



2026 eASIA Awards Guidelines

Final Version: 7 September 2026

AFACT Permanent Secretariat

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1. Introduction

The eASIA Awards are administered by the Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT). The event aims at promoting the achievement of AFACT member countries/economies in the development of trade facilitation, electronic business policies and activities, and initiatives for bridging the digital divide in the Asia-Pacific Region. The purpose of the eASIA Awards is to recognize the significance and great efforts made within AFACT community and to encourage exchange of best practices. The event also intends to develop the mutual understanding and experience sharing among member countries/economies by showcasing the shortlisted projects in the eASIA Awards Exhibition. The awarded project organizations can also play a role of consultants or trainers to be invited to AFACT member countries/economies where their HoDs deem it valuable to introduce the best practices to their relevant governmental agencies or private sectors.

The eASIA Awards program was initiated by Chinese Taipei in 2002 and commenced its first contest in 2003. Over the past 20 years, a total of 147 projects have participated in the Awards contest, and 78 projects were selected for their outstanding performance and showcased in AFACT EDICOM or exhibition held every two years organized by the respective host economies. We are proud to say that the goals of promoting good practices in informationization and electronization carried out by AFACT member countries/economies have been achieved to a great extent.

For the sake of coping with the trends of digitalization and circular economy, the Awards aim to provide a more efficient channel to showcase the accomplishments of data-driven value creation and digital transformation via public-private partnership realized by open data utilization. AFACT Secretariat continues to follow 2019 eASIA Awards Guidelines amended by Thailand that include the digital economy trend.

The 2026 revision reflects emerging trends in artificial intelligence, digital trade, sustainability, and circular economy development across the Asia-Pacific region. The revised categories are intended to encourage innovative projects that demonstrate practical impacts on governance, trade facilitation, and sustainable economic growth.

Following the 44th AFACT Mid-term Meeting held in June 2026, the AFACT Steering Committee agreed on an action plan that includes the

revision of the eASIA Awards categories. These Guidelines accordingly set out the composition and evaluation criteria for the 2026 eASIA Awards, as revised.

2. eASIA Awards Categories

There are two categories of 2026 eASIA Awards, namely:

- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)
- AI Transformation for Trade Facilitation

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)

Smart sustainable governance refers to the application of technology, data, and innovative approaches to improve the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of governance systems and public services, while advancing sustainability and the circular economy. It involves leveraging digital technologies and data-driven solutions to enhance decision-making processes, service delivery, and citizen engagement, as well as to support low-carbon and resource-efficient development.

The key components of smart sustainable governance typically include digital infrastructure, open data and data analytics, e-government, smart services, participatory governance, smart cities, and cybersecurity and privacy, together with sustainable and circular-economy practices such as carbon reduction, resource efficiency, and green operations. The goal is to leverage technology and data to streamline administrative processes, improve service delivery, increase citizen participation, and promote sustainable and inclusive development. By embracing smart sustainable governance practices, governments and organizations can enhance transparency, responsiveness, and accountability, while meeting the evolving needs and expectations of their citizens and advancing environmental and social sustainability.

Projects that support the implementation of smart governance and the management of agencies to make better decisions through the combination of technology-based tools and collaborative governance, while integrating sustainability and the circular economy into their operations, will be considered for this category.

AI Transformation for Trade Facilitation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the way trade is conducted across borders, offering new opportunities to simplify, harmonize, and automate the

procedures and documentation that underpin international trade. Facing an increasingly complex and fast-changing trade environment, AFACT member countries/economies are encouraged to embrace AI to make trade faster, more transparent, and more inclusive. As such, trade stakeholders, including businesses and public agencies, are encouraged to adopt and integrate AI technologies and solutions into various aspects of trade and cross-border operations to enhance efficiency, transparency, and competitiveness. The process involves leveraging AI tools, data, and automation to improve customs and border procedures, trade documentation, supply-chain visibility, and decision-making.

Through AI-enabled operations, organizations can streamline trade processes such as document processing, classification, risk assessment, logistics and supply-chain management. This can include using machine learning, natural language processing, and intelligent automation to reduce manual work, detect anomalies, and accelerate clearance. In addition, AI transformation empowers trade stakeholders to improve operational efficiency, strengthen compliance, and respond quickly to changes in the trading environment. By embracing AI technologies, member countries/economies can unlock new opportunities, deepen regional cooperation, and position themselves for long-term success in the digital economy.

In this category, we look forward to soliciting projects with the following characteristics: 1) applying AI to simplify and automate trade and customs procedures; 2) leveraging AI to enhance the transparency and traceability of cross-border supply chains; 3) harnessing data analytics and machine learning to optimize trade processes and risk management; 4) improving traders' experience and compliance through intelligent services; and 5) enabling data sharing and interoperability among trade stakeholders.

3. Eligibility

The contest is open to any local company/organization nominated by the Head of Delegation (HoD) of AFACT member countries/economies within the due time. If a HoD is not available then in such a case, an earlier HoD can exercise the function of HoD for the purpose of nomination.

4. General Rules & Regulations

- (1) Entries must be enrolled as projects instead of individuals or

organizations.

- (2) The project must be a new venture and initiated in the last three years (*between 2024 and 2026*) with concrete accomplishments, which had not received eASIA Awards before. Or it is a new phase of a previous project in the last three years, which may or may not participate in the eASIA Awards contest.
- (3) Each HoD from AFACT member country/economy can nominate a maximum of two projects for each of the two categories of the Awards.
- (4) The projects can be accepted, if they are executed/implemented in any AFACT member country/economy and are forwarded by the HoD of that member country/economy only.
- (5) All entries should be provided in the electronic files as a set of recommendation, application form, and project profile. Files must be submitted in PDF format.
- (6) All entries presented in electronic files should be e-mailed to the email address below by **19 October 2026**:
AFACT Permanent Secretariat
Email: AFACT-PS@cdri.org.tw
- (7) The entries will then be reviewed by the AFACT Permanent Secretariat initially for basic criteria. The Evaluation Committee members will conduct the online evaluation to select the four finalists (two each per category) by **31 October 2026**.
- (8) By participating in the awards program, it is expected that the participant has granted the AFACT Secretariat permission to use their project name and abstract for publicity purposes, for this or similar promotions, without compensation.
- (9) The organizer will not be responsible for any loss of intellectual property rights that may result from submitting the project or attending that year's eASIA Awards event.
- (10) The organizer will not be responsible for applications not being received due to the following reasons:
 - a) Lost, failed, delayed or interrupted connections or miscommunications, or other electronic malfunctions; and
 - b) Lost, late mutilated, illegible, incomplete, postage delay or misdirected mailed applications.
- (11) The organizer will not be responsible for incorrect or inaccurate entry information, caused by persons or by any of the equipment, or programming associated with or utilized in the program, or by any human error which may occur in the processing of the applications.
- (12) The submissions would convey no intellectual property rights to the

organizer and sponsors. All entries will become the property of the organizer and will not be returned.

- (13) The Evaluation Committee is composed of members from AFACT Steering Committee and specialists recommended by AFACT Permanent Secretariat . The decisions made by the Committee will be final. In case any member of the Evaluation Committee fails to be unable to participate, AFACT Permanent Secretariat will substitute him/her with an eminent local expert.
- (14) The project leads and/or representatives of the Finalist Projects will have to make online oral presentations for the Final Evaluation in front of the Evaluation Committee. A stall/booth will also be provided for each Finalist to showcase its project on the sideline of the Awards Ceremony.
- (15) In 2026, a total of four Finalist Projects will be awarded publicly at the Awards Ceremony.
- (16) The AFACT Permanent Secretariat decides to sponsor one person from each Finalist Project hotel accommodation for two nights so that each Project can be presented orally and showcased at the AFACT EDICOM or exhibition.
- (17) For any queries, the AFACT Permanent Secretariat may be contacted.

b. Application Form *(To be submitted by the project lead)*

Country/Economy:		Date:
Project Title:		
Organization:		
Category: ☐ Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) ☐ AI Transformation for Trade Facilitation <i>(Please select only one category for a project)</i>		
Project Lead:		Job title:
Phone Number:		
Email Address:		
Contact Person:		
Mailing Address:		
Phone Number:		Fax:
Email Address:		
URL (if applicable):		
This form is completed and submitted by (in print): Signature: Date:		

5. Project Profile Template

Project Title:

Name of Project Lead:

Organization/Company:

Nominated by:

Executive Summary

This part should provide sufficient background information which allows the evaluators to understand and evaluate the work without referring to any previous publications on the topic. There should be enough data to provide an overview of the content of the project. Kindly choose references carefully to provide the most important background information.

Project Content

This part of application may include the following:

- Project scope
- Goals and objectives
- Problems and challenges
- Strategies
- Methodology
- Standards (especially developed by UN/CEFACT or other international standard organizations)
- Economic benefits, achievements and impacts
- Future Development Plan
- Resources (indicate the expense allocated on manpower, hardware, software, networking etc.)

Please be notified that the project profile submitted should not exceed 20 pages.

Nomination materials, including the Recommendation Form, Application Form and project profile, must be duly filled and submitted to AFACT Permanent Secretariat by 19 October 2026 via the following contact:

AFACT Permanent Secretariat
Email: AFACT-PS@cdri.org.tw

After receipt of nomination materials, the AFACT Permanent Secretariat will send an electronic acknowledgement. It should be ensured that the participants have an acknowledgement within a week of submission; otherwise they should contact the AFACT Permanent Secretariat.

6. eASIA Awards Evaluation Process

All recommended projects of the two categories, namely Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and AI Transformation for Trade Facilitation, need to go through an evaluation process by the Evaluation Committee. The 2026 eASIA Awards Evaluation Committee is composed of AFACT Steering Committee Members and recommended experts.

The confirmed members of the Evaluation Committee are as follows:

1. Mr. Tain-Tsair Hsu, AFACT Chair and HoD of Chinese Taipei
2. Mr. Tahseen Ahmad Khan, UN/CEFACT Expert India, Ex Chair AFACT & Member UNNExT Advisory Committee.
3. Mr. Ian Watt, UN/CEFACT Expert, Australia
4. Mr. Hisanao Sugamata, Chair of the Technology & Methodology Committee (TMC)
5. Dr. Cheng-Hong Cho, Chair of the Business Domain Committee (BDC)
6. Mr. Yeongcheol Lim, UN/CEFACT Expert and HoD of Korea
7. Mr. Loh Sin Yong, UN/CEFACT Expert, Singapore
8. Mr. Meetham Na Ranong, Deputy Executive Director, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), Thailand
9. Dr. Anthony Chien, AFACT Secretary General

The AFACT Permanent Secretariat will invite the following AFACT member countries/economies to nominate additional candidates: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand or Vietnam.

The schedule of 2026 eASIA Awards is shown below. All members' HoDs need to sign and submit the recommended projects of the respective award categories by 19 October 2026 for the online evaluation, which will be held by **31 October 2026**.

	ITEM	Schedule
1	eASIA Awards Guidelines finalized by Steering Committee & AFACT Permanent Secretariat	2 September
2	Circulation of guidelines seeking nomination	7 September
3	Deadline of submission of nomination materials to AFACT Permanent Secretariat	19 October
4	Preliminary evaluation on nomination materials by AFACT Permanent Secretariat	23 October
5	Circulation to Evaluation Committee	23 October
6	Online evaluation by Evaluation Committee	31 October
7	Submission of the marks by the committee to the secretariat	2 November
8	Announcement of four Finalist Projects	6 November
9	Finalists confirm participation (Hybrid)	15 November
10	eASIA Awards Ceremony and Exhibition	1-3 December

The entries for the two categories shall be received by the AFACT Permanent Secretariat within the specified time frame. These entries will be first reviewed by the AFACT Permanent Secretariat for general eligibility, and then forwarded to Evaluation Committee members along with the evaluation criteria. The Evaluation Committee members, after the online evaluation, will send filled-up evaluation sheets to the AFACT Permanent Secretariat. Based on the evaluation sheets received from all Committee members, the AFACT Permanent Secretariat will choose two top-ranked projects per category and prepare the list of Finalists as per merit. Accordingly, the list of four Finalist Projects will be announced, and these projects will be invited for exhibiting their proposals on the sideline of the 2026 eASIA Awards Ceremony. All the Finalist Projects need to inform the AFACT Permanent Secretariat by **15 November 2026** whether they are able to come to Taiwan for the Awards Ceremony and Exhibition to be scheduled from 1st to 3rd December 2026. To encourage participation, the AFACT Permanent Secretariat will provide complimentary local accommodation to one representative of each Finalist Project for two nights.

7. eASIA Awards Final Evaluation

Scores and rankings will be made to each project by all Evaluation Committee members. Projects will be ranked based on the total scores given by the evaluators: the highest score ranks the first and the like. The ranking order of each project will also be put into consideration should the scores vary significantly amongst evaluators. Evaluators are reminded not to give scores for respective projects with extreme variation as all Committee members shall exchange views and determine final winners in consensus.

The two top-ranked projects of each category will each be conferred a trophy. The total four eASIA Awards Finalist Projects will be invited to share their proposals on AFACT website for promotion in the AFACT community and the region after they are revised by the project organization within 20 working days after the Awards Ceremony.

8. Evaluation Criteria for eASIA Awards

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Innovative and Efficient Operations ● Innovating to streamline the normal procedures of work flow and improve efficiency ● Significant deliverables on leveraging digital technologies and data-driven solutions ● Demonstrated application of AI technologies to improve trade facilitation and cross-border business processes	30
Outstanding Performance ● Measurable business and commercial benefits have been achieved ● Measurable performance in terms of social and environmental benefits have been achieved ● Anticipated impacts caused by the implementation of this project are estimated and justified ● Revolution on simplifying, harmonizing, and automating the procedures ● Scalable improvement in increasing transparency and citizen engagement	50

Creativity and Systematic Approach ● Innovative application and operation ● Introduction of modern techniques for digital infrastructure, open data and smart service to facilitate convergence of digitalization, responsiveness and accountability	20
Total	100

AI Transformation for Trade Facilitation

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Innovative and Efficient Operations ● Innovating to streamline the normal procedures of work flow and improve efficiency ● Significant deliverables on leveraging digital technologies and data-driven solutions ● Instrumental to define and build smart practices	30
Outstanding Performance ● Measurable business and commercial benefits have been achieved ● Measurable performance in terms of social and environmental benefits have been achieved ● Anticipated impacts caused by the implementation of this project are estimated and justified ● Revolution on simplifying, harmonizing, and automating the business procedures ● Scalable improvement in lowering costs, expanding market reach and enhancing customer experience	50
Creativity and Systematic Approach ● Innovative application and operation ● Introduction of modern techniques for empowerment of SMEs with digitalized business model ● Application of AI, machine learning, data analytics, or intelligent automation in trade and logistics processes	20
Total	100

9. eASIA Awards Ceremony

Based on the results of online evaluation, the four Finalist Projects will be invited to join the Awards Ceremony where the projects will be recognized



and awarded publicly. This year's Awards Ceremony will be held from 1st to 3rd December 2026 in Taipei, Taiwan.

10. eASIA Awards Exhibition

The four Finalist Projects of eASIA Awards are requested to present their projects during the Exhibition event to be held in Taipei, Taiwan from 1st to 3rd December 2026. These projects will be provided with exhibition space for showcase and will need to prepare their own promotional materials and posters in the sizes specified later.