

## 2026 APCDA Hybrid Conference – Overall Survey Results

The survey is located in Whova with 41 respondents

- 1) Rank the 6 aspects of the conference listed on their importance to your decision to attend. The aspects are: Conference theme, Reputation of keynote speaker, Presentations, Networking, Location, and Overall cost. Please rate from 6 (Most important) to 1 (Least important).

Aspect	Average ranking
Presentations	4.2
Networking	3.82
Overall cost	3.45
Reputation of keynote speaker	3.27
Conference theme	3.2
Location	3.05

*There is 1 invalid response (“very good”) so this average is from 40 responses only.*

- 2) Please list the most valuable aspects of the conference for you.

- Gain insights from presentations by speakers from various backgrounds and explore trends in the field – 19
- Networking with like-minded individuals – 15
- Opportunities to connect and discuss with fellow career advocates and industry professionals – 10
- Cultural exchange with locals and international attendees – 6
- Better understanding and realizing the potential of inclusivity and social justice – 6
- Connecting with experts across Asia-Pacific that opens doors for cross-cultural collaboration – 5
- The industry visits were insightful – 4
- The hybrid mode with Whova app allows connecting with others as fast and easy as possible – 2
- Access to the presentations for up to 3 months after the event is very helpful – 2
- A balance between presentations that logically outlined the conference theme of inclusivity and the panel discussion that led the culmination of real-world experiences

- 3) What should we do differently next year?

- **About keynotes and panel discussion**
  - All keynote speakers should be physically present
  - More interactive panels with practical case examples
  - Have less keynote speakers so we have more time to engage with each presentation and clarify over Q&A
- **About in-person roundtables/presentations**
  - Offer more interactive workshops – 2
  - Have interactive sessions and workshops for virtual sessions, too – 2
  - “Roundtables” can be called “Dialogues” to encourage give and take exchanges
  - Roundtables can be in the exhibit area and be a place for a quick 30-mins exchanges
  - Allow 5-10 minutes break in between breakout sessions

- Group presentations that are geared toward commercial products to a separate track with clear labelling
- Consider more region-specific discussions
- Initiate group discussions on common topic and common data collection in different countries. Many countries don't have career guidance in their policy so perhaps APCDA can help with this
- Session monitors should not be late to help with the set-up, takes time away from the presenters when they aren't able to start without the help of session monitors. I feel bad for the presenters (especially for the first sessions) not being able to start on time.
- **About networking opportunities**
  - Extend networking sessions, leave more space on the program for networking outside dinners – 4
  - Get participants to connect with team-building activities besides tours
  - One hour lunch break is too short, maybe 1.5 hours so we could mingle longer and be able to use the toilet and freshen up for the afternoon sessions
  - The global community was still comfortable in country groups. We should promote cross country conference buddy program for cross pollination of ideas and collaboration opportunities.
- **About registration, tours, and pricing**
  - Improve the quality of tour offerings – 2
  - Stringent registration, split queue by first name to minimize long waiting time in the hot and humid environment – 2
  - Make sponsorship for travels and stay
  - Lessen the cost
  - Offer in-house membership discounts
- **About venue**
  - Select more inclusive venue, like a door with glass windows, so we know who needs help to get into the room. Participants with hand-held mobility assisting device were unable to enter the presentation venue because there were no additional hands or help to open the door.
  - Participant with mobility issues wasn't accommodated by the organization (unavailability of wheelchair or lift to the auditorium, too many little stairs/steps, access to refreshment location and toileting location).
  - Keep some bottled water available in each breakout room
  - A more local-weather-friendly venue for the welcoming dinner
- **Others**
  - Spam/topic control and clearer announcement in Whova, it's a bit too much and may confuse people – 2
  - Ask attendees about topics of utmost need for future conference themes
  - Promoting scholarship opportunities so more people who are eligible can apply
  - Add an opportunity to publish the proposals
  - Official photos be allowed to download 1-2 days after the event

**4) Did anything happen at the conference that changed your feelings about being an APCDA member?**

- Attending reinforced the value of being part of a professional community focused on career development in the Asia-Pacific region, strengthened my positive feeling about APCDA membership – 7
- The group's vitality and sense of purpose for career development locally and globally, and its potential to assist the region generally and individual members in many locales – 3
- Meeting career practitioners from many countries made me feel more connected to the APCDA community – 3
- None so far, participants and content of the conference make me want to keep being an APCDA member – 3
- None in particular – 3
- The overall engagement led me to strengthen the organization as needed, I'd like to contribute and improve skills with international perspective – 2
- Informal conversations (hallways, coffee breaks) led to exploring possibilities of future collaborations – 2
- Participants came from diverse backgrounds, bringing diversity to the professional perspective – 2
- Being an APCDA member is a great opportunity for my continuous professional and personal development – 2
- It's good to see so many like-minded professionals sharing a common platform – 2
- Strong togetherness and sense of camaraderie within APCDA – 2
- The APCDA committee members were very engaging, dedicated, and friendly, that made me feel like I would like to be more engaged in the APCDA community in the future – 2
- I am realizing a change of people and quality of presenters in this edition after not attending the last few in-person conferences. APCDA has changed from a personal connected experience to a transactional one
- There are now fewer speakers from the west coming in to share their expertise and knowledge with us in Asia and more people coming in to sell and promote their business. It would be great for the committee to take note of this shift
- I was so inspired to bring back to my country and apply the genuine inclusive approach in career development and employment facilitation
- Although I anticipated research-oriented presentations, the conference successfully bridged the gap by featuring experts who communicated sophisticated concepts in a clear and engaging manner
- I won the contest and will become APCDA member for free
- I get to know the people better personally, also knowing their passion and wonderful efforts for career development in their countries
- All keynotes were better, more relevant, and more rational than their titles and descriptions suggested

## 5) What would help you feel more connected to APCDA between conferences?

- Webinars – 9
  - Interactive thematic webinars that focused on specific NCDA-aligned competencies or regional labor market trends
  - Online learning activities with more interaction
  - Continuous sessions for upskilling
  - A webinar as follow-up from the keynote presentation
- Virtual meet-ups – 7
  - It can be done regularly for a casual catch-up with one another
  - Include a meet-up and free-flow discussions for people with similar field of work (e.g school counselling, private practice, HR, government agencies) so they could discuss among themselves and be able to exchange ideas.
  - Set country get-togethers
- Newsletters – 4
  - I appreciate the articles that we can read online
  - Occasional newsletter on new projects members are partaking in
- LinkedIn engagement – 3
- In-person meetups/gathering with local members or even between members across nations – 3
- Active discussion forums that highlight members' achievements and best practices, updated periodically – 2
- People can use the member portal more for informal yet still career-related discussions with other people in the community – 2
- Mentorship – 2
  - Peer mentorship circles (a structured platform for practitioners across Asia-Pacific to share case studies and narrative storytelling)
  - Mentorship for area reps and research
- Opportunities to have informal conversations with area representatives
- Career practitioner boot-camp before conference (e.g APCDA members team-building program)
- Catch-up surveys
- Collaboration opportunities with APCDA committee or other members' activities
- Monthly group study on a specific career-related topic/book
- Quarterly conference alumni meetings
- More member benefits
- Less is more – aim for fewer but higher quality online engagements so that the annual conference becomes the main event. I do think that the online access to the conference diluted the in-person conference.
- Whova is a very useful tool for me to feel connected to APCDA. I could build new networks through Whova's messaging function.