

HITACHI

Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI 2026) Applicant FAQs

Theme: FLOW AS ONE: What's next for a sustainable future?

Action: Creating the next chapter of sustainability and innovation.

About HYLI

1. What is HYLI?

The Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) The Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) is Hitachi's commitment to shaping future generations through innovative education. Since 1996, it has brought together exceptional university students from eight Asian countries to exchange ideas with leaders from government, business, academia, and the non-profit sector.

HYLI offers a unique platform for delegates to broaden their perspectives, deepen their understanding of regional and global issues, and build lasting cross-cultural connections. Each participating country—Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan—is represented by up to four carefully selected students.

HYLI 2026 officially partners with Publicis Groupe Philippines, the official organiser for the event.

2. What is the theme for HYLI 2026?

FLOW AS ONE: What's next for a sustainable future emphasises unity, collaboration, and leadership in creating sustainable innovations for the future. This theme encapsulates a call for unity and ingenuity to think about solutions that address the intertwined challenges of sustainability, technological disruption, and inclusive growth.

3. What are HYLI's objectives?

HYLI aims to deepen delegates' understanding of regional and global issues, foster solidarity among young Asian leaders, encourage cultural exchange, and inspire actionable solutions for sustainability and innovation.

4. Why was this year's theme chosen?

It reflects the need for leaders to work together as one cohesive force—flowing in harmony to address pressing sustainability challenges while shaping “what’s next” in innovation.

Event Details

5. Where and when will HYLI 2026 be held?

The upcoming HYLI will be held in Cebu, from May 24-29, 2026.

6. What activities are part of the programme?

Expect expert-led forums, field visits to sustainability-focused sites, interactive workshops, cultural exchanges, and final group presentations witnessed by industry and government leaders.

7. Is HYLI a hybrid or in-person event?

HYLI is traditionally held in person to allow immersive experiences and face-to-face collaboration. Virtual pre-conference and mentor session meetings are arranged for the benefit of all chosen participants.

8. Who are the speakers and mentors?

Delegates will engage with Hitachi leadership, top government officials, business executives, academics, and industry movers and shakers who bring diverse expertise and perspectives.

Eligibility & Application

9. Who can apply?

Outstanding undergraduate or graduate students from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan. You can submit your applications [here](#).

10. How many delegates are selected per country?

Up to four delegates are chosen to represent each participating country.

11. What is the selection process?

Applications are reviewed based on leadership potential, academic achievements and desired impact, communication skills, and commitment to sustainability. Shortlisted candidates will undergo interviews with our esteemed panellists in mid-January. The

The final set of delegates will be announced by end-January. The delegates will be required to attend pre-conference engagements and mentor sessions on these dates:

- Pre-conference 1: February 12, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT +8)
- Mentor session 1: February 24, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT +8)
- Pre-conference 2: March 5, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM (GMT +8)
- Mentor session 2: March 12, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT +8)
- Mentor session 3: April 1, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT +8)
- Mentor session 4: May 7, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT +8)

12. Are there any costs involved?

HYLI is fully sponsored. Travel, accommodation, and participation costs are covered for selected delegates to Cebu.

13. How can I prepare a strong application?

- Understand the theme
- Clearly define long-term goals personal passion to positively impact your community or region
- Highlight your leadership, community involvement and relevant experiences, emphasising meaningful contributions
- Demonstrate understanding of sustainability challenges and openness to cross-cultural collaboration

14. How can I stay informed about the application process?

Follow our official channels: the [HYLI website](#), Hitachi social pages, and direct announcements/messages for application timelines and updates.

Experience & Outcomes

15. Do selected delegates present proposals during HYLI?

Yes. Delegates work in multinational teams to craft presentations addressing sustainability and innovation challenges with the support of Hitachi mentors, other Hitachi members and various external experts, then present them to a distinguished panel.

16. What will I gain from joining HYLI?

You will develop leadership skills, expand your regional and global perspectives, build a powerful network of potential future Asian leaders, and, most importantly, join an alumni community of over 400 HYLI graduates.