

ITD Alliance - Asia Regional Network Webinar Series

Reimagining Higher Education for Complex Societies: Two Examples from Transdisciplinary Teaching in Asia



Date: 18 June 2026 (Thu)

Time: HKT 2:00pm – 3:00pm (GMT +8)

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Speaker

Dr Glos Ho

Director of Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Programmes and Principal Lecturer, Hong Kong Baptist University



Speaker

Dr Yasuhisa Kondo

Professor, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI



Moderator

Dr Seongsook Choi

Senior Lecturer in Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Edinburgh

Abstract: A focus on transdisciplinarity, especially in education, is gaining momentum in Asia. This webinar will provide examples from leading institutions in Hong Kong and Japan on undergraduate and graduate education, respectively, to provide the basis for further discussion. Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) has developed signature transdisciplinary undergraduate programmes, including a unique individualised major that enables students to integrate knowledge across disciplines and collaborate on real-world challenges, as well as a flagship 9-unit Global Challenges course addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The presentation will focus on HKBU's strategies for embedding transdisciplinarity in both curriculum design and institutional culture. The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) in Japan launched (in 2023) a PhD programme titled Global Environmental Studies (GES) at The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI, which is a national university system consisting of inter-university research institutes. This programme is characterised by faculty members' academic diversity, ranging from cultural and social studies, biological sciences, physical sciences, and mathematical and information sciences. Students conduct project-based research with a flavor of transdisciplinarity under a team-based supervision system. The presentation will focus on the achievements and challenges of this (de facto) first authentic transdisciplinary graduate school in Japan.

Dr Glos Ho is Director of Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Programmes and Principal Lecturer at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). Her academic background spans Economics, International Communications, and Asian Studies, with research interests in the sociology and marketing of sport events. Her awards include the Hong Kong's University Grants Committee (UGC) Teaching Award (Collaborative Teams, 2025), HKBU President's Awards for Outstanding Performance in Individual Teaching (2016) and Team Teaching (2018, 2023). In 2024, she founded the Community of Practice (CoP) "TransdiscipliLink" to promote transdisciplinary collaboration in Hong Kong.

Dr Yasuhisa Kondo is a Professor at the RIHN and Chair of the Global Environmental Studies, SOKENDAI. His academic background is archaeological geography (PhD from The University of Tokyo in 2010) with nearly 20 years of fieldwork experience in Oman. As an Associate Member of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), he is also interested in bridging science and society to address socio-ecological issues.



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