Editor's Note

ASEAN International Sandbox Conference: AISC

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Dear Readers, Contributors, Reviewers, and Members of the Academic Community,

It is my pleasure to present Volume 11 of the ASEAN International Sandbox Conference (AISC) Proceedings, 2026. As an online proceedings, this volume continues to grow as new contributions complete the review process. In this note, I wish to reflect on a question that now confronts every member of our community: how should academicians respond to the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and to the wider changes it is accelerating in the world around us?

Within only a few years, AI has moved from a specialised research field to an everyday presence in universities, workplaces, and homes. It can now draft text, analyse data, summarise literature, and complete multi-step tasks with growing autonomy. The pace of this development has outstripped the capacity of many institutions to adapt their policies, curricula, and assessment practices. The question is therefore no longer whether AI will affect our work, but how deliberately and responsibly we choose to engage with it. The appropriate response is neither uncritical enthusiasm nor defensive rejection, but an informed use of AI that extends scholarly capability while preserving full responsibility for the knowledge we produce.

Research is where this responsibility is most visible. AI is already changing each stage of the research process. It can map large bodies of literature, help design instruments, clean and analyse data, and support collaboration across languages and disciplines, and it opens new sources of evidence, such as text, images, and platform data, that were previously too large to study systematically. It also introduces new risks, including fabricated or misattributed references, analyses that cannot be reproduced, an increasing homogeneity of writing and ideas, and the temptation to value volume of output over depth of contribution. Formulating meaningful questions, justifying theory, interpreting evidence, and exercising ethical judgement remain human responsibilities. Researchers must verify what AI produces, disclose how it has been used, and remain accountable for every claim made under their names.

AI has also become an important subject of research in its own right. Its effects on organizations, labour markets, consumer behaviour, financial reporting, auditing, governance, and public policy remain insufficiently understood, particularly in the ASEAN context, which offers scholars in the region a valuable opportunity to produce locally grounded evidence. Peer review must evolve in parallel, giving greater attention to methodological transparency, the availability of data and code, and the originality of the intellectual contribution rather than fluency of expression alone.

Teaching requires an equally fundamental rethinking. When fluent answers are available instantly, education must emphasise what machines cannot supply on students' behalf: framing problems, evaluating sources, reasoning under uncertainty, exercising professional scepticism, and communicating judgement with integrity. Assessment should reward process, reflection, and applied understanding rather than the reproduction of information, and educators must themselves become informed and critical users of AI.

Institutions, too, carry responsibility. Universities need clear and proportionate policies on the use of AI in research, teaching, and assessment, together with sustained investment in training, infrastructure, and data governance. Equally important is equity: the benefits of AI should not be confined to well-resourced institutions or individuals. Across ASEAN, where universities differ considerably in capacity, regional collaboration, shared resources, and open exchange of good practice can help ensure that the AI transition narrows rather than widens existing gaps in research and education.

These technological changes unfold alongside other profound shifts. Supply chains are being reorganised by geopolitical competition, the climate crisis is reshaping regulation and corporate reporting, digital platforms are transforming how people consume and communicate, and labour markets are changing as routine tasks are automated. Universities that combine disciplinary depth with adaptability, interdisciplinary collaboration, and engagement with industry and policy will be best placed to shape the region's future. This calls for humility to accept that our methods will continue to evolve, curiosity to keep learning throughout our careers, and conviction to uphold originality, transparency, rigour, and integrity.

This is the spirit in which AISC was founded: an academic sandbox where emerging ideas can be explored, tested against evidence, and refined through peer dialogue before they inform practice and policy. I sincerely thank all authors for entrusting their work to AISC, the reviewers for their constructive and timely evaluations, and the Advisory Board, editorial team, organizing committee, and supporting institutions for their continued commitment. I invite all members of our community to approach the age of artificial intelligence with openness, critical judgement, and a renewed commitment to academic integrity.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,

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Editor
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