



ASEAN International Sandbox Conference 2026  
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## **Editor's Note**

### **ASEAN International Sandbox Conference 2026 Proceedings**

#### **Volume 9, 2026**

Welcome to the ninth volume of the proceedings of the ASEAN International Sandbox Conference (AISC) 2026. As the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) solidifies its position as a hub for digital innovation, the papers in this volume reflect a critical scholarly effort to decode the defining phenomena of our time. The "sandbox" concept—a controlled environment for testing innovations without immediate regulatory burden—is essential as we navigate the deeply intertwined forces of artificial intelligence, urgent sustainability mandates, volatile business environments, and evolving governance. This volume categorizes these inquiries across four intersecting thematic pillars.

AI remains the most polarizing discourse of this year's conference. The rapid transition to highly autonomous, generative systems has triggered a paradigm shift. While these models promise unprecedented efficiency, their deployment is fraught with controversy. Contributors critically examine the socio-technical friction of AI within ASEAN, grappling with epistemic risks such as the exacerbation of algorithmic bias and the opacity of "black box" decision-making. Discussions also extend to the profound labor disruptions shifting the regional workforce, anxieties related to AI alignment, and complex debates over data sovereignty and intellectual property rights in generative models. The consensus among our scholars is clear: AI is not a panacea, but a deeply disruptive force requiring nuanced, human-centric integration to avoid widening the digital divide.

Parallel to the AI revolution is the escalating climate crisis, which disproportionately threatens Southeast Asia. Volume 9 moves beyond performative Corporate Social Responsibility to demand deep-rooted Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) integration. The research presented argues for a "Twin Transition"—the synchronized advancement of digitalization and decarbonization. Scholars critically assess the massive carbon footprint of computational models, often considered the "dirty secret" of the AI boom, while simultaneously exploring how machine learning can optimize resource allocation, enhance smart grids, and predict climate-related supply chain shocks.

In response to technological disruption and ecological urgency, business strategies are undergoing radical transformation. The empirical studies herein highlight a shift away from hyper-efficiency and fragile, just-in-time models. Instead, organizational resilience is the new priority. Our authors focus on building strategic redundancy through localized supply chain ecosystems designed to



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withstand global shocks. Furthermore, there is a strong emphasis on cultivating circular economies by integrating green-tech solutions within SME operations, alongside a deep exploration of human-machine collaboration that leverages AI for robust, foresight-driven strategic planning.

The connective tissue binding these shifts is governance. The pace of technological advancement has outstripped traditional legislative processes, creating a vacuum that invites both innovation and systemic risk. The regulatory frameworks discussed emphasize dynamic, iterative, and participatory governance models. Several standout papers analyze the nascent ASEAN AI Guidelines, comparing them against global standards like the EU AI Act to explore the risks of regulatory arbitrage. The articulated challenge is a delicate balancing act: fostering an environment conducive to high-tech investment while instituting guardrails that protect privacy, ensure ecological compliance, and uphold ethical standards.

Volume 9 is a forward-looking mandate for stakeholders across academia, industry, and government. Solving the controversies of AI requires regulatory foresight; achieving sustainability requires innovative business strategies empowered by responsible technology. I extend my deepest gratitude to our peer reviewers, the organizing committee, and the authors. It is our hope that these insights will spark debate, inform policy, and drive sustainable innovation across ASEAN and the world.

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