



Call for Papers

Digital Transactions in Asia VII

International Conference, 11-12 December 2026

Hosted by

Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Peradeniya
School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland
Digital Finance Hub, University of Queensland

Funded by

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Since 2008, the 'inclusion' of unbanked populations in Asia by a range of mobile financial services has dovetailed with equally significant interventions in consumer credit, digital currencies and mobile commerce channelled through the super platforms of the smartphone era. This confluence between digital communications and finance has engendered the rapid worldwide spread of 'everyday fintech', driven by far-reaching commercial ambitions for a 'great integration' of markets, exchanges and lifeworlds networked through digital transactions. In the public sector, digital transactions have been central to the strategic design and operation of digital ecosystems, social laboratories and eGovernance regimes across the region. This larger convergence of the finance and technology sectors requires scholars across disciplines to pay closer attention to the transactional architecture of the Internet, and compels experts in finance and information technology to engage with complex social economies and transactional cultures across Asia.

Digital Transactions in Asia VII takes up this challenge by exploring the multi-faceted role of digital transactions in the evolution of contemporary Asian Internets, detailing the role of transaction platforms, digital public infrastructures, platform finance, digital currencies, and automated systems as they become embedded in the everyday lives and livelihoods of communities across our region. In an evolving policy domain dominated by technocratic visions of sustainable development solutions, we emphasise the social and cultural implications of the new transaction orders emerging in a digital Asia. Our interest in the systemic evolution of digital economies is informed by the social shaping of digital transactions amongst businesses, workers, consumers and citizens in a culturally diverse region. Our annual conference seeks to foster international and interdisciplinary dialogue on digital transactions in Asia, and we welcome you to join us in Sri Lanka in 2026.

DTAVII Focus Panel Session 2026: Resilience in Digital Transactions

Chair: Cheryl R. Soriano, De La Salle University, Manila.

Digital Transactions in Asia VII will feature a special focus panel on *Resilience in Digital Transactions*. For this panel, we invite paper proposals that explore how digital transactions are

mobilized in adverse scenarios, and how transactional infrastructures need to be designed to face these challenges. Across Asia's rich yet climate-vulnerable geographies, digital transactions are increasingly central to humanitarian responses and longer-term recovery efforts — as seen most recently in Cyclone Ditwah. In parallel, geopolitical conflict and ongoing volatility in global oil markets has deepened food and fuel insecurity, strained public finances, unsettled jobs, and exposed the fragility of supply chains across our region. Against this backdrop, digital transactions play a vital role in enabling the rapid flow of state and international aid, sustaining public charity campaigns, facilitating emergency credit and remittances.

Beyond immediate resilience in times of crisis, digital transaction ecosystems are intended to support longer term strategies, such as green-economy projects, data-driven governance, financial inclusion, and other programmes for social and economic development. Nonetheless, the infrastructures supporting digital transactions are themselves often threatened by climate events, conflicts, crime, compatibility and competition for resources. For this panel session, we welcome submissions that examine how the dynamics of digital transactions impact upon resilience in Asian countries. We particularly encourage papers that illustrate how digital transactions produce differentiated outcomes across axes of capacity, inequality, and diversity for communities unevenly positioned within an era of uncertainty and crisis.

Scope

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the topic, the conference will be of interest to researchers from a diverse variety of backgrounds and disciplinary orientations in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Business, Economics, Information Technology and Law. We also welcome professional contributions from industry and non-governmental organisations.

Format

Digital Transactions in Asia VII will include two days of in-person presentations on 11-12th December 2026 at the University of Peradeniya Campus in Central Province, Sri Lanka.

Registration

Registration for this event is free of charge. Public attendance is welcomed, although priority will be given to speakers and paper presenters, with a limit of 100 registrations.

Submissions and Key Dates

For *Digital Transactions in Asia VII*, we invite abstract submissions (500 words) for presentations of 15-20 minutes on the following themes:

- Embedded Finance, Micro-Credit and Mobile Lending
- E Commerce, Consumers and the Platform Economy
- Digital Platforms and Labour Transactions
- eGovernance and Digital Public Infrastructures
- (In)equalities, Disabilities and Financial Inclusion
- AI, Algorithms and Innovation in Asian Fintech
- Digital Currencies, Tokens and Assets
- Platform Regulation, Finance and Economic Policy
- Automated Decision Making and Systemic Risks
- Digital Transactions and Local Agency in Rural Communities
- International and Cross-Border Transactions
- Digital Platforms and Super Apps as Financial Actors

For the special panel on *Resilience in Digital Transactions*, we also invite abstract submissions (500 words) for presentations of 15-20 minutes on the following themes:

- Climate Resilience in Digital Public Infrastructures
- Digital Transactions and Public Relief
- The Role of NGOs in Digital Financial Development
- Digital Sovereignty and Financial Systems
- Cyber-security, Crime and Transaction Data
- Digital Harms, Literacy and Resilient Communities.

Abstracts will be accepted in English. For the submission of abstracts, please send your abstract (500 words) as a Word document, including your institutional affiliation, full contact details and research bio via e mail to the organising committee at: icdtaaussl2026@gmail.com.

In your abstract submission, please also indicate if:

1. Your paper is intended for the special session on digital transactions and resilience.
2. You are based at an Asian institution and wish to apply for an Asian travel award.

We strongly encourage human submissions. In line with widespread expectations, we affirm the human authorship of research and fully accountability of authors for their work, including anything produced by AI. If an author uses a generative AI tool in preparing their abstract, they should specify:

- The name of any AI tool used;
- How the tool was used in preparing the abstract;
- The purpose for using the tool;
- How implications of the AI tool for privacy, security, and research integrity were addressed.

We also require the same level of transparency and disclosure for full papers submitted for conference publications and slides presented at the conference.*

Key Dates

- **21 May 2026** Call for Papers Released
- **31 July 2026** Deadline for Abstract Submissions
- **31 August 2026** Notification of Acceptance
- **7 September 2026** Notification of Asian Travel Bursary Awards
- **30 September 2026** Deadline for Registration
- **30 November 2026** Full Paper Submissions for Consideration in Conference Publications
- **11-12 December 2026** Conference Event at University of Peradeniya Campus.

Organising Committee

- Adrian Athique (University of Queensland)
- Prasanna Perera (University of Peradeniya)
- Gerard Goggin (Western Sydney University)
- A.V.K. Madhavie (University of Peradeniya)
- Min Zhu (University of Queensland)
- Dinuka Perera (LankaPay)
- Cheryll Soriano (De La Salle University)
- T.N. Vidanage (University of Peradeniya)

Researcher Support

Up to 10 travel bursaries covering economy air travel to Sri Lanka and three nights accommodation in Kandy on 10th to 12th December are available on a competitive basis for presenters of accepted papers working at institutions within the Asian region.

Publication

For all funded participants, a final paper of 5,000 words should be supplied by 30 November 2026 for consideration in conference publications. If you are not receiving funding from the conference committee, you may still opt to submit a paper for consideration if you wish to do so. All contributions will be subject to blind peer review, and as such we cannot guarantee publication.

Our conference publications for 2026 include:

- A journal special issue on 'Rural Transactions in Digital Asia' (edited by A/Prof. Elske van de Fliert)
- A journal special issue on 'Building Resilience in Digital Transactions' (edited by Prof. Cheryl R. Soriano)
- Invitation to propose monographs and edited volumes on digital transactions in Asia (*Platform Societies* series, Palgrave)

Venue

The conference presentations and workshops will be held at the University of Peradeniya campus in Central Province, Sri Lanka. Details for the venue can be found here:

<https://www.pdn.ac.lk/>

Travel:

Conference Hotel:

Queen's Hotel, Kandy, Central Province, Sri Lanka.

<https://queenshotel.lk/>

Sri Lanka travel visa requirements:

<https://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>

Regional Information:

<https://www.kandycity.org/>

<https://tourism.cp.gov.lk/>

Airport transfers:

tba

Information on Previous Events:

Digital Transactions in Asia I, University of Queensland / Queensland University of Technology, Australia 2017

[*Digital Transactions in Asia II*](#), De La Salle University, Philippines 2018

[*Digital Transactions in Asia III*](#), Monash University Malaysia, 2019

[*Digital Transactions in India*](#), University of Queensland / IIT Delhi, Australia/India, 2021

[*Digital Transactions in Asia IV*](#), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2022/2023

[*Digital Transactions in Asia V*](#), ICISE, Vietnam, 2024

[*Digital Transactions in Asia VI*](#), Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia, 2025

* Acknowledgement. AI policy adapted from:

- Guidelines for International Association of Media Communication Research (IAMCR) 2026 conference
- Weaver KD. Artificial intelligence and transparency: Toward a framework for disclosure of AI use in learning, research, and publication. *Information Services and Use*. 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1177/18758789261435716>