



APSIPA Annual Summit
and Conference 2026
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Call for Grand Challenge Proposals

Co-chairs of Grand Challenges

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Objectives

The APSIPA ASC 2026 will continue holding the grand challenges introduced during the last edition and we are now calling for prospective grand challenge organizers to submit your proposals to Grand Challenges co-chairs (via email, in PDF format, < 20 MB).

The theme for this APSIPA ASC is on **“Signal and information processing for aligning human-machine generalization”**. Upon successful approval of the grand challenge proposal, the grand challenge should organize a grand challenge session in the APSIPA ASC 2026 program.

This session should include an overview presentation of the organizers (including the announcement of the winners), followed by the SPGC paper presentations (oral or poster) of the top ranked teams or innovative contributions, typically followed by a panel or open discussion.

Important dates

- Grand Challenge proposal submission deadline: **February 25, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance for Grand Challenge proposal: **March 1, 2026**
- Grand Challenge paper submission deadline: **April 24, 2026**

Guidelines

Your proposal should include:

- A brief introduction to the challenge.
- The expected impact and significance of the challenge in the research and/or industry community.
- Details of the rules for participation.
- Details of datasets that will be used, and state of preparedness of any newly constructed datasets.
- Criteria that will be used to evaluate the submitted systems.
- Details of the challenge organizers including names, affiliations and short biographies.
- The full challenge schedule dates for data release, submission deadline and announcement of results.
- List of potential participants (indicates confirmed participants if applicable).
- Additional information (e.g., sponsors and awards).

Additional requirements

Participation: Organizers facilitate participation, communication and impact; but cannot compete in their own challenge.

Datasets: Provide datasets if applicable, including training data with ground truth and test data without ground truth for final assessment. An optional hidden test set for generalizability and a baseline model are encouraged.

Evaluation: Evaluation criteria and ranking methods must be clearly announced, transparent, and unbiased. Regular leaderboard updates via platforms (e.g., Codabench, Kaggle, Piazza) are encouraged, with provided baselines/ metrics.

Prize Awards: Organizers may offer or solicit prize awards, presented at APSIPA ASC 2026 in Hanoi, Vietnam, though the APSIPA organizing committee will not offer monetary awards.

Paper Submission: Organizers must submit a challenge overview paper and at least 6 winning/invited team papers to APSIPA ASC 2026 by April 24, all subject to peer review, with early bird registration extension for those.

Publication Opportunity: Invite papers to submit full versions to open-access APSIPA Transactions on Signal and Information Processing.