WURI
The WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS for INNOVATION

WURI Ranking 2026:

Result & Lesson Learned

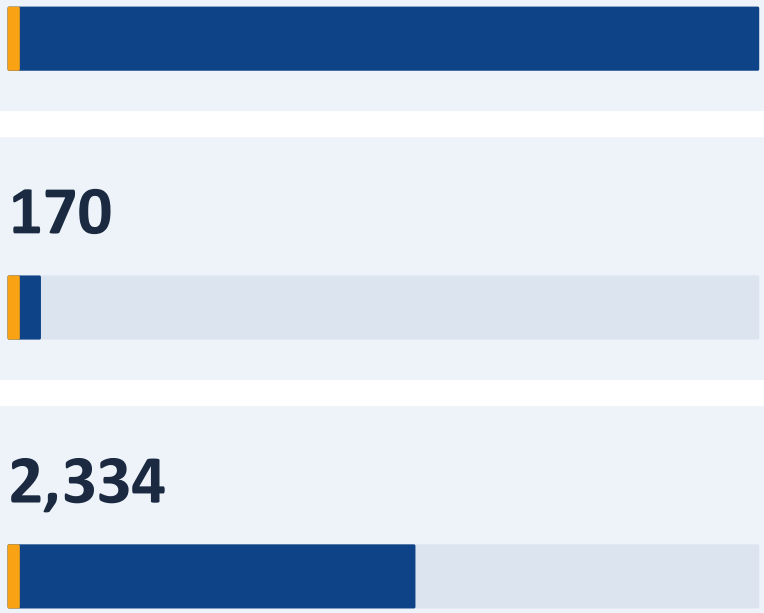
Kyung-Sung Kim
Chair, WURI Ranking
President, AI-STAT
WURI Official Metrics

1st WURI International Research Conference
University of Makati
November 19, 2026

Universities in Southeast Asian Countries

How many universities exist, and how many of them appear in the QS World University Rankings 2027 Top 500?

Country	Number of universities	In the QS Top 500	
Indonesia	4,303	0.16%	7
Thailand	170	1.18%	2
Philippines	2,334	0.04%	1



■ All universities ■ QS Top 500 (2027)

6,807

universities in three countries

10

are in the QS Top 500

99.85% of universities are invisible in conventional rankings.

Sources: QS World University Rankings 2027 (June 2026). University counts: Indonesia Kemdiktisaintek/PDDikti 2025; Thailand MHESI 2025 (public, private and other-ministry institutions); Philippines CHED AY 2024–2025 (all higher education institutions).

ADB

Asian Development Bank

Collaboration with ADB

2026: strengthening cooperation with universities in Indonesia and the Philippines

ADB's higher education goals

Strategy 2030 · Education Sector Directional Guide "Learning for All"

Quality-assured, inclusive systems
Learning for all; closing the learning crisis and skills mismatch

STEM, digital and 4IR skills
Green and digital skills for the knowledge economy

University–industry–TVET linkages
Research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship and start-ups

Gender equity and social inclusion
Access for disadvantaged groups and regions

Indonesia

- ADB Higher Education for Technology and Innovation project (US$79.5M): ITS Surabaya and Universitas Lampung
- ADB Advanced Knowledge and Skills for Sustainable Growth (US$200M): Univ. Jambi, Riau, Malikussaleh and UPI Bandung
- 4,303 universities, 7 in QS Top 500 — a large pool of innovation cases outside conventional rankings

Philippines

- ADB is the Philippines' second-largest development partner; the 2026 program package includes education
- ADB support for innovation in technical and vocational education linked to higher education
- 2,334 higher education institutions, 1 in QS Top 500 — WURI 2026 recognized regional innovators such as University of Baguio

2026 focus of WURI–ADB cooperation

- Share WURI innovation cases (GCG 1–4, NSG 1–4) with ADB-supported universities in both countries
- Invite ADB-supported universities to WURI 2027 and co-develop capacity-building programs
- Align WURI evaluation with ADB's Learning-for-All goals so innovation, not only research output, is recognized

Traditional ranking systems

Mainly evaluate research performance & money

papers,
citations,
reputation,
fund,
donations



WURI Ranking

Evaluates how universities create

real innovation and

transform society
through
practical impact.

WURI Philosophy

Innovation is meaningful only when it is

creative,

implementable, and

makes a real impact on society.

Methodology & Criteria for WURI Evaluation

Innovativeness | Implementability | Impact

1



Innovativeness

How new and creative is the idea?



Original and creative approach



New way of solving real-world problems



Different from existing practices



Potential to lead future innovation

Methodology & Criteria for WURI Evaluation

Innovativeness | **Implementability** | Impact

2



Implementability

Can the idea be successfully implemented?



Practical and feasible



Sustainable operation



Efficient use of resources



Easy to replicate or scale

Methodology & Criteria for WURI Evaluation

Innovativeness | Implementability | **Impact**

3



Impact

How much positive change does it create?

- **Benefits students and society**
- **Contributes to industry and communities**
- **Supports sustainable development**
- **Demonstrates measurable outcomes**

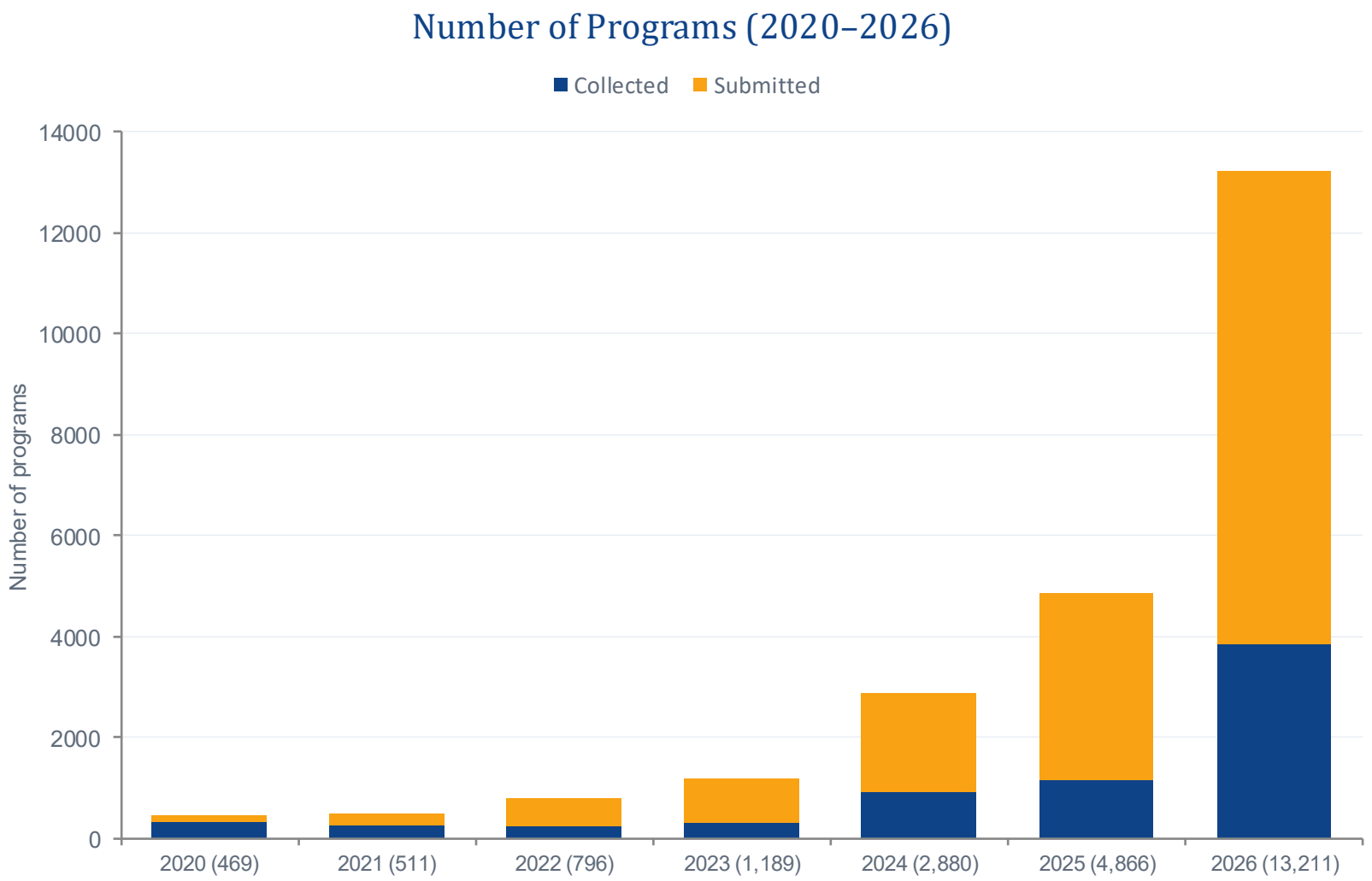
A 2026 WURI Ranking System: Framework

24 categories in three dimensions — for whom, how, and what to innovate

Innovation Targets: **For Whom** to Innovate?		Innovation Means: **How** to Innovate?		Innovation Targets: **What** to Innovate?	
For Student	A1. Student Support and Engagement	**Leadership**	B1. Visionary Leadership	**Research**	C1. Representative Research Project
	A2. Student Mobility and Openness		B2. Empowerment-Based Management		C2. Interdisciplinary, Convergent, and Integrated Research
For Industry	A3. Industrial Application	**Environment**	B3. Digital and AI Transformation in Strategy and Management	**Education**	C3. Curricular Innovation for Future-Readiness
	A4. Entrepreneurial Culture & Eco System		B4. Culture/Value		C4. AI-based Teaching and Learning Transformation
For Society	A5. Crisis Management	**Resource**	B5. Funding for Sustainability	**Social Engagement**	C5. Social Impact through Knowledge Transfer
	A6. Ethics and Integrity		B6. Infrastructure/Technologies		C6. Inclusive Social Innovation for the Underserved
For Global Community	A7. Future-Oriented Responses to Global Uncertainty and Geopolitical Risk	**Mechanism**	B7. Cost-Benefit Management	**Commercialization**	C7. University Based Entreprenial Projects
	A8. SDG- and ESG-Based Responses to Past and Present Global Challenges		B8. University Brand and Reputation		C8. Financial Impact-Driven Tech Transfer

For whom to innovate? How to innovate? What to innovate

The WURI Ranking 2026: Significant Growth in Participation



2026 total

13,211

innovative programs

Growth since 2020

×28.2

469 → 13,211

Year-on-year (2025 → 2026)

+171%

Totals in parentheses. Collected: cases gathered by WURI · Submitted: cases submitted by universities

WURI Ranking 2026 Statistics Announcements



96

countries



1,927

universities



13,211

innovative programs

The largest participation in WURI history — collected and submitted cases combined.

The Process of Evaluation



Phase 1

Evaluation

By March 31, 2026

301 presidents, or the school’s evaluation team designated by the president, reviewed the submitted cases.

Phase 2

Judgment

By April 24, 2026

9 representatives of the university leagues and the members of the WURI Evaluation Board judged the cases.

Phase 3

Final Review

By April 30, 2026

The WURI Evaluation Board checked the reliability of submissions, aggregated the judges’ recommendations, and finalized the entries of the WURI Ranking 2026.



Ranking Announcement

WURI Ranking 2026 — Global Top 500 and Top 100 in 24 categories

The WURI Ranking 2026

What is announced, and where to find it

To be presented at the conference

- Global Top 500 Universities
- Top 100 in each of the twenty-four (24) categories

To be uploaded on the WURI website

- Global Top 500 Universities
- Top 100 in each of the twenty-four (24) categories
- Presentation slides

www.wuri.world

WURI 2026: Global Top 500 Innovative Universities (1 - 50)

Rank	Name	Rank	Name
1	Minerva University	26	University of Chicago
2	Arizona State University	27	Tsinghua University
3	École 42	28	URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY
4	University of Pennsylvania	28	Franklin University
5	Incheon National University	30	aSSIST University
5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	31	University of Oxford
7	Stanford University	32	Duke University
8	California Institute of Technology	33	Olin College of Engineering
9	Hanze University of Applied Sciences	34	Hanbat National University
10	Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT)	34	University of California Merced
11	University of California Berkeley	36	University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh
12	Harvard University	37	Romblon State University
13	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	37	Northern Arizona University
14	Simon Fraser University	39	Columbia University
15	Abdullah Gul University	40	Dalian Neusoft University of Information
16	Princeton University	41	Northwestern University
17	Tra Vinh University	41	Peking University
17	University of Cambridge	43	ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY PHILIPPINES
19	Aalto University	43	Singularity University
20	Badr University in Cairo	45	Florida State University
20	Boston University	46	National University of Management
22	IEDC-Bled School of Management	47	Telkom University
23	Seoul National University	48	National Dong Hwa University
24	Burapha University	49	University of Twente
24	National University of Singapore	50	Fatima Jinnah Women University

Nine features the winning cases share from WURI Ranking 2026

01
A contrasting problem
Before → After against the old way

02
A named framework
A memorable 3–4 stage structure

03
Proof in numbers
Students, costs and results

04
Efficient resourcing
Small input, wide reach

05
Third-party validation
Certification, awards, papers

06
Honest problems, real fixes
Difficulties recorded with responses

07
Institutionalization
Fixed in rules, units and systems

08
Five-sided impact
Students, faculty, staff, industry, government

09
A roadmap in numbers
Years, stages and target values

Implications and Conclusion

1	**Dramatic Quantitative Growth**	1,927 universities and 13,211 programs from 96 countries in 2026
2	**Result is not just a Reputation**	Rankings reflect documented cases, not name recognition
3	**Evaluation is the process of Mutual Learning**	Presidents and judges learn from each other’s innovations
4	**WURI is a Challenge to Conventional Ranking Systems**	Innovation and impact instead of research output alone

Implications and Conclusion

5  University Ranking has nothing to do with School size and Reputation.

6  Students need a practical result from university, not just a degree.

7  Conventional classroom will no longer exist.

8  University also has to survive!

9  **The only solution of University is Innovativeness.**

Beyond WURI

5. More communications among WURI members

Journal Publication
by WURI members

Research & Book Publications
by Seoul National University

Joint Projects & Database
Database utilization for thesis and dissertation

WUNI Activities
Presidents, leaders and experts

More Conferences
HLU, AUAP, WRIC

Accreditation
based upon the WURI Ranking

Validation
based upon SDG and/or ESG

From ranking to a community of innovating universities

“

Life and innovation are about direction, not speed.

Thank you so much.

