

First Circular | The 5th (2026) Workshop of Asian Young Geographers

Amid accelerating global realignments, rapid technological transformations, intensifying geopolitical competition, and mounting climate risks and governance challenges, Asia is becoming ever more deeply embedded in, and actively reshaping, the world. On the one hand, artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, green transitions, and industrial-chain reconfiguration are catalysing an “innovating Asia.” On the other hand, great-power rivalry and fluid regional orders, alongside far-reaching demographic and urban transitions, together with the securitisation of maritime and terrestrial borderland and shifting resource–land–ecosystem dynamics, have positioned Asia as a principal arena in which global uncertainties are concentrated. As a core discipline for understanding human–environment relations and spatial processes, geography is called upon to respond with sharper scalar sensibilities, more open interdisciplinary dialogue, and more forward-looking methodological tools.

Established in 2021, the Asian Young Geographers workshop has been successfully convened for four consecutive editions—online or in person—and has gradually developed into a stable academic platform for early-career scholars across Asia and beyond. Following consultation among the organising partners, the 5th Asian Young Geographers Workshop will be held in Guangzhou, China, on 5–8 June 2026. With the theme “**Innovating Asia, Reshaping the World**”, the workshop highlights Asia’s pivotal position in global waves of innovation and shifting geopolitical configurations. It explores how rapid environmental change, socio-economic and technological transitions are reshaping spatial relations, power structures, and governance practices between Asia and the world, and further considers how geography can contribute to building a more resilient, just, and sustainable world through knowledge production with stronger explanatory power and practical traction.

This workshop carries an important mission to connect geographical research in China, Asia, and the world. We warmly invite young scholars from all subfields of geography to gather in Guangzhou to share cutting-edge research and exemplary cases, and to provide academic and policy-relevant insights for addressing global challenges and exploring innovative development pathways. The workshop encourages both place-based engagement and comparative perspectives, promotes cross-fertilisation of theories and methods, and fosters dialogue among academia, policy, industry, and social practice.

Conference Theme

Innovating Asia, Reshaping the World

Conference Tracks

- 1. Global Change and Governance Innovation**
- 2. The Belt and Road Initiative and Spatial Reconfiguration**
- 3. Smart Cities and Digital Geographies**

4. Cultural Heritage and Tourism Innovation
5. Resource Geographies and Energy Transition
6. Population Mobility and Socio-spatial Transformation
7. Frontiers in Geography Education and Technological Innovation
8. Asian Geographical Thought and Building an Asian Geographical Community

Conference Date

5–8 June 2026

- 5 June: Registration (all day)
- 6 June: Keynote addresses, roundtable, parallel sessions
- 7 June: Keynote addresses, roundtable, parallel sessions
- 8 June: Closing ceremony and post-conference field excursion

Venue

Shipai Campus, South China Normal University (SCNU), Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

Expected Participants

Approximately 300 participants

Working Language

English

Conference Website

<https://asiageo2026.casconf.cn> (The website will open in March, 2026)

Call for Session Proposals

We invite proposals for organised (themed) sessions from research groups, teaching teams, and the wider international scholarly community. Each proposal (in English) should include a session title, a brief description (max. 300 words), and the names and affiliations of **2–5 conveners**. Proposals can be submitted by email to ASIAYGWG2026@163.com by **10 March 2026**. Accepted sessions will be announced in the Second Circular following review by the Academic Steering Committee.

Call for Abstracts and Papers

Participants may submit an English abstract or full paper via the conference website, aligned with the conference theme, tracks, or organised sessions. Submission deadline: 10 May 2026.

- 1) Abstract length: approximately 200 English words.
- 2) Full paper length: 5,000–8,000 English words.
- 3) A selection of Outstanding Presentation Awards will be made. Applicants for these awards must submit an unpublished full paper and deliver an oral presentation at the workshop. The Organising Committee will invite experts from the Academic Committee to review submissions. Award certificates will be presented at the closing ceremony, and selected papers may be recommended to leading journals.

Registration

Please complete online registration via the conference website by 10 May 2026.

Registration Fees

Participant Type	On or before 10 May	From 10 May
Faculty/Staff	RMB1,600	RMB 2,000
Student	RMB 800	RMB 1,000

- 1) Please register and pay the fee through the conference website. Payment can be made in either RMB or USD.
- 2) The registration fee will be collected by the Geographical Society of China and an electronic invoice for “conference registration fee” will be issued.
- 3) The registration fee covers access to all conference sessions, a conference bag, badge/lanyard, coffee/tea breaks, and meals during the conference.
- 4) The registration fee does NOT include accommodation, transportation, field excursions, registration fees for accompanying persons/family members, or other personal expenses.

Refund Policy

If a participant is unable to attend for personal reasons, a refund request submitted on or before 10 May 2026 will incur a 20% administrative fee. Refund requests after 10 May 2026 will not be accepted. Refund enquiries: lichenyan@igsnr.ac.cn

Important Dates

- 1) Organised (themed) sessions proposals due: 10 March 2026.
- 2) Abstract/full paper submission deadline: 10 May 2026.

Organising Bodies

Organisers

- Asian Geographical Association – Young Geographers Working Group (AGA-YGWG)
- Geographical Society of China – Working Committee for Young Geographers (GSC-WCYG)
- International Geographical Union – Commission for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECCG)

Host Institution

- School of Geography, South China Normal University
- The Center for Asian Geographical Studies, South China Normal University

Co-organisers

- Geographical Society of China – Belt and Road Branch
- Geographical Society of China – Commission on World Geography
- Geographical Society of China – Commission on Political Geography and Geopolitical Relations
- Geographical Society of China – Working Committee on Spatially Integrated Humanities and Social Sciences
- Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao University Alliance for Geography Education

Academic Committee

Chair

Qin Dahe – Professor, China Meteorological Administration; President, Asian Geographical Association; Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Members (in alphabetical order of pinyin)

- Ahmet Ertek – Professor, Istanbul University (Türkiye); Vice President, Asian Geographical Association
- Chen Fahu – Professor, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS; Executive President, Geographical Society of China; Academician, CAS
- Chul Sue Hwang – Professor, Kyung Hee University (Korea); Vice President, Asian Geographical Association
- Du Debin – Professor, East China Normal University; Former Chair, Commission on World Geography, GSC
- Fu Bojie – Professor, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, CAS; Chair of the Supervisory Board, GSC; Academician, CAS
- Ge Quansheng – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; President, GSC
- Gaurav Sikka – Associate Professor, Patna University (India); Chair, IGU-YECCG
- Hu Zhiding – Professor, East China Normal University; Chair, Commission on World Geography, GSC
- Kanat Baigarin – Professor, Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan); Vice President, Asian Geographical Association

- Lai Vinh Cam – Professor, Institute of Geography, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (Vietnam); Vice President, Asian Geographical Association
- Liu Weidong – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; Chair, Belt and Road Branch, GSC
- Lü Guonian – Professor, Nanjing Normal University; Deputy Director, Commission on Information Geography, GSC
- Michael Meadows – Professor, University of Cape Town (South Africa) / Nanjing University; Past President, International Geographical Union
- Nathalie Lemarchand – Professor, University of Paris VIII (France); President, International Geographical Union
- Song Changqing – Professor, Beijing Normal University; Chair, Commission on Human Geography, GSC
- Sun Fubao – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; Vice President and Secretary-General, GSC
- Suresh Chand Rai – Professor, University of Delhi (India); Vice President, Asian Geographical Association
- Wang Qinxue – Professor, University of Tsukuba (Japan)
- Xu Xueqiang – Professor, Sun Yat-sen University; Former Vice President, GSC
- Xue Desheng – Professor, Sun Yat-sen University; Former Vice President, GSC
- Anthony Yeh – Professor, The University of Hong Kong; Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Yuji Murayama – Professor, University of Tsukuba (Japan); Vice President, Asian Geographical Association
- Zhang Guoyou – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee, GSC

Organising Committee

Co-Chairs

- Liu Yungang – Professor and Dean, School of Geography, South China Normal University; Vice President, GSC; Director, Commission on Political Geography and Geopolitical Relations, GSC
- Chen Min – Professor and Dean, School of Geography, Nanjing Normal University; Chair, AGA-YGWWG
- Dai Erfu – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; Chair, GSC-WCYG
- Zhang Xuanzi – Director, International Affairs Department, GSC; Secretary and Treasurer, Asian Geographical Association

Secretaries-General

- Zhao Yaolong – Professor, School of Geography, SCNU; Vice Chair, Working Committee on Spatially Integrated Humanities and Social Sciences, GSC

- Song Zhouying – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; Secretary-General, Belt and Road Branch, GSC
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- He Li – Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University; Secretary-General, AGA-YGWW
- Gao Jiangbo – Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS; Secretary-General, GSC-WCYG
- Wang Fenglong – Professor, School of Geography, SCNU; Secretary-General, Commission on Political Geography and Geopolitical Relations, GSC
- Li Chenyan – Director, General Affairs Department, GSC

Members

- Bao Kunshan – Professor and Associate Dean, School of Geography, SCNU
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- Chen Lin – Associate Professor, School of Geography, SCNU
- Chen Hong – Lecture, School of Geography, SCNU
- Vu Thi Bac – PhD, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)
- Suh-hee Choi – Associate Professor, Kyung Hee University (Korea)
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- Ömer Emre Kuşçu – PhD, Istanbul University (Türkiye)
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- Luo Wei – Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore (Singapore)
- Huang Xing – Associate Professor, South China University of Technology
- Wu Zhuo – Associate Professor, Guangzhou University

Secretariat and Contact

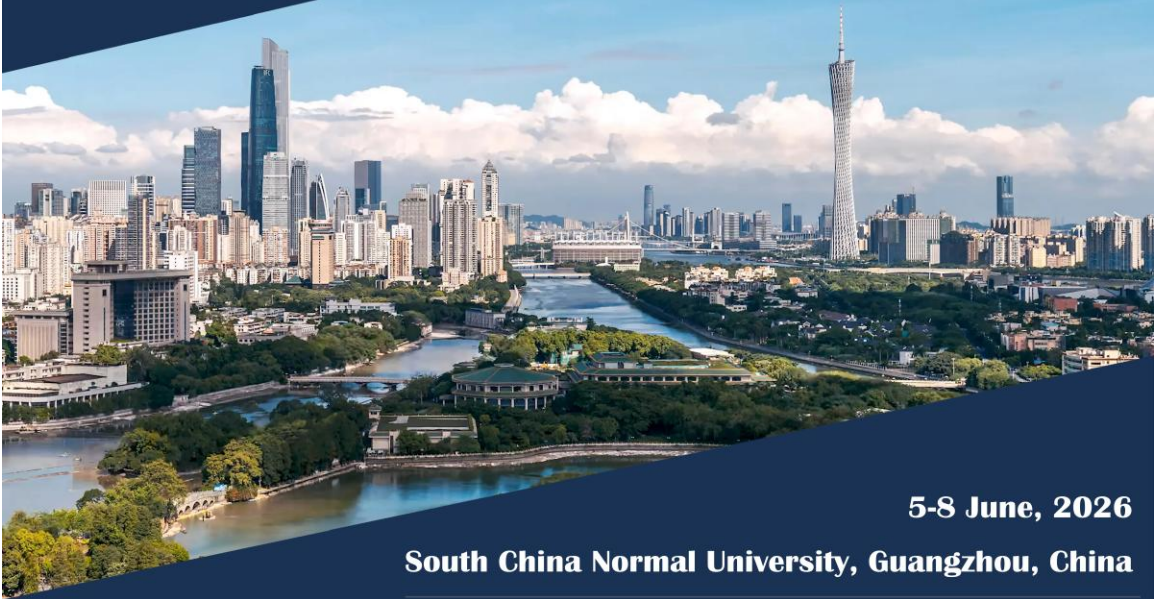
General email (sessions, programme, logistics, fees): ASIAYGWW2026@163.com

- Dr. Huang Yan – yanhuang1207@qq.com (sessions and submissions)
- Dr. Zhang Han – zhanghan0521@m.scnu.edu.cn (conference administration)

Welcome to Participate in

The 5th Workshop of Asian Young Geographers

**Innovating Asia,
Reshaping the World**



5-8 June, 2026

South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China



Session proposals due: 10 Mar 2026,
via ASIAYGWG2026t@163.com



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via <https://asiageo2026.casconf.cn>

