



Coastal Flooding Adaptation & Resilience (COFAR) Challenge Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Question 1: What is the COFAR Challenge?

The COFAR Challenge invites students to design an innovative, financeable, and scalable flood adaptation solution for the challenge site which is the West Estate Jetty, Carey Island, on the western coast of Selangor. We encourage teams to explore a range of financing pathways for their solutions leveraging private sector instruments such as (but are not limited to) green bonds and other capital market instruments to build long-term resilience.

You may find more details about the challenge in the [COFAR Challenge Brief](#).

Question 2: What are the eligibility requirements to sign up for the challenge?

- The challenge is open to students from all universities in Malaysia and Malaysian students enrolled in universities abroad.
- A team must consist of five to six members.
- One team member must come from the engineering faculty and another from the accounting / finance faculty.
- Teams must be gender-diverse, in line with efforts to encourage broader participation in STEM disciplines.
- Each team is encouraged to be accompanied by a mentor such as a faculty advisor, industry expert, or graduate/professional engineer.

Question 3: How can I participate in the challenge?

1. Register your team at <https://forms.gle/j1BXMEL6JQfj6LWu8> by 25 August 2025.
2. Submit your solution by 17 October 2025 with the following:
 - a. A 10-page design brief in PDF format
 - b. A 3-minute video pitch (MP4)

Question 4: What does a design brief look like?

A design brief should at the minimum explain the following components of your solution:

- Technical concept & flood resilience strategy
- Capital market financing model (CapEx, OpEx, IRR)
- Revenue generation strategy ($\geq 10\%$ recovery)
- Visuals: architectural renderings / schematics / diagrams

It should not exceed 10 pages, and must be submitted in PDF format.

Question 5: How will my solution be evaluated?

It will be evaluated as per the Judging Criteria:

Component	Criteria	Weightage
Technical	Feasibility and Technical Soundness	20%
	Scalability and Implementation Potential	15%
Finance	Cost Recovery Stream	20%
	Finance and Capital Market Readiness	15%
General	Innovative Solutions	10%
	Community and Stakeholder Integration	10%
	Presentation and Communication	10%

Further details of the Judging Criteria can be found in the *COFAR Challenge Brief: Appendix B*.

Question 6: Can I submit an existing solution, or does it need to be new?

You may submit an existing solution with enhanced features. As per the Judging Criteria, solutions are rewarded for their innovation, feasibility, technical soundness, and implementation potential. As such, teams are encouraged to submit ideas beyond enhancements to existing solutions.

Question 7: What are the key dates of the competition?

Date	Event	Venue/Mode
4 August 2025	Information Session with ICAEW	Online
11 August 2025	COFAR Launch & Introductory Webinar	Online
25 August 2025	Application deadline	Register at https://forms.gle/j1BXMEL6JQfj6LWu8
11 September 2025	Preliminary Visit to Carey Island	In-person (8am-11:30am) (<i>Highly encouraged</i>)
19 September 2025	Checkpoint 1	Online
14 October 2025	Checkpoint 2	Online
17 October 2025	Final Submission Deadline	Submit via Submissions Portal at https://forms.office.com/r/ZWJL2J7hW4 .
27 October 2025	Announcement of Finalist	Online, via email
4 November 2025	Finalist Pitch	ICAEW-ASEAN Sustainability Summit 2025
6 November 2025	Announcement of Winners	ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF) International Conference 2025

Note: All dates are subject to change.

Question 8: Is it compulsory to attend the checkpoints?

Teams are highly encouraged to attend the checkpoints.

Preliminary Visit to Carey Island: This visit will allow participating teams to personally observe the proposed site for the challenge and engage directly with the West Estate Manager for any inquiries. Attendance is *highly encouraged*.

Checkpoint 1: An online support session to help participating teams clarify technical aspects of the challenge, financial modelling expectations, and submission requirements. More details will be shared soon.

Checkpoint 2: The Securities Commission Malaysia will host the Climate Adaptation & Resilience Conference to provide teams with real-world insights on climate finance and infrastructure adaptation. More details will be shared soon.

Question 9: How do we submit our design brief and video pitch?

All submissions must be made via the submission form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ZWJL2J7hW4>.

Question 10: If I have more questions, who should I contact for assistance?

For further enquiries, please contact Malaysia@icaew.com.