

Message from Our Executive Director

Dear Community,

2023 was a monumental year for technology with the rapid proliferation of generative AI. As AI becomes more pervasive, so too does the need for **equitable access** to educational resources to equip learners with the necessary skills to navigate this evolving landscape.

Recognizing this urgent need, the App Inventor Foundation responded by positioning ourselves at the forefront of the AI educational movement. We worked with researchers at MIT to rapidly integrate generative AI components into the App Inventor platform, including ChatGPT and DALL-E. The response was remarkable—**43% of our Summer Appathon participants referenced AI usage** in their submissions, and 58% were beginners to programming.

At its core, App Inventor is a tool that empowers people to create mobile apps for good through a **free, open-source, and easy-to-use platform**. Smartphones are the most accessible technology modality across the world, especially for under-resourced communities. Our mission is to not only democratize access to technology but also foster a culture of innovation and digital literacy.

Looking forward, we are excited to continue expanding our community through Regional Appathon programs, partnerships with educators through Teacher Excellence Awards and teacher training, and large-scale collaborations with global institutions like UNESCO and UNICEF.

This summer, we are proud to be a key participant in the inaugural MIT AI Education Summit, which will bring together students, teachers, and policymakers from around the world to exchange ideas on the future of AI education.

I invite you all to join us in this movement to harness the power of AI and computational thinking to inspire change in communities around the world.

With gratitude,

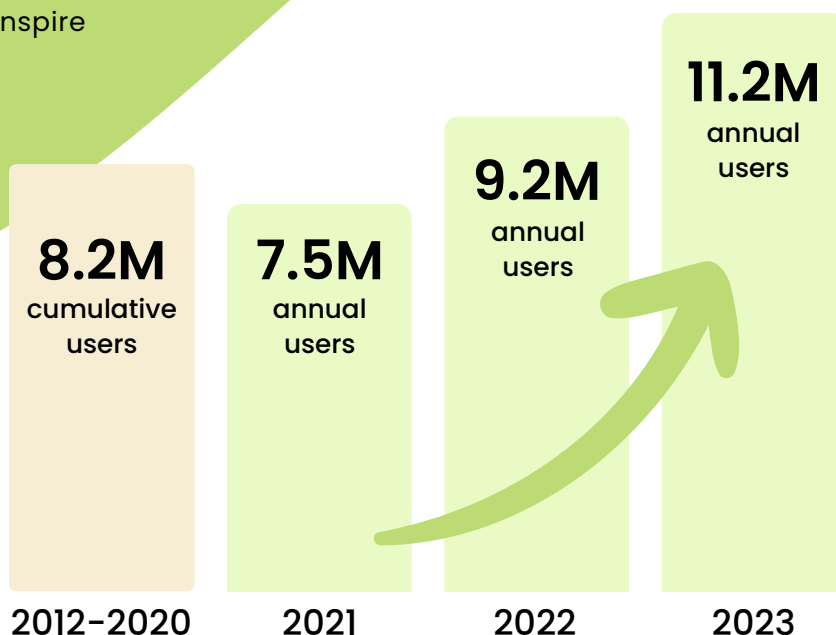


Dr. Natalie Lao, Executive Director

App Inventor experienced unprecedented growth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the free, open-source platform has sustained a steady **22% growth** in the number of active users every year.



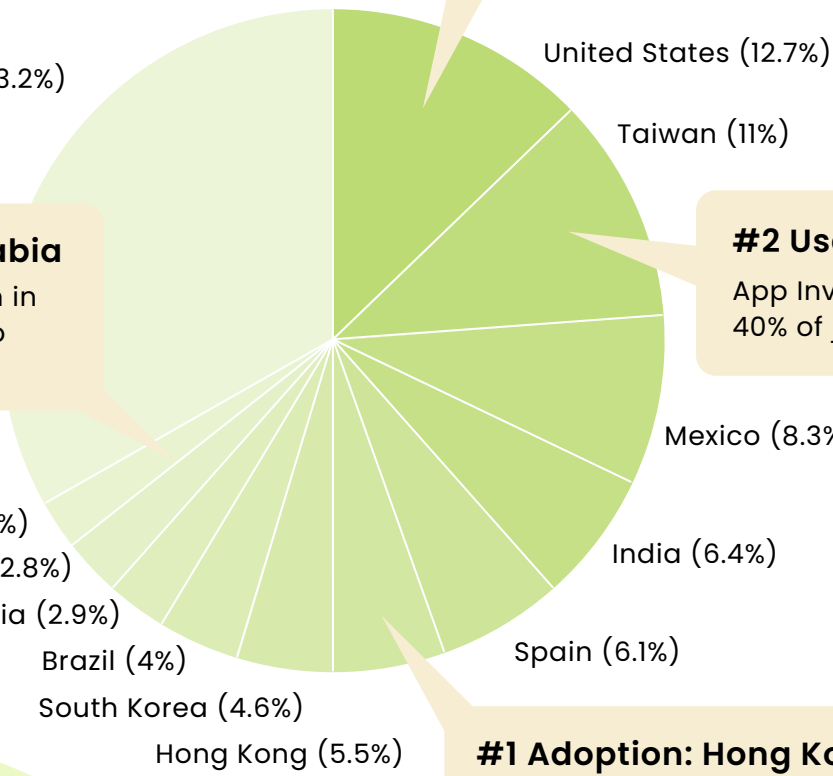
Our Impact



Global Reach



#1 Usage: United States
Accounts for 12.7% of total reach



#2 Usage: Taiwan
App Inventor is used in 40% of junior high schools

#1 Adoption: Hong Kong
App Inventor is used in 80% of primary schools

#1 Growth: Saudi Arabia

Experienced 422% growth in the past year from 64K to 272K total learners

By the Numbers



200
Countries & Regions



11.2M
Users

48%
Developing World



19
Languages

96K
Social Media Followers

Community Spotlight

From App User to App Developer

Born in the Rímac district of Lima, Peru, Isabela Sanchez Taipe didn't always think of herself as a participant in technology. But her worldview changed when she developed her first mobile app using App Inventor when she was 13. Now, her journey has come full circle, as she has joined the MIT App Inventor lab as a student researcher.



Before App Inventor, I was a user of technology. But afterwards, my mindset changed from user to developer.

- Isabela Sanchez Taipe, MIT App Inventor Researcher

Celebrating Excellence in Teaching

On World Teacher Day, we honored 7 educators from around the world as winners of the 2023 Teacher Excellence Awards. Hailing from Malaysia, Italy, India, Brazil, and China, these teachers are bringing App Inventor to the classroom in innovative ways.



My students' enthusiasm for App Inventor has been overwhelming. App Inventor has become a tool they see as genuinely impactful in their lives.

- Ramon Mayor Martins, Teacher Excellence Award Winner

Transforming Prison Education

Since 2022, the App Inventor team has been running a transformational educational initiative with an exceptional group of students—residents of the Maine State Prison. The 5-week course on mobile computing and AI is part of a larger effort to provide high-quality educational resources to prison residents and help them succeed as individuals.

I will carry the knowledge and skills I have gained through MIT App Inventor with me as I navigate my future. Your support has given me a renewed sense of hope and a belief in my ability to succeed.

- Participant, Maine State Prison Project



Appathon Programs



Our inaugural App of the Season competition concluded successfully with organic growth: 58% of participants were beginners to programming, and 43% identified as women or nonbinary. One of the winners was a 13-year-old boy with only one year of App Inventor experience who built a ChatGPT-enabled reading comprehension app.

Participants of the fourth annual Summer Appathon competition were quick to engage with our newly released AI components—a remarkable **43% of submissions used AI** or machine learning. One team of high school students from Texas built an AI-powered mental health app.



PAM
Personal advisor
app for mothers
Sharq, Kuwait



Calmify
AI journaling app
for mental health
Texas, USA

We officially launched the App Inventor Regional Appathon program, which brings **app development competitions to a global audience** through partnerships with regional organizations.

Our pilot program with the Taiwan Ministry of Education completed successfully in January 2024, with additional partnerships coming soon to other regions of the world.

Global AI Partnerships

We joined forces with Technovation, UNICEF, and Grameen Foundation under The AI Forward Alliance with the goal of empowering **25 million young women with AI skills**, knowledge, tools, and mentorship.

Dr. Natalie Lao, our Executive Director, spearheaded the creation of the first-ever UN AI Competency Framework for students. She presented the initial draft of the framework at UNESCO Digital Learning Week in Paris, France.



Thank You to Our Supporters!



Danny Hillis & Taylor Milsal

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