



Galess Newsletter 11

May 2026

Embedded into our GALESS Logo : “Catch the future”

Catch the future. We do not envy our young generation these days, with all the major challenges the world is facing . Sometimes obstructions, disagreement and today’s local and international problems seem to rule the rapidly changing world order rather than a focus on tomorrow’s necessary international engagements involving all of us. The question how to “deal” with this situation, and how to handle this within our GALESS network is on the table, especially regarding our conference initiatives.



It is both typical and very positive that the demand for GALESS conference initiatives is not only present but even *increasing*, both from schools willing to organize conferences and from those eager to participate. That fact inspires us every day again. So how do we proceed ?

Our answer: A **smart mix of local and international participation** in conferences. International travel and live attendance must be the result of careful consideration, balancing “important live experiences for young students” with “impact on footprint” and “safety aspects” . This approach will anticipate on tomorrow’s new world. Starting in 2027, it will be our policy to allow more than one student team per *local* school to travel to a conference. As many students as possible should be able to “sit, enjoy and discuss together” and experience the international mindset that GALESS conferences offer. Group travel with multiple research



teams from one school can overcome barriers, be more cost-effective, respect more “colour” from single school and reduce CO2 emissions. If international travel restrictions arise at the last moment, we will allow virtual presentations as an alternative. This ensures that the important research efforts of students are always recognized and consolidated in 2027.

GALESS continues to reduce travel impact by organizing conference locations on different continents each year. We remain committed to offering attractive, low-footprint advice in cooperation with organizers, making conference access as easy as possible for students worldwide and fully aligned with our sustainability policy.

So keep searching for **your moment**—with your school and your students—to meet us at our conferences and be inspired by the contributions of our young generation across our community.

Development of a future research setting in a futuristic environment !

GALESS Management and our *Jury Board* are keen to explore new research areas for future activities connected to our conferences. For some time now, we have seen increasing interest from schools that organize conferences to be involved in the development of a *Thesis* connected to their event. For this reason, we will divide responsibilities differently in future conferences.

GALESS Management and the *Jury Board* will take the lead in generating a **Thematic Approach** (for 2027/28: *AI for Sustainable Solutions*). Organizing schools will select a preferred subject and assist the *GALESS Jury Board* in developing the Thesis. We will present this new approach to the GALESS AC meeting in June 2026 in a message from our *Jury Board*.

To give a clearer understanding of this concept: the Thematic Approach for research studies in 2027 and 2028 will be **Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Solutions**. The conference in South Africa in 2027, for example, will choose the subjects **Agriculture** and **Education** to address this theme. The organizing school, African Leadership Academy, will work together with the *GALESS Jury Board* to develop a Thesis for these research activities, including an international perspective.

To prepare this new concept with new general guidelines, our head *Jury Board*, Mr. Wim Uijttewaal, and *GALESS Management* members Mr. Huub vd Linden and Mr. Huib Schilling met in April 2026 at Fort Lunet aan de Snel (part of the World Heritage List, Mr. Uijttewaal's headquarter), in the Netherlands to talk about & prepare the message to the GALESS AC meeting in Poland.



Agenda GALESS Advisory Council Meeting, June 29, 2026

Hotel przy Mlynie, Rybnik - Poland

All times based on Central European Summer Time -CEST

- lv 14:00 Opening
- lv 14:10 Introduction members/participants
- lv 14:20 GALESS Review 25/26
- lv 14:40 Melbourne Conference 2026, update

GALESS Conferences 2027: presentations from organizing schools

- lvp 15:00 China Suzhou Highschool, Suzhou
- lvp 15:30 Indonesia Bina Bangsa School, Jakarta
- lvp 16:00 South Africa African Leadership Academy, Johannesburg

-
- l 16:30 Tea-break
 - lv 17:00 Jury Message & Installation New Jury Board
 - lv 17:15 AI for Sustainable Solutions, program 27/28
 - lv 18:30 Schools/directions 28/29
 - l 19:00 Dinner

l = live, v = virtual connection on invitation, p=virtual connection publicly available

Zoom links will be available before June 29, 2026 in an invitation from our head AC, Mrs. Lim Lai Cheng. If you would like to join the public virtual part of this meeting with presentations of organizing schools in 2027, please write to : info@galeless.org

GALESS Advisory Council Extension(s)

Our *Advisory Council* plays a quiet but essential role in shaping GALESS. Members bring years of experience as inspiring school leaders, dedicated educators, and systems thinkers to GALESS. We rely on them to challenge our ideas, offer perspective, and keep our work grounded in what schools and society actually need. Their guidance helps us see the bigger picture, ensuring that our priorities remain aligned with our mission to transform learning through global connection and with our vision of a community where educators learn from and with one another. That input has shaped many of the initiatives you see today.

We're excited to be welcoming two new members to the Council this summer. You'll find a brief introduction to each of them below.



Dylan Wu is a leading advocate for independent assessment systems in China. He leads CSSAT, a Tsinghua University initiative creating transparent, standards-based alternatives to high-stakes national examinations. As President of the Benchmark Integrity Institute in Beijing, he researches how AI can strengthen the credibility and sustainability of assessment.



Eric Zhao, originally from Chengdu and now based in Singapore, is an educator who has much experience working with primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions. He is an expert in bilingual (Chinese-English) education, and currently serves as Vice President of the Singa-Sino Economic & Cultural Exchange Association. He has been active in designing cross-cultural learning experiences and partnerships between educators in China and Singapore.

Dylan and Eric bring invaluable insight into the socio-cultural context of education in China, strong networks with schools and local authorities, and a shared passion for student development. Both have already played a key role in introducing GALESS to schools across China and continue to help us expand our reach.



Eric Zhao and Theresa Lai at a science research institute in Chengdu, China



Dylan Wu and Theresa Lai at Suzhou High School, Suzhou, China

From the GALESS frontdesk, our conference portfolio, under construction all the time !

Alongside the preparations for our conferences in Poland and Melbourne this year, we will be ready to send out the first information letters for our conferences in China, Indonesia, and South Africa in June/July and September 2026.

The first initial conversations and meetings regarding our conference locations for 2028 have already taken place. The shared direction for 2028 is to establish new conference settings in Europe, the USA, and other locations in the western part of the world. This aligns with our long-term goal of being present in all regions of the world on a regular basis. Our Australian partner network will also return with their conference in 2028, as they organize a GALESS conference every two years.

We'll publish our final conference portfolio for 2028 in our newsletter of October 2026.

**University School of Nashville (USN) , USA. A perfect match with the GALESS
concept , new initiative on the horizon**



USN- GALESS Announcement

Known for academic excellence and commitment to putting students first, University School of Nashville is a K-12, independent, all gender, non-sectarian day school established in 1975 as the successor to Peabody Demonstration School.

What guides our thinking is the development of an inclusive learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging for each student.

Significant extensions of the challenges presented throughout our High School course offerings are: the independent study program, which offers highly-motivated students the chance to design a program to study with a faculty sponsor; and Advanced Topics, which complement our AP courses and are designed by USN faculty with exceptional opportunities for intellectual growth, deeper engagement with subject matter, and the production of creative and complex work.

We look forward to potentially hosting GALESS and welcoming students from around the world to share their research concepts in summer 2028.