



# 14<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL CONGRESS Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists

**"GREENOVATE: Youth Turning Vision into Action  
for a Sustainable Future"**

 9 – 12 February 2026

 SEAMEO RECSAM  
PENANG, MALAYSIA

INFORMATION  
BOOKLET



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	ACTION
12 June 2025	<p>Info Session (Online):</p> <p><b>Greenovate: Youth Turning Vision into Action for a Sustainable Future</b></p>
12 July 2025	<p><b>Deadline for submission of Extended Abstract and 14th Regional Congress SSYS 2026 Registration Form:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Extended Abstract</b> (only via online link)  (*Please ensure that <b>Extended Abstract</b> follow the specified format as outlined in the provided link:  <a href="https://shorturl.at/evHxw">https://shorturl.at/evHxw</a>)</li> <li><b>Form A: 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress SSYS 2026 Registration Form (for Students &amp; Teachers)</b>  Link to Form A and Submission of Extended Abstract:  <a href="https://forms.gle/c47q24zLxee2HEBU8">https://forms.gle/c47q24zLxee2HEBU8</a></li> </ol>
12 August 2025	Notification of successful teams (via email)
31 October 2025	<p><b>Deadline for submission of Full Project Report &amp; Early Bird payment:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Project Report &amp; Early Bird payment (only via online link)  (*Please ensure that <b>Full Project Report</b> follow the specified format as outlined in the provided link:  <a href="https://shorturl.at/RgG2U">https://shorturl.at/RgG2U</a>)  Link to submission of the <b>Full Project Report (Form B)</b>:  <a href="https://forms.gle/WVEbdNHMj38rJnQCA">https://forms.gle/WVEbdNHMj38rJnQCA</a></li> <li><b>Form C: Registration Form (for accompanying Teacher, Parent and Observer)</b>  Link to Form C: <a href="https://forms.gle/oEyhJr3L1H7se2Hs5">https://forms.gle/oEyhJr3L1H7se2Hs5</a></li> </ol>
5 January 2026	<b>Deadline for payment and registration is closed.</b>
9 – 12 February 2026	14 <sup>th</sup> Regional Congress SSYS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

SEAMEO RECSAM is a renowned center for Science and Mathematics education, committed to fostering academic excellence through teacher education and capacity-building programs. At its core, SEAMEO RECSAM values education as a fundamental pillar of sustainability. By empowering educators and students alike, it seeks to drive innovation and critical thinking in STEM fields, ensuring that learning translates into real-world solutions. Recognising the youth as key agents of change, the institution underscores their pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future.

The Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS) congress at SEAMEO RECSAM embodies this vision by providing a dynamic platform for young minds to explore scientific and technological advancements while addressing urgent global challenges. Through collaborative learning, interdisciplinary teamwork, and the application of STEM principles, SSYS equips young learners with the skills necessary to develop sustainable solutions that benefit society and the environment.

The **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026**, themed "**Greenovate: Youth Turning Vision into Action for a Sustainable Future**", aims to inspire and empower youth to drive sustainability by transforming their vision into actionable solutions that promote environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and green innovation. It also recognises the potential of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate innovative solutions for sustainability challenges.

The **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026** aligns with **Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025**, which embraces the theme "*Inclusivity and Sustainability*" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, 2024). As Malaysia leads ASEAN in fostering regional peace, stability, and prosperity, this congress will serve as a platform for youth to actively engage in sustainable development. The event will emphasise the critical role of young scientists in tackling environmental issues while ensuring equitable opportunities for all communities across the region.

In addition, **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026** aligns with **Penang 2030**, a vision introduced by the Penang State Government to create a "*Family-Focused, Green, and Smart State that Inspires the Nation.*" This congress aligns with Penang2030's core themes of enhancing liveability, driving sustainability, and fostering a green economy, thereby reinforcing the commitment to advancing green education and sustainability-driven entrepreneurship among youth.

The **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS** broadens its scope by integrating **Green Education, Environmental Awareness, Sustainability, Climate Change, and Entrepreneurial Mindsets**. The congress aligns with global sustainability goals, emphasising youth-led innovations that contribute to a more resilient and eco-conscious future.

This congress also supports several key UN **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, including:

- **SDG 4: Quality Education** - by promoting STEM, green education, and sustainability awareness.
- **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** - by encouraging student-driven innovation and the use of emerging technologies like AI.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 13: Climate Action** - by fostering youth-led solutions that address climate and urban sustainability challenges.
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – through the integration of circular economy and bioeconomy in youth entrepreneurship.
- **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** – by building collaborations among students, educators, industry, and regional partners.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress SSYS 2026 seeks to cultivate a new generation of young scientists who can address environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. By fostering scientific curiosity, problem-solving skills, cross-disciplinary and environmental responsibility, SSYS 2026 encourages youth to take active roles in addressing real-world sustainability challenges.

The event will focus on **Green Education, Environmental Awareness, Sustainability, Climate Change, and Entrepreneurial Mindsets**, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional priorities. Young participants will have the opportunity to apply STEM principles while working together intellectually to create research projects and innovative products that contribute to a more eco-conscious and resilient future. In lieu to that the objectives of this regional congress that align with the focus above are as follows:

1. **Advance Green Education:** Provide youth with the knowledge, tools, and interdisciplinary STEM approaches needed to address environmental challenges effectively.
2. **Encourage Sustainable Innovation:** Empower youth to develop and implement innovative, technology-driven solutions - including the responsible use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) - for sustainability and environmental conservation.
3. **Promote Climate Action and Regional Sustainability:** Engage young leaders in initiatives that drive climate resilience, conservation efforts, and sustainable practices.
4. **Foster Green Entrepreneurship and Economic Sustainability:** Encourage youth to explore business opportunities within the circular economy and bioeconomy sectors.
5. **Enhance Regional and International Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships among students, educators, industry leaders, and policymakers to promote knowledge-sharing and sustainability-driven initiatives across Southeast Asia.



### 3. PARTICIPATION

The 14th Regional Congress SSYS 2026 will be held at SEAMEO RECSAM in a supportive and intellectually engaging environment that encourages creativity, innovation, and environmental awareness among youth.

#### PARTICIPATION CRITERIA:

- Participation is open to **all secondary students** (excluding pre-university, matriculation, and foundation levels) from public and private schools in Southeast Asian countries and beyond, as recognised by their respective Ministries of Education.
- Student(s) may participate individually or in a team (maximum of four students) and must be guided by at least one teacher advisor.
- Each student is allowed to register under only one project.
- For judging purposes, projects will be evaluated under two levels:
  - **Lower Secondary** – typically for students in Grades 7 to 9 (ages 12–15 for international students and 13–15 years for Malaysian Students)
  - **Upper Secondary** – typically for students in Grades 10 to 11/12 as per respective countries (ages 16–18)
- Cash prizes and certificates will be awarded only to students and teacher advisors registered as part of the participating team.
- All participating students and teacher advisor(s) must complete SSYS Form A & B and submit them to the organiser specified dateline.
- Other accompanying teachers, parents, and observers are welcome on a fee-paying basis and must submit SSYS Form C.
- By submitting an entry, participants grant SEAMEO RECSAM permission to use the submitted information, project work, and related media (including images and videos) for documentation, publicity, and educational purposes.

#### 4. GENERAL GUIDELINES

All participating teams of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress SSYS 2026 must ensure that all submissions and presentations are conducted in **English Language**.

Participants are required to follow the steps outlined below:

##### 4.1 Extended Abstract Submission

- All students must submit an extended abstract of their research project, along with **SSYS Form A for-selection purposes**.
- The extended abstract must be written in English and strictly follow the format as in the provided link: <https://shorturl.at/evHxw>
- The abstract should not exceed **THREE (3) pages**, excluding appendices.
- Submission must be completed via the online registration link by **12 July 2025**.
- Selected Extended Abstracts will be notified via email
- Link for Online Uploading (**Form A**): <https://forms.gle/c47q24zLxee2HEBU8>

##### 4.2 Full Project Report

- Only teams that receive an **official acceptance notification** will be required to submit a Full Project report of their project.
- The report must be submitted in **MS Word format by 31 October 2025**.
- Each team must submit **TWO (2)** printed copies of the Full Project Report during registration at SEAMEO RECSAM.
- The Full Project Report must be in English and strictly follow the format outlined in the provided link: <https://shorturl.at/RgG2U>
- The report should not exceed **TEN (10) pages**, excluding references and appendices.
- Link for Online Uploading (**Form B**): <https://forms.gle/WVEbdNHMj38rJnQCA>

#### 4.3 Project Presentation & Exhibition

- Accepted teams will present and exhibit their projects at SEAMEO RECSAM to a panel of judges, fellow participants, observers, and the general public.
- Projects will be judged based on:
  - the quality of the written report
  - the clarity, creativity, and impact of the presentation and exhibit
  - the significance and relevance of the project in addressing the theme of congress

#### 4.4 Research Project Requirements

- The project must be the **original work of the student(s.)**
- **Teachers may serve as advisors only** and should not contribute directly to the content or development of the project.
- The project must be based on the **congress theme** and may be at any stage of development - whether a **conceptual idea, newly initiated, ongoing, or a completed project**.
- The project must **demonstrate innovation** and clearly reflect the **original work of the students**.
- Projects are encouraged to align with one or more of the **objectives of the congress**, such as promoting **climate action, advancing the circular economy, fostering green entrepreneurship**, and supporting **environmental sustainability** through **innovative solutions**.
- Projects may also incorporate **technological applications**, including the **use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** or other relevant tools.
- The project should foster **scientific curiosity, problem-solving skills, cross-disciplinary thinking**, and **environmental responsibility**.
- Projects must not have been submitted to any other competition or programme.
- Non-compliance may result in disqualification.



#### **4.5 Project Exhibition Presentation Guidelines**

All accepted projects will be showcased in a designated exhibition space during the 14th SSYS Congress. Please refer to the following specifications and requirements for the project exhibits:

##### **4.5.1 Display Booth**

Each project will be allocated one designated booth with the following criteria:

- Each booth will be allocated 1 banquet table measuring 1200mm x 600mm with the height 760mm
- Each team is allowed to bring along their own banner and streamer whereby all exhibits must adhere within the banquet table dimensions.
- Must be lightweight, sturdy, and self-supporting, with parts securely fastened for stability.
- Should be easy to assemble and dismantle, ideally foldable with hinges to ease transport and setup.
- All display materials (e.g., printed information, images, charts, graphs) must be affixed using masking tape or reusable adhesive to allow for safe and easy removal or repositioning.
- Any exhibit involving electrical components, computers, or chemical substances must strictly follow safety guidelines.
- The display must not include any live specimens, hazardous chemicals, flammable, toxic, or explosive materials.

##### **4.5.2 Accessories and Equipment**

- Projects that integrate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) or multimedia elements must come with the necessary equipment, such as laptops, tablets, video displays, or storage devices (USB, CDs, etc.).
- The organising committee will not provide any electronic presentation devices such as LCD projectors, laptops, DVD players, or audio-visual systems. Participants are responsible for bringing any additional devices required for their exhibit.

- Basic laboratory apparatus (e.g., test tubes, thermometers, rulers, etc.) can be provided upon request prior to the exhibition day.
- Each exhibit will be provided with the following setup:
  - One banquet table
  - Two chairs
  - One standard power outlet

#### 4.6 Presentation of Project Exhibit

Each participating team is required to **present their project at their assigned exhibition booth** to a panel of judges. Presentations may be supported with media or conducted without digital tools. The following rules apply:

- **Any student(s) from the project team** may present. Teams may choose to have one or multiple presenters.
- **Teacher Advisor(s) are strictly not allowed to assist, intervene OR be around in the room during the presentation or Q&A session.**
- Each project will be allotted a **maximum of 20 minutes in total**, which includes both the **presentation and the Question-and-Answer (Q&A) session** with the judging panel.
- During the session, student presenters may use **any preferred presentation method**, such as:
  - Verbal explanation
  - Digital tools (e.g., laptop, PowerPoint, videos)
  - Models or physical prototypes
  - Posters or printed visuals
- **The presentation order will be determined by the organiser and will be communicated to all participants prior to the congress.**

#### 4.7 Public Exhibition

All participating student(s) must be **on standby at their exhibition booths** during the scheduled public exhibition session. The following guidelines apply:

- Student(s) are expected to **actively engage with visitors** by explaining their project work and answering questions from the public.

- **Teacher Advisor(s) are allowed to assist** and support the student(s) during this public session.
- **Projects must remain in place and may not be dismantled or removed** until the public exhibition session has officially ended.
- **Failure to be present at the booth** throughout the entire public exhibition session may result in **disqualification from the congress**.

#### 4.8 Removal of Project Exhibits

All project exhibits **must not be removed before the closing ceremony or until officially informed by the organiser**.

#### 4.9 Judging Categories and Components

For the **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS**, all projects will be evaluated by a panel of judges based on a standard set of criteria. To ensure fairness and relevance, judging will be conducted under **two levels**:

- **Lower Secondary** – typically for students in Grades 7 to 9 (ages 12–15 for international students and 13 -15 years for Malaysian Students)
- **Upper Secondary** – typically for students in Grades 10 to 11/12 as per respective countries (ages 16–18)

All projects will be assessed based on the following **two main components**:

- **Full Project Report** – Evaluates the completeness based on the required project report format, as well as the clarity, scientific or technical accuracy, and relevance to the congress theme.
- **Presentation of Project Exhibit** – Assesses the student(s)' ability to communicate their work, respond to questions, and effectively showcase their innovation and understanding during the exhibition session.



The detailed judging criteria for each component are outlined in **Table 1**.

COMPONENTS	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION	MARKS
Full Written Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows required report format (including abstract, background, methodology, and references)</li> <li>Demonstrates originality and is the work of the student(s)</li> <li>Clarity and completeness of content</li> <li>Scientific or technical accuracy</li> <li>Relevance to the congress theme</li> <li>Alignment with one or more congress objectives: climate action, circular economy, green entrepreneurship, sustainability</li> <li>Application of technological tools (e.g. AI or other relevant tools)</li> <li>Environmental and community impact, educational value</li> </ul>	40
Presentation of Project Exhibit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication and presentation skills</li> <li>Product /Project pitching</li> <li>Ability to respond to questions</li> <li>Originality and creativity of presentation</li> <li>Integration of cross-disciplinary thinking related to the Greenovate concept</li> <li>Quality, clarity, and organisation of display</li> <li>Explanation and justification of the project approach and outcomes</li> </ul>	60
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5.0 Awards

Awards will be presented for both the levels (Lower & Upper Secondary) in the following three categories:

**(a) Most Promising Young Scientist Award**

**(b) Outstanding Award**

**(c) Special Award**

Each award will include a cash prize and a certificate. Additionally, all participants will receive a certificate of participation.

Details of the award categories are provided in Table 2

Table 2: Categories of Awards (14th SSYS - GREENOVATE: Youth Turning Vision into Action for a Sustainable Future)

<b>AWARDS</b>	
Most Promising SEAMEO Young Scientists Award	The highest recognition for an outstanding overall project that demonstrates exemplary alignment with the SSYS theme "GREENOVATE: Youth Turning Vision into Action for a Sustainable Future" and supports the conference's core objectives.
Outstanding Award for each of the following:	
Project Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates clarity, scientific merit, and relevance to the GREENOVATE theme and its objectives.</li> </ul>
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively communicates the project's objectives, methods, and impact with confidence and coherence.</li> </ul>
Project Exhibit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative and visually compelling display that enhances understanding and engagement.</li> </ul>
Special Award for each of the following:	
Benefit(s) to the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project contributes positively to local or regional sustainability and community wellbeing.</li> </ul>
Educational Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhances knowledge, awareness, or capacity building in environmental and sustainability education.</li> </ul>
Commercial Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates scalability and potential to support green entrepreneurship or circular economy.</li> </ul>
Application of STEM and Cross-disciplinary Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrates interdisciplinary approaches that support the GREENOVATE theme and address sustainability challenges through STEM.</li> </ul>
Creativity and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original, inventive solutions that reflect youth-driven ingenuity in addressing sustainability challenges.</li> </ul>

**Note:** The award categories are designed to reflect and reinforce the research project requirements, ensuring a fair and comprehensive assessment of student projects at any stage of development.

## CONGRESS REGISTRATION FEE (PER PARTICIPANT)

### IMPORTANT

The fees are **WAIVED** for **TWO OFFICIAL PARTICIPATING** teams (**2 students** and **1 teacher per team**) nominated by the Ministry of Education of SEAMEO member countries. However, the fees (refer Table 3) apply to those interested in participating in their own capacity.

The congress registration fee includes congress materials, e-certificates, meals and Congress Dinner.

**Table 3:** Congress Registration Fees for Participant (**per participant**)

Students & Teacher Advisor			Accompanying Teacher(s) / Observer(s) / Parents			
			1 – 2 Pax		> 2 Pax	
	International Participant	Malaysian Participant	International Participant	Malaysian Participant	International Participant	Malaysian Participant
Normal Rate	USD 110.00	MYR 499	USD 100.00	MYR 449	USD 90.00	MYR 399
Early bird	<b>USD 90.00</b>	<b>MYR 399</b>	<b>USD 80.00</b>	<b>MYR 349</b>	<b>USD 70.00</b>	<b>MYR 299</b>

Early bird rate: Pay by **31 October 2025**

\*Malaysia currency rate applied for Malaysians only

### BOOKING OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants may book accommodation at SEAMEO RECSAM at special rates via the following link:

[http://www.recsam.edu.my/sub\\_InternationalHouse/](http://www.recsam.edu.my/sub_InternationalHouse/)

Participants may also choose to arrange their own accommodation elsewhere. Please note that transportation to the event venue will not be provided.

### PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments must be made by **31 October 2025**

The following are the account details for remittance:

Account Name: **SEAMEO RECSAM**  
Account Number: **5571-5700-0647**  
Account Type: **Current**



Swift Code: **MBBEMYKL**

Bank Name: **Malayan Banking Berhad**

Bank Address: **345-H, Bangunan Kelab Gelugor, 11700 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.**

**For more information about the payment method, please visit our website:**

[http://www.recsam.edu.my/sub\\_SSYS/index.php](http://www.recsam.edu.my/sub_SSYS/index.php)

*\*Note: Please attach a copy of your payment slip to the online submission of Registration **Form B**. Kindly indicate the paper code provided by the secretariat.*

***\*\*Payment slips submitted via email will not be accepted unless formally requested by the secretariat.***

## **CONTACT US**

For further information, please contact:

SSYS Secretariat

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### Officers' in-charge:

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## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

### 14<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL CONGRESS SEARCH FOR SEAMEO YOUNG SCIENTISTS (SSYS)

9-12th FEBRUARY 2026 (4 Days)

DAY/TIME	8.30 AM	10.30 AM	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	2.30 PM	4.30 PM	EVENING*
9 February 2026  (Monday)	8.00 – 9.30 AM Registration 9.30 – 10.00 AM Opening Ceremony 10.00 – 10.30 AM Science Show	Group Photo &  TEA BREAK	Congress Briefing &  Setup of Project Exhibits	LUNCH	Setup of Project Exhibits /  Judges Briefing	TEA BREAK	FREE & EASY
10 February 2026  (Tuesday)	Judging of Project Exhibits I	TEA BREAK	Activity 2: SEARCA – Green Schools	LUNCH	Judging of Project Exhibits II	TEA BREAK	FREE & EASY
	Activity 1 : Water Watch				Activity 3: Games (Makerspace)		
11 February 2026  (Wednesday)	Judging of Project Exhibits III	TEA BREAK	Activity 5 : PENANG GREEN COUNCIL	LUNCH	Judging of Project Exhibits IV	TEA BREAK	CONGRESS DINNER
	Activity 4 : Ethiopia				Activity 6: Games (Makerspace)		
12 February 2026  (Thursday)	Public Exhibition	TEA BREAK	Public Exhibition	LUNCH	2.00-5.30 PM  Award Presentation Ceremony		

The organiser reserves the right to make changes to this programme.



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