



YOUNG EXECUTIVE AWARD 2027

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 2027

Theme: Leading Airports Through Industry Disruption

From sudden and prolonged airspace closures to rapidly evolving security and operational risks, the industry requires resilient and adaptive leadership to navigate ongoing disruption and longer-term fundamental changes.

Explore how airport leaders can effectively respond to sudden disruption and fundamental industry changes —such as technological advancement, evolving passenger expectations, sustainability pressures, and global uncertainties—while maintaining operational excellence and aligning their workforce for future success.

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

- Operational Excellence in Disruption: Strategies to maintain efficiency, safety, and service quality during periods of volatility and change.
- Regional Perspectives: Insights specific to the Asia-Pacific and Middle East aviation landscape, including infrastructure growth and policy environments.
- Workforce Alignment and Leadership: Airports' role and approach in workforce readiness in adaptation to disruptions.

Candidates should present practical insights, supported by case studies, personal experience, or forward-looking strategies. Original thinking and applicability to real-world airport management will be key evaluation criteria.

Eligibility

Each ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East airport member in good standing is entitled to nominate candidate(s) for this competition. Each entry must be accompanied by the completed Application Form, also signed by the CEO/ Official Representative of the Airport's membership supporting the candidate's nomination. All candidates shall be at or under the age of 40 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 2,000 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.

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 2027 Application Form and supporting documents to young_executive@aci-asiapac.aero on or before **Friday 18 December 2026 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, scheduled on the 11-13 May 2027, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The winner will also be featured in ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East's publications and social channels.

The winner is required to be a full-time employee of the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East member at the time of receiving the award. 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 or email young_executive@aci-asiapac.aero.