

# Call for Applications

## Political Management Training

### Application Period

02 Feb to 15 Mar 2026

### Background

The Political Management Training (PMT) is a program designed for emerging political leaders committed to shaping a more just future for Asia-Pacific. Each year, the program centers on a pressing regional issue. For 2026, the theme is artificial intelligence, reflecting the urgent need to integrate modernization with inclusive governance and political innovation in the region.

PMT aspires to gather a dynamic cohort of political decision-makers, thinkers from academia and policy institutions, and emerging experts from media, trade unions, civil society, and related sectors.

It consists of a ten-day in-person training split into two sessions. The training locations will be held in cities across Asia-Pacific where exchanges on artificial intelligence can inspire action and policy. It will also incorporate a blend of learning exchanges (online and face-to-face), institutional and cultural visits, one-on-one dialogues, and alumni experience-sharing sessions.

The program boasts of over 200 alumni members who have now taken on different portfolios as politicians, policy advisors, and party workers at the local, state, and national level.

This is a program fully supported and managed by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung – a non-profit German foundation committed to the ideals and basic values of social democracy—freedom, justice, solidarity.

### Program Timeline

02 Feb – 15 Mar	<b>Application Period</b>
02-15 Mar	<b>Initial Screening Period (on a rolling basis)</b>
23-27 Mar	<b>Posting of Shortlisted Applicants</b>
12 May	<b>PMT Introductions and Admin Briefing (via Zoom)</b>
19-23 May	<b>Political Management Training – Cluster 1, Singapore (<i>tba</i>)</b>
12-16 Oct	<b>Political Management Training – Cluster 2, Manila (<i>tba</i>)</b>

## Program Description

The first session is a comprehensive master class on fundamental pillars and practical debates on AI & Digitalisation governance. This segment encompasses rigorous dialogues and engaging interactive sessions.

The second session focuses on refining advanced political management competencies. This segment delves into techniques such as negotiation tactics, empathic communication strategies, and strategic planning, among other crucial leadership skills needed to realize progressive governance on AI & Digitalisation.

Throughout the duration of the program, participants will access diverse learning methodologies and tools, including interactions with esteemed PMT alumni for knowledge exchange and dialogue opportunities.

## General Criteria and Requirements

The PMT program accommodates 20-25 participants, aiming to include individuals from countries within the Asia-Pacific region, especially where FES offices operate: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. Applicants from other Asia-Pacific nations are also welcome to apply and will be considered based on availability, subject to the FES' discretion.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 23-35 years
- Has worked or is currently working on AI & Digitalisation
- Proficient in English for oral and written communication
- Aspiring political decision maker (elective position or career position)
- Committed to values of freedom, equality, social justice, and solidarity
- Willing and able to travel within the Asia-Pacific region

Applicants from diverse gender, class, and ethnic backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Application Deadline

All application documents shall be submitted to [futurehub.pmt@fes.de](mailto:futurehub.pmt@fes.de) not later than 15 March 2026 (Sunday), 11:59PM Manila time. Incomplete applications will not be entertained.

Here are the following application documents to be submitted in the following formats:

- **Video Application** (link to uploaded video;  
or alternatively, file name: App\_Full Name\_Country; format: 1080p mp4 with h.264 codec)
- **Curriculum Vitae** (file name: CV\_Full Name\_Country; format: PDF)

### **Video Application Instructions**

A personal video with the applicant's personal appearance must be shown while answering the following questions:

- How do you see AI's application in politics in your country in the next 5 years? What are major challenges for democratic political institutions (political parties, governments, inter-governmental bodies) with this envisioned future of AI? How should institutions respond?

Video must not be more than 100 seconds. Applicants must ensure quality and clarity of audio and video. We prefer a simple video format (highlighting the speaker and content), hence, we discourage animation and heavy editing.

While FES values the convenience of generative AI in assisting completion of applications such as this, FES hopes to have a good sense of the applicant's thoughts and characteristics that will allow us to measure an applicant's suitability to the program. If you used generative AI to brainstorm or refine your response, please include a brief 1-sentence disclosure in your email body explaining how it was used and include prompts you used.

### **Criteria for Selection**

35% Quality of Content (based on video submitted)  
25% Clarity of Video and Audio (based on video submitted)  
20% Background on AI & Digitalisation (based on CV)  
20% Background on Politics and (based on CV)  
Total: 100%

### **Contact Persons**

Natalia Figge, *Director, Regional Competence Center for SD&TUC in Asia-Pacific*

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