



**YOUNG INVENTORS CHALLENGE (YIC) 2026**

**Terms & Conditions**

*By,  
Association of Science, Technology and Innovation*

## General Rules

1. Young Inventors Challenge (YIC) is open to Malaysian and International public and private secondary school students, and special need cases such as refugees. Young Inventors Challenge is open to participants aged 13 – 17 years old. YIC is an educational programme. Our focus is on the development of the participant's skills through the journey of participation. You may contact the organiser if you have queries.
2. Young Inventors Challenge is conducted fully in English.
3. By participating in Young Inventors Challenge your team will **automatically accept these terms and conditions**.
4. The format of the proposal submission and invention produced **must** follow the guidelines provided by ASTI.
5. YIC is a team-based programme. You may represent your school or you may set up your own team. It is not compulsory for all your team members to be from the same school.
6. Participating teams have to be made up of 2 – 5 students per team.
7. Participation is free. However, you are responsible for the cost (if any) of creating your Young Inventors Challenge entry, as well as all other costs associated with participation in the challenge, such as your invention, transportation, logistics, meals etc.
8. Teams selected **will be** required to participate in all the Online Trainings and the tentative dates will be made available on the YIC webpage.
9. Awards will be as per advertised. Testimonial will be provided for all the team that submitted Invention Proposal and Certificate of participation will be given to all participants that has been shortlisted and completed the journey of YIC at a satisfactory level, determined by the judges.
10. You own the Intellectual Property to your Competition entry as its inventor but ASTI reserves the right to disclose your entry in its publications, broadcasts, productions, educational and marketing materials.
11. Be mindful of Intellectual Property infringements at all times.
12. ASTI reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions in the interest of fair play, inclusivity, and appeal from participants/stakeholders etc. The participants will be informed if there are any such changes.
13. A total of 2 mentor(s) can be appointed by the participating team and can be anyone of any age. Usually mentors are teachers, but it can be anyone else you deem fit. YIC will acknowledge the mentor(s) with a certificate.
14. The teams are strictly not allowed to use the same invention that has been submitted for any other competitions or the same inventions that was submitted for YIC in previous years. The YIC committee reserves the right to disqualify your team if we find out the team has submitted the same invention at any stage of the competition. This is to ensure students will experience the full inventive cycle by participating in YIC.
15. Schools are encouraged to select new students or first-time entries to participate in YIC. This is to encourage more students to get an exposure to programmes such as the YIC.

### **Picking the Best Entries**

1. A panel of independent judges will determine the winners.
2. When choosing the best entries, the judges will be looking for entrants who are clearly on top of their subject, who can explain what is important in a very short time, who can deliver with verve and passion, and who leave the judge wanting to learn more about the invention. Remember that YIC is a programme to develop inventors.
3. **YIC** judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entertained. Safety is a priority in all cases. Please keep safe during the course of YIC. Please also respect intellectual property of other people when producing your invention.

### **Some Other Rules and Advice**

1. The organizers accept no responsibility for any damage, loss, liabilities, injury or disappointment incurred or suffered by you as a result of participating in YIC.
2. The organizer reserves the right at any time and from time to time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, this YIC with or without prior notice due to reasons outside their control (including, without limitation, in the case of anticipated, suspected or actual fraud). The decision of the organizers in all matters under its control is final and binding.
3. ASTI is not responsible for any copyright infringement or other Intellectual Property offenses arising from your misuse of copyrighted or protected material, and ASTI will be fully indemnified under all circumstances.
4. We take no responsibility for entries that are lost, delayed, misdirected or incomplete or cannot be delivered or entered for any technical or other reason. Proof of delivery of the entry is not proof of receipt. You may contact the organiser to check if your entry was received.
5. Safety is paramount. Do all things safely. Feel free to contact the organiser if you have any queries.

## AI/Tech Usage Policy

### Why:

The Young Inventors Challenge encourages innovation and responsible use of technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), in developing inventions/innovation/proposal & reports. This policy ensures transparency, fairness, and integrity in the challenge.

**All participants must declare any use of AI tools** (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Bard, Microsoft Copilot, AI-driven research or design tools) in preparing their inventions/innovation/proposal & report. The declaration should include:

- The specific AI tools used.
- The purpose of AI assistance (e.g., research, writing, data analysis, design).
- The extent of AI-generated content versus human input.

**This declaration must be included in an appendix of the proposal/report.**

### How to Declare in the written BP:

*“We used ChatGPT/Gemini/DeepSeek to research ABC, EFG & XYZ. We also used Grammarly for our spelling and grammar.”*

Do's	Don'ts	Consequences
AI may be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Idea brainstorming and refinement.</li><li>• Data analysis and visualization.</li><li>• Research and forecasting.</li><li>• Improving grammar and readability.</li></ul>	AI must <b>not</b> be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fabricate data, proposal/reports, or invention/innovation ideas.</li><li>• Plagiarize or directly copy AI-generated content without modification.</li><li>• Generate entire proposal / report without human involvement.</li></ul>	Failure to declare AI usage or misuse of AI tools may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deduction of points.</li><li>• Disqualification from the challenge.</li><li>• Other penalties as deemed appropriate by the YIC organizing committee.</li></ul>

\*ASTI uses a software when needed to detect plagiarism or AI generated content.

**“The organizer hopes the participants will use YIC to develop his/her skills to be an inventor”**

Updated on : 10 March 2026