Lingnan University 2025/2026 SDG Report
SDG 17 - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



55th in the world
(THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

No. 1 in Hong Kong
(THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

280+
Partners around the world

1st
United Nations University Hub in Asia

Lingnan University advances **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** by strengthening collaboration across sectors, disciplines and borders. As it transforms into a comprehensive research-oriented university in the digital era, Lingnan connects academic expertise with partners in government, industry, international organisations and local communities to support knowledge exchange, research innovation and sustainable development. The following initiatives demonstrate how these partnerships harness shared expertise and digital opportunities to address societal challenges, strengthen global cooperation and create a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development Through Times Higher Education (THE) Engagements

During academic year 2025/2026, Lingnan University strengthened its engagement with Times Higher Education (THE) through the THE World Academic Summit 2025, THE Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026, and THE Digital Universities Asia 2026. These international platforms offered opportunities to connect with universities and stakeholders worldwide, exchange knowledge, and explore collaboration in higher education, sustainable development, and digital transformation. Supporting SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, these engagements reflect Lingnan's commitment to building global partnerships and advancing collective responses to shared challenges.

1. Connecting Global Partners for Human-Centred AI in Higher Education

Lingnan University contributed to international dialogue on responsible digital transformation at the **THE World Academic Summit 2025**, held from **7–9 October**

2025 in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia. Through a well-received morning roundtable and a panel organised in partnership with Lingnan, the University brought together perspectives from academia and industry to explore how AI can enhance higher education. These exchanges embodied SDG 17's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships and knowledge-sharing.

During the panel, Professor Joe Qin, President of Lingnan University, joined representatives from Tsinghua University, the University of Bristol and Siemens to discuss opportunities and challenges in AI adoption. He shared Lingnan's human-centred approach, including campus-wide access to ChatGPT and a compulsory core course in generative AI. The discussion connected complementary expertise in education, research and technology, highlighting the importance of collaboration in ensuring that digital transformation serves students, educators and communities.

Professor Qin also highlighted Lingnan's collaboration with other Hong Kong universities on a shared AI platform that supports faculty in preparing teaching materials. This practical example demonstrated how pooling expertise and resources across institutions can strengthen teaching capacity and extend the benefits of educational innovation.

The Summit enabled Lingnan both to contribute its experience and to learn from international partners, providing a foundation for further cooperation. Lingnan's subsequent rise to **joint 257th globally in the THE World University Rankings 2027** reflects its growing international standing. Its engagement at the Summit underscored a broader commitment to translating global connections into shared learning and collaborative action—central to the spirit of SDG 17.

Post-event summary





2. Advancing Global Partnerships for Quality Education in the AI Era

Lingnan University shared its approach to delivering quality education in the age of artificial intelligence at the **THE Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026**, **held from 22–25 June 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia**. Its engagement provided a platform for international knowledge exchange on responsible AI adoption,

interdisciplinary collaboration and educational transformation, supporting SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

In the accompanying THE feature, Professor S. Joe Qin, President of Lingnan University, highlighted the **University's achievement of world No. 1 for SDG 4: Quality Education for two consecutive years—in the 2025 THE Impact Rankings and the 2026 Sustainability Impact Ratings**. This recognition reflects Lingnan's commitment to holistic, whole-person liberal arts education while equipping students to navigate a rapidly changing digital world.

Professor Qin outlined how Lingnan has embedded generative AI across its curriculum, providing campus-wide access to tools and training students in their effective and responsible use. Critical thinking remains central: students are encouraged to question AI-generated outputs, verify information and use technology to enhance rather than replace their own judgement. Training also addresses data privacy, copyright, intellectual property and transparent acknowledgement of AI-assisted work.

Lingnan's experience offers insights for universities seeking to align educational innovation with societal and workplace needs. Its undergraduate employment rate of around 99 per cent in the 2023–24 academic year demonstrates strong graduate employability.

The University also promotes collaboration across disciplinary boundaries, bringing computer scientists and STEM scholars together with experts in philosophy, humanities, social sciences and business. Its School of Data Science and Wu Jieh Yee School of Interdisciplinary Studies support these connections.

Through its engagement with THE and the Congress, Lingnan contributed its experience to global discussions on sustainable higher education. This knowledge-sharing supports SDG 17 by encouraging collaborative approaches to responsible innovation and inclusive, future-ready education.

Post-event summary





3. Strengthening Global Partnerships for Responsible AI at THE Digital Universities Asia 2026

Lingnan University participated in **THE Digital Universities Asia 2026, held in Chengdu on 24–25 September 2026**, joining higher education stakeholders to exchange insights on digital transformation and the evolving role of AI in universities. Lingnan's engagement included a fireside chat with THE's APAC Director and a panel discussion featuring Professor Joe Qin, President of Lingnan University. These exchanges provided opportunities for cross-institutional dialogue, knowledge-sharing and exploration of collaborative approaches to responsible AI adoption. Supporting SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, Lingnan's participation underscored its commitment to

strengthening international connections and working with global partners to address shared challenges in higher education.

In a feature prepared by THE, Professor S. Joe Qin, President of Lingnan University, outlined the University's approach to adapting liberal arts education for the digital era while maintaining its commitment to whole-person development. Lingnan's achievement of world No. 1 for SDG 4: Quality Education in the 2025 THE Impact Rankings underscores its commitment to equitable educational opportunities, lifelong learning and preparing students for the future.

Lingnan provides free, campus-wide access to generative AI tools and has introduced a compulsory first-year course combining AI literacy with critical thinking and ethical awareness. These initiatives offer experience for international peers seeking to harness technology responsibly while preserving human judgement and educational values.

Beyond campus, Lingnan connects with communities through free online learning resources, gerontechnology training and engagement with local schools. These activities extend access to knowledge and support lifelong learning across generations.

International collaboration also underpins Lingnan's development. The Lingnan University Institute for Advanced Study connects faculty, students and the wider community with leading scholars worldwide, supporting interdisciplinary research and knowledge exchange. The Lingnan-60 Global Talent Recruitment scheme further strengthens its international academic network.

Through its partnership with THE and its hosting of Digital Universities Asia 2025, Lingnan brought diverse stakeholders together around shared educational challenges. These engagements advance the spirit of SDG 17 by fostering global dialogue and opportunities for collective action towards inclusive, human-centred digital education.

Post-event Summary


Presidential fireside chat | AI across disciplines: Creating new models for collaboration
Elevating university excellence to power Asia's digital future


Times Higher Education



International Conference – Arts for Wellbeing: Creativity, Adaptability, Sustainability

The Wong Bing Lai Music and Performing Arts Unit successfully hosted its inaugural international conference, *Arts for Wellbeing: Creativity, Adaptability, Sustainability*, on 6 February 2026 at Lingnan@WestKowloon, M+, Hong Kong. Supported by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, the conference brought together leading scholars, experts, and practitioners for in-depth interdisciplinary discussions on the theoretical, pedagogical, and practical dimensions of holistic wellbeing. The conference explored how creative practices, alongside medical and psychological support, can address urban stress and foster mental health and well-being, community engagement and social cohesion through community music and performing arts.

The conference attracted approximately 120 scholars, artists, educators, and cultural practitioners from Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and overseas, fostering arts education, interdisciplinary learning, international collaboration and knowledge exchange. Participating institutions included Free University of Berlin, Rhode Island School of Design, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University (BNBU).

The conference contributed to SDG 3 through its focus on holistic well-being and mental health; SDG 4 through arts education and professional knowledge exchange; SDG 11 through discussions on the role of creative practices in fostering socially connected, inclusive urban communities; and SDG 17 through cross-institutional and international partnerships connecting academia, the arts and community practice.





Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emission Point Sources From China Space Station

With Professor LI Jia, Associate Professor at Lingnan University's Wu Jieh Yee School of Interdisciplinary Studies, participating in the research collaboration, this project aims to develop a greenhouse gas monitoring system using observations from the China

Space Station and related satellite platforms. Running from August 2025 to August 2028, it will combine space-based observations, data analytics, ground-truth verification and blockchain technology to identify and quantify emission point sources and provide secure, transparent and traceable emissions data.

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

The project aims to provide reliable greenhouse gas emissions data that can inform clean energy transition strategies. By identifying emission sources and analysing trends, it could help policymakers and industry stakeholders assess emissions associated with energy use and prioritise opportunities for lower-carbon energy systems.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The project advances space-based environmental monitoring and secure digital infrastructure by integrating satellite observations, data analytics and blockchain technology. Its planned data-processing framework and geospatial visualisation platform will support the development of innovative tools for emissions monitoring, while blockchain integration aims to strengthen data integrity, transparency and traceability.

SDG 13 – Climate Action

The project aims to strengthen the capacity to identify, quantify and track greenhouse gas emissions, supporting evidence-based climate mitigation and carbon reduction strategies. By combining space-based observations with ground-truth verification, it seeks to provide validated emissions data for regulatory monitoring and compliance assessment, with potential future applications in carbon credit verification.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The project brings together expertise from Lingnan University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Baptist University, and the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with support through the Innovation and Technology Commission's Innovation and Technology Support Programme. This cross-institutional collaboration combines capabilities in space technology, environmental monitoring and digital systems to advance climate technology development and support shared sustainable development goals.

Advisory Services for Hong Kong Power Sector's Participation in the Southern China Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) System

Undertaken by Professor LI Jia, Associate Professor at Lingnan University's Wu Jieh Yee School of Interdisciplinary Studies, this advisory project examines how Hong Kong's

power sector could participate in regional carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) infrastructure in Southern China. Scheduled from August 2025 to February 2026, the project focuses on assessing potential CO_2 storage sites in Guangdong, comparing pipeline and shipping options, and developing commercial and cost models. It aims to provide a strategic participation roadmap aligned with CLP's decarbonisation strategy and regional CCUS development timelines.

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

The project supports power sector decarbonisation by exploring how Hong Kong's electricity generation sector could access regional CO_2 transport and storage infrastructure. Its assessment of technical feasibility and costs aims to inform commercially viable approaches to reducing power-sector emissions, contributing to the transition towards lower-carbon electricity generation.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The project supports the planning of cross-border low-carbon infrastructure, including CO_2 pipelines, shipping routes and geological storage facilities. By evaluating infrastructure requirements, storage capacity and commercial arrangements, it aims to inform the development of regional CCUS networks and strengthen the evidence base for sustainable industrial infrastructure investment.

SDG 13 – Climate Action

The project explores potential pathways for large-scale carbon emissions reduction through Hong Kong's participation in regional CCUS hubs. Its technical, regulatory and economic assessments will inform a strategic roadmap for participation between 2025 and 2040, supporting evidence-based climate mitigation planning and alignment with regional decarbonisation efforts.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The project supports cross-border collaboration among CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, Guangdong CCUS stakeholders, China Southern Power Grid, academic and geological experts, and relevant government and regulatory agencies. By examining shared infrastructure, business arrangements and regulatory requirements, it aims to facilitate coordination between Hong Kong and Guangdong in pursuit of shared climate objectives and regional low-carbon development.

Synergies Among Responsible Artificial Intelligence (RAI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Research co-authored by Professor Xin Yao, Vice-President (Research and Innovation) at Lingnan University, and Changwu Huang explores how responsible artificial intelligence (RAI), environmental, social and governance (ESG), and the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) can reinforce one another. Their integration offers opportunities for organisations to enhance societal impact while increasing corporate value and fostering responsible innovation and sustainable business practices.

Through a systematic literature review, the study provides foundational knowledge of RAI, ESG and the SDGs, including their origins, core concepts and main implementation challenges. It then examines the connections and synergies among these frameworks, highlighting opportunities to align AI development, corporate responsibility and sustainable development.

Based on this analysis, the researchers propose an integrated framework that synthesises the relationships among RAI, ESG and the SDGs. The framework demonstrates how these approaches can be mutually reinforcing when implemented cohesively, supporting organisations in incorporating sustainability and social responsibility into technological innovation and business decisions.

The paper also discusses implications for multiple stakeholders while acknowledging implementation challenges and tensions. It emphasises the importance of viewing RAI, ESG and the SDGs as interconnected frameworks rather than separate goals. Through this integrated perspective, organisations can align them collectively within strategic planning and operational practices, promoting more effective and sustainable outcomes while addressing complex societal challenges in the AI era.

The research contributes both theoretical understanding and practical guidance for holistic approaches that harness the transformative potential of AI while ensuring that its development and deployment serve broader sustainability and social responsibility objectives. It supports SDG 9 through responsible technological innovation, with additional relevance to SDG 12 through responsible corporate practices, SDG 16 through accountable governance, and SDG 17 through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder alignment.

C. Huang and X. Yao, "Synergies Among Responsible Artificial Intelligence (RAI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," in *IEEE Computational Intelligence Magazine*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 20-41, Nov. 2025, doi: 10.1109/MCI.2025.3593452.

Advancing Quality Education through AI Innovation and Global University Partnerships

Lingnan University is advancing SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through international collaboration, AI-enabled educational innovation and joint talent development.

On 6–7 November 2026, Prof S. Joe Qin, President and Wai Kee Kau Chair Professor of Data Science, participated in the Beijing Forum and a thematic forum on digital intelligence education. These engagements strengthened dialogue on higher education transformation and expanded opportunities for collaboration between Beijing and Hong Kong.

During the forum, Lingnan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Digital Intelligence International Development Education Alliance (DI-IDEA), initiated by Peking University and comprising more than 30 higher education institutions worldwide. As a founding member, Lingnan contributes to this international knowledge-sharing network exploring innovation in higher education. The partners will explore establishing the "Lingnan-DI-IDEA Joint Centre cum DI-IDEA Asia Pacific Centre" and its potential location in Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis University Town. Proposed collaboration will focus on industry–academia–research partnerships, educational technology development and the practical application of research outcomes.

President Qin also presented perspectives on AI's impact on higher education at a university presidents' roundtable, exchanging insights with local and international leaders on educational value and institutional transformation.

Building on their longstanding partnership, Lingnan and Peking University's Yuanpei College have jointly organised the Lingnan-Yuanpei STEM Summer Academy for three consecutive years since 2024. They are further developing cooperation in STEM education, innovation and entrepreneurship education, and collaborative talent development.

The delegation also visited Beijing Normal University to discuss AI for Education, joint education programmes and cooperation through the Beijing-Hong Kong University Alliance.

Through its "Liberal Arts + Technology" and "AI +" initiatives, Lingnan connects educational innovation with cross-institutional partnerships, knowledge exchange and capacity building, supporting quality education and strengthening collaboration across Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and the wider international higher education community.


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科技变革与多元文明
THE HARMONY OF CIVILIZATIONS AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL


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