



Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026

Have You Got What it Takes to be an Event Manager?

Competition Date and time

13 November 2026; Philippines time zone

Format

100% Online – Live International Event Management Competition

Eligibility

Undergraduate students from universities, polytechnics, and colleges worldwide

Maximum Team Size

4 students per team

Language

English

Welcome

Welcome to the **Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026**, an exciting international competition designed to test and develop the skills required to succeed in the global events industry.

This competition provides undergraduate students with a unique opportunity to experience the realities of event management by working through authentic event planning and event delivery scenarios. Participants will compete against teams from around the world while developing valuable employability skills sought by employers across the international events sector.

The competition combines the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Intelligence (HI)**, strategic planning, critical thinking, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making under pressure.

If you aspire to become an event manager, this challenge will provide an opportunity to demonstrate your talent on an international stage.



Organising Partners

The Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026 is jointly organised by:

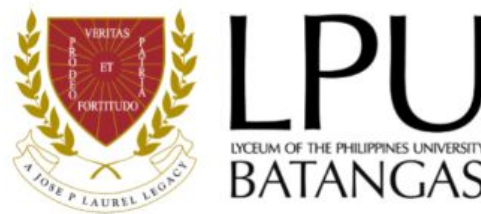
Asia Pacific Institute for
Events Management

United Kingdom



Lyceum of the Philippines
University - Batangas

Philippines



Evenesis Event
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Malaysia



Headline Sponsor

Claro Vista International Internships

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Competition Purpose

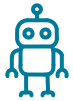
The Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026 has been created to:



Enhance employability skills for future event professionals.



Develop participants' understanding of international event management practices.



Build confidence in the use of AI technologies within event planning.



Strengthen teamwork, leadership, communication, and decision-making skills.



Simulate real-world event management scenarios.



Connect students from different countries through a shared learning experience.

Who Can Participate?

The competition is open to Undergraduate:

University students

Polytechnic students

College students

Global Participation

Students from any country may enter.

Team Composition

- Maximum of **4 participants per team**
- Teams may contain fewer than 4 participants
- There is **no limit** on the number of teams that can enter from the same institution



Competition Format

The Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026 is a **live, online, competition**, that takes place in **real time** on **13 November 2026**. **The prize winners will be announced by 27 November 2026**.

The competition consists of **two major stages**:



Stage 1: Event Planning Challenge

Morning Session



Stage 2: Live Event Management Challenge

Afternoon Session



Stage 1: Event Planning Challenge (Morning Session)

At the start of the competition, participating teams will be provided with a [client event brief](#).

Teams will use [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) tools and their own professional judgement to create a comprehensive event plan.

Your Event Plan Must Include

1	Event Business Plan Event mission, event objectives, target audience, marketing communication strategy, financial budget, event sustainability strategy
2	Critical Path needed to Enable the Event to be Staged Event action plan timeline
3	Event Venue Selection Venue suitability, capacity requirements, accessibility considerations
4	Legal Contracts and Compliance Key contracts with event stakeholders, key clauses within the contracts
5	Event Concept, Design and Programme Flow Creative event concept, theme and branding, attendee experience design, programme schedule
6	Use of Technology Event technology to be used before, during, and after the event; participant engagement tools; AI applications
7	Accessibility and Inclusivity Accessible, inclusive, welcoming to diverse audiences, aligned with best practice event management standards

Submission Format

Teams may submit their work using one of the following:

Microsoft PowerPoint

Canva

Google Slides

Keynote

Other presentation software

Submission Method

Completed presentations must be uploaded to the designated Google Drive folder before the submission deadline.



Stage 2: Live Event Management Challenge (Afternoon Session)

During the afternoon session, teams will move from planning into event delivery.

Participants will assume the role of an **Event Management Team** responsible for managing a live event.

Real-Time Operational Challenges

Teams will receive **10 unexpected event management challenges** that occur during the staging of the event.

Examples may include:

- Speaker cancellations
- Technology failures
- Weather disruptions
- Security incidents
- VIP requests
- Sponsor issues
- Crowd management concerns
- Accessibility challenges
- Budget problems
- Staffing shortages

Human Intelligence Required

While AI may support planning activities in Stage 1, the operational challenges in Stage 2 are designed to assess **HI**:

- Human judgement
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Professional communication

Time-Limited Responses

Each challenge:

- Will be released in real time
- Must be answered within a specified time period
- Must be submitted before the deadline

Submission Method

Responses will be uploaded to the designated **Google Drive folder**.

Late submissions may receive penalties or may not be accepted.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be assessed by an international judging panel drawn from academia and industry.

The judging process will evaluate:

Event Planning Stage

- Developing an event plan aligned to the event brief
- Quality of event business plan and critical path
- Venue suitability
- Legal contracts
- Event design
- Technology integration
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Professional presentation
- Creativity and innovation
- Use of AI

Live Event Management Stage

- Quality of decisions
- Practicality of solutions
- Professional judgement
- Communication effectiveness

A detailed marking rubric will be provided before the competition.

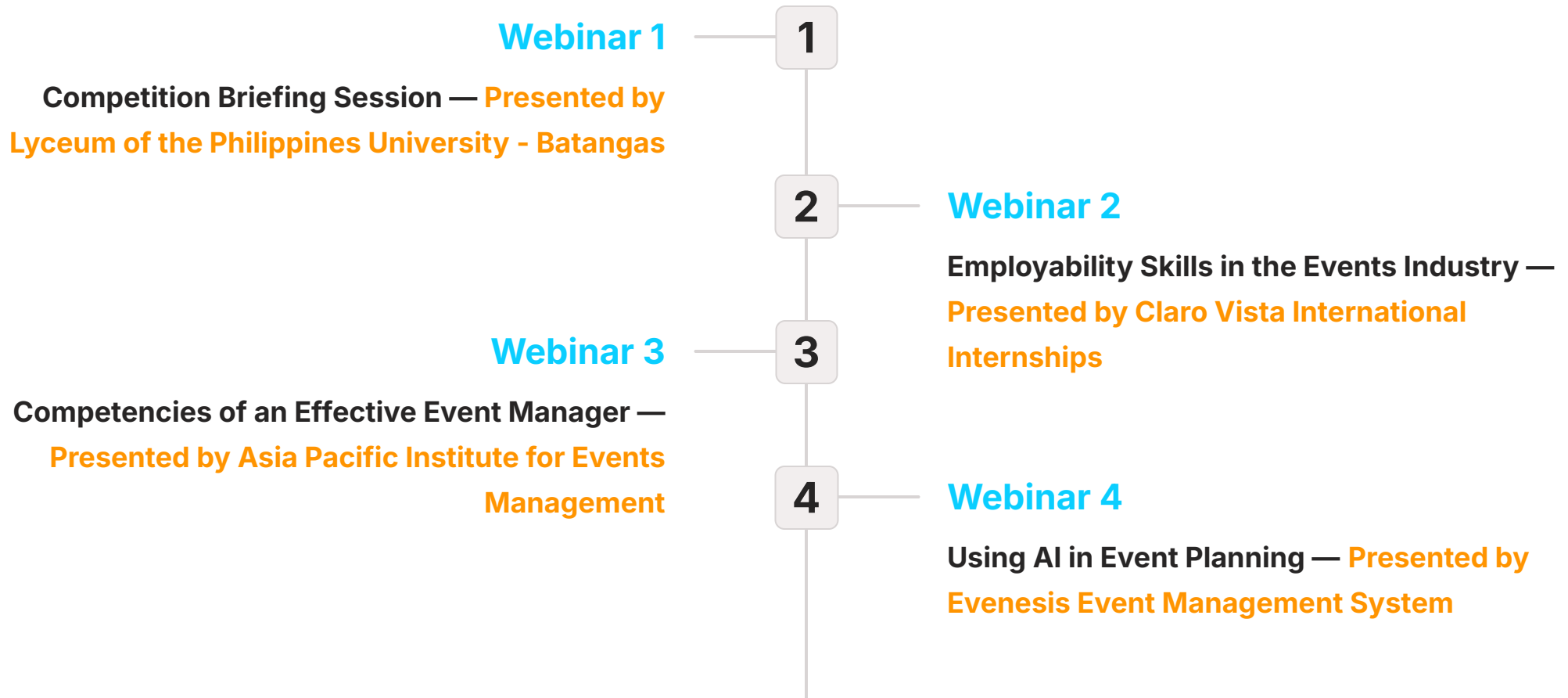
The prize winners will be announced by 27 November 2026.



Competition Schedule

Before Competition Day

Participants will be invited to attend four preparation webinars.



Webinar 1: Competition Briefing Session

Presented by:

Lyceum of the Philippines University - Batangas

Topics may include:

Competition structure

Rules and regulations

Submission procedures

Judging process

Webinar 2: Employability Skills in the Events Industry

Presented by:

Claro Vista International Internships

Topics may include:

Career readiness

International opportunities

Professional expectations

Industry employability skills

Webinar 3: Competencies of an Effective Event Manager

Presented by:

Asia Pacific Institute for Events Management

Topics may include:

Leadership

Teamwork

Planning skills

Event management competencies

Webinar 4: Using AI in Event Planning

Presented by:

Evenesis Event Management System

Topics may include:

AI applications in events

Prompt engineering

Planning efficiencies

Ethical AI usage

Registration is Free of Charge

Scan the QR Code to Register your Teams.

There is no limit on how many teams per institution can enter.

Be proud to represent your country at the 1st Global Event Leaders Challenge.

For full GELC details visit:
www.apiem-ems.com/gelc



Technical Requirements

All teams should ensure they have:



Reliable internet connection



Computer or laptop



Access to presentation software



Ability to upload files to Google Drive



Access to email throughout the competition



Access to online meeting platforms used by the organisers

Teams are responsible for ensuring their own technical readiness. **All teams will need to keep their device cameras switched on throughout the competition to enable the judging panel to observe each team at work.**

Competition Terms and Conditions

By registering for the Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026, participants agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. Original Work and Academic Integrity

All submissions must be the original work of the participating team. AI software can be used for Challenge One, the Event Planning Stage, but cannot be used for Challenge Two, the Live Event Management Stage.

Submissions must not contain:

- Plagiarised content
- Copied work
- Unauthorised use of another person's ideas
- Any form of academic dishonesty
- The ideas of faculty lecturers or event professionals

Any team found engaging in plagiarism, copying, cheating, or misconduct will:

- Be immediately disqualified from the competition
- Forfeit eligibility for prizes
- Not receive a refund of entry fees

2. Communication with Organisers

The primary method of communication between participants and organisers will be email:

globaleventleaderschallenge@gmail.com

Messages sent through social media channels will not normally receive a response and should not be used for official communication.

3. Language Requirement

All submissions must be completed in English.

English is the official language of the competition.

4. Judging Decisions

All submissions will be assessed using the published marking criteria.

The decision of the judging panel is final and binding.

No appeals or challenges to judging decisions will be accepted.

5. Feedback

No detailed, structured, or individual feedback will be provided on submissions.

6.. Competition Administration

The organisers reserve the right to make reasonable adjustments to scheduling, operational arrangements, or competition procedures if required.

Participants will be informed of any significant changes.

7. Certificates

All participants who successfully complete the competition will receive an electronic Certificate of Participation.

8. Minimum Participation Requirement

A minimum of 20 teams is required for the competition to proceed.

If this minimum number is not reached:

- The competition may be cancelled.
- All entry fees received will be refunded in full.

13. Cancellation

If the competition has to be cancelled on 13th November 2026 for any reason (other than specified in Clause 12), which might include unforeseen factors, such as Force Majeure, the competition date will be re-scheduled to a date which is as soon as possible, after the 13th November.

Final Message

The Global Event Leaders Challenge 2026 is more than a competition—it is an opportunity to experience the realities of international event management, demonstrate your abilities to industry professionals, develop career-enhancing skills, and participate with students from around the world.

We look forward to seeing whether you have what it takes to become a successful event manager.



KEEP IN TOUCH



Email us at

globaleventleaderschallenge@gmail.com



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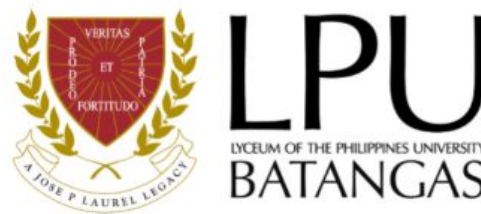
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