



**Singapore Management University to Host
2025 Reach Alliance Conference, November 18–21, 2025**

*Celebrating 10 Years of Global Impact Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals
and Building on a Transformational Fundraising Campaign*

TORONTO, October 6, 2025 — The Reach Alliance, in collaboration with the Singapore Management University (SMU), will co-present the 2025 Reach Conference from November 18–21 in Singapore, the first time the global convening is held in Asia. The conference theme, *Reach for Impact: 10 years of Global Research, Local Solutions, Lasting Change* sets the stage for bold conversations, breakthrough ideas, and real-world action that bridges global expertise with community-driven outcomes.

The annual conference will bring together public, private and third sector leaders, as well as trailblazing researchers from around the world to spotlight data-driven, field-based solutions that address the world’s toughest climate, public health and economic challenges.

“The Reach Conference has always been a space to amplify the voices and insights of those who go where others don’t — researchers and communities tackling last-mile issues head-on,” said **Joseph Wong**, Founder of the Reach Alliance, Professor and Vice-President, International at the University of Toronto. “Bringing this event to Singapore reflects the global importance of Asia and is both a reflection of the Alliance’s expanding global network and a testament to UofT’s strategic partnership with SMU.”

“On the occasion of our Silver Jubilee this year, SMU is honoured to co-host the 2025 Reach Conference alongside the University of Toronto,” said **Professor Lily Kong, President, Singapore Management University**. “Asia’s influence on international affairs and the global economy is clear. The region – home to 60% of the world’s population – is a hotbed of innovation and opportunity, but also one that faces myriad challenges to its sustainable development and growth. This duality requires a new breed of changemakers who can leverage Asia’s potential to bring positive change to society, especially for the communities who need it the most.”

As a co-organising university, SMU will contribute its expertise in interdisciplinary research, student-led inquiry, and policy-relevant work. The University’s **College of Integrative Studies, College of**



Graduate Research Studies, Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the Lien Centre for Social Innovation are among key units shaping research and community collaboration across ASEAN and beyond.

SMU will also showcase its own contribution to the Reach Alliance research portfolio, including a **Singapore-led project on using conversational AI to improve financial literacy among migrant workers**, part of a broader effort to ensure inclusive digital access for underrepresented groups.

“This collaboration reflects SMU’s growing role as a convenor and catalyst for Asia-focused research with global resonance,” said **Andrew Koh, Senior Lecturer, SMU College of Integrative Studies**, who is mentoring the SMU student team working on the research case study. “Our work underscores the power of interdisciplinary teams, grounded in local contexts, to drive scalable, people-centred solutions.”

The conference will feature new actionable insights from research conducted in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, India, Mexico, Nepal, Singapore, United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as first-hand accounts from field researchers and local community collaborators who have worked in complex, underserved contexts.

“Now, more than ever, universities must drive actionable research that is grounded in local insights and expertise,” said Marin MacLeod, the Executive Director of the Reach Alliance. “The world is off track when it comes to achieving the SDGs and rigorous, interdisciplinary research is needed to inform policymakers and practitioners as we work together to solve urgent local challenges with communities being left behind.”

New Reach Alliance research being launched:

1. Access to Justice for Women in Brazil: The Role of Paralegals **(Brazil)**
2. Assessing the Impact of Mexico’s Welfare Bank: Reaching the Hardest to Reach Populations **(Mexico)**
3. Blockchain for Social Impact: Empowering Vulnerable Communities Against Climate Shocks in Nepal **(Nepal)**
4. Building Ethical Practices and Community Involvement in Deep Sea Mining: A Human Rights Based Approach for Sustainable Development **(Mexico)**
5. Community-Led Teacher Induction in Kowanyama: The Kowie Card Initiative **(Australia)**
6. Cultural Barriers within Banking Entities: Financial Inclusion of Refugees in Mexico **(Mexico)**
7. El Agua Viva: A Hydrosocial Reading of the FestiBarrio **(Mexico)**
8. Exploring the Impact of Biodigesters in San Juan de Abajo, Mexico **(Mexico)**

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9. From Glucose Management to Heart Health: The Role of Technology in Diabetes Care and Curbing Cardiovascular Disease **(Ghana)**
10. Good Eye Health Through Responsible Data Sharing **(United Kingdom)**
11. How can we Utilise Conversational A.I. to Enhance Financial Literacy for Migrant Workers in Singapore? **(Singapore)**
12. Intersection of Technology and Trauma: Overcoming Barriers to Digital PTSD Treatment for Refugees in Canada **(Canada)**
13. Improving Black Maternal Health: A Holistic Approach in the U.S. and Ghana **(United States/Ghana)**
14. Reaching Marginalized Women in Peri-Urban India for Gender-Inclusive Climate Action **(India/United Kingdom)**
15. Searching for a Solution to Contain the Increasingly Dangerous Dengue Fever **(Mexico)**
16. The New Mexican Dream: Accessibility to Financial Instruments **(Mexico)**

The Reach Alliance remains steadfast in its mission to ensure no one is left behind in an increasingly connected world. Despite global progress, millions still face exclusion due to inequality, isolation, and systemic barriers. To address these urgent challenges, the Reach Alliance has launched a bold campaign to raise \$10 million over the next three years. This funding will accelerate impact across four key areas: driving action and innovation, cultivating global talent, supporting community partners to scale, and growing the global network.

As the Reach Alliance grows its footprint in Asia, SMU will play a key role in advancing regional and international research collaborations and enabling more student researchers to shape policy, inform practice, and drive inclusive innovation globally.

For more information on the 2025 Reach Conference please visit
<https://reachalliance.org/event/2025-reach-conference-singapore/>

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About the Reach Alliance

The Reach Alliance is a consortium of global universities – with partners in Ghana, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and Singapore – developing the leaders we need to solve urgent local challenges of the hard to reach – those under-served for geographic, administrative, or social reasons. It was created in 2015 by the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, in partnership with the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. For more information, visit <https://reachalliance.org/>.



About Singapore Management University (SMU)

Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is a premier Asian university internationally recognized for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. SMU offers a broad-based, interactive, and project-based education to over 13,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs. Its eight schools span disciplines including business, law, computing, economics, social sciences, and integrative studies. SMU emphasizes high-impact, interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian and global challenges. Located in downtown Singapore, its city campus enables strong ties with industry, government, and the community. Celebrating 25 years of impact, SMU remains committed to innovation, boundary-breaking research, and transforming lives. Learn more at www.smu.edu.sg.

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