



## YOUNG EXECUTIVE AWARD 2026

### PROGRAMME DETAILS

### Background and Objectives

Introduced in 2009, the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Young Executive Award (YEA) is an annual research paper competition which encourages young talents in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East to contribute innovative solutions for current aviation industry issues.

### Topic of Young Executive Award 2026

“Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Transformation in the Airport Industry”.

The airport industry plays a crucial role in global connectivity, but it faces significant sustainability challenges that extend beyond reducing carbon emissions. Sustainable transformation in airports involves a shift towards eco-friendly practices, encompassing energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, sustainable materials, and operational optimization, as well as social and governance responsibilities.

For this next Young Executive award competition, candidates are invited to explore innovative strategies for sustainable transformation within this sector, highlighting the importance of resource management, community engagement, and governance responsibility.

For this next Young Executive award competition, candidates are invited to use to refer to the below guidelines in their submissions:

- Overview of the airport industry's role in global connectivity and its sustainability challenges;
- Importance of adopting innovative practices beyond carbon reduction, while achieving environmental, social and economic development;
- How airports should equip its business and operations with capabilities to enhance overall sustainability targets;
- What role should airport operators play in adopting sustainability strategies alongside other airport stakeholders;
- Future Prospects on Sustainability Transformation

### Eligibility

Each ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East airport member in good standing is entitled to nominate **ONE** candidate for this competition. Each entry must be accompanied by the completed Application Form, also signed by the CEO or ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Official Representative of the airport supporting the candidate's nomination. All candidates shall be at or under the age of 35 at the deadline of submission. They should be currently serving in a middle management position at any ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East airport member and have a minimum of two years of working experience in the aviation field.

### Submission Guidelines

All papers must be written in English and shall contain no more than 5,000 words of A4-sized paper, using Arial font, size 11 and 1.5 line spacing. All papers must include an Executive

Summary and references. Graphical illustrations such as tables, graphs and images are permitted. Papers must be submitted digitally in Microsoft Word and PDF format.

The compulsory Executive Summary shall be an overview of the research paper and include pertinent analysis of identified risks, drawn conclusions, and recommended course of actions in a complete manner. The Executive Summary should ideally be no more than 2 pages.

Tables, diagrams (including associated legends), appendices, references, footnotes and endnotes, the bibliography and any bound published material are excluded from the word count.

## Submission Deadline

Each candidate must send his/her paper together with the completed Young Executive Award 2026 Application Form and supporting documents to [young\\_executive@aci-asiapac.aero](mailto:young_executive@aci-asiapac.aero) on or before **Friday 26 December 2025 12:00 noon Hong Kong Time (GMT+8)**.

## Costs

There are no entry fees to enter the programme.

## Assessment Criteria

Candidate submission shall be assessed based on insightful and structural analysis with detailed observations and thorough research on the topic. The candidate shall also demonstrate creativity and innovation to possible solutions, apply the concept at airports in general and show vision towards the future aviation industry. The paper submission will also be assessed based on overall paper structure and clarity in language articulation.

## The Winner

The Winner of the Young Executive Award will be decided by a panel of judges comprised of relevant industry representatives. The winner will be awarded a scholarship to Airport Operations Diploma programme (online self-study).

The winning Young Executive will be announced at the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Regional Assembly, tentatively scheduled for May 2026. The winner will also be featured in ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East's publications and social channels.

ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East reserves the right to award Honorable Mentions.

## Contact Us

For further information, please visit our website at [www.aci-asiapac.aero](http://www.aci-asiapac.aero) or email [young\\_executive@aci-asiapac.aero](mailto:young_executive@aci-asiapac.aero).