

Empowering Researchers Worldwide: The Success of World Research Union (WRU) Conferences with IEEE SMC Society Technical Sponsorships

The year 2026 marked a significant milestone for the World Research Union (WRU) as its flagship IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (SMC) Society technically sponsored conferences, IMED-2026 and TIC-2026, successfully brought together researchers, innovators, industry practitioners, and academic leaders from around the world. These conferences demonstrated not only growing global participation but also a strong commitment to research quality, integrity, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The International Conference on Innovations in Machine, Engineering and Digital Technology (IMED-2026), held on March 5–6, 2026, at Jesselton University College, Sabah, Malaysia, received 403 manuscript submissions from researchers worldwide. Following a rigorous peer-review process managed through the Microsoft CMT platform, 212 papers were accepted for presentation. The conference featured research contributions in quantum computing, intelligent systems, digital technologies, applied engineering, and emerging innovations. Distinguished keynote speakers, international technical session chairs, and industry experts contributed to vibrant discussions that fostered new collaborations and research partnerships.

Building upon the success of IMED-2026, the Technology and Innovation Conference (TIC-2026) was held on June 5–6, 2026, at Spectrum International University College (SIUC), Malaysia. TIC-2026 achieved an even greater international response, attracting 821 manuscript submissions from researchers across multiple continents. After a comprehensive review process, only 214 papers were accepted, resulting in an acceptance rate of approximately 26%, reflecting the conference's strong emphasis on quality and academic rigor.

The conference commenced with a session on Research Integrity led by the World Research Union, emphasizing ethical research practices and responsible scholarship. The program featured keynote addresses from distinguished speakers, the launch of WRUTed Talk—a platform inspired by global knowledge-sharing initiatives—alongside a series of institutional engagement activities including the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between Spectrum International University College and twelve collaborating universities. The conference also introduced innovative engagement platforms such as "Tea Before Research," a research podcast initiative by Dr. Princy Randhawa that encouraged informal academic dialogue and networking among participants.

Across the two days, TIC-2026 hosted 32 parallel technical sessions, comprising four onsite and twenty-eight online tracks, enabling broad international participation. Research presentations covered diverse areas including water and waste management,

alternative energy systems, financial technology, artificial intelligence, sustainability, digital transformation, and smart engineering applications. Positive feedback received from session chairs, reviewers, presenters, and participants highlighted the effectiveness of the conference structure and the quality of scholarly interactions.

Both IMED-2026 and TIC-2026 were chaired by Prof. Dr. Valliappan Raju of GISMA University of Applied Sciences, Germany, with Dr. Nithesh Naik of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India, serving as Program Chair. The conferences demonstrated how international collaboration, supported by robust peer-review mechanisms and strong technical governance, can create impactful platforms for knowledge exchange.

World Research Union gratefully acknowledges the continued technical guidance and support of the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society. The Society's commitment to technical excellence has played a vital role in strengthening conference quality, review standards, and international visibility. The growing participation and increasing submission numbers observed across WRU conferences reflect the trust and confidence that researchers place in these scholarly platforms.

Encouraged by the success of IMED-2026 and TIC-2026, WRU is preparing for its upcoming IEEE SMC Society technically sponsored conferences, including the International Conference on Information and Electronics Engineering (ICIEEE-2026) in Malaysia, the Global International Conference on Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (GICITE-2026) in Germany, the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Conference (ETIC-2026) in the United States, and the European Conference on Emerging Technologies, Engineering and Sustainability (ECETES-2027) in Germany. These events are expected to attract even larger global audiences and further strengthen international research collaboration.

As WRU continues expanding its global conference portfolio, its mission remains unchanged: to foster genuine research, promote academic integrity, create meaningful international partnerships, and provide researchers with high-quality platforms for disseminating impactful scientific contributions.

Photos from IMED 2026



Photos from TIC 2026:





