

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Monthly Reflections: Advancing Computer Science Education
Through ICSEC

BEYOND COMFORT ZONES: A LESSON IN INNOVATION FROM SABAH

When people think about educational innovation, they often imagine advanced technology or well-funded institutions. Yet some of the most inspiring examples come from places where resources are limited but determination is strong.

During a recent visit to Sabah, Malaysia, ICSEC Chairman Yuta Tonegawa met with educators



working to expand opportunities for young learners. While sharing experiences, he also took time to listen and learn. One story stood out. A teacher participating in a workshop had found an innovative way to make robotics accessible despite limited resources. Instead of waiting for expensive equipment, he designed and built his own educational robot using simple motors, locally available components, and a custom 3D-printed frame.



The robot was impressive, but what it represented was even more powerful. It showed that innovation is not defined by budgets, but by creativity, perseverance, and a willingness to act. Rather than being discouraged by limitations, this teacher chose to create.

For our Chairman, the experience reinforced an important lesson: meaningful educational change often begins with individuals willing to step beyond their comfort zones. Whether travelling across borders to support educators or building a robot from scratch, progress is driven by people who see possibilities where others see obstacles. In education, the future is built not only by those with the most resources, but by those with the courage to try.



LAUNCHING THE ICSEC CATALYST FUND - PILOT ROUND 2026 -

ICSEC is excited to announce the **launch of the ICSEC Catalyst Fund – Pilot Round 2026**, a new initiative designed to support promising efforts in computer science, AI, and STEM education while encouraging shared learning across the ICSEC community.

This pilot round will **provide a USD 20,000 grant to one selected project**. Rather than focusing on large-scale funding, the Catalyst Fund aims to identify initiatives that are deeply rooted in their local context and have the potential to generate valuable lessons for educators, organizations, and policymakers in other communities.

We are particularly interested in initiatives that address genuine local educational needs through curriculum development, teacher and mentor development, educator networks, and regional or national ecosystem-building efforts. Applications are welcome from legally registered organizations around the world, with priority given to initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region and other underserved communities.

Date	Milestone
22 June 2026	Call for Proposals Opens
22 July 2026 23:59 JST (UTC+9)	Application Deadline
31 July 2026	Notification of Results
1 August 2026	Project Start
31 December 2027	Project Completion Deadline

Learn More

<https://i-csec.org/catalyst-fund-2026.html>



HACK TO THE FUTURE 2026 INDIA

Shared by Md Azim Ud Doula (Quest Alliance), Hack to the Future 2026 showcases how students can use technology to address challenges in their own communities. Government school students developed solutions ranging from elephant alert systems and water quality monitors to anti-fraud chatbots and women's safety devices.

Organized by Quest Alliance and its partners, the initiative demonstrates how young people can develop future-ready skills through solving real-world problems. It is a powerful example of creativity, technology, and local knowledge coming together to create meaningful impact.

Learn More <https://37c.jp/httf2026india>

