

# Report on AI Literacy Training Workshop for ASEAN School Teachers 17-19 June 2025 Kuala Lumpur

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## Cultivating Global AI Educators: The ASEAN Training AI Literacy Training Experience

In an era where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries, communication, and learning paradigms, the need to integrate AI literacy into primary and secondary education has become imperative. Malaysia's National Robotics Roadmap (NRR) underscores this urgency, positioning AI and robotics as core drivers of its Industry 4.0 agenda and aiming to establish the nation as a regional hub for AI innovation.

Aligned with UNESCO's Digital Literacy mandate and the Beijing Consensus on AI and Education, this three-day training program (17–19 June 2025) in Kuala Lumpur emerges as a pivotal initiative to bridge traditional teaching methods with the demands of the AI-driven future. Co organized by the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) and the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW), the program seeks to equip ASEAN teachers with the technical expertise and pedagogical tools to nurture students' computational thinking, ethical awareness, and creative problem-solving skills—foundational competencies for thriving in an AI-powered society.

When I sit down to reflect on this intensive training journey, a wave of purpose and gratitude washes over me. Representing the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Education Committee of the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy, our quartet—Professor Han Liqun (a distinguished expert in AI and science popularization education), Dr. Shi Yan (an erudite scholar in AI education theory), Professor Zhao Shuying (a leading authority in robot popularization), and Principal Zhang Yibao (a seasoned practitioner in school level AI implementation)—embarked on this mission to share China's decade-long experience in integrating AI from kindergarten to higher education. Our goal: to empower ASEAN educators with the knowledge to transform classrooms into hubs of AI-driven innovation, where students evolve from technology consumers to active contributors to Malaysia's growing AI ecosystem.

From the moment our feet touched Malaysian soil, we were enveloped in the warmth of hospitality. The organizers, ISTIC and AETDEW, with their unparalleled expertise in international educational cooperation, had orchestrated every detail with meticulous care. Their seamless coordination of resources—from arranging state-of-the-art training facilities to ensuring our every comfort—set the stage for a transformative experience. The Sri Bestari Private School, our gracious hosts, welcomed us with open arms, their enthusiasm for educational innovation palpable in every aspect of their arrangements.

But it was the educators from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Pakistan, and other ASEAN nations who truly brought this training to life. Their hunger for knowledge was infectious, their curiosity about AI insatiable, and their eagerness to explore the intersection of technology and education inspiring. In Professor Han Liqun's lectures on the evolution of AI education in China, I watched as teachers leaned forward, their notebooks filled with pages of detailed notes, their eyes bright with interest. When Dr. Shi Yan delved into the complexities of machine learning, neural networks, and large language models, hands shot up with insightful questions, sparking vibrant discussions that transcended linguistic and cultural barriers. Professor Zhao Shuying's sessions on machine perception, cognitive processes, and human-machine interaction were met with awe and wonder. Teachers marveled at the capabilities of robots while watching various videos and conceived methods to integrate these technologies into classrooms. And Principal Zhang Yibao's real-world insights into implementing AI education at the school level resonated deeply, inspiring participants to share their own challenges and triumphs, creating a rich tapestry of shared experiences.

During group activities and practical exercises, the true spirit of collaboration reached new heights. Multinational teams formed spontaneously; one particularly remarkable group consisted of teachers from Malaysia and Thailand, who pooled their expertise to develop an innovative machine learning project. These groups not only worked intensively on their projects but also actively engaged in cross-team exchanges. They eagerly presented their work on stage, sharing their methodologies, breakthroughs, and lessons learned with the entire cohort. The air was charged with excitement as participants peppered presenters with questions, offering feedback and suggestions. Between sessions, classrooms buzzed with energy as educators from different countries clustered together, cameras in hand, capturing memories through group photos—tangible symbols of the bonds they'd forged. Even the representatives from ISTIC, AETDEW, and the Ministry of Education actively participated. They joined discussions, offered insights from a policy making perspective, further enriching the training experience.

As the final day of the training arrived, a tinge of melancholy hung in the air. It wasn't sadness, but a profound sense of longing for the camaraderie we'd shared. We knew that saying goodbye meant parting from new friends and colleagues who had become an integral part of this educational odyssey. Yet, beneath this wistfulness burned a bright flame of hope for the future of AI education in the ASEAN region. I have no doubt that the knowledge and skills gained during this training will serve as a catalyst for change in classrooms across Southeast Asia.

I can already picture the countless students who will benefit from the innovative teaching methods, the exciting projects, and the new perspectives that these dedicated educators will bring back to their schools. This experience has been a powerful reminder of the transformative power of education. It has shown me that, despite our differences, we are all united by a common goal: to empower the next generation with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. I am honoured to have been a part of this

journey, and I look forward to seeing the amazing things that our ASEAN colleagues will achieve in the field of AI education.

To all the teachers, organizers, and supporters who participated in this training, thank you for your enthusiasm, your dedication, and the friendships we've built. You have inspired me, and I know that together, we can create a brighter future for education in Asia and beyond.













