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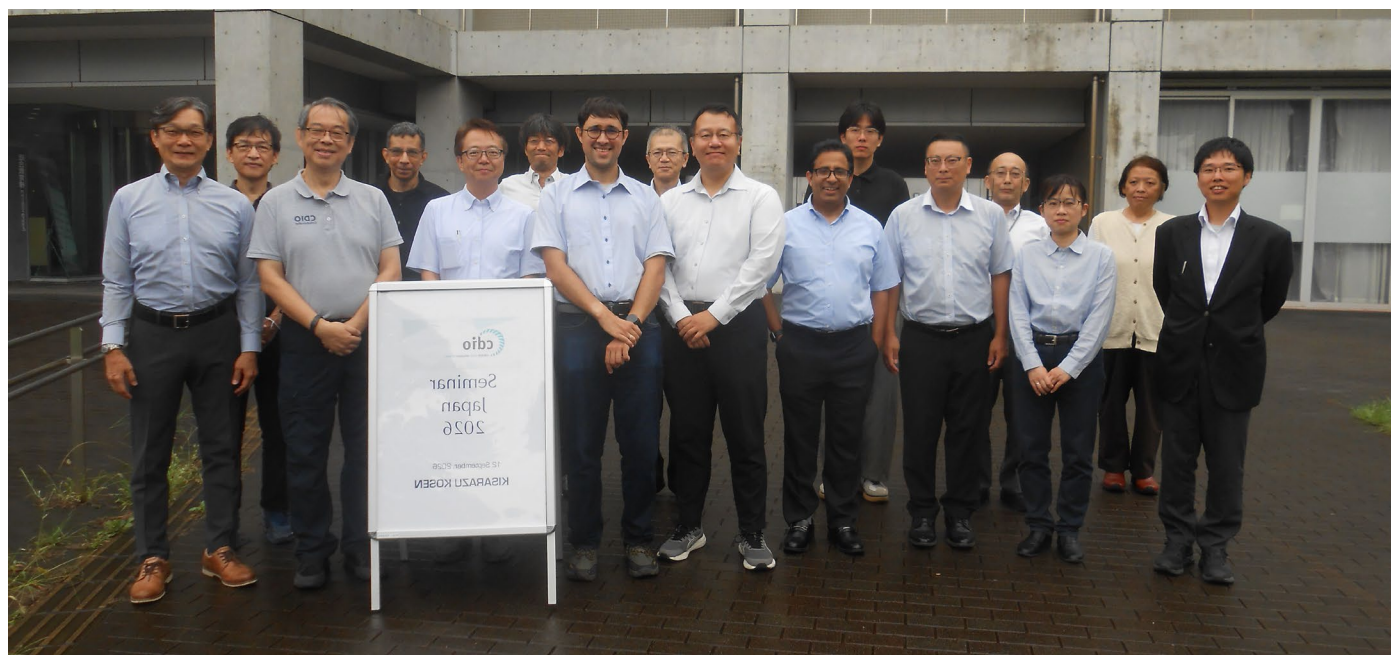
Newsletter 3/2026

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CDIO JAPAN SEMINAR 2026: A MILESTONE GATHERING FOR KOSEN EDUCATION

The National Institute of Technology, Kisarazu College (NIT Kisarazu), together with Singapore Polytechnic (SP), hosted the inaugural CDIO Japan Seminar on 12 September 2026, marking an important step in strengthening CDIO engagement across Japan's KOSEN system.



The day commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Ritsuo Sakimura, President of NIT, Kisarazu College.

Despite being held on a Saturday, the seminar attracted strong participation from seven KOSEN institutions, including six current CDIO members: Kisarazu, Tsuruoka, Kumamoto, Anan, Sendai and Oyama.

Kisarazu, notably, was the first KOSEN in Japan to join CDIO, back in 2016. Toyota KOSEN also attended as a non-member interested in exploring the framework. In total, 14 faculty members took part in the full-day programme held on the Kisarazu campus.

Japan's KOSEN system continues to evolve through the Model Core Curriculum (MCC), which blends technical foundations with cross-disciplinary competencies. The seminar provided a valuable platform for faculty and students to consider how CDIO and MCC can complement one another. Bringing together international CDIO leaders, faculty and students, the event also provided opportunities to share and discuss innovative approaches to engineering education, curriculum development and active learning.

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Faculty Session: CDIO for Industry 4.0, Sustainability and GenAI

In the morning, CDIO Asia Co-Leader Sin-Moh Cheah from SP shared how CDIO can serve as a practical driver for continuous improvement, helping institutions respond to emerging challenges such as Industry 4.0, sustainable development and the rise of GenAI. Participants then engaged in a lively discussion on how CDIO and the MCC can complement one another to strengthen engineering education across Japan.



Student Session: Learning “the CDIO Way”

The afternoon programme expanded to include students from multiple disciplines. Three students from NIT, Kisarazu - Shosei Yoshikawa, Honami Toda, and Aoi Yoshida - took the stage to share their experiences, showcasing hands-on projects and student-led initiatives at KOSEN. Then, CDIO Co-Director Dr Juha Kontio from Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland, then shared examples of how CDIO principles can be used to design engaging and authentic learning activities. Sin-Moh followed with examples of CDIO-based activities from SP.

Faculty then facilitated small-group discussions in which students reflected on whether they would like to learn “the CDIO way.” Their closing reflections were overwhelmingly positive, highlighting how CDIO can make learning more meaningful, practical and enjoyable. Many students felt that the approach could help them better understand engineering concepts and recognise their relevance to real-world challenges.



A Strong Start for CDIO Japan

The seminar concluded with a strong sense of optimism and momentum. Faculty gained new insights into how CDIO and the MCC can complement each other, while students expressed strong interest in more CDIO-style learning experiences. As Japan's KOSEN system continues to evolve, the inaugural CDIO Japan Seminar provides a promising foundation for deeper collaboration and future initiatives.

The CDIO Workshop and Exchange Event at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kisarazu College provided a valuable opportunity to bring together faculty, students and CDIO colleagues to exchange experiences, share practices and strengthen connections across the CDIO community.

Prepared by: Achyut Sapkota, National Institute of Technology, Kisarazu College

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REPORT FROM THE 2026 CDIO ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING

The 2026 CDIO Asian Regional Meeting (ARM) was held from 23 to 26 September in Oskemen, Kazakhstan, hosted by D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University (EKTU). The meeting brought together 62 participants representing 32 universities and organisations across 16 countries: Kazakhstan, Singapore, Vietnam, Sweden, Uzbekistan, Japan, Malaysia, India, Azerbaijan, Poland, Indonesia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Oman, the United Kingdom and Italy. Of the 62 participants, 21 were from Kazakhstan and 41 were international.

The meeting also welcomed representatives from candidate and non-CDIO member institutions, including four institutions that presented their formal applications to join the Worldwide CDIO Initiative.

The event was very well organised, with generous hospitality from Rector Saule Rakhmetullina, Dr Samat Baigereyev and the EKTU organising committee, whose efforts contributed greatly to the smooth and successful delivery of the meeting.

Key highlights from the 2026 CDIO ARM:

The meeting opened with a performance of traditional Kazakh *Kui* music, followed by welcome addresses from:

- Saule Rakhmetullina, Chair of the Board – Rector, D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University.
- Prof. Sin Moh Cheah, CDIO Asia Co-Leader, Singapore Polytechnic.
- Gulzat Kobenova, Vice-Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Keynote addresses and invited talks were delivered by CDIO leaders and distinguished guests, including Dr. Juha Kontio, Worldwide CDIO Initiative Co-Director from Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Gulzat Kobenova, Vice-Minister of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan; Dr. Suzanne Brink, CDIO Co-Leader for Europe from Umeå University, Sweden; and Prof. Rebecca Bates from Minnesota State University, Mankato, USA.

On Day 0, Juha Kontio presented “Today’s Educational Challenges and How CDIO Is Meeting Them,” setting the scene for many of the discussions that followed. Across the keynote and invited sessions, a common theme emerged around how engineering and higher education need to transform and evolve to meet future challenges.

Key outcomes from the 2026 CDIO ALM:

Regional leadership and membership

An election was held for the position of CDIO Asia Co-Leader. Dr Lim Joo Ghee from Singapore Polytechnic was unanimously elected for a three-year term, from October 2026 to October 2029.

Four candidate institutions also presented their applications and institutional profiles during the meeting. All four received unanimous support from the CDIO Asia members present and were endorsed at the regional level:

Institution Name	Country
Kokshetau Higher Technical College	Kazakhstan
SRM TRP Engineering College	India
Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah	Malaysia
Vinayaka Mission’s Research Foundation	India

2027 CDIO Asian Regional Meeting

Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna (RMUTL) submitted the sole proposal to host the 2027 CDIO Asian Regional Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The proposal received unanimous support from the delegates present, confirming Chiang Mai as the host location for the 2027 meeting.

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Key Themes and Emerging Priorities

Throughout the ARM, participants engaged in rich discussions on the evolving relationship between Industry, Academia, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Several key themes emerged:

- The importance of considering how and GenAI and digital twins can be incorporated into CDIO practices, while continuing to emphasise critical thinking and human-centered design.
- Interest from both established and newer CDIO members in frameworks that more clearly map CDIO Syllabus and Standards to international accreditation criteria.
- Strong interest among Central Asian institutions (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan) in peer-to-peer mentoring and workshops to support their engagement with and adoption of CDIO.

Prepared by Asian Co-Leaders: Sin Moh Cheah (outgoing, Singapore), Anh-Quang Dao (Vietnam), Lim Joo Ghee (incoming, Singapore) and Aileen Amora (Philippines).

REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEETING 2026 IN BARCELONA

The CDIO International Working Meeting was held in Barcelona from 21 to 23 October 2026. Over three intensive days, participants focused on the future direction of CDIO, the renewal of the CDIO Standards, and practical ways to strengthen the value and impact of the network for its members.



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Looking ahead: why CDIO?

One of the main themes of the meeting was a strategic discussion about the future of CDIO. Participants reflected on where CDIO has made a meaningful difference and what makes the community distinctive and valuable. The Standards and Syllabus remain central, but equally important is the community that has developed around them: a common language for advancing engineering education, opportunities for international exchange, and a network in which both experienced and emerging colleagues can learn from one another.

The discussion also highlighted several challenges. CDIO needs to keep its message and framework up to date, communicate its value more clearly to university leaders and partners, and ensure continuity as new generations become more active within the community. The aim is not to compete with organisations such as SEFI, AAEE and CEEA, but to strengthen CDIO's distinctive role as an open, practice-oriented international community focused on the continuous development of engineering education.

Why CDIO? Strategic Vision Session - What we heard

Strategic Vision Session, CDIO International Working Meeting 2026: key outcomes from the activities.

When CDIO mattered	Hard to replace	2031 risks
- A teaching community across departments - A common language that changed attitudes - Career and external recognition	- The Syllabus, Standards and people to discuss them with - Easy international networking for junior staff - Continuity across generations	- Message and framework not kept current - No clear value case for leaders and partners - No succession or plan for turnover

How CDIO could complement AAEE, SEFI and CEEA

They lead on research, journals and SIGs. CDIO adds development workshops, a flexible framework, a common language and a T&L focus, and could offer:

Agility: a change and development perspective	A development framework	Localised and international community	Social justice and sustainability
A community of practice	An academy	Methodology	Open and easily accessible



This discussion resulted in three strategic priorities: **targeted marketing, rebranding CDIO, and strengthening the connection between research and practice**. The first step in the marketing work will be to better understand why institutions join CDIO and the impact that membership has had. The rebranding discussion emphasised the need to position CDIO as more than a process: it is both a framework and an international community for the development of engineering education. The research-to-practice priority will focus on making engineering education research more accessible and useful in everyday educational practice. Ideas discussed included a GenAI-based tool to support access to the CDIO Knowledge Library and, in the longer term, a potential development of a CDIO Academy.

A new framework for education development

A major part of the Barcelona meeting was devoted to shaping the next generation of the CDIO Standards. The discussions resulted in an emerging framework organised around **three dimensions and 12 guiding principles**:

1. Vision and Governance
2. Curriculum Development and Program Design
3. Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

Together, these three dimensions provide the overarching structure for the 12 guiding principles and reflect a broader approach to supporting continuous education development.

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As part of the proposed changes, the current **"Standards"** would be reframed as **"Guiding Principles"**, while CDIO as a whole would be positioned as **"A Framework for Education Development"**.



This is more than a change in terminology. The aim is to create a framework that is easier to understand and apply, while retaining the core ideas that have made CDIO valuable. Subteams are now continuing the work, developing the statements, descriptions, rationales and rubrics for each of the Guiding Principles. An updated package is planned for the end of December, followed by a paper for the 2027 CDIO Conference and submission of the new framework to the CDIO Council. Subject to approval, the new framework is planned to be introduced on 1 July 2027.

Supporting members and developing the community

Barcelona also focused on practical support for CDIO members. Work continued on both the CDIO introductory workshop and faculty development. The introductory workshop will largely retain its present model, with some refinements, while the faculty development group developed a role-based rubric matrix aligned with the new framework.

The future of peer-to-peer support was also discussed. There was clear interest in its potential to help institutions share practices, receive feedback from "critical friends", engage new staff and learn more deeply from one another's experiences. At the same time, experience to date suggests that the process needs to be simpler and better connected with conferences and regional meetings if it is to become a regular part of CDIO activity. It was therefore agreed to pose further peer-to-peer activities until the new Guiding Principles framework is finalised.

AI and the CDIO Syllabus

Not surprisingly, AI was another important topic. The discussion considered how artificial intelligence should be reflected in the CDIO Syllabus and identified three key aspects: understanding the **principles** of AI, being able to **use** AI tools effectively, and understanding and critically evaluating their **consequences**, including their limitations, risks and societal and legal implications.

The discussion also raised a broader question about the relationship between the Syllabus and the Standards. One proposal is to consider areas such as AI, sustainability, entrepreneurship and internationalisation as contexts for operationalising the Syllabus, rather than as separate additional principles for each emerging area. Further development of the Syllabus was recommended, including consideration of how knowledge, skills and competence are represented, as well as how curriculum agility can be incorporated.

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Governance and getting our house in order

The final day focused on governance and practical next steps. An updated Council election procedure was confirmed, together with the establishment of an election committee for 2027–2029 term. Work will also continue on improving the information provided for elections and maintaining clearer records of previous election outcomes.

Communication was another area of focus. The group agreed to build on recent communication activities, increase CDIO's presence on LinkedIn, and consider introducing an additional, shorter newsletter. The CDIO Events Handbook was also reviewed and updated, with revisions completed for Regional Meetings and International Working Meetings. The section covering the International CDIO Conference is expected to be updated by the end of the year.

Membership and engagement were also discussed, particularly how to distinguish between institutions that are actively contributing to the CDIO community and those with limited recent involvement. A possible new membership model is being explored for 2027, although several practical questions around membership status, review processes and re-engagement still need to be resolved.

From Barcelona towards 2027

The Barcelona meeting was very much a working meeting. Many of the ideas discussed are still being developed, but the direction is becoming clearer. The overall activity plan now brings together the strategic development of CDIO's value proposition and visibility, major framework work on the Guiding Principles and Syllabus, and practical activities including faculty development and assessment. The next International Working Meeting will be hosted by Polytechnique Montréal, preliminarily during the week beginning 11 October 2027, with the CDIO Syllabus expected to be a major focus. Before then, work on the New education development framework, the Syllabus and the other actions agreed in Barcelona will continue through the Council, regional activities and leaders' meetings.

Barcelona provided a shared direction and a substantial programme of work for the year ahead. Most importantly, it demonstrated the continuing strength of the international CDIO community and its commitment to developing the framework collaboratively and keeping it relevant to the changing needs of engineering education.

MEET CDIO PEOPLE: SIN MOH CHEAH



Hi, my name is Sin Moh from Singapore Polytechnic. I've just recently relinquished my position as CDIO Asia Co-Leader after helming it for a 3-year term. I am still currently the CDIO Member-at-Large appointed for 1 year at the 2026 International CDIO Conference in Liverpool, UK. I am a chemical engineer by training and held various job positions before making a career switch to become an academic many decades ago. So – yes, I am already old by age, but my passion for knowledge had just grew stronger.

The quest to know more about everything and (almost) anything is the reason for my move from industry to academia. I am now the Master Specialist in Teaching and Learning, and CDIO is my

expertise area, having used it for almost 20 years. I was first exposed to this framework at the International CDIO Fall Meeting (as it was known then) in November 2006, hosted by École Polytechnique de Montréal, Canada.

I still remember I arrived in Montreal on the wee hours of the first day of the meeting and were onsite after less than 3 hours of sleep, having travelled more than 28 hours from Singapore via Narita and Vancouver. Despite battling a severe jet lag – I straight away developed a strong affinity for the framework. I can say that working on CDIO put me on the path for another career change, and this time it is from a lecturer teaching chemical engineering undergraduates to facilitating learning of CDIO in workshops for universities faculty, i.e. adult learners. I have used CDIO in a range of challenges – from hand-on redesigning professional undergraduate program in chemical engineering to facilitating workshops on redesigning various engineering and

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non-engineering programs with universities in Asia – Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

I am particularly interested in applying CDIO in the following two pet topics: sustainability and sustainable development, and learning from deliberate failure in operating complex systems. The advent of GenAI is a welcoming sight, as I am now using it to develop an approach for faculty professional development. The objective is two-fold: First to place faculty within the CDIO community on a developmental pathway to be proficient in using GenAI for improving teaching and learning; and secondly for myself to use GenAI as a learning partner to help me widen by knowledge in the domain of “Unknown Unknowns” and address the challenges in my two pet topics.

NEW CDIO MEMBERS

Four institutions presented their applications for CDIO membership at the Asian Regional Meeting in September, with all four receiving the support of the region. Their applications were subsequently approved by the CDIO Council at its October meeting, formally welcoming all four institutions as new members of the Worldwide CDIO Initiative.

The four new members are:

- Kokshetau Higher Technical College, Kazakhstan
- SRM TRP Engineering College, India
- Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Malaysia
- Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, India

We warmly welcome all four institutions to the Worldwide CDIO Initiative and look forward to their engagement with the CDIO community.

CDIO 2026 PROCEEDINGS NOW FULLY INDEXED IN SCOPUS

We are pleased to confirm that the **CDIO 2026 conference proceedings are now fully indexed in scopus**. All papers published in the proceedings are now included in the scopus database.

LIST OF FUTURE CDIO MEETINGS

Following are all the future CDIO meetings that have been agreed. List of future meetings is available at the CDIO Website as well.

Meeting	Place	Date
The Europe, UK and Ireland regional meeting → Registration is open	Zagreb, hosted by University of Zagreb	January 18 – 19, 2027
The 23 rd International CDIO conference	Online, hosted by D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University (EKTU)	June 21 – 24, 2027
Th 24th International CDIO conference	Singapore, hosted by Singapore Polytechnic	June, 2028