



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Call for Applications:
5th Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation Seeks Creative Innovations to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Older People

TOKYO, JAKARTA, February 2, 2026—The Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation (HAPI) is now accepting applications for the 2026 prize.

This award program was established in 2020 by the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), under the auspices of the Government of Japan's Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN).

Now in its fifth round, HAPI is an international award that recognizes and amplifies initiatives from ASEAN + 3 countries (Japan, China, and South Korea) that contribute to the achievement of healthy longevity and the improvement of elder care in the region. This year, the awards will be given in three new categories: **(1) Care & Wellbeing, (2) Social Engagement; and (3) Supportive Environments.**

This award is given to innovative programs, services, products, policies, and other initiatives that address the wide array of challenges facing aging populations. We are looking to recognize the creative work of local governments, civic groups, businesses, educational and research institutions, and others that offer good examples that can be introduced to other Asian countries.

Since its inception, HAPI has recognized 35 winners from 10 countries and regions across Asia Pacific. Prize winners have presented their work at international meetings and forums, have been featured in major media outlets such as NHK (Japan), Nation TV (Thailand), and the Economist, and have had their case studies featured in reports from international organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).



HEALTHY AGING PRIZE *for Asian* INNOVATION

About the Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation (HAPI)

Application period: February 2–May 15, 2026

The process begins with a short application form, to be submitted by May 15, 2026. The selection committee will invite promising applicants to submit a more detailed application for consideration. From those, up to 10 finalists will be selected and interviewed by the committee.

Eligibility criteria: Applications should be for innovative policies, programs, services, or products that address the challenges facing aging societies, help extend healthy and meaningful lives, or improve the provision of care to older adults.

Applicants must be based in an ASEAN member country, China, (including Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan), Japan, or South Korea. In addition to English and Japanese, applicants have the option of submitting their applications in their country's national language.

Applicants can be nonprofit organizations, research institutions, local governments, private businesses, public-private partnerships, etc.

Areas of interest: Applications should fall within one of the three following categories:

(1) Care & Wellbeing—*Innovations that support caregivers, as well as health and welfare service providers, to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of older people.*

(2) Social Engagement—*Innovations that keep older people engaged in their communities and that connect generations.*

(3) Supportive Environments—*Innovations that make homes, neighborhoods, and transportation more accessible and age-friendly.*

About the prize: Winners are selected by an International Advisory Committee, comprising esteemed experts from seven Southeast and Northeast Asian nations.

One Grand Prize is selected in each category and additional winners will be selected as well. The Grand Prize winners receive a trophy. All winners receive a commemorative certificate, and their innovations will be featured prominently on the AHWIN website (www.ahwin.org).

The Grand Prize winner in each category will be invited to attend an award ceremony and participate in a study tour and other events. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered for one representative of the awardee organization.

Further information on the award and how to apply is available at www.ahwin.org/award or by contacting the secretariat at hapi@jcie.org.

About the Organizers

Founded in 1970, the **Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)** is a nonprofit and nonpartisan international affairs organization dedicated to strengthening Japan's role in international networks of policy dialogue and cooperation. JCIE, together with its US-based partner organization, JCIE/USA, undertakes a wide range of programs of policy research, international dialogue, and exchange related to the themes of globalization, governance, and civil society. Since the late 1990s, it has been promoting policy studies and dialogues focused on human security issues, and since the early 2000s, JCIE has been a leader in policy research and dialogue in the global health sector.

The **Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** is an international organization based in Jakarta. Since its founding in 2008, it has been supporting the regional economic integration process among ASEAN member countries through its research. As the

leading economic think tank in the region and the Sherpa institution for the East Asia and ASEAN Summit processes, ERIA's research and policy recommendations have influenced the policymaking process in the region.

For further information, or to arrange follow-up interviews,
please contact Ms. Momoko Abe of the award secretariat at mabe@jcie.or.jp.

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