhance their leadership, communication, and operational skills before engaging in major projects.

Through NLC, participants are empowered to bridge science and society, lead with purpose, and contribute meaningfully to impactful programs, paving the way for a stronger and more connected future.



For more information, you may reach us at **shazwani@lne.st**

HRDC CLAIMABLE TRAINING BEYOND CONVENTIONAL LEARNING

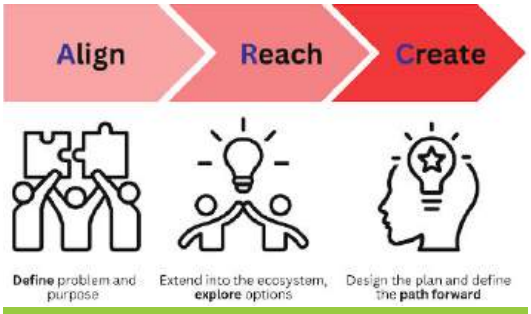
By Nor Ilia Anisa, Phd, PEng

Leave a Nest Malaysia is proud to introduce its HRDC Claimable Training Programme designed to nurture future-ready talents through immersive, purpose-driven, and ecosystem-based learning experiences. Rooted in **Leave a Nest's unique QPMI approach** (Question, Passion, Mission, Innovation), the programmes go beyond conventional classroom training by engaging diverse stakeholders, including professionals, educators, researchers, innovators, and organizations, and equipping them **with practical skills, strategic thinking, networking opportunities, and collaborative capabilities** to create meaningful real-world impact.

Through interdisciplinary engagement, industry exposure, hands-on learning, and collaborative opportunities within Leave a Nest's holistic innovation ecosystem, participants will gain **practical insights and real-world experiences** that bridge knowledge with implementation, innovation, and sustainable impact across diverse sectors and industries.

What makes our training different?

Leave a Nest training programme are uniquely designed through an ***integrated support system*** that combines ***cross-sector expertise***, a problem-driven approach, and global knowledge with local insight to create ***continuity and long-term impact*** for participants and organizations.



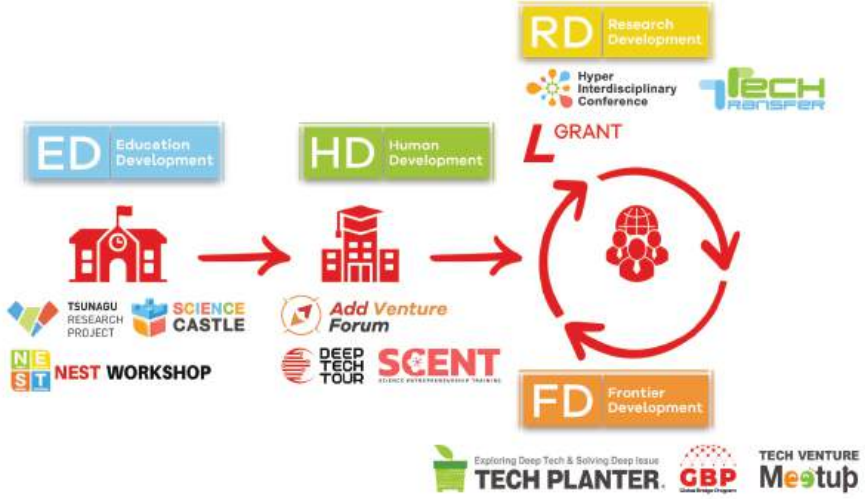
Leave a Nest HRDC Claimable Training Framework

The ARC Framework

ALIGN helps participants identify their mission and strategically align their goals ***prior to the respective programme***.

REACH immerses participants in industry and innovation ecosystems through practical engagements and site visits ***during the respective programme***.

CREATE supports participants in transforming ideas into actionable projects and collaborations ***after the programme***.



Partners can choose and customize any programme within Leave a Nest's holistic ecosystem to apply the ARC Framework (Align, Reach, Create) based on their organizational goals and talent development needs.

Through Leave a Nest Malaysia's holistic ecosystem and end-to-end innovation framework, the HRDC Claimable Training Programme aim to create lasting impact by empowering individuals and organizations to continuously learn, innovate, collaborate, and contribute toward sustainable future growth.

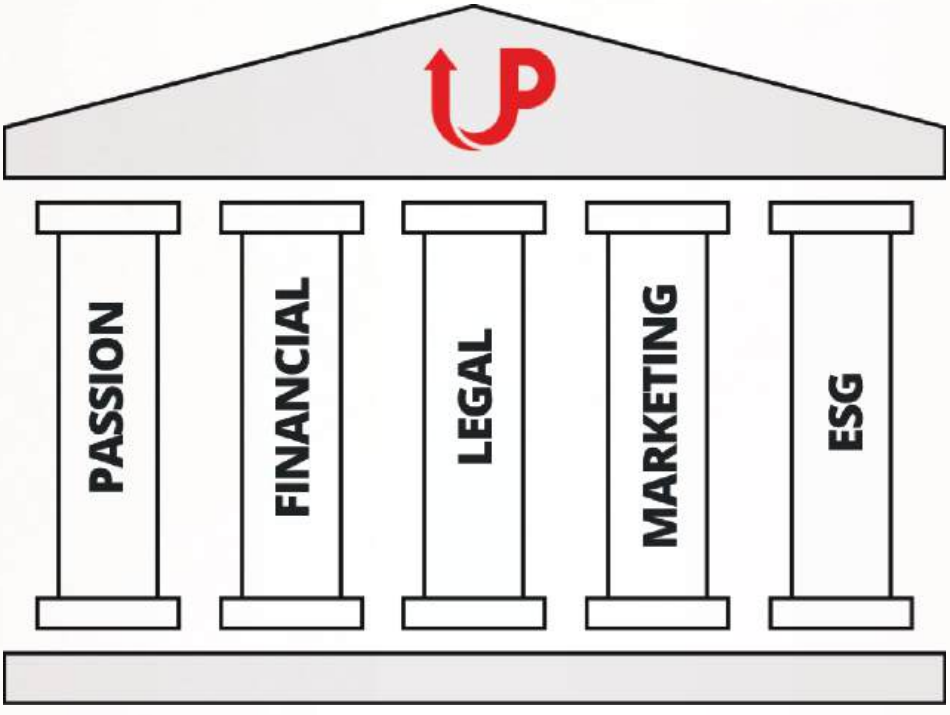
For more information, please visit our website https://global.lne.st/hrdc_training/ or you may reach us at ilia@lne.st

NESTUP

EMPOWERING STARTUPS AND SMES WITH FUNDAMENTALS
TO GROW, INDEPENDENT AND SCALE RESPONSIBLY.

By Siti Shazwani, PhD

NestUP! is a transformational platform designed to help startups and SMEs grow with clarity, resilience, and purpose. Built on five essential pillars, Passion, Financial, Legal, Marketing, and ESG, **NestUP!** equips founders with the foundations needed to scale sustainably and remain independent. The programme bridges critical gaps between ideas and execution, ambition and resilience, growth and responsibility. Through structured modules, mentorship, and ecosystem engagement, participants gain practical tools to become investment-ready, market-competitive, and sustainability-driven. **NestUP!** empowers businesses not just to grow fast, but to grow right, creating long-term value for founders, communities, and the future economy.



How **NestUP!** empowers Startups & SMEs

- TURNS FOUNDERS INTO CONFIDENT DECISION-MAKERS
- MAKES BUSINESSES FINANCIALLY INVESTMENT-READY
- REDUCES LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE RISKS
- BUILDS REAL MARKET TRACTION
- FUTURE-PROOFS GROWTH THROUGH ESG

MORE INFO

DR. SITI SHAZWANI
shazwani@lne.st

MR. KHALID
khalid@lne.st

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: REDEFINING THE GLOBAL RESEARCHER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

Through Leave a Nest's programs, new research and business initiatives are created by harnessing collective ideas that transcend existing industries and regional boundaries.

In today's rapidly evolving innovation landscape, the role of a researcher extends far beyond laboratories and publications. Across Southeast Asia and Japan, a new generation is emerging, one that is redefining how science and technology create real-world impact.

Traditionally, researchers contributed within the boundaries of existing industries. Today, global challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainability demand more. The modern "global researcher" is not just a knowledge creator, but a boundary-breaker, someone who challenges norms and explores new frontiers.

Found in universities, research institutes, startups, and corporations, these individuals stand out for their ability to translate research into new possibilities, including entirely new markets and industries. They embrace calculated risks and pursue transformative ideas beyond incremental progress.

With strong cross-regional collaboration between Southeast Asia and Japan, researchers can accelerate innovation and implementation.

Ultimately, global researchers are those who are impact-driven and future-focused, shaping not just knowledge, but the industries of tomorrow.

FROM QUESTION TO INNOVATION: HOW LEAVE A NEST IS REDEFINING THE GLOBAL RESEARCHER

By Hadi Akbar Dahlan, PhD

In the landscape of 2026, the traditional boundaries of the laboratory are beginning to soften. While the *"isolated specialist"* remains a common figure, a new archetype is actively being cultivated: the Science Bridge Communicator.

Through the efforts of organizations like Leave a Nest, this vital skill set is being developed and introduced to society at large. By championing the concept of *"Knowledge Manufacturing,"* they are establishing a framework to transform raw scientific inquiry into tangible social innovation, bridging the gap between technical expertise and real-world impact.

Mr. Sosei Saito

Dr. Suzianti Iskandar Vijaya

To explore how this evolution is unfolding across borders, we sat down with two pivotal leaders: Mr. Sosei Saito, Head of Research Development (RD) at Leave a Nest Co., Ltd. in Japan, and Dr. Suzianti Iskandar Vijaya, Head of RD at Leave a Nest Malaysia. Their perspectives reveal a shared mission to redefine what it means to be a researcher in a globalized, impact-driven era.

The Origin of the *"Question"*: Personal Missions as Innovation Catalysts

Every great innovation begins with a question, and for both Mr. Saito and Dr. Suzianti, those questions are deeply personal. Mr. Saito's journey was influenced by his grandfather, an aspiring architect whose dreams were sidelined by the necessity of post-war reconstruction . This legacy, combined with the memory of an elementary school classmate suffering from Type 1 diabetes, transformed his academic pursuit of pharmaceutical science into a lifelong mission. Driven by his grandfather's unfulfilled dreams and a classmate's struggle with illness, Mr. Saito moved beyond theoretical science to view technology as a practical tool for alleviating human suffering. This realization fueled his mission to bridge the gap between scientific potential and meaningful societal relief.

For Dr. Suzianti, the mission was born from the soil of Penang, Malaysia. Her extensive background in plant pathology and molecular genetics led her to a critical realization: there was a massive gap between the advanced research happening in universities and the actual needs of the agricultural industry. Her *"question"* became how to leverage deep science, such as crop disease diagnostics and microbiomes, to drive meaningful, sustainable impact for the region.

2026 Research Trends: A Tale of Two Regions

While the goal of social implementation is universal, the regional trends of 2026 present distinct challenges. In Japan, Mr. Saito observes a precarious shift. While original research remains high, the structures that sustain long-term inquiry are weakening. Short-term evaluation systems mean that when funding ends or a principal investigator moves, the *"accumulated knowledge"* is often lost rather than passed on. Mr. Saito argues that research must be viewed as a continuous human endeavor that transcends generations, yet the current system in Japan favors the "short-term result" over the "eternal truth".

In Southeast Asia, Dr. Suzianti notes a clear shift toward translational research. With business enterprises now contributing over half of Malaysia's R&D expenditure, the ecosystem has become increasingly industry-led. While this drives commercialization in areas like food security and biotechnology, it risks neglecting fundamental, curiosity-driven research which was the very *"foundational breakthroughs"* that applied research relies upon for long-term sustainability.

Breaking the Bottlenecks: From Themes to Missions

Both leaders agree that the greatest barrier to social implementation is not a lack of talent, but a lack of *"editing"* and interdisciplinary communication. Mr. Saito identifies a critical bottleneck: research often remains confined to an individual's personal interest. To achieve social implementation, a research theme must evolve into a research mission which he described a shared goal that attracts interdisciplinary collaborators, corporations, and the next generation of students. He notes that the industry currently lacks an *"editing function"* capable of translating raw research into these impactful, shared missions.

Similarly, Dr. Suzianti highlights the *"Validation Gap"* which she described as the space between a viable prototype and real-world adoption. She points to the low absorption capacity of risk-averse SMEs and the *"last-mile"* funding gap that prevents pilot deployment. Furthermore, she observes that many researchers still lack the translational skillsets required to communicate value beyond academia.

The Future of Knowledge Manufacturing

To overcome these hurdles, the Research Development departments in Japan and SEA are implementing a structured *"Knowledge Manufacturing"* process. According to Mr. Saito, this involves a five-step cycle (Figure 1). aggregation of diverse themes, which are then synthesized by integrating cross-disciplinary insights to spark unconventional thinking. These ideas are distilled into a singular, high-impact research mission centered on identifying the specific breakthroughs required to transform the world. To execute this vision, the process mobilizes strategic connections between expert teams, essential resources, and real-world fields of application. Finally, the cycle closes by systematically inheriting (carry forward) both successful outcomes and instructive failures, ensuring that every insight serves as the foundation for the next generation of inquiry.

Knowledge Manufacturing 5-step process as described by Mr. Saito

Meanwhile, Dr. Suzianti envisions this process as a *"market creation engine".* Through platforms like the NEST Venture Lab, the RD department is shifting from merely supporting existing industries to actively creating new ones in areas like agri-genomics and climate-tech. They aim to establish a dynamic ecosystem that not only bridges academia and industry, but actively accelerates the journey from idea to real-world implementation, through structured support in grants, proof-of-concept development, and technology deployment.

A Vision for 2031: The Redefined Landscape

In five years, the goal is a fundamental shift in the global research landscape. Mr. Saito hopes to see a world where *"inheriting research becomes natural,"* and where researchers across Southeast Asia are connected through Hyper Interdisciplinary Communication. For Dr. Suzianti, success will be defined by a mindset shift: scientists stepping beyond "safe" incremental research to explore unfamiliar, high-impact territories. Instead of asking how to improve existing systems, they will ask, *"What entirely new systems can we create?".*

By redefining the researcher as a Science Bridge Communicator, Leave a Nest is ensuring that the questions of today become the world-changing innovations of tomorrow.

CO-CREATE VALUE TOGETHER

By Farha Husna, MSc

In a world facing complex environmental and societal challenges, innovation can no longer happen in isolation. The future belongs to those who collaborate, those who co-create. For Dr. Yu Inaba, Director at Euglena Malaysia., this belief is not just a philosophy, but a driving force behind his work in advancing algae-based innovation across Asia.

Dr Inaba, Director Euglena Malaysia

From Passion to Purpose

Dr. Inaba's journey into microalgae research began with a simple but powerful concern: how to address environmental problems at their root. While policy plays an important role, he realized early on that real solutions require scientific and technological breakthroughs. This realization led him to pursue biology, eventually specializing in microalgae,an area with immense potential to contribute to sustainability.

This passion is not only personal,it reflects Euglena's broader mission. At its core, the organization seeks to unlock the potential of algae-based knowledge and translate it into real-world solutions, from environmental applications to industrial innovation.

Co-Creation as a Catalyst for Sustainable Innovation

For Dr. Inaba, co-creation is essential because no single organization has all the answers. The challenges facing society today climate change, resource scarcity, sustainable production are too complex to be solved alone.

"*Co-creation begins when we recognize what we are missing,"* he explains. By identifying gaps in technology, knowledge, or capability, organizations can find partners who complement their strengths.

This mindset shifts collaboration from optional to necessary. It is not just about working together,it is about creating value that would not exist otherwise.

Platforms such as the Global Algae Summit (GAS) play a critical role in enabling this co-creation. Since 2022, Euglena Malaysia has been an active contributor to the summit, supporting its development with a shared commitment to advancing innovation in the algae sector. Now in its fourth year of collaboration, the partnership reflects both continuity and a growing impact in shaping the direction of GAS.

Events like GAS and the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference (HIC) bring together global researchers, corporations, and government stakeholders in one space. These platforms do more than facilitate networking, they create opportunities for meaningful exchange.

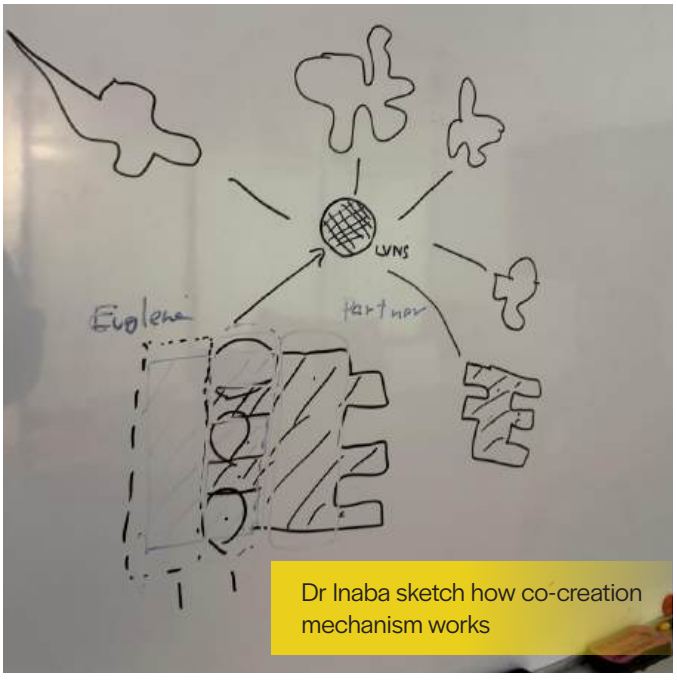
Instead of fragmented, one-on-one discussions, participants can share insights, align goals, and initiate collaborations more efficiently. In some cases, these events even serve as milestones that push projects forward, helping overcome delays and accelerate decision-making.

Co-Creating with Leave a Nest

A key partner in this journey has been Leave a Nest. Through this collaboration, Euglena has been able to expand its presence in Malaysia, establish research operations, and connect with a wider ecosystem of stakeholders.

The partnership demonstrates how co-creation works in practice. Leave a Nest provides platforms, networks, and local expertise, while Euglena contributes scientific knowledge and research capabilities. Together, they create a stronger, more effective system for innovation.

Importantly, this collaboration is not limited to bilateral outcomes. By engaging in these platforms, both organizations open doors for others startups, researchers, and corporates to join and contribute.



Dr Inaba sketch how co-creation mechanism works

Euglena participate in GAS 2024

A Message to Future Innovators

For those interested in contributing to this field, Dr. Inaba offers simple but powerful advice: start by connecting. Engage with others, understand different perspectives, and identify where your strengths can add value.

Co-creation does not begin with grand strategies,it begins with conversations

The story of Euglena and its collaboration with Leave a Nest is a testament to what can be achieved through shared vision and collective effort. It shows that when passion meets partnership, innovation accelerates.

More importantly, it sends a clear message to startups, corporates, and researchers alike: You do not have to solve everything alone.

By co-creating value together, we can build solutions that are not only innovative, but impactful shaping a more sustainable future for all.

THE L-GRANT MY 2026 AWARDEE: FROM RAMBAI FRUIT WASTE TO HEALTH SOLUTION

By Nursyuhada Othman, PhD

Leave a Nest Malaysia proudly recognises Dr. Santhra Segaran A/L Balan as the awardee of the L-Grant Malaysia 2026 in conjunction with Leave a Nest's 24th anniversary celebration. This recognition acknowledges his impactful research in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through practical and sustainable innovation. As Deputy Dean of Research and Senior Lecturer at Management and Science University (MSU), Dr. Santhra brings nearly two decades of expertise in natural products, biomedical science and neuroscience.

Passion-Driven Innovation

At the core of his work is a simple but powerful idea by transforming what is often discarded into something valuable. His research focuses on converting agricultural waste, particularly fruit by-products, into functional health solutions. *"We are looking at how local resources, especially waste materials, can be turned into intervention products that help prevent diseases"* he shared.

His research journey is also driven by personal experience. Having previously struggled with obesity himself, Dr. Santhra became more aware of the health risks associated with metabolic disorders. This motivated him to explore preventive, food-based solutions using local Malaysian resources, leading him to investigate underutilised local fruits with potential health benefits.

Dr. Santhra Segaran, the awardee of the L-Grant Malaysia 2026.

Waste to Wealth

"Anti-Obesity Bioactive Compounds from Baccaurea motleyana for Metabolic Syndrome Prevention," highlights the strength of Dr. Santhra's research direction. The study focuses on rambai fruit *(Baccaurea motleyana)*, a lesser-known local Malaysian fruit, investigating its potential through phytochemical analysis and early-stage validation.

"This research is about identifying promising natural compounds that can support anti-obesity and prevention, especially using local fruits," he explained. Through his research, Dr. Santhra identified the untapped potential of local fruit by-products, particularly fruit peels, which are often discarded as waste. Prior to exploring rambai, he had also studied by-products from mango and pineapple for their potential health benefits. His research journey reflects a deeper exploration of Malaysian natural heritage, transforming underutilised local resources into innovative solutions that may contribute to tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Transforming Local Resources into Community Solutions

Dr. Santhra's research was selected for the awardee not only for its scientific merit, but also for its strong potential to transform underutilised local fruits and agricultural by-products into value-added health solutions. By exploring accessible and locally sourced materials, his work offers practical opportunities to develop preventive food-based interventions that can benefit the wider community, particularly the B40 group who are more vulnerable to obesity and metabolic-related health issues.

"Research is not just about achieving results, but about contributing knowledge that can benefit the community," he emphasised. His research reflects the vision of Leave a Nest in supporting innovations that bridge science, sustainability, and societal impact by creating solutions that are not only innovative but also accessible and meaningful to the people who need them most.

Empowering Researchers Through L-Grant

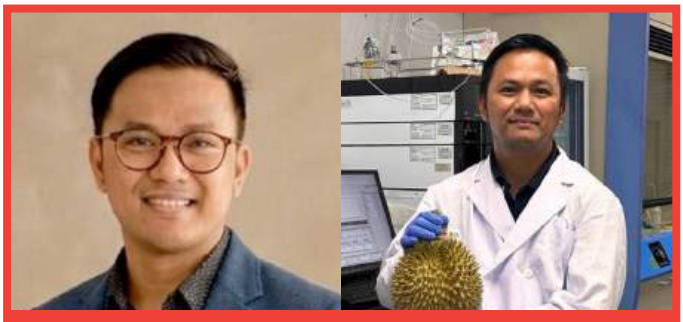
Through the L-Grant, Dr. Santhra is able to initiate key early-stage studies, particularly in exploring local fruits and their potential health applications through phytochemical analysis and preliminary validation studies. The grant provides an important platform for him to further investigate underutilised local resources that may contribute to anti-obesity and metabolic syndrome prevention.

Dr. Santhra exemplifies the spirit of purpose-driven research by transforming local resources into meaningful innovations that address pressing health challenges. Beyond scientific discovery, he strongly believes that research knowledge should ultimately benefit the community, particularly underserved groups such as the B40 community. His mindset reflects the philosophy that research is not only about producing results, but also about creating solutions that improve lives. Through this recognition, we celebrate not only his achievement as the L-Grant Malaysia 2026 awardee, but also his continued commitment to developing sustainable, impactful and community-driven innovations.

THE L-GRANT PH 2026 AWARDEE: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FARMS THROUGH AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH

By Jomer J. Ruego, BSc

As Leave a Nest marks its 24th anniversary, L-Grant continues to support researchers whose early stage ideas can grow into real solutions. In the Philippines, the 2026 L-Grant awardee is Bryl Manigo of the University of Southeastern Philippines, College of Agriculture and Related Sciences. His work focuses on durian agroforestry, sustainable agriculture systems, and farm tourism in Davao de Oro, Philippines. For him, the recognition is not only personal. *"This recognition is really not only for me, but for the farmers and communities in Davao de Oro whom I represent,"* he shared.



Bryl Manigo, L-Grant Philippines 2026 awardee and researcher from the University of Southeastern Philippines

Manigo's path in agriculture was shaped by years of work in government service, academia, and extension. Through direct engagement with farmers, he saw one major problem. Many farming systems remain unsustainable, and farmers continue to face unstable income. He believes this requires a shift in how farmers are viewed. *"Farmers are not only mere producers, but they should be entrepreneurs,"* he said. His research responds to the gap between available technologies and what is actually practiced on the farm, especially when solutions are not practical or culturally acceptable to the communities they are meant to serve.

His approach builds on the Science for the Convergence of Agriculture and Tourism (SciCAT) framework, a DOST-PCAARRD-supported model that integrates sustainable farming practices, farm tourism, and farmer-centered extension activities. Rather than simply introducing technologies such as pruning strategies, diversified farming systems, and postharvest handling practices, Manigo emphasizes on-farm demonstration and participatory learning, believing that farmers are more likely to adopt innovations when they directly observe their results. *"To see is to believe,"* he explained. Through pilot farms in Davao Region, the SciCAT approach has already shown how integrating agriculture, tourism, and community engagement can improve not only farm productivity and income, but also local participation and appreciation for sustainable farming. For Manigo, sustainability must go beyond environmental practices and create economic and social value for farming communities. *"When farming is combined with innovation and community involvement, the impact can be economic and social,"* he said.

> "Do research that matters. Go to the field, listen to the farmers, and make your work relevant to real world problems."

Through L-Grant, Manigo hopes to conduct a structured assessment and pilot implementation in Davao de Oro. The grant will help him document current sustainability practices, identify gaps in agroforestry systems, and build a baseline for larger research support in the future. His goal is to help build farming communities that are more sustainable, resilient, and profitable. To young researchers, his message is direct. *"Do research that matters. Go to the field, listen to the farmers, and make your work relevant to real world problems."* His story shows that early stage research has value, and with the right support, it can become a path toward real change.

Bryl Manigo engaging with farming communities in Davao Region

THE L-GRANT TH 2026 AWARDEE: TURNING AGRICULTURAL WASTE INTO OPPORTUNITY, DR. PRAKASH BHUYAR

By Priyavadana, MSc

Every year, Northern Thailand experiences severe haze caused by the burning of agricultural residues such as rice straw and maize waste after harvest seasons. This practice releases large amounts of PM2.5, fine particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, into the atmosphere. Because these particles are extremely small, they can travel deep into the lungs and bloodstream, contributing to respiratory diseases, cardiovascular problems, and long-term environmental damage.

While open burning is often the fastest and cheapest method for farmers to clear fields, the challenge lies in finding practical alternatives that remain affordable and accessible for rural communities.This is where Dr. Prakash's work on biochar becomes significant.Biochar is a carbon-rich material produced when agricultural biomass is heated under limited oxygen conditions through a process known as pyrolysis. Unlike open burning, which releases carbon and pollutants directly into the air, pyrolysis stabilizes much of the carbon into a solid form.

Scientifically, biochar functions almost like a sponge within the soil. Its porous structure helps retain water and nutrients, improving soil fertility and reducing nutrient loss. This allows crops to access nutrients more efficiently while reducing dependency on chemical fertilizers. At the same time, because the carbon is stabilized in the biochar instead of released into the atmosphere, it also contributes to carbon sequestration and climate mitigation.

What made Dr. Prakash's approach stand out was not only the use of biochar itself, but the way he approached the problem from the perspective of accessibility and decentralization. Many sustainability solutions rely on centralized infrastructure or large-scale processing systems, which can be difficult for rural farming communities to access. Dr. Prakash's vision instead focuses on enabling farmers and local communities to produce and utilize biochar themselves using locally available agricultural residues. This lowers the barrier to adoption while addressing a key logistical challenge in rural agricultural areas.Rather than treating farmers as end-users alone, the model allows them to become active participants in a circular agricultural system, reducing open burning, improving soil health, and potentially creating future economic opportunities through sustainable agricultural practices and carbon-related systems.

Dr. Prakash stood out as the L-Grant Thailand 2026 awardee not only for the strong scientific relevance of his work, but also for its clear real-world impact and scalability. His research directly addresses a pressing issue in Northern Thailand while creating practical value for farmers through sustainable agriculture and potential carbon credit opportunities. Combined with his collaborative mindset and strong alignment with the Leave a Nest ecosystem, his work represents the kind of impactful, community-driven innovation that the L Grant aims to support.

This long-term vision aligns strongly with the philosophy of the L Grant and the broader Leave a Nest ecosystem. Beyond supporting innovative research, the L Grant aims to empower researchers who can bridge science and society, connect stakeholders across borders, and create scalable impact through collaboration.

PARTNERS IN PURPOSE: ADVANCING RESEARCH ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA

By Krisha Corbo, BSc

Across its subsidiaries, the Research Development Division of Leave a Nest consistently upholds the same goal: to ensure that research is promoted across disciplines and that researchers are given a platform to highlight their work. This goal, albeit challenging, was made possible by the various partners and stakeholders who share this same vision that spearheads innovation today. Therefore, it is only fitting that we allow them to have the spotlight, the same way they allow our vision to come to life.

ADA Biotech Sdn Bhd

From Malaysia, the partnership has been marked by participation in GMP Japan 2023, Takanawa Gateway and Eco-Tech Immersion Program 2024, HIC Iloilo 2025, HIC Tokyo 2025, and other initiatives. A memorable highlight was the R&D collaboration with Shimizu in Hiroshima, which focused on enhancing biodegradable straws.

Beyond technical development, Leave a Nest connected the team with partners in Japan and the Philippines, including distributors, clients, and R&D collaborators. These connections opened doors to markets and innovation. Their message is simple: *"Seize the opportunity and engage proactively."* With Leave a Nest's supportive team and strong network, the partnership has expanded their research journey and strengthened their capabilities.

Quezon City University

From the Philippines, the partnership with Leave a Nest has become a pathway for turning academic ideas into solutions. Through institutional visits, dialogue sessions, HIC Philippines 2025, TECH PLANTER, and Agri-Tech Grand Prix Philippines 2026, QCU gained opportunities in research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and urban agriculture.

One milestone was the formalization of the QCU–Leave a Nest partnership in November 2025. QCU also highlighted its role as co-organizer of major Leave a Nest platforms, which strengthened its exposure to global innovation networks and opened possibilities for proof-of-concept and research collaborations. For QCU, Leave a Nest is *"a strong partner for institutions that want to connect research, innovation, and real-world impact,"* especially because both organizations put social impact at the center of their work.

Metagen, Inc.

For the Singapore partner, Leave a Nest has served as a platform for regional expansion, networking, and business creation. Their involvement includes HIC, TECH PLANTER, Global Knowledge Hub Forum, Science Castle, and STEP.

A major milestone was the launch of the Gut Design Project ASEAN at GKHF in February 2026, which created opportunities to begin business activities in Southeast Asia and gain media exposure. Through these experiences, they came to more deeply understand "the importance of co-creating with trustworthy external partners." For them, meaningful collaboration begins with shared vision, shared values, and the willingness to work together toward an uncertain future.

Leave a Nest is grateful for partners who believe in research, collaboration, and social implementation. Through their trust, ideas grow beyond laboratories and into communities where they create impact. As we continue this journey, we hope to reach companies and institutions that share the same goal – advancing research from laboratories into society.

OUTSMARTING RESISTANCE: A SCIENTIST'S APPROACH TO BACTERIA AND TO LIFE

By Krisha Corbo, BSc

Disrupting Bacterial Communication

In every problem we face, our instinct is to eradicate it. However, Dr. Esperanza Cabrera showed that eradication is not the only solution – outsmarting them may be more effective.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been a longstanding concern for researchers, including Dr. Cabrera, as bacteria evolve quickly, making infections harder to treat. Rather than escalating the fight against these microbes, she takes a different approach.

"There is might in numbers," is how Dr. Cabrera explains how quorum sensing, the process by which bacteria communicate, is vital in the infection process. They produce signaling molecules, called auto-inducers, that allow them to coordinate behavior. When present in small numbers, they are harmless. They can, however, express virulence factors, produce biofilms, and eventually become antibiotic resistant once they reach a quorum.

Therefore, in her study, she wants to prevent bacterial infection through inhibiting bacterial communication, known as quorum quenching. Infections can be stopped before they even develop by preventing bacteria from *"talking"* to each other. Rather than outright destroying bacteria, she focuses on breaking their unity, preventing them from being a threat in the first place.

A Path Redirected

Dr. Cabrera's approach to research and her story have one thing in common: they are both shaped by adaptation and redirection.

As the eldest daughter, she was aware of her family's struggles. She dreamed of becoming a medical doctor and secured a full scholarship from the University of Santo Tomas. However, due to financial constraints, she set that dream aside to focus on helping her family.

This did not discourage her from continuing her path in science. She studied MS in Public Health at the University of the Philippines-Manila and later earned her PhD in Biological Science from the University of Santo Tomas. One way or another, she became a doctor, just as she always dreamed.

Today, she is a professor at De La Salle University-Manila, where she aims to *"become the teacher she needed,"* inspiring students to be more enthusiastic and focused in their studies.

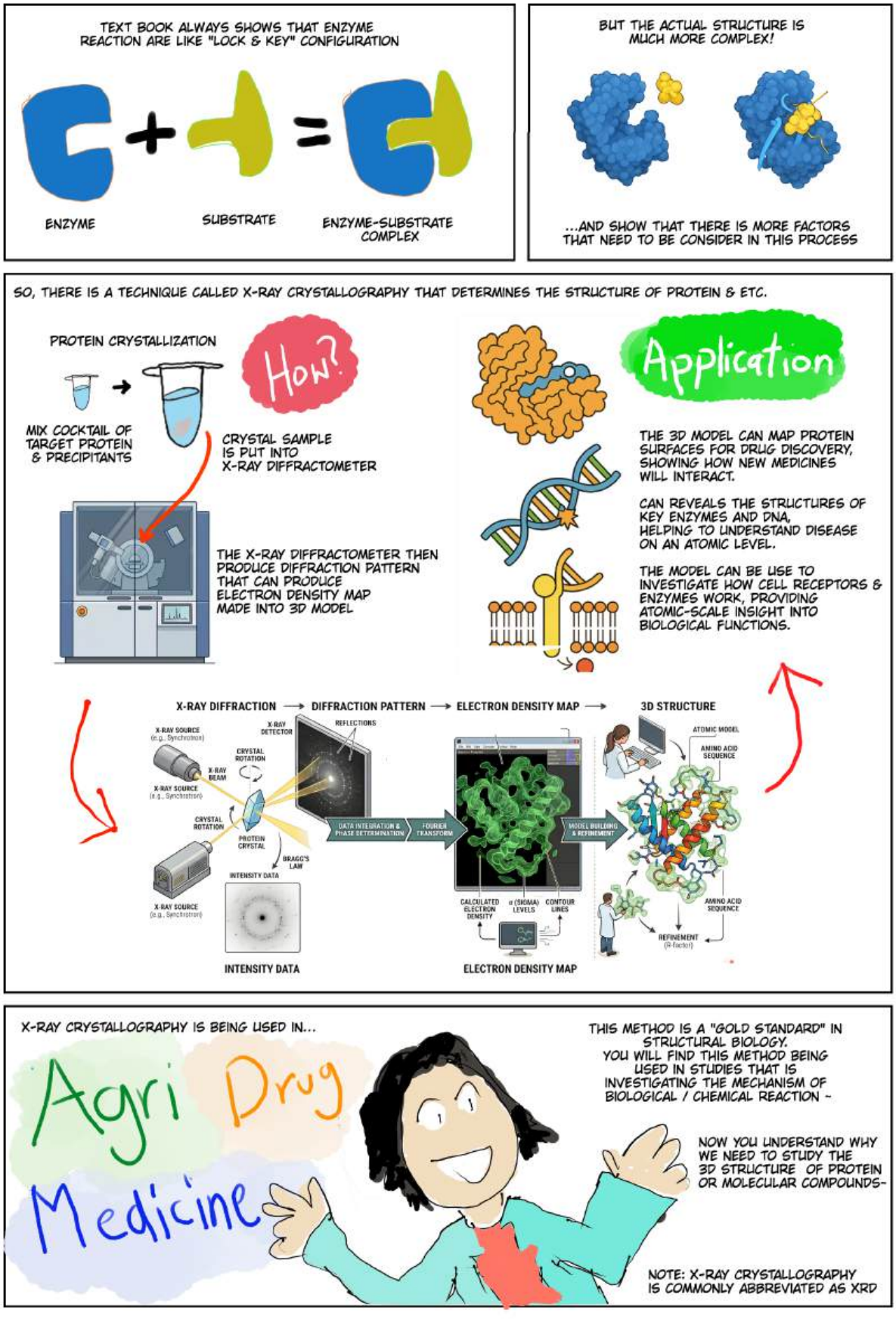
From Barriers to Breakthroughs

Dr. Cabrera showed us that when one door closes, you choose to open another. *"Grit is important,"* she shares, and this reflects her work as a professor, researcher, and mentor. She showed that not all problems require force. Some require adaptability, understanding, and perseverance.

In the same way, Leave a Nest seeks to develop meaningful impact through forward-thinking solutions by fostering ideas, connecting people, and ensuring that ecosystems are conducive to innovation-building. Leave a Nest demonstrates that understanding problems and creating solutions with lasting impact are more important than finding immediate fixes. Thus, like Leave a Nest's approach, Dr. Cabrera did not simply work around her circumstances – she outsmarted them.

SCIENCE TOPIC COMIC 2 – X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

By Hadi Akbar Dahlan, PhD



CALLING FOR PARTNERS
WITH LEAVE A NEST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION

We invite corporations and founders to collaborate with us through our summit and conference platforms

In 2026, a series of high-impact summits and conferences will take place across the region under Leave a Nest's Hyper Interdisciplinary Communication (HIC) platform, an initiative designed to connect diverse stakeholders across disciplines and industries. These events bring together students, researchers, industry leaders, innovators and changemakers from various ecosystems, serving as platforms for knowledge exchange, partnership building and co-creation where ideas evolve into actionable solutions and meaningful collaborations. Through the HIC platform, we are inviting industry partners, corporates and organizations to join us as collaborators to explore new opportunities, co-develop solutions, and drive innovation across Southeast Asia.

Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference

Singapore

Theme :
Built with AI. Built for Impact.
21st November 2026

Malaysia

Theme :
Nature Meets Technology
28th November 2026
UiTM Puncak Alam, Selangor

A platform that brings together students, researchers, ventures, industry professionals, and corporations to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration and co-create impactful research. This year's conference will focus on addressing environmental challenges.

MORE INFO:

Sustainable Aquaculture Summit

4th June 2026
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI), Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Envisions aquaculture and fisheries systems that do not merely sustain current production levels, but actively regenerate marine ecosystems, improve community resilience and create long-term shared value across Southeast Asia's blue economy.

FOREST Innovation Summit

July 2026
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Malaysia

A collaborative platform focused on advancing forest-based innovations to address real-world challenges and deliver sustainable environmental impact.

Microbiology Innovation Summit

15th August 2026
9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Iloilo City, Philippines

To position microbiology as a central, cross-disciplinary field that drives innovation and solutions across key sectors, while fostering collaboration to translate research into real-world impact.

Global Algae Summit 2026

19th August 2026
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunway University

Fosters collaboration among key stakeholders, showcases algae innovations, introduces industry opportunities and supports investment readiness through alignment with market and financing requirements.

Future Food & Fuel Summit

2nd October 2026
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

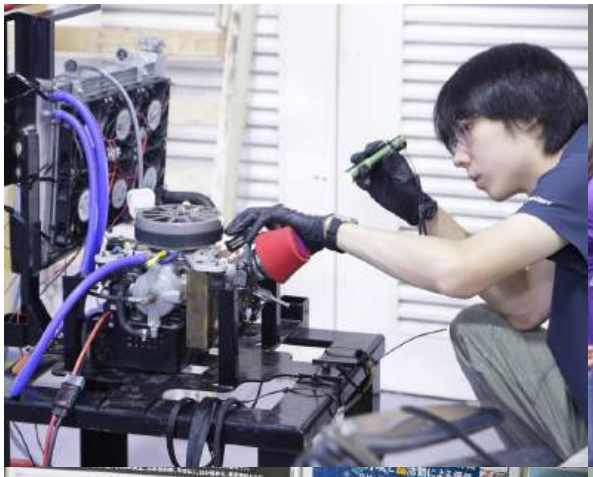
Singapore

Brings together Singapore and Japan's government, industry and deep tech leaders to accelerate the deployment of next-generation food and energy systems in Asia.

SUMMIT INFO

FRONTIER DEVELOPMENT

CONNECTED ECOSYSTEMS, SHARED FUTURES




Across Southeast Asia, a new generation of deep tech innovators is developing solutions to some of society's most pressing challenges, including sustainable food production, renewable energy, smart automation, healthcare, and education. These breakthroughs are made possible not only through technological advancement, but also through collaborative ecosystems that connect researchers, startups, corporates, investors, and implementation partners across borders.

Science based ventures today require more than strong technology to succeed. Mentorship, strategic partnerships, and cross sector collaboration play an equally important role in accelerating commercialization, enabling real world implementation, and nurturing globally relevant innovations. Together, these efforts reflect the growing strength of Southeast Asia's deep tech landscape and its potential to shape a more sustainable, inclusive, and technology driven future.

BEYOND ACCELERATION: REIMAGINING FRONTIER DEVELOPMENT FOR DEEP TECH IN ASIA

By Haruka Sakurai, MSc

How Leave A Nest's Frontier Development Division Evolved Into A Platform For Deep Tech Implementation

When Leave a Nest launched TECH PLANTER in 2014, the goal was straightforward: discover promising deep tech startups and help them survive. More than a decade later, the Frontier Development Division (FD) has evolved far beyond a startup acceleration unit. Today, it functions as a platform connecting startups, corporates, governments, manufacturers, investors, and implementation sites across Japan and Southeast Asia.

In this dialogue, Mr. Hisanori Kodama, Head of Frontier Development Division Japan, and Ms. Mahirah Basri, Head of Frontier Development Division Southeast Asia, reflect on how FD evolved from startup support into an ecosystem for societal implementation.

1. Solving the "Missing Piece" in Deep Tech

Mahi

When people see FD today, they see TECH PLANTER, Asia Final, incubation spaces, and startup collaborations. But many members still do not know what original issue FD was created to solve.

Kodama

At the beginning, the issue was simple. In 2012, Euglena, a biotech startup supported by Leave a Nest since its early days, went public on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE). However, this was a rare exception in Japan's still immature deep tech ecosystem. The question became: how do we systematically create more companies like this?

That question led to the launch of TECH PLANTER in 2014 as a "Real Tech Acceleration Program" focused on science and technology startups.

2. From Startup Support to Ecosystem Building

Mahi So initially, the mission was helping startups survive. But around 2019, FD's direction started changing significantly, right?

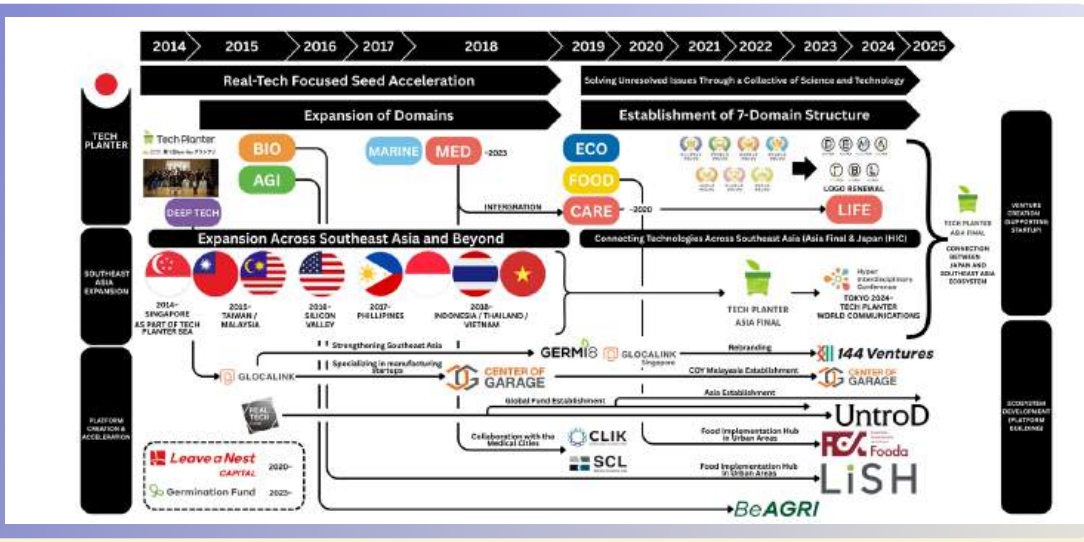
Kodama We needed a *"coagulation"* of technologies. Different industries and stakeholders had to gather together to solve larger societal issues.

This shift transformed TECH PLANTER from an acceleration program into ecosystem infrastructure. FD established implementation hubs such as Center of Garage, CLIK, and Food α, while also building funding ecosystems through Leave a Nest Capital, UntroD Capital and related initiatives.

Mahi That's where FD became different from many accelerators. It stopped becoming only about investment or pitching.

Kodama Exactly. The next question became: how do you create places where collaborations continuously emerge?

History of Evolution of Deep Tech Ecosystem of Leave a Nest Group



3. From Startup Discovery to Societal Implementation

Both leaders agreed that today's challenge is no longer discovering startups, but creating systems where technologies can continuously be implemented into society.

Mahi In many Southeast Asian ecosystems, startups may receive awards or grants, but still struggle to secure long-term implementation partners afterward. Building stronger trust between startups and corporations remains an important next step.

This led into a broader discussion about rethinking corporate-startup collaboration.

Kodama Large corporations traditionally built internal research laboratories. But why must everything remain internal?

Instead, he proposed viewing startups as external research partners already exploring future technologies and societal issues.

Kodama Rather than building everything internally, companies can collaborate with startups already working on those themes.

For FD, this transforms startup collaboration from vendor relationships into distributed research and development.

Mahi That framing changes the conversation entirely. Instead of asking whether a startup is safe, corporations begin asking whether the startup can help advance their research themes.

This philosophy is already being implemented through ecosystem spaces such as TAKANAWA GATEWAY Link Scholars' Hub (LiSH), a wet-lab incubation hub in Tokyo where startups, corporates, researchers, and governments continuously interact and co-create projects together.

4. Global Connectivity: Integrating Deep Tech Ecosystems

Both leaders emphasized that FD's next phase depends not simply on international expansion, but on integrating TECH PLANTER's domestic and global ecosystems into a connected implementation platform.

By 2025, TECH PLANTER had expanded across Japan, Southeast Asia, and beyond. However, operating programs independently in multiple countries was no longer enough.

Kodama Deep tech cannot remain within one country anymore. Social implementation requires global connectivity.

This philosophy is already taking shape. Japanese finalists increasingly participate in TECH PLANTER Asia Final, while Southeast Asian startups are becoming more integrated into Japan's ecosystem through initiatives such as Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference (HIC) Tokyo 2026 and shared implementation hubs.

Mahi Before, international expansion mostly meant introducing Southeast Asian startups to Japan. Now the ecosystems themselves are starting to connect. Technologies developed in one ecosystem can now find implementation opportunities in another.

For FD, the long-term vision is not simply building a startup ecosystem, but creating infrastructure where technologies, people, and societal challenges continuously connect across borders.

POWERING SARAWAK'S DIGITAL ECONOMY: THE SDEC STORY

By Aisyah Abdul Hamid, MBioSc

Dato Ir. Ts. Sudarnoto Osman
Chief Executive Officer,
Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC)

In today's interconnected world, digital transformation is less about isolated progress and more about building strong ecosystems. In Sarawak, this role is led by the Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC), established by the state government and guided by the Sarawak Digital Economy Blueprint 2030 and Post-COVID Development Strategy to drive inclusive growth, particularly within the private sector and rural communities. At the centre of this effort is SDEC's Chief Executive Officer, Dato Ir. Ts. Sudarnoto Osman, who underscores its purpose, *"SDEC was set up to drive Sarawak's digital economy in a way that benefits real people and real businesses."* This vision goes beyond aspiration, translating into measurable impact across the state.

Turning Vision into Measurable Impact

Being a *"key driver"* of the digital economy is demonstrated through tangible outcomes. *"We go out and do the work,"* says Dato Sudarnoto. A key priority has been connectivity. Through the Sarawak Rural Broadband Network (MySRBN), digital coverage expanded significantly from 54.3% in 2022 to 94.5% in 2025, connecting rural communities to the digital economy. However, access alone is not enough. Adoption is equally critical. To address this, SDEC has supported the digitalisation of over 33,000 MSMEs between 2020 and 2025, with businesses achieving 15% to 30% revenue growth after adopting digital tools. These efforts are supported by investments in digital infrastructure, including hybrid cloud services and innovation testbeds, creating a strong foundation for sustained economic growth.

Catalysing Innovation from Idea to Impact

Turning ideas into real-world solutions remains a challenge in many ecosystems, but SDEC is making notable progress. Sarawak's strong research base is being translated into practical outcomes through structured programmes such as Ideathon, HackWknd, Founder's Forge, SDEC Technology Accelerator, Sarawak SaaS Accelerator (SaSAR), and Digital Village Accelerator (DiVA). These initiatives provide validation, mentorship, funding access, and pathways to scale. The impact is increasingly visible on the global stage. Alumni from SDEC programmes are making their mark globally. One standout, STEMShare from HackWknd Sibu 2025, won a Gold Award at WINSTEM 2025 and was selected to represent Malaysia at the World Cup Innovation 2026.

SDEC's Research & Product Development (RPD) ecosystem further strengthens this pipeline. Through platforms such as the Centre of Excellence (COE), IR4.0 Prototyping Lab, and Smart Agriculture Testbed, SDEC has invested RM10.6 million in translational research, supporting 69 projects and empowering over 400 researchers. This has resulted in actual seven spin-off companies that came out of this programme, alongside 38 organisations involved in technology validation and 11 jobs created through research commercialisation. These efforts are complemented by real-world deployments in areas such as smart agriculture and smart city solutions, ensuring innovation delivers measurable impact beyond the lab.

Expanding Beyond Borders

As Sarawak's ecosystem matures, SDEC is extending its reach regionally and globally. Regionally, it is strengthening collaboration within ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA, positioning Sarawak as both a partner and a launchpad for digital growth. Sarawak's geographic and strategic position allows it to serve as a gateway, connecting neighbouring regions through shared infrastructure, talent exchange, and sectoral strengths such as agriculture and digital services.

Internationally, the Sarawak Digital Residency Programme (SDRP) led by SDEC has attracted over 200 global applicants from Asia, Europe, Africa, and North America. This creates a two-way exchange of talent and ideas, strengthening Sarawak's position as an emerging digital hub.

Collaboration as a Strategic Advantage

Growing regional and global engagement reinforces a key truth about digital ecosystems where success depends on the strength of connections, not isolated efforts. SDEC's approach reflects this principle. Recently, SDEC formalized a strategic partnership with the World Innovation, Technology, and Services Alliance (WITSA) to establish the WITSA Global AI Ecosystem Network in Sarawak. This marked an important step in strengthening Sarawak's position as a growing AI ecosystem hub and creating wider opportunities for innovation, knowledge exchange, and global industry collaboration. Another significant collaboration is with Leave a Nest Malaysia, part of Japan's deep-tech ecosystem. Formalised at International Digital Economy Conference Sarawak (IDECS) 2024, this partnership supports startups and researchers through commercialisation pathways, investor access, and international exposure. Platforms such as TECH PLANTER and TECH VENTURE MEETUP connect Sarawak innovators to Japanese networks, while programmes like SCENT and TechFrontier Explorer nurture the next generation of technopreneurs.

As Dato Sudarnoto emphasises, *"The ecosystems that will matter in the next decade are the ones that are most connected, not the most self-contained."*

An Open Invitation to Participate

Translating this vision into impact ultimately depends on active participation from all stakeholders. Whether you are a startup founder, SME, researcher, investor, corporate partner, or international collaborator, there are pathways to engage. From accelerators and digitalisation programmes to research partnerships and investment networks, SDEC provides platforms for growth.

"The simplest first step is to reach out," Dato Sudarnoto says. *"Every new partner makes the ecosystem stronger."*

CHAMPIONING DEEP TECH VENTURES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH ECOSYSTEM

By Neil Clarence Diaz, BSc

Dr. Smarajit Chakraborty
Founder and Scientific Lead
Healbac

HEALBAC

Advancing Antimicrobial Solutions with Healbac (Singapore)

Innovation that addresses society's biggest challenges often begins in research, but scaling it requires more than science alone.

For Dr. Smarajit Chakraborty, microbiologist and Founder of Healbac, this journey started with the discovery of antimicrobial molecules that led to a 21-residue peptide designed to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a growing global health threat. Beyond healthcare, the technology also offers a safer alternative to carcinogenic preservatives used in food, addressing both public health and food safety.

Like many deep-tech startups, Healbac faced early challenges in market validation, team building, and securing funding. These hurdles began to shift through participation in Leave a Nest (LVNS) initiatives such as the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference (HIC) and TECH PLANTER (TP) in Singapore. Recognition through awards, including the Best Poster Award and the Mitsui Chemicals Award, opened doors to industry collaboration and increased visibility.

More importantly, these platforms connected Healbac with mentors, investors, and partners. Through these networks, the team gained access to NUS's incubator program and funding opportunities, enabling their transition from research to commercialization.

From a scientific discovery in the lab, Healbac is advancing solutions across Southeast Asia, demonstrating how startups can create both societal impact and scalable business value.

Transforming Education Systems with WELA (Philippines)

Addressing societal challenges often begins with understanding everyday struggles. For Mr. John Vincent Fiel, Co-Founder and CEO of WELA, this meant recognizing the burden placed on teachers whose hours are spent on administrative tasks instead of focusing on teaching. To solve this, the team developed a platform that automates grading, report generation, and analytics, significantly reducing workload and enabling educators to prioritize student learning.

What started as a simple solution quickly scaled. From just 3 schools, WELA expanded to over 200 schools across the Philippines, reaching 90% of regions. Because of this, WELA ranked 4th fastest growing company in the country in 2025.

A key turning point in this growth was WELA's participation in TP in the Philippines 2019, an entry program to LVNS's ecosystem of scientists, researchers, industry partners and investors. Driven by a shared mission to improve education, LVNS invested in WELA.

Beyond TP, WELA actively engaged in the broader LVNS ecosystem, supporting education initiatives such as Tsunagu Research Project and Science Castle. These programs, along with connections facilitated by LVNS, linked WELA with corporate partners such as Focus Systems in Japan, helping the company strengthen its business structure and explore opportunities for global expansion.

Mr. John Vincent Fiel
Co-Founder and CEO
WELA School Systems

WELA

From education to healthcare, the journeys of Healbac and WELA highlight a shared reality, a startup's success is shaped by ecosystems that connect them with the right people, resources, and opportunities. For corporations and industry leaders, these stories offer a way to play an active role in nurturing solutions that create societal impact and unlock new pathways for sustainable business growth.

CHAMPIONING DEEP TECH VENTURES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH ECOSYSTEM

By Dania Qarrina Azman, PhD

Bridging Operational Gaps Through Ecosystem Support: TrackerHero (Malaysia)

TrackerHero is Malaysia's leading architect of AI-powered integrated operations, providing a unified ecosystem that serves as the digital nervous system for modern enterprises and smart cities. Beyond simple oversight, its solutions bridge the gap between physical infrastructure and digital intelligence. By transforming raw field data into predictive insights, TrackerHero empowers governments, government-linked companies (GLCs), and national agencies to shift from reactive action to proactive, data-driven operations. Within Malaysia's innovation ecosystem, TrackerHero plays a key role in driving digital transformation. Early growth was challenged by clients' reliance on legacy systems, limiting scalability. To address this, TrackerHero engaged with Leave a Nest, gaining international exposure, strategic networks, and co-development opportunities. A key milestone was its MoU with Japan's UGO to integrate robotics into its platform. Continuous ecosystem involvement has positioned TrackerHero as a central intelligence hub, bridging hardware, software, and services. Looking ahead, it is expanding into Industrial 4.0, security, and defense, with Leave a Nest continuing to play a crucial role in enabling cross-border innovation and long-term growth.

Happy 24th Anniversary to the incredible team at Leave a Nest! From all of us at TrackerHero, congratulations on 24 years of championing deep tech, empowering startups, and advancing science and technology for global happiness. We deeply admire your relentless drive to build a better future. Here's to tracking even more groundbreaking milestones and celebrating continued success in the years to come!

Warmest wishes,
The TrackerHero Team

The TrackerHero team, growing through ecosystem collaboration to drive digital transformation and operational innovation across industries.

Enabling Renewable Energy Adoption Through Collaboration: Batari Energy (Indonesia)

Batari Energy is an Indonesian startup focused on renewable energy through battery manufacturing, enabling decentralized access to reliable, 24/7 clean energy. Founded during a PhD journey, it addresses Indonesia's underutilized solar potential and barriers such as high costs, limited financing, and regulatory complexity. By offering end-to-end solar solutions supported by AI-assisted batteries, Batari bridges advanced technology with real-world adoption. Early challenges centered on building trust and market education, prompting its participation in Leave a Nest's TECH PLANTER. This experience provided global exposure, valuable connections, and opportunities to present to international stakeholders. A pivotal moment came when Batari was invited by the Ministry of Industry to showcase its innovation, leading to collaborations and revenue growth. Ongoing ecosystem engagement has strengthened its capabilities, and the company now aims to expand beyond solar applications while scaling its technology and impact.

The Batari Energy team, driving renewable energy innovation in Indonesia through collaborative efforts and a shared vision for accessible, sustainable power.

Happy 24th Anniversary, Leave a Nest! From a small team with a big dream at TECH PLANTER to creating real impact across Indonesia, your support has been instrumental in our journey. We're proud to be part of your mission in nurturing startups and shaping Asia's future.

Batari Energy

24 YEARS UNDER THE HOOD: THE VOICES BEHIND OUR PARTNERSHIP

By Mohd Izwan Zainol, PhD

As Leave a Nest celebrates nearly a quarter-century of innovation, we turn the spotlight to the collaborators who make our journey possible. From the tech hubs of Malaysia to the vibrant ecosystems of Indonesia and Vietnam, here is what 24 years of synergy looks like.

For twenty-four years, Leave a Nest has operated on a simple but powerful premise: that innovation is not a solo race, but a collaborative journey. We asked our regional partners to reflect on the *"mechanics"* of our shared success. Their responses paint a picture of a partnership built on more than just contracts; it is a journey built on friendship, trust, and a relentless passion for the deep tech ecosystem.

Malaysia: Building The Venture Bridge

In Malaysia, the partnership with MRANTI has become a cornerstone of the innovation landscape. Mr. Thanges Krishnan (Senior Executive, Private Sector Partnerships) highlights the Tech Venture Meetup as a defining milestone. Over the past three years, this collaboration has successfully bridged the gap between startups, researchers, and corporates. *"Our collaboration has always been proactive and aligned towards creating impact,"* says Thanges. *"Beyond the professional scope, what I value most is friendship. We share the same mindset in supporting homegrown innovators."* As they look toward the horizon, the goal is clear: deepening regional collaboration to help Malaysian startups scale globally through cross-border opportunities.

"Cheers to a partnership driven by innovation, friendship, and a shared mission to empower the next generation of startups."

~ Mr. Thanges Krishnan, Mranti

"Thank you for bringing global vision to Indonesia's deep tech ecosystem, inspiring future innovators to create meaningful impact. 行きましょう!"

~ Mr. Nur Islami Javad, Invst.ID & Startup Bandung BIM

Indonesia: Navigating The Deep Tech Frontier

Mr. Nur Islami Javad (CEO Invst.ID and Co-founder Startup Bandung Business Initiative Movement) reflects on a relationship that has evolved rapidly since 2022. For the Indonesian ecosystem, Leave a Nest has provided a vital compass in the complex world of deep tech, where risks and development cycles are significantly higher than in general entrepreneurship. *"In every touchpoint, from Demo Days to the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference, we have gained insights that help us stay agile,"* Javad explains. He emphasizes that the partnership is a journey of "silaturahim" (meaningful connection). Even in a dynamic post-AI landscape, Javad remains excited about the *"good news"* and collaborative initiatives Leave a Nest consistently brings to the table, including potential future hubs in Cyberjaya.

Vietnam: A Vision For The Future

The sentiment is echoed in Vietnam, where the Business Startup Support Centre (BSSC) continues to witness the growth of the LVNS Group. Mr. Hoang Phuong Le (International Partnership Manager) offers a concise but powerful tribute to the longevity of the organization. *"Congratulations to LVNS Group on 24 years of growth. We wish you continued success as you shape the future with your vision and dedication,"* notes Le. This shared commitment across Southeast Asia ensures that while the first 24 years have been transformative, the next chapter will be even more impactful.

As we close this chapter and look toward our 25th year, one thing is certain: the *"engine"* of Leave a Nest is fueled by the brilliant partners who dream, build, and innovate alongside us every single day.

BUILDING DEEP-TECH BRIDGES ACROSS ASEAN AND JAPAN

By Ruchira Karjeev, BEng

Similar to our Frontier Development initiatives in other countries, many of Leave a Nest's initiatives in Singapore and Thailand have supported promising emerging startups that are now proud members of the Leave a Nest ecosystem. Through platforms such as TECH PLANTER and the Global Bridge Program, we continue bridging the gap between deep-tech solution providers and society across Southeast Asia and Japan, creating opportunities for collaboration, market expansion, and meaningful technological implementation.

Here are reflections from some of the promising teams we have worked with over the past year.

SmartRx [Singapore]

SmartRx's Automated Pharmacy System and Telemedicine Pod have already been adopted by organizations such as Tan Tock Seng Hospital, NTUC Unity, Shell Singapore, and the Republic of Singapore Navy.

"TECH PLANTER 2025 was a good entry point that helped us kickstart our entry into the Japanese Market. Through the competition, we gained the recognition of JR East and hope to work closely together in the near future so that our system can help address some of the healthcare access gaps in Japan."

The team also shared that the Global Innovation Alliance (Singapore to Japan Market Entry Program) opportunity created valuable opportunities to connect with medical-linked companies in Tokyo, helping them better understand local healthcare needs and explore potential collaborations. With Japanese regulations planning to allow remote medication dispensing through vending-machine systems from 2027, SmartRx sees strong potential for further expansion into the Japanese market.

This reflects how Frontier Development initiatives continue supporting startups in navigating new markets and building partnerships across Japan and Southeast Asia.

RIFFAI [Thailand]

RIFFAI, a satellite and AI company specializing in Earth Observation analytics, is a budding startup and a part of the TECH PLANTER Thailand alumni network. Prior to TECH PLANTER, the team also presented at the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference in Thailand, showcasing how satellite data can be transformed into actionable business intelligence across industries.

"As a part of TECH PLANTER, we won the UntroD Capital Award in 2025 ! Leave a Nest has continuously supported startups and researchers like us in the deep-tech field between ASEAN & Japan, bringing new perspectives, collaborations, and opportunities into practical action that benefits both people and the planet."

Following TECH PLANTER, Leave a Nest Singapore continued collaborating with RIFFAI through the Deep Tech Internship Program (DTIP), where Nanyang Technological University students are currently interning with the RIFFAI team in Bangkok.

Beyond individual programs, Leave a Nest's startup development approach is built on continuous engagement throughout the year. For many startups, TECH PLANTER serves as the entry point into the Leave a Nest ecosystem, helping us understand their core technologies and business needs across Southeast Asia and Japan.

From there, support may expand through the Global Bridge Program, including initiatives such as GIA, alongside tailor-made collaborations, pilot projects, internship programs, and ecosystem activities such as the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference and Deep Tech Tours — allowing Leave a Nest to support startups as a long-term partner in deep-tech innovation.

THE GAP BETWEEN KNOWING AND DOING

By Fernanda Susilo, MSc

Pasinee Tangsuriyapaisan did not begin her career in the fields. She started in the clean, abstract world of investment banking and venture capital, navigating systems where decisions are made at a distance. But proximity to power eventually felt like a disconnect from purpose. Today, as the founder of Enable Earth, a startup transforming agricultural waste into sustainable value, she has traded the boardroom for the ground, applying systemic rigour to the challenges of the highland.

Discussion during the burning season with smoke hanging low across the city

"I realised I wanted to build something for society," she reflects, *"not just work within systems that serve capital."* Her search for impact led briefly into politics, where she hit the hard limits of a status quo built to resist movement. It was a sobering lesson that the challenge was no longer about moving capital, but about the friction of moving change.

At the Enable Earth facility in Chiang Mai

That vision crystallised in Scandinavia. Working at a climate venture firm, Pasinee saw how funding made technology seamless. But she recognised a gap: solutions designed for ideal infrastructure do not always travel.

Pasinee with farmers and children, where the work takes shape

When she returned to Thailand, the annual burning season was impossible to ignore. The smoke hung heavy and the common narrative blamed the farmer. Pasinee looked closer, past the haze. *"Farmers are not burning because they want to,"* she says. *"It is the most practical and affordable option they have."* To ask a farmer to stop burning without providing a logistical alternative is a forced choice between the environment and family survival.

"You cannot expect them to change if they cannot afford the risk"

In Northern Thailand, agriculture work is constrained by terrain and cost: harsh slopes, heavy volumes, and margins so thin that one bad harvest means generational debt.

Enable Earth was built to absorb that risk. To solve accessibility, she developed modular and semi automated equipment for terrain where traditional machinery fails. To solve logistics, she integrated data and AI to coordinate collection across isolated plots. Finally, she established the production of high grade biochar, turning a liability into a carbon sequestering asset. She did not just bring a machine; she built a lifeline.

Pasinee refuses to speak in grandiosities, choosing instead the language of air quality, livelihoods, and dignity. Her approach reflects a broader truth: the world does not lack solutions; it lacks the systems that allow them to take hold. This is the essential role of science bridge communicators. It is the labour of ensuring that knowledge does not stay trapped where it was created.

As Leave a Nest marks its 24th year, Pasinee serves as a reminder that even the strongest ideas only matter if someone can actually use them. Technology is only as powerful as the hands that are finally able to reach for it.

TECH VENTURE MEETUP IS BACK IN SINGAPORE AND THAILAND!

Where Leave a Nest ecosystem startups grow further, seek collaborations and investment opportunities.

Tech Venture Meetup (TVMU) is one of the key platforms by Leave a Nest to support startups within our ecosystem as they move beyond the early stage and seek deeper collaborations, strategic partnerships, and investment opportunities.

Through TVMU, startups can connect with corporates, investors, manufacturers, researchers, and ecosystem partners across Southeast Asia and Japan to accelerate business growth and cross-border expansion.

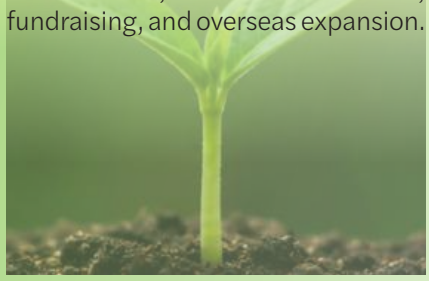
Growing with Leave a Nest

Entry Point through TECH PLANTER

Startups and researchers solving deep issues join TECH PLANTER to explore regional and Japan collaborations.

Growing with Us Through a Myriad of Programmes

We continue supporting startups through programs focused on recruitment, business creation, fundraising, and overseas expansion.



TECH VENTURE MEETUP & Beyond

Startups join TVMU to seek collaborations, investments, and regional expansion opportunities across Southeast Asia and Japan.

Why Join TVMU as a Partner?

Partners can:

- Connect with high-potential deep-tech startups
- Explore co-development and open innovation opportunities
- Access emerging technologies and market trends
- Build relationships with regional ecosystem players
- Expand networks across Southeast Asia and Japan
- Identify investment and collaboration opportunities

Why Join TVMU as a Startup?

Startups can:

- Showcase solutions to corporates and investors
- Seek strategic partnerships and funding opportunities
- Explore overseas expansion opportunities
- Connect with manufacturers and business partners
- Gain visibility within the regional deep-tech ecosystem
- Join curated networking and business matching session

Upcoming TVMUs

Tech Venture Meetup Singapore 2026

26 October 2026
Singapore (The Meeting Point at One-north)

Bringing together startups, corporates, investors, researchers, and ecosystem builders from Southeast Asia and Japan.

Tech Venture Meetup Thailand 2026

13 November 2026
Bangkok, Thailand

Connecting Thailand's growing deep-tech ecosystem with international partners and fostering cross-border collaborations between Thailand and Japan.

Exploring Deep Tech & Solving Deep Issue
TECH PLANTER®

JOIN US IN JULY 2026

Technology is indispensable for solving issues in our world. And, technology requires various players with “passion” to realize each process toward commercialization. TECH PLANTER is the ecosystem to gather passionate ones to solve world issues. Researchers, startups, factories, large corporations, and public sectors.

MALAYSIA
16 MAY 2026

SINGAPORE
23 MAY 2026

PHILIPPINES
30 MAY 2026

VIETNAM
11 JULY 2026

THAILAND
18 JULY 2026

INDONESIA
25 JULY 2026

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