

**The 14th Chaoyang International Talent
Entrepreneurship Conference (ITEC 2026)**

Competing Manual

第十四届朝阳国际人才创业大会
Toward Innovation · Intelligence · Chaoyang



ASEAN Region — Application Portal
<https://earthboundsea.com/itec-asean-2026>

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Introduction

The Chaoyang International Talent Entrepreneurship Conference (hereinafter referred to as “ITEC” or “The Competition”) is hosted by the People’s Government of Chaoyang District, Beijing, and jointly undertaken by the Startup Alliance and partner institutions at home and abroad, as an international platform for innovation and entrepreneurship exchange for global talent.

Upholding the concept of “Toward Innovation · Intelligence · Chaoyang”, the Competition aims to integrate innovation and entrepreneurship resources, facilitate the connection of overseas innovation and entrepreneurship projects with China’s high-tech industry resources, expand their access to the Chinese market, and achieve mutual benefits and win-win results. It has been successfully held for thirteen consecutive editions since 2013, and ITEC 2026 is the fourteenth edition.

Cumulatively, more than 80,000 entrepreneurs have participated in ITEC, over 1,300 projects have landed through the platform and its related support system, and approximately RMB 48 billion of investment has been leveraged across the ITEC ecosystem. As of 2025, ITEC had attracted 5,215 projects in total, including 2,526 overseas projects, from 141 countries and regions.

The Competition is deeply linked with international innovative talent clusters worldwide. Overseas selection is coordinated by the ITEC 2026 Overseas Track organizer and its regional partners, including the ASEAN region. Applications from ASEAN economies are received through the ITEC ASEAN 2026 application portal at <https://earthboundsea.com/itec-asean-2026>, where applicants may apply directly through the official ITEC ASEAN online application form.

The Competition is run through the Industry Track, open to both individual applicants and companies, covering ten industry fields: Embodied Intelligence, Aerospace, Metaverse / Internet 3.0, Digital Healthcare & Smart Eldercare, Smart Hardware, Digital Culture, Data Elements, Future Industries, Artificial Intelligence, Industrial AI, and other emerging fields such as impact and environmental innovation. It is open to innovation and entrepreneurship projects worldwide, with no nationality restrictions for participants.

The Competition offers a total bonus of RMB 54.5 million, with individual winning projects eligible for up to RMB 5 million (excluding venture investment funds). For the Third Prize and above, 40% of the prize is paid in the first year and 60% in the second year based on the project's development in Chaoyang; projects showing good progress may receive an additional incentive of up to 10% of the total prize. Investment partners of the Competition, including leading domestic and international venture capital institutions, provide investment matchmaking for outstanding competition projects, and all participants may access investment opportunities through the Competition's matchmaking platform.

The Competition provides a full-process, comprehensive overseas talent recruitment and project landing service system, covering project solicitation, overseas mentoring, regional screening and semi-finals, service matchmaking, verification and inspection, Chaoyang visits, local industry connection, expert mentorship, venture capital liaison, policy support, and industrial park matchmaking, ensuring full tracking and support for participants.

Competition Schedule

STAGE 1

Conference & Promotion

August 2026

Competition launch and promotion led by the Chaoyang Government; applications open



STAGE 2

Initial Screening

August – September 2026

Online application review to shortlist entrants — 50 projects shortlisted



STAGE 3

Semi-Final

Late September 2026

The 50 shortlisted projects pitch; 20 advance to the ITEC ASEAN Final



STAGE 4

ITEC ASEAN Final

Early October 2026

20 projects compete; the top 10 advance to Chaoyang, Beijing



STAGE 5

Beijing ITEC Innovation Summit

Late October 2026

Innovation summit in Chaoyang, Beijing

Note: The schedule is subject to change. The specific competition time is subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

Applications and Requirements

(I) Participation Conditions

1. The participating entity must have been established within the last 10 years (i.e., after January 1, 2016), and must meet the specific requirements of the relevant industry field.

2. Applicants and participants should generally be the main founders of the project. The main founder and founding team should hold no less than 30% of original shares (after penetration and consolidation).

3. The participating entity cannot be a listed company.

4. All members must comply with the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China, have no major dishonesty records, be of good character, and possess good professional ethics.

5. The entity must have legal intellectual property rights or usage rights, with certain innovation and commercialization potential. Participants are responsible for any liability arising from infringement.

6. The applying entity must be consistent with the award recipient entity. Projects with entities in Chaoyang must use the Chaoyang entity; entities outside Chaoyang must have genuine intention and plans to develop in Chaoyang.

7. Previous ITEC award winners may participate but cannot receive the same or a lower level of award.

8. Entrepreneurs and enterprises recognized as Chaoyang "Phoenix Plan" high-level talents or high-end business talents may participate but are not eligible for awards.

If these conditions are not met, the Organizer reserves the right to terminate the competition process upon discovery.

(II) Industry Track and Industry Fields

Participating projects should demonstrate a high level of innovation and strong market competitiveness, possess potential economic and social benefits, and be high-tech outcomes suitable for emerging industries. Projects should have core technologies, clear intellectual property rights, and high added value.

Industry Track

The Industry Track is open to both individual applicants and companies, from early to growth stage. It welcomes innovators and tech startups from around the world with validated products, proven technologies, and clear business models. Individual applicants and companies compete under the same industry fields and are assessed against the same evaluation dimensions. The Track covers the following industry fields:

(1) Embodied Intelligence Core components and software: chip sensors, actuators and drive systems, communication modules, energy management, AI algorithms and large models. Ontology manufacturing and system integration: humanoid, quadruped, wheeled, exoskeleton and composite robots. Application scenarios and services: industrial manufacturing, medical health, logistics and warehousing, commercial services, home services.

(2) Aerospace Commercial Aerospace: raw materials and components, rocket and satellite R&D, satellite payloads, launch services, ground stations, terminal equipment, satellite operations, on-orbit services, and satellite data applications. Aviation: advanced materials, aero-engines and power systems, smart civil aviation, anti-drone systems, avionics hardware and software, virtual simulation, onboard sensors, chip semiconductors, and next-generation communication technologies.

(3) Metaverse / Internet 3.0 Core technologies: AI plus virtual interaction, XR immersive terminals and technologies, digital twins, AIGC, blockchain, digital assets. Industry solutions: digital human development and application, industrial simulation, metaverse computing support, medical data twins and virtual diagnosis, industrial virtual simulation, remote operation and maintenance.

(4) Digital Healthcare & Smart Eldercare Digital Healthcare: AI-assisted diagnosis, intelligent medical imaging, surgical robots, wearable devices, digital therapeutics, AI drug design, smart hospital management, secure medical data, and remote healthcare solutions. Smart Eldercare: contactless health monitoring, assistive devices, medication management, cognitive screening, home and community care, elder-friendly smart homes, fall prevention, digital content platforms, and long-term care support.

(5) Smart Hardware Upstream core technology base: edge AI inference chips, new sensors, low-power communication modules, new materials, and solid-state battery technologies. Midstream and downstream complete machines and innovative forms: wearable devices, AI personal computing platforms, smart home and whole-house intelligent hubs, smart robots, and smart mobility hardware.

(6) Digital Culture Digital audiovisual innovation applications; digital publishing and knowledge services; digital entertainment and interactive experiences; gaming and esports; IP trend toys and digital cultural creativity; and digital cultural industry services.

(7) Data Elements Enterprise data applications; industrial data collaboration; urban data governance; international data cooperation; and core data technologies including data collection, intelligent governance, data synthesis, enhanced analysis, data storage, high-performance computing, data security, privacy computing, and trusted data space interconnection.

(8) Future Industries Future information: 6G mobile communications, quantum information, optoelectronics. Future health: cell and gene therapy, brain science and brain-computer interfaces, organoid technology. Future manufacturing: atomic-level manufacturing, bio-manufacturing. New energy and storage: hydrogen energy, new energy storage, carbon capture and sequestration, fusion energy, perovskite. New materials: graphene, high-temperature superconductors, ultra-wide bandgap semiconductors, next-generation biomedical materials, metamaterials.

(9) Artificial Intelligence Advanced computing: chip technology, heterogeneous computing, compute-storage integration, computing power scheduling, edge computing, advanced packaging. Algorithm models: algorithm and framework innovation, human-computer interaction, multimodal large models, vertical models, training and inference optimization, AI for Science. Intelligent agents: agent development, multi-agent collaboration, planning and decision-making, memory and tool invocation, full-stack agent development. Security governance: content recognition and review, large model security, model offense and defense, data security, ethics and compliance governance.

(10) Industrial AI Upstream core technology base: industrial large models, industrial computer vision, intelligent algorithms, industrial sensors and data

acquisition, industrial control chips and components, intelligent agent underlying technologies and hardware products. Midstream platform services: industrial internet intelligent platforms, industrial intelligent software, industrial internet security, industrial cloud services, intelligent agent platform services. Downstream scenario solutions: smart manufacturing solutions, industrial and supply chain interconnection, smart industrial parks, industrial low-carbon and green development, industrial intelligent agent scenario-based solutions.

(11) Other Emerging Fields Projects that do not fall squarely within the fields above but demonstrate strong innovation and market potential, including impact and environmental innovation, sustainability and climate technologies, and other emerging areas.

(III) Entry Requirements

1. Participants must carefully read the track and industry classification instructions when registering, choose the field that is closest to their competition project, and cannot change fields after successful registration.

2. Participants should submit complete registration materials and are responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the information filled in. The registered name must match the information on the participant's passport or national ID card. Failure to submit, or inconsistent submission of information, will affect participation and prize collection. During the Competition, the project roadshow representative must be one of the team members listed in the submitted application form and cannot be replaced by anyone else.

3. The information provided by participants must be true and valid. If there are any changes to the relevant information during the Competition, participants must promptly submit a written request for change to the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee.

4. The following situations shall be deemed as automatic forfeiture of all rights related to the Competition (including participation eligibility, prizes, honors, and policy support):

(1) The products, technologies or related patents of the participating project do not belong to the participants, or there are ownership disputes, or any information provided for the Competition is false;

(2) During participation, the project's roadshow representative fails to attend the Competition as required or fails to prepare relevant materials as required;

(3) The Organizing Committee verifies that the participant does not meet the conditions and requirements.

Procedures

For the ASEAN region, the Competition consists of five stages: Conference & Promotion, Initial Screening, Semi-Final, ITEC ASEAN Final, and the Beijing ITEC Global Stage. Applications are submitted during the first stage.

(I) Application

Application method: Applicants in the ASEAN region apply through the ITEC ASEAN 2026 application portal:

<https://earthboundsea.com/itec-asean-2026>

Application language: All sections should be completed in English or Thai. Incomplete applications may not be processed.

Information required: The application form covers eight sections — (1) Event information, including industry category and referral source; (2) Company or project information, including project name, company name, registration information, establishment date, website, project introduction (maximum 300 words), industry application, intellectual property information, funding stage, business traction and team size; (3) Applicant or founder information, including name, nationality, contact information, education background, professional experience, awards, and founder ownership information; (4) Project contact information, including contact person, position, email, phone or WhatsApp, and preferred communication language; (5) Supporting materials upload; (6) Intellectual property and confidentiality; (7) Personal data protection; and (8) Declaration and consent.

Supporting materials: business plan or pitch deck (PDF or PPT, no more than 20 slides); company logo (PNG or SVG, high resolution); certificate of incorporation or equivalent, where the entity is registered; and, optionally, a link to a product demonstration video or product walkthrough. These are uploaded directly within the online application form.

Declaration: Applicants must confirm that the information provided is accurate and that they own or have the right to use the intellectual property submitted. Consent to the use of the company name, logo and public project summary for event promotion, and to sharing contact details with ITEC sponsors and partners for investment or business opportunities, is optional.

Notes: The deadline and competition times are subject to announcement via the website. The application form on the official website is the only valid channel for application in the ASEAN region; all other channels are invalid. Applicants should submit complete application materials and are responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the information filled in, and the registered name must be consistent with the information on their passport or national ID card; non-submission or any inconsistency will affect participation and prize collection. The Organizing Committee has the right to cancel eligibility and all contest-related rights and interests at any stage of the event if, after examination, the applicant does not meet the entry requirements.

(II) Stage 1 — Conference & Promotion

1. Time: August 2026.

2. Content: The competition is launched and promoted across the ASEAN region, with promotion led by the Chaoyang Government together with the ITEC ASEAN organizing team and regional partners. Launch events, information sessions and partner briefings are held to introduce the competition, the tracks and the supporting policies.

3. Action required: Applicants prepare and submit their applications through the channels described above during this stage.

(III) Stage 2 — Initial Screening

1. Time: August – September 2026.

2. Format: Online review of submitted applications by the organizing team and appointed experts. No live presentation is required at this stage.

3. Basis of review: The completeness and accuracy of the application, eligibility against the participation conditions, the strength of the project introduction and pitch deck, the core technology, and the fit with the declared industry field.

4. Promotion rules: 50 projects are shortlisted to advance to the Semi-Final. Shortlisted applicants are notified by the organizing team.

(IV) Stage 3 — Semi-Final

1. Time: Late September 2026.

Note: The specific competition time is subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

2. Competition mode: The 50 shortlisted projects advance to judging. Each project is evaluated for no less than 15 minutes, comprising 8 minutes for the presentation and 7 minutes for the Q&A. Presentations and presentation slides are delivered in English.

3. Evaluation dimensions: An expert panel composed of multi-domain experts in technology, industry and investment collaboratively evaluates projects. Scoring covers market prospects, team capability, technological innovation, business model, investment value, and industry fit. The process includes independent scoring, arbitration review, and centralized evaluation to ensure scientific, fair and authoritative judging.

4. Promotion rules: 20 projects advance from the Semi-Final to the ITEC ASEAN Final.

(V) Stage 4 — ITEC ASEAN Final

1. Time: Early October 2026.

Note: The specific competition time and venue are subject to the latest notice from the Organizing Committee.

2. Competition mode: 20 projects compete in the ITEC ASEAN Final. The Final consists of a live roadshow and defense, with each project evaluated for no less than 15 minutes (5 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for the Q&A). Final scores are announced on site immediately after the evaluation.

3. Recognition: Projects competing in the ITEC ASEAN Final receive the ITEC ASEAN Final award certificate, together with support to launch and develop their startup in the ASEAN region.

4. Promotion rules: The top 10 projects advance to Chaoyang, Beijing, to take part in the Beijing ITEC Summit and compete for the Competition awards.

5. Verification: Before advancing, projects are verified against the participation conditions, including entity establishment and shareholding, intellectual property rights and usage rights, operating status, and the project's intention and plan to develop in Chaoyang. Failure to cooperate with verification, or the discovery of false information, results in disqualification.

(VI) Stage 5 — Beijing ITEC Innovation Summit

1. Time: Late October 2026, in Chaoyang District, Beijing.
2. Content: The 10 projects advancing from the ITEC ASEAN Final join the ITEC Innovation Summit in Chaoyang, where final judging takes place.
3. Awards setting: The awards include the Grand Prize, First Prize, Second Prize, Third Prize and Rising Star Award. Innovation Recognition Awards are given to quality projects in sub-tracks.
4. Supporting programme: Alongside the Summit, exchange activities such as policy interpretation meetings, financing matchmaking meetings, promotion meetings and forums are held, and participants are organized to connect with Chaoyang entrepreneurship service institutions, entrepreneurship parks, incubators, investment institutions and outstanding enterprises.

(VII) Explore in Chaoyang

Selected participants will have the opportunity to visit Chaoyang District, Beijing, for investigation and exchange, including site visits to Zhongguancun Chaoyang Park, China's first Industrial AI Park, the ITEC Park and other innovation carriers, in order to inspect Chaoyang's innovation and entrepreneurship environment.

(VIII) Materials for Prize-Receiving

1. List of materials:

- (1) Award Confirmation Letter: filled in and printed according to the template of the Organizing Committee, with handwritten signatures by all project members, in original;
- (2) Identification materials: a copy or scanned copy of the passport or ID card, which must be consistent with the information submitted in the application;
- (3) Entity materials: business licence or certificate of incorporation of the award recipient entity, consistent with the applying entity;
- (4) Bank account information: bank name (including branch), bank address, account number, SWIFT code, International Bank Account Number (IBAN), Bank Identification Code (BIC), payee name, and payee address.

2. Supplementary instructions:

(1) The Organizing Committee provides a template of the award confirmation letter. To avoid unclear filling, the content should be completed on a computer and then printed and signed.

(2) The Organizing Committee only accepts accounts in RMB and U.S. dollars. Please do not provide accounts in other currencies. As the exchange rate fluctuates greatly, it is recommended to use RMB accounts.

Awards and Supporting Policies

(I) Bonus Setting

ITEC 2026 Global Finals

Prize	Quantity	Bonus	Payment
Grand Prize	1	RMB 5,000,000	40% / 60%
First Prize	5	RMB 2,000,000	40% / 60%
Second Prize	10	RMB 1,500,000	40% / 60%
Third Prize	15	RMB 1,000,000	40% / 60%
Rising Star Award	20	RMB 300,000	Lump sum
Innovation Recognition Award	35	RMB 100,000	Lump sum
Total	86	RMB 54,500,000	—

Notes on the bonus:

1. For the Third Prize and above, 40% of the prize is paid in the first year and 60% is paid in the second year based on the project's development in Chaoyang. Projects with good progress may receive an additional incentive of up to 10% of the total prize.
2. Rising Star Awards and Innovation Recognition Awards are paid in a lump sum.
3. The Global Finals Awards include the Grand, First, Second, Third and Rising Star Awards. Innovation Recognition Awards are given to quality projects in sub-tracks.
4. Final award numbers will be adjusted based on actual participant quality. All awards follow the principle of awarding the highest level without duplication.
5. Awarded participants must pay taxes according to national policies, and funds must comply with applicable laws and regulations.

(II) Supporting Policies

In addition to offering prizes, the Competition establishes a matchmaking service platform covering policy, space, capital and industry resources, and works with partner investment institutions to serve participating projects throughout the project life cycle.

No.	Categories	Supporting Policies
1	Policy Support	Eligible high-quality young sci-tech talent entrepreneurship projects can be directly included in the “Chaoyang Youth Entrepreneurship 15 Measures” policy support scope. Core founders of projects winning Third Prize or above can be prioritized into Chaoyang’s “Phoenix Plan” high-level talent service system, enjoying exclusive “1+8” services including health management, transportation, and housing support. Participants can also be recommended for the Phoenix Plan.
2	Coordinated Sector Support	ITEC coordinates with district policy-leading departments to streamline support for key sectors — including high-tech industries, cultural industries, SMEs, Web 3.0, AI, digital healthcare, data-driven solutions, and intelligent robotics — ensuring enterprises receive effective policy support.
3	Space Services	The Competition leverages the network of Chaoyang’s specialized industrial parks to provide supporting incubation services, including free company registration addresses, discounted rent, shared laboratories, and roadshow spaces. Award-winning projects can receive dedicated support for their office spaces.
4	Financial and Resource Matching	The Chaoyang Talent Financial Service Group offers enterprise credit, equity financing, cross-border financial solutions, and personal value-added services. In partnership with the Chaoyang Sci-Tech Fund and other investment institutions, it organizes project evaluations, investor matchmaking, and financing exchange events, creating investment pathways for startups.
5	Industrial Park Resources	Various industrial parks provide experimental scenarios, R&D platforms, and supply chain resources, while regularly hosting industry chain salons, expert forums, and acceleration programs.
6	Exclusive Services for Foreigners	The Startup Alliance and the Chaoyang International Talent Entrepreneurship Park offer a six-in-one service platform covering office space, policy support, incubation, investment, access to market support, and community support. Services include business development, company registration, compliance

No.	Categories	Supporting Policies
		operation, talent recruitment, technology and brand localization, intellectual property protection, and financing roadshows.
7	One-Stop Service Platform	The Chaoyang District International Talent One-Stop Service Platform addresses the real needs of international talents, providing access to third-party services such as housing rental and purchase, cleaning, decoration, and other daily living support, helping foreign talents quickly settle into life in Chaoyang.

Note: Please pay attention to the official website for more information. The Competition's support policies and implementation methods are subject to official announcements.

Notes

The entire competition will be photographed and recorded, broadcast on television, the Internet and other related media, and may be broadcast live or as a recording on cooperative investment and financing platforms.

Outstanding projects of the Competition will be selected and presented to cooperative investment and financing platforms for display and access, to assist participants in accessing Chaoyang's high-tech industrial resources and venture capital resources.

All intellectual property in a submitted project remains the property of the applicant. Participation in ITEC 2026 does not transfer any ownership rights to the organizers, partners, judges or sponsors. Confidential materials will be retained only as necessary for ITEC 2026 and may be securely destroyed or returned upon written request after the competition.

Applicants are responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted. The registered name must match the applicant's passport or national ID card.

The Organizing Committee will hold relevant training and preparation activities for participants advancing to later stages. Please pay attention to the ITEC ASEAN 2026 application portal for specific times and locations. Any adjustments to the competition schedule will be announced there.

The Organizing Committee of the Chaoyang International Talent Entrepreneurship Conference reserves the copyright and the final interpretation rights of this Competing Manual. The Competing Manual is for reference only. In case of any changes, please refer to the ITEC ASEAN 2026 application portal and the official website of the Competition.

ITEC ASEAN 2026 Application Portal:

<https://earthboundsea.com/itec-asean-2026>

Online Application Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfK4uQm9-IelN3tXV0qMngXrvOJnl1uwnYQY38kgTF4Ktk_tg/viewform

Official Website of the Competition:

www.exploreitec.com

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