ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE 2026

"Beyond Fragmentation: Charting Pathways for Shared Futures".

November 14 (Sat) - 15 (Sun), 2026

PROGRAM

Shape your world

APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

AIRO APU Integrated Research Organization

AP Conference 2026

Keynote Speakers



Day 1

Theme: "Beyond fragmentation: Towards a grand strategy of connectivity"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

DR. MIREYA SOLÍS

Director, Center for Asia Policy Studies, **Philip Knight Chair** in Japan Studies; **Senior Fellow**, Foreign Policy Program, The Brookings Institution

Dr. Solís is an expert on Japanese foreign economic policy, international trade policy, and U.S. economic statecraft in Asia. She has written several books, most recently, "Japan's Quiet Leadership: Reshaping the Indo Pacific (2023), and has provided expert commentary for The New York TImes, CNN, NHK World, and the BBC.

*Japanese interpretation available

Day 2

Theme: "Beyond Borders: How Universities Can Build Shared Futures in a Fragmented World"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

DR. MATTHEW SCHENK



EdD, **President**, American University of Phnom Penh

Dr. Schenk is an educational leader, spending 5 years as the Dean of the International School at Sias University in Zhengzhou, China, before assuming the role of President at AUPP. Dr. Schenk has also founded a Mandarin-immersion program in the U.S. and has taught educational leadership at the graduate level.

*English only

We encourage all students and researchers to join the keynote sessions in J101!

FOR PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to AP Conference 2026! We are delighted to have you join us at our beautiful campus in Beppu. Whether you are a returning participant or are attending the conference for the first time, we hope you enjoy your panels, engage in lively discussion and debate, and connect with researchers from around the world!

[GENERAL]

1. Registration

The registration desk is located on the 1st floor of Building J/Green Commons and will open at **10:00 a.m. on Day 1 and 8:30 a.m on Day 2**. All participants are required to register upon their arrival at the conference. If you have completed registration on the first day, registration on the second day is not necessary.

2. Name Tag

A name tag will be distributed to each presenter/chair/discussant at the registration desk. This will serve as your ID during the conference and you access pass for Social Gathering. Please keep it with you throughout the conference (please note that name tags will not be provided for audience members).

3. Cloakroom

Luggage storage is available at the registration desk. Please note that we cannot hold items overnight, so be sure to collect your belongings by **5:00 p.m.** on Saturday November 14 and **3:00 p.m.** on Sunday November 15. For those attending the dinner reception, please bring your luggage with you to the reception venue.

4. Coffee Break

Designated 30-minute coffee breaks are scheduled on Day 1 (2:50 p.m.-3:25 p.m.) after the keynote speech and Day 2 (10:40 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.) before keynote speech. Coffee/tea/snacks will be provided free of charge. We encourage participants to you use this time to network and get to know eachother!

5. Lunch Arrangements

We will break for lunch at 12:50 p.m-1:50 p.m. Lunch will be available for purchase at the cafeteria, as well as at the Lawson convenience store. See the campus map on the following page for the opening hours.
The cafeteria offers (subject to change):

- Rice, assortment of noodles (ramen, udon, soba), bread, curry, rice bowls
- Main dish, side vegetables
- Salad bar
- Halal options (baked chicken, chicken curry, fish, vegetable dishes, etc.)

6. Social Gathering/Networking Session

The Social Gathering will be held as follows:

- Date and Time: Saturday, November 14th, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Venue: Grand Mercure Hotel, Beppu

Your name card will serve as a entry pass for the Social Gathering. Chair/Discussant/Audience members who wish to attend the Social Gathering are required to pay an additional fee of 6,000 yen (Japanese yen) by credit card (only) at Reception in J-Building before riding the shuttle bus.

7. Shuttle Bus

A shuttle bus will be provided for participants to the Grand Mercure Hotel for the Social Gathering. The bus will depart near the APU bus stop at around 5 p.m. on Saturday November 14 (see campus map for pick-up location). There will also be a shuttle bus at 7:10 p.m. from the Grand Mercure Hotel to Beppu Station (non-stop). We encourage participants to continue networking post-Social Gathering and to enjoy Beppu!

8. Quiet and Relaxation Spaces

The Quiet Space on the 2nd floor of cafeteria can be used for prayer. Please refer to the campus map on the following page for more details.

**Please note that APU students and faculty/staff members who are not participants of the conference may also be using these spaces.*

9. Photo and Video Notice

During the conference, the organizers may take photographs or videos. These may be used in future conference-related promotional materials, on the AP Conference website, on the official website of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, and on the university's social media platforms. If you do not wish to be photographed or filmed, please speak with a staff member wearing an armband.

10. Accidents and Damages

APU and AIRO will not be responsible for personal accidents or damage to the private property of participants. Participants are advised to make their own arrangements for personal insurance.

[PRESENTERS]

1. Presentation Time

Each panel session runs for 100 minutes (1 hour and 40 minutes). For those who applied as *Individual Presenters*, each presenter will have 20 minutes (including Q&A). The remaining time should be allocated to discussion. For those who applied as a *Pre-formed Panel*, time allocation within the session is at the discretion of the panel.

2. Presentation Equipment and File Compatibility

At APU, all computers use Windows software. If you have made your presentation using a Mac, we recommend making a PDF version as well, as some file types may not be supported by Windows PCs. If you plan to use a PowerPoint for your presentation, we recommend bringing your own device and connecting it to our monitors/projectors, etc. using the HDMI cable provided in each room. Presenters will be responsible for ensuring their devices are HDMI compatible.

3. Certificate Issuance

Certificates will be issued upon request. Those who would like to receive a certificate should apply through the Forms (the link below). Any request received after the deadline will not be accepted.

■Application Deadline: Thursday, December 10, 2026
■Formsリンク & QR code：https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/8kkFFnRZsV

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding, and we hope you enjoy the conference.

Campus Map

Cafeteria
(1st floor of Building E)

Quiet/Prayer Space
(2nd floor of Building E)

Lunch
Nov. 14th (Sat): 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Nov 15th (Sun): 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

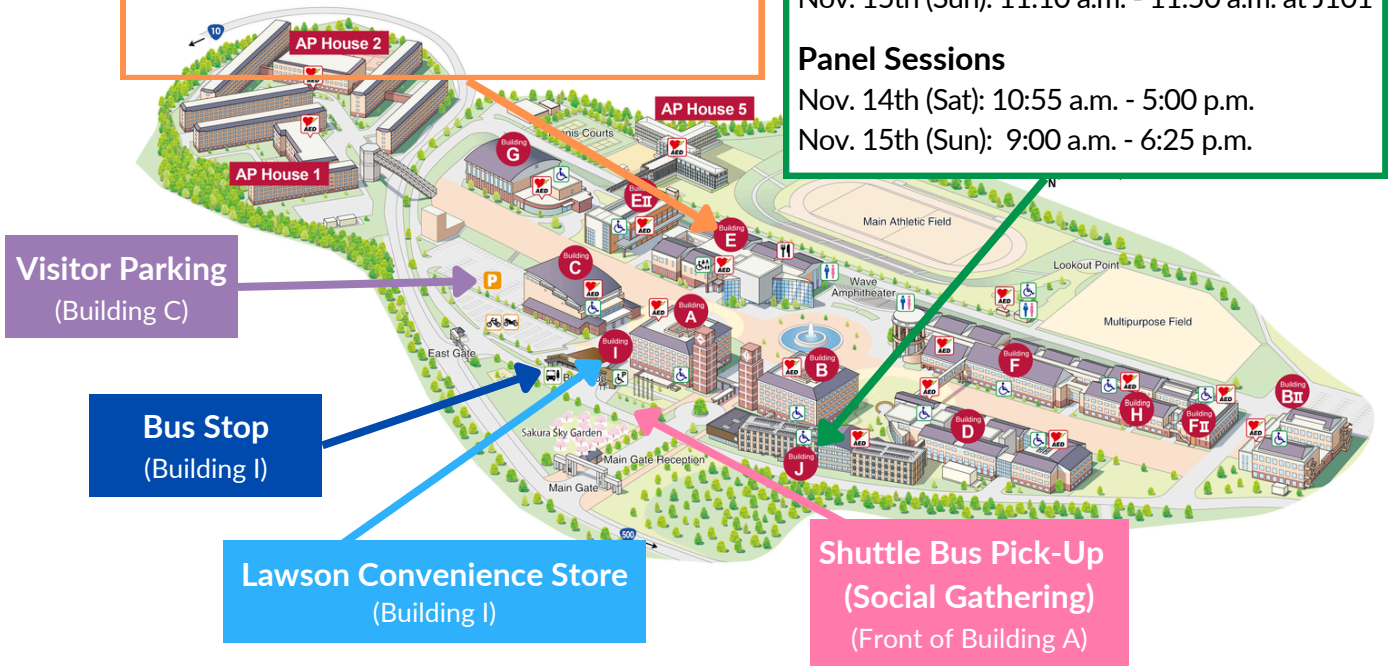
Quiet/Prayer Space
Nov 14th (Sat), 15th (Sun): 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Keynote & Panel Sessions
(Building J/Green Commons)

Registration
Nov. 14th (Sat) & 15th (Sun): Open at 10:00 a.m. (Day 1), 8:30 a.m. (Day 2)

Keynote Speeches
Nov. 14th (Sat): 1:40 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. at J101
Nov. 15th (Sun): 11:10 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. at J101

Panel Sessions
Nov. 14th (Sat): 10:55 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nov. 15th (Sun): 9:00 a.m. - 6:25 p.m.



Bus Timetables

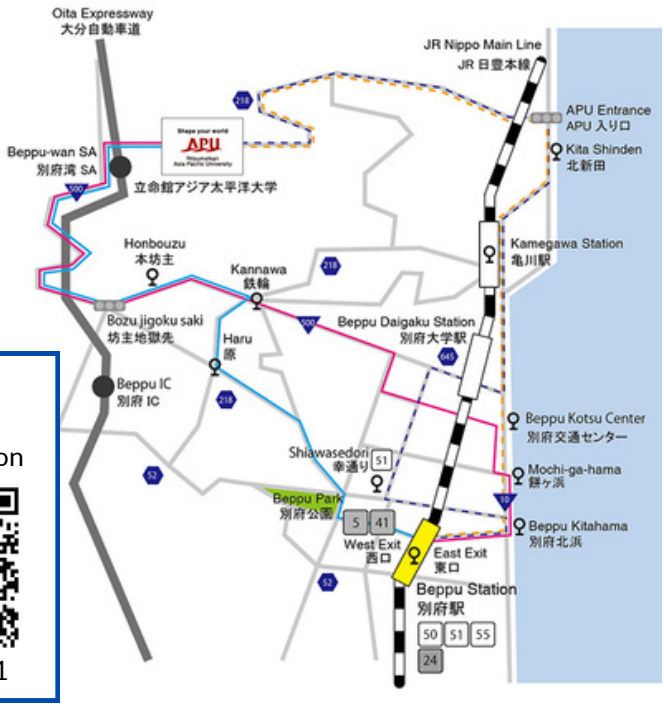
*Please refer to the "No School" timetable.

Oita Kotsu Bus

Beppu Station ↓ APU	APU ↓ Beppu Station

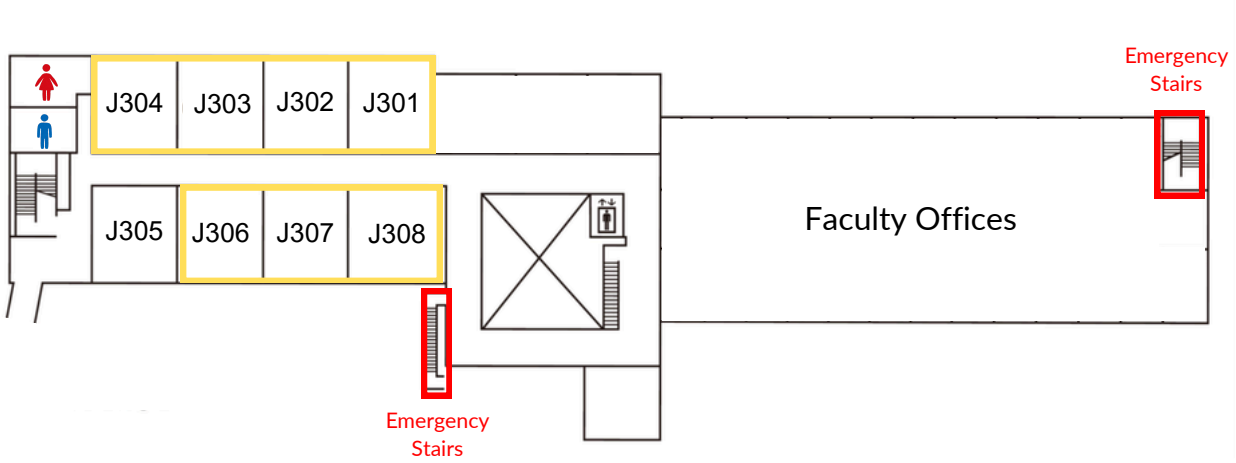
Kamenoi Bus (*Japanese Only)

Beppu Station ↓↑ APU	Beppu Station ↓ APU	APU ↓ Beppu Station
Route 24	Route 5	Route 5, 41

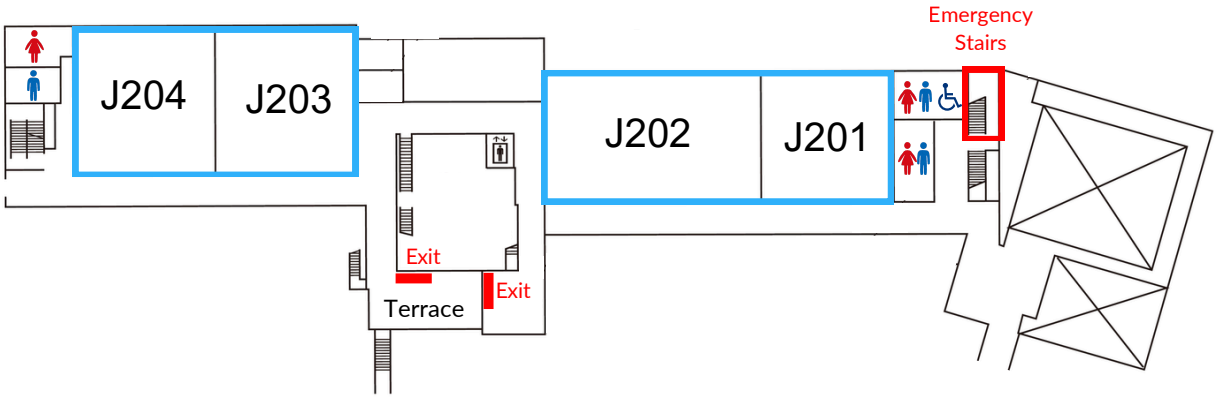


Building J / Green Commons Map

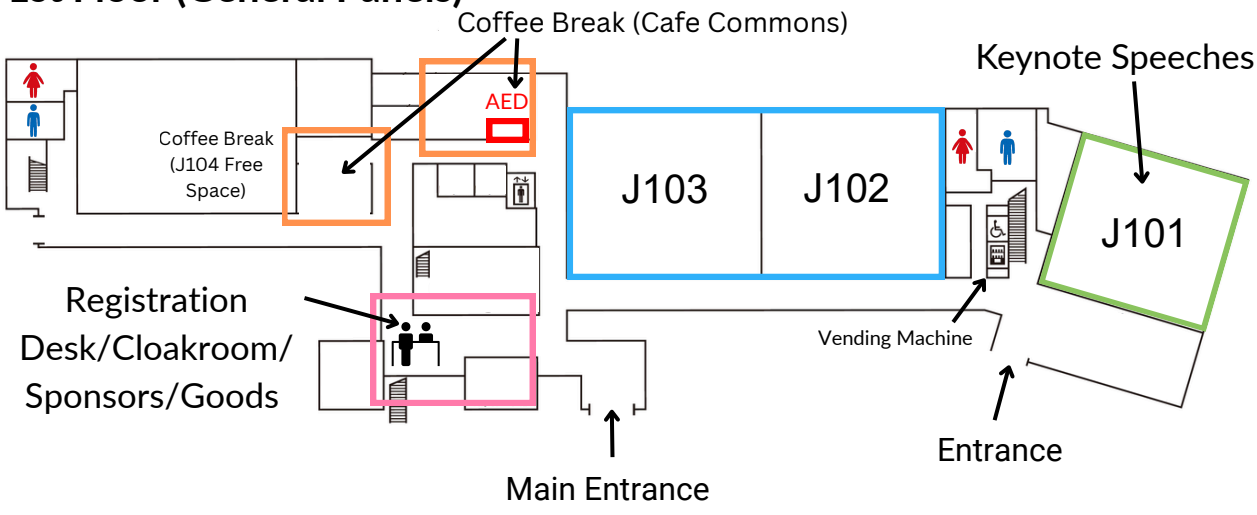
3rd Floor (Student Panels)



2nd Floor (General Panels)



1st Floor (General Panels)



Free APU Wi-Fi Information

Wi-Fi Network	**APU-Webauth**
Password	**webauth.apu.ac.jp**
Web User Authentication	User ID: **apconf00** Password: **APConf00**

How to Connect to the Wi-Fi

1) Please select the Wifi-Network named “APU-Webauth”.

2) You will be prompted to enter a password. Please enter “webauth.apu.ac.jp”.

3) After this, the default browser on your device should open, and you will be prompted to enter the web user authentication.

① For USER ID, please enter “apconf00”.
② For Password, please enter “APConf00”.

4) You should now be connected to the internet!

*Please note that the Wi-Fi capacity for each room is equal to the room capacity.
(i.e. if the room capacity is 20, then 20 devices can connect.)
For this reason, we kindly ask you to only connect to the Wi-Fi from one device.

In the event that you cannot access APU-Webauth, please access the network below.

Wi-Fi Network	**APU-1Xauth**
Web User Authentication	User ID: **visitr** Password: **visitr**

1) Please access the Wifi-Network named “APU-1Xauth”.

2) After this, the default browser on your device should open, and you will be prompted to enter the web user authentication.

① For USER ID, please enter “visitr”.
② For Password, please enter “visitr”.

3) You should now be connected to the internet!

Welcome to APU!

About APU

Founded in 2000, APU is one of the most international universities in Japan, welcoming students from 170 countries since it's opening. Offering a unique, multicultural learning environment in Beppu, students at APU can study at one of the 3 colleges: the College of Asia Pacific Studies, the College of International Management, or the College of Sustainability and Tourism in either English or Japanese. According to the QS World University Rankings, APU ranked #2 Among Private Universities in Western Japan, and #1 in Japan for International Students Ratio and International Faculty Ratio.

About AIRO

In April 2026, the APU Integrated Research Organization (AIRO), was established! Under the Integrated Research Organization, APU hosts numerous research hubs and centers where groups of faculty members, both at APU and beyond, can autonomously define specific research objectives and collaborate on research projects. AIRO seeks to enhance the development and advancement of research at APU, and through the hubs and centers, seeks to establish uniquely defined research areas at the university.

From April 2026, the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Integrated Research Organization (AIRO) now overseees the organization of the conference, assuming the role previously carried out by the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS).

AIRO
APU Integrated Research Organization

The AIRO logo was based off of the APU logo, utilizing the "hot spring" or "onsen" mark imagery synonymous with Beppu.

A design inspired by a lighthouse, representing the 'A' in AIRO; serving as a landmark and guidepost (support) for research.

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Research at APU

In addition to AP Conference, APU also produces "Research Seeds," a physical and online magazine that showcases recently completed or ongoing projects being conducted by APU faculty. The aim of Research Seeds is to disseminate research activities at APU with the general public and broader research community. Two volumes of Research Seeds are currently available in English and Japanese: *APU Research Seeds for Social Impact*, and *APU Research Seeds for Sustainable Development*. For more information, use the QR codes below!

ENG 日本語

We warmly welcome you to APU and thank you for participating in AP Conference 2026! While you are here in Beppu, we encourage you discover all that Beppu has to offer. For more information, see the next page!

Welcome to Beppu!

About Beppu

Located in Oita Prefecture in Kyushu, Japan, facing the Beppu Bay with a backdrop of the Aso-Kuju Mountains, Beppu is a beloved hot spring destination in Japan and around the world, boasting over 2,000 hot spring sources around the city!

Hot springs or “Onsen”

There are 8 major hot spring areas in Beppu, called the “Beppu Hatto”.
Each with their own unique characteristics, “hot spring tours” are popular among tourists visiting Beppu!

Beppu is also home to the 7 Hells, where participating in the “Jigoku Meguri” or “Tour of the Hells” comes highly recommended!

Other Attractions

- Beppu Park
- Beppu Tower
- Beppu Station Market
- Beppu Ropeway
- Umitamago
- Takasakiyama (for wild monkeys!)
- Day trips (Yufuin, Oita City)
- And many more!



Famous foods

Beppu is famous for a number of foods, namely:

- Hot spring steamed food (“jigokumushi”),
- Beppu Reimen (cold noodles),
- Toriten (tempura fried chicken),
- Hot spring eggs, and so much more!

We encourage you to try the local cuisine while you’re here!



Transportation:

- Oita Kotsu Bus (to and from APU)
- Kamenoi Bus (to and from APU)
  - 1-Day Mini Free Pass (Beppu City)
  - 1-Day Mini Free Pass (Yufuin)
  - https://kamenoibus.book.ntmg.com/?lng=en-US

For more information about Beppu and other nearby destinations, please refer the links provided below.

Beppu Tourism Website (EN)

Beppu Tourist Information Center (EN)

We hope you enjoy your stay in Beppu!

Sponsoring Organizations

Shape your world
Ritsumeikan
Asia Pacific University

JTB Corp.

NECO New Environment Cooperation

極東書店 Far Eastern Booksellers

Post-Conference Survey

Thank you for your involvement in the AP Conference 2026.

We appreciate your feedback!