

ASPAC Conference 2026

Call for Pitches For Science Exchange Tracks (SETs)

Submission Guidelines

SET 1: How are our members embracing tech futures?

Date: 19 August 2026



Champion: Dr. Song Choon LEE from Science Centre Singapore

Co-Champion: Dr. Yu Mansun from Seoul Science Center

Synopsis: Explore the many ways our members are thinking of or already engaging in tech including but not limited to AI as well as cases where the non-use of the latest tech has significant impact on audiences.

How to submit your pitch: Participants should be willing to share details on their work in the respective areas with regards to Tech/digital media and contribute to the session as resource persons for the session. More details will be provided in subsequent online meetings after confirmation.

Submission Channel: For those who are interested, please submit your pitch to lee_song_choon@science.edu.sg and mechms@seoul.go.kr.

SET 2: How do we design for futures?

Date: 19 August 2026

Champion: Dr. Jan Swierkowski from ArtScience Museum, Singapore

Synopsis: Learn about the concrete work our colleagues are doing to design for “futures,” and what this work requires in terms of resources, partnerships, collaboration, and shifts in thinking within our own teams. This SET explores the theme through a combination of case studies, World Café conversations, and informal discussions.

How to submit your pitch: ASPAC members are invited to submit a short case study proposal on futures-related work, including (but not limited to) exhibitions, programs, community engagement, and participatory initiatives. Proposals should be no more than 200 words (presentations will be 10 minutes) and must address the guiding question: “What did we learn about designing futures that surprised us?” Proposals should also briefly explain:

1. what was attempted,
2. what happened, and
3. what others in the ASPAC community can learn from the experience.

Please also indicate if you are comfortable facilitating group discussions during the session.

Submission Channel: For those who are interested, please submit your pitch to Jan.Swierkowski@marinabaysands.com.



SET 3: How could museums imagine the future of cities, coastlines, music, futures or side by side?

Date: 19 August 2026



Champion: Dr. Zhao Yang from China Science and Technology Museum

Synopsis: Science engagement has a role in expanding the imagination of the public in critical spaces such as cities and coastlines as well as in fundamental cultural elements like music. Here, you will gather insights and converse with experts on these topics that could help you think about the way you do exhibitions and programs.

How to submit your pitch: Participants interested in submitting a pitch for SET 3 are requested to provide the following:

- Full name
- Position/Title
- Organization/affiliation
- Email address
- Short biographical description (max 100 words)
- Pitch proposal title and Abstract (max 250 words)

Submission Channel: For those who are interested, please submit your pitch form to zhaoyang@cstm.org.cn.

SET 4: What is the future of digital media such as but not limited to AI in or among science centers/museums?

Date: 19 August 2026

Champion: Dr. Song Choon LEE from Science Centre Singapore

Co-Champion: Dr. Wang Pin-Wei from National Museum of Natural Science (TAIWAN)

Synopsis: Explore the experiences of peers on the pros and cons of recruiting trending digital media in our centers and what ethical considerations should we process and disclose to the public?

How to submit your pitch: Participants should be willing to share details on their work in the respective areas with regards to Tech/digital media and contribute to the session as resource persons for the session. More details will be provided in subsequent online meetings after confirmation.

Submission Channel: For those who are interested, please submit your pitch to lee_song_choon@science.edu.sg and wpw@nmns.edu.tw.



SET 5: How do science centres create impactful robotics programs that benefit the communities?

Date: 19 August 2026



Champion: Ms. Shamini Balan from Petrosains, The Discovery Centre

Synopsis: Find out from peers how robotics programs and projects are deployed in various ways, resulting in significant value created for society.

How to submit your pitch: Please submit your pitch on your robotics program, supported by presentation slides. Selected speakers will be given 30 minutes for their presentation, followed by 15 minutes of moderated Q&A. A short video case study of the program, not exceeding 3 minutes, is also highly recommended.

Submission Channel: For those who are interested, please submit your pitch to shamini.balan@petronas.com.

SET 6: What does leadership look like in science museum futures?

Date: 20 August 2026

Champion: Ms. Maria Isabel Garcia from The Mind Museum

Synopsis: Join this open intergenerational dialogue among the many kinds of leaders in science engagement organizations to learn about what new leadership traits and ways of working are required in these rapidly changing times.

Submission Channel: To CEOs who want to be part of the panel discussion, please email maribel.garcia@themindmuseum.org.



SET 7: What are the possible futures of science museum/center ecosystems?

Date: 20 August 2026



Champion: Dr. Ganigar Chen from National Science Museum THAILAND

Synopsis: Create and build hypothetical science engagement institutions with your peers across the network to explore new staffing patterns, new modes of partnership as well as new ways to be sustainable.

Target Audience for Pitch: Visionary Leaders, Ecosystem Builders, Strategic Partnerships Managers, Innovators in Science Engagement, Museum and Learning Center Professionals, Private Sector Representatives, and all other interested individuals.

The Context & The Challenge:

The future of science engagement can no longer be confined within the walls of a single building. To truly empower our communities in an age of uncertainty, we must shift our focus from running isolated “Science Centers/ Science Museums” to build a dynamic “**Science Engagement Ecosystems.**” This highly interactive session asks a critical question: *If we were to build a science engagement institution of the future today, what would its ecosystem look like?*

- **Who are the new players?** (Exploring the roles of science centers, private sectors, tech companies, grassroots communities, and others)
- **What are the new roles?** (Redefining staffing patterns beyond traditional curators, communicators, and educators)
- **How do we go beyond museum walls?** (Creating partnerships and sustainable models that drive long-term societal impact)

What We Are Looking For in Your Pitch:

We are seeking 3-4 dynamic resource persons to bring their boldest ideas, case studies, or "provocations" to kickstart our workshop. Your pitch should address at least ONE of the following:

- 1. The “Beyond the Walls” Partnership:** A successful (or wildly ambitious) collaboration model between a science center and non-traditional partners (e.g., corporate sectors, urban developers, creators).
- 2. The “Future Staffing” Model:** Innovative team structures, new job titles, or skill sets required to drive future science engagement.
- 3. The “Ecosystem” Impact:** A strategic approach to how actions taken today will shape a sustainable and impactful science engagement ecosystem in the future.

How to submit your pitch:

Ready to co-create the future with us? Please complete the SET 7 Pitch Submission Form and submit it **by 30 April 2026**. For submissions and further inquiries, please contact **Dr. Wilasinee Triyarat (Aom)** at wilasinee@nsm.or.th.

The Online Pitch Submission Form for SET 7

To submit your proposal for SET 7 online, please click this link: <https://forms.gle/L6tHo2bso2QnnGvx8>

The Pitch Submission Form for SET 7

If you are unable to complete the online form, please use this form and email your proposal to Dr. Wilasinee Triyarat (Aom) at wilasinee@nsm.or.th

To download the form, please click this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nemx8eLvMiJco3LnjE_9_aVabPfURXZc?usp=sharing

SET 8: What are the ways of science engagement that should be dead, buried, worth resurrecting or to keep alive?

Date: 20 August 2026

Champion: Mr. Craig Bloxsome from Scitech Discovery Centre

Synopsis: Participate in an honest, critical conversation with presenters if there are patterns that will emerge as to what are the science engagement methods we should keep or retire?

How to submit your pitch: Please submit your pitch based on the following requirements:

1. Two examples for the future of Science Engagement, please include:
 - one practice or approach that should be retired, and
 - one practice or approach that should be kept alive.

Examples drawn from your own Science Centre/Museum experience are especially encouraged.

2. A 20–30 minute facilitated activity

Please suggest an activity you could lead with the audience to support informed discussion and decision-making on future content, programs, exhibitions, or shows for Science Centres.

Submission Channel: This submission channel is now closed.



SET 9: What uncommon cultural purposes should our facilities serve?

Date: 20 August 2026

Champion: Mr. Mikko Myllykoski from Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre

Synopsis: This track explores wild and diverse ways that we could imagine to engage with our audiences. How can science museums foster curiosity, build trust – and the community? How can the latest technology inspire us – and what about the cross-cultural connections with art, music and dance...or the emerging trends in leisure time cultures?

How to submit your pitch: We invite attendees to prepare 6-minute pitches around the topic based on their experiences or imagination. After framing the question we will brainstorm the topic in the World Café format.

Submission Channel: For those who are interested, please contact mikko.myllykoski@heureka.fi.



SET 10: Human library of future hopes and anxieties

Date: 20 August 2026

Champion: Mr. Mario Salazar, Ms. Abigail Napenas and Ms. Natsumi Reyes from The Mind Museum

Synopsis: Join a deeply engaging conversation one-on-one with various people taking on different views about the future.

Participation: No pitch submission is required for this SET. Participants are welcome to join on a walk-in basis.

