

## **China International College Students' Innovation Competition (2026)**

### **Invitation to the Korea Regional Competition**

The China International College Students' Innovation Competition is an international innovation and entrepreneurship event co-hosted by the Ministry of Education of China together with 12 central ministries and provincial governments. It has become the largest global innovation competition in terms of participation. In 2025, the competition attracted 5,673 universities from 161 countries and regions, with 24.43 million participants. In 2026, the competition will launch the Korea Regional Competition, organized by Nanjing University of Science and Technology, to encourage young students from Korean universities to apply innovative solutions to regional and global challenges. We sincerely invite young students from Korean universities to actively participate and join hands in realizing youth innovation dreams and creating a better future.

#### **I. Participation Requirements**

1. Projects should address real social needs, innovate products and business models, promote the transformation and upgrading of key industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, energy, and environmental protection, and facilitate the deep integration of digital technologies with education, healthcare, transportation, finance, and cultural exchange.
2. Projects must promote positive values and be authentic, healthy, and lawful. They must not contain any content that violates laws or regulations. Any inventions, patents, technologies, or resources involved in the project must have clear and legally owned intellectual property or property rights. Plagiarism, misappropriation of others' work, or providing false materials will result in immediate disqualification and revocation of any awards, and the team shall bear all legal consequences.
3. Projects must be submitted to the appropriate category according to the requirements. All materials related to the project must be truthfully and timely completed and submitted in the registration system. Projects that have previously won gold or silver awards in previous China International College Students' Innovation Competitions (CICSIC) are not eligible to participate again.
4. Participants must be 35 years old or younger (born after March 1, 1991).

#### **II. How to Participate**

Teams must register as groups. Cross-university teams are allowed. Each team must have no fewer than 2 members and no more than 15 members (including the team leader), all of whom must be core members of the project.

All team members must be current students or graduates within five years of graduation (i.e., graduated after 2021, the same below) from an ordinary institution of higher education in Korea. The team leader must be the project leader, and the university represented by the team is determined by the team leader's enrollment or degree status at a Korean university. The represented university must be unique. Eligible institutions include ordinary universities and colleges with independent accreditation and the authority to independently confer academic degrees or diplomas in Korea. Having enrollment status at a Korean university means that the individual is registered at the university and is eligible to receive a degree or diploma from that institution.

Based on the team leader's academic level, projects are divided into the Undergraduate Group and the Postgraduate Group. Based on the project's development stage, both the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Groups are further divided into the Creative Subgroup and the Startup Subgroup. Recommending institutions are requested to guide their teams in selecting the appropriate category.

Specific conditions are as follows:

#### **(A) Undergraduate Group**

**Creative Subgroup:** The project has strong creative ideas and relatively developed product prototypes or service models. The team leader and all team members must be current undergraduate or junior college students.

**Startup Subgroup:** The project must have completed all relevant registrations (e.g., business registration) before April 8, 2026. The applicant (team leader) must be the project leader and the legal representative of the participating enterprise, and must be a current undergraduate or junior college student or an undergraduate/junior college graduate within five years.

#### **(B) Postgraduate Group**

**Creative Subgroup:** The project has strong creative ideas and relatively developed product prototypes or service models. The team leader and all team members must be current postgraduate students or undergraduate/junior college students.

**Startup Subgroup:** The project must have completed all relevant registrations (e.g., business registration) before April 8, 2026. The applicant (team leader) must be the project leader and the legal representative of the participating enterprise, and must be a current postgraduate student or a postgraduate graduate within five years.

### **III. Competition Schedule**

The regional competition consists of four stages: online registration, eligibility review, online evaluation, and on-site competition, all organized by the Competition Organizing Committee.

1. **Online Registration (May 15 – June 15, 2026):** Participating teams shall register and submit their materials on the official website of the Prepilc of Global Youth Innovation Leaders Community (PILC) at <http://ROK.pilcchina.org>. The registration system opens at 00:00 (Beijing Time) on May 15, 2026, and closes at 24:00 (Beijing Time) on June 15, 2026.
2. **Eligibility Review (Late June 2026):** The Organizing Committee will review the eligibility and completeness of submitted materials for registered international projects based on the key evaluation criteria outlined in the competition rules.
3. **Online Evaluation (Late June 2026):** Projects that pass the eligibility review will undergo online evaluation, and a number of projects will be selected to advance to the on-site competition.
4. **On-site Finals (July 2026):** Outstanding projects selected through the online evaluation will participate in the on-site finals in Seoul, Korea.

#### **IV. Awards and Incentives**

1. Approximately 30 projects will be selected through online evaluation to advance to the on-site finals. The awards are set as follows:
  - (1) Gold Award (5–10 projects): 10,000 RMB per project, certificate awarded
  - (2) Silver Award (10–20 projects): 6,000 RMB per project, certificate awarded
  - (3) Bronze Award (a number of projects): Certificate and prize awarded
2. Gold Award projects will be given priority for recommendation to participate in the on-site finals of the China International College Students' Innovation Competition (2026). Other projects will be given priority for recommendation to participate in the online evaluation of the finals; after passing the online evaluation, they may advance to the on-site finals.
3. For teams successfully advancing to the regional finals, international travel and accommodation expenses for participating in the regional on-site competition will be covered by the regional competition organizer.

#### **V. Registration Instructions**

1. International participating teams shall register and submit materials on the official website of the Prepilc of Global Youth Innovation Leaders Community (PILC) at <http://ROK.pilcchina.org>. The registration system opens at 00:00 (Beijing Time) on May 15, 2026, and closes at 24:00 (Beijing Time) on June 15, 2026.
2. Participating projects must provide a business plan in PPT format; a Word-format business plan or a 1-minute video may be submitted as supplementary

material. For evaluation convenience, submitted business plans should be converted to PDF format before uploading.

3. For eligibility verification, all team members must submit proof of enrollment or degree, or proof of shareholding, before the registration deadline. Teams with advisors must also provide advisor information in the registration system.
4. All submitted materials and on-site presentations should be in Chinese or English in principle.

## **VI. Evaluation Rules**

For detailed evaluation rules and further information, please visit the "National College Students' Entrepreneurship and Innovation Service Network" (<https://cy.ncss.cn>) or the official website of the Prepile of Global Youth Innovation Leaders Community (PILC) (<https://www.pilcchina.org/>).

## **VII. Miscellaneous**

The final interpretation of the above terms resides with the Organizing Committee of the Korea Regional Competition of the China International College Students' Innovation Competition. For specific matters regarding the Korea Regional Competition, please contact the competition organizer, Nanjing University of Science and Technology.

## **VIII. Contact Information**

School of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education  
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Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NJUST)  
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