IRENE TAN KHENG LIANG CONFERENCE GRANT

MS LOW SEOW TING

Doctor of Philosophy
(Physical Education & Sports Science)

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Support from the Irene Tan Liang Kheng Conference Grant enabled a doctoral researcher at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, to present her research on caregiver perceptions of outdoor play at the 2026 AIESEP World Congress in Taipei from June 15 to 19, 2026. Ms Low Seow Ting shares how this experience advanced her research, strengthened her international connections, and informed plans for future publication and practical impact.



Disclaimer: All information is correct as at November 2026.

Hi Seow Ting, welcome back! Share with us more about your presentation at the conference.

My presentation was on "Caregiver perceptions of outdoor play in nature- validation of Leave No Child Indoors Questionnaires® for parents and teachers". In Singapore, the documented deficit of outdoor play among preschool children raises concerns for their holistic development. As primary gatekeepers, parents' and teachers' perceptions play a pivotal role in shaping these experiences. This study developed and pilot validated two instruments to assess such attitudes: the Parent-Leave No Child Indoors Questionnaire® (P-LNCI-Q) and the Teacher-Leave No Child Indoors Questionnaire® (T-LNCI-Q).



Sounds like a fruitful experience! Were there challenges?

Presenting this work at the AIESEP World Congress was motivated by a strong desire to share these context-specific insights with an international community of sport pedagogues and early childhood specialists, and to contribute a rigorous, culturally sensitive methodological tool to the global discourse on physical education. Beyond disseminating findings, I also hoped to learn from how other countries have approached similar challenges, so that our Singaporean work could be strengthened and situated within a broader, comparative global conversation.

Can you share with our readers your greatest take-away from this experience?

Stepping up to present at the 2026 AIESEP World Congress in Taipei was an immensely rewarding culmination of months of meticulous fieldwork, psychometric validation, and data analysis. Delivering an oral presentation on an international stage challenged me to distil complex psychometric data and nuanced cultural observations into a compelling, coherent narrative that resonated with scholars from vastly different professional backgrounds.

My primary take-away from the experience is the profound universality of our core struggles, coupled with the striking diversity of local solutions. Engaging with researchers from Europe, and other parts of Asia made it clear that declining early childhood physical activity and indoor confinement are global crises driven by modern urbanisation and screen-time saturation.

However, the ways in which different cultures perceive risk, structure early education curricula, and design play spaces vary dramatically. Witnessing these diverse approaches taught me the importance of maintaining methodological rigor while remaining adaptable in our contextual interpretations. It reaffirmed that local insights, when rigorously validated, can offer powerful blueprints for global pedagogical reform, and that Singapore's experience has genuine value to contribute to that wider conversation, rather than being simply a recipient of imported frameworks.

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What advice do you have for first-time conference presenters?

For any emerging scholar preparing to present their research at an international conference for the first time, I offer the following recommendations.

- Focus on the Core Narrative: Resist the temptation to crowd your slides with every statistical output and secondary finding. Ground your presentation in a clear, compelling story: What is the problem? Why does it matter? What did you find, and what are the real-world implications?
- Embrace the Q&A as a Collaborative Dialogue: I believe it is natural to feel nervous before stepping up to the podium. But Q&As are opportunities to connect with fellow researchers who share your passion and want to help sharpen your work.
- Engage Beyond Your Own Session: Make time to attend keynotes, social events, and parallel sessions outside your immediate sub-specialty. Some of the most valuable cross-disciplinary insights and enduring professional friendships happen in the informal spaces between scheduled talks.



Thank you. Seow Ting. It was a pleasure speaking with you. Any last words?

I would like to once again reiterate my sincere gratitude to the Estate of Irene Tan Liang Kheng and the Irene Tan Liang Kheng Conference Grant Committee for making my participation in the 2026 AIESEP World Congress possible. Beyond the immediate academic milestone of presenting my team's work, the grant made it possible for me to build meaningful and lasting connections within the global AIESEP network. Attending and presenting at the 2026 AIESEP World Congress has undoubtedly elevated the quality, reach, and international visibility of my research, and I would like also to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Committee for making this invaluable academic milestone a reality.

For more information on the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme, please visit https://ntu.sg/nie-phd.

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