

## Forum on Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Health Equity

### Event Description

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming healthcare from improving disease diagnosis and clinical decision-making to strengthening public health systems. But an important question remained: who benefits, and how could AI help close health gaps rather than widen them?

The [Forum on Harnessing AI for Health Equity](#) was held on 25–26 March 2026, convened by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The forum was funded through the High-Level Technology Fund with support from the Government of Japan, and the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund

### Program

Welcome	
Opening Remarks	<b>Ayako Inagaki</b> Senior Director Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB  <b>Kidong Park</b> Director of Programme Management, Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), World Health Organization (WHO)
Keynote	<b>Hon. Jiho Cha (Video)</b> Member of Parliament National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Scene-setting Presentation	<b>Hiromasa Okayasu</b> Director, Division of Data, Strategy and Innovation WPRO, WHO

<b>Session 1. AI Use Cases for the Care Continuum: Improving Access and Quality</b>	
Session Introduction	<b>Dilip Hensman</b> Coordinator, Health Information and Intelligence WPRO, WHO
From Good Data to Better Doctors: How AI Strengthens the Care Continuum	<b>Tiantian Li</b> Founder, DXY.cn
AI in Action: Malaysia's Experience in Strengthening Primary Care Through Digital Innovation	<b>Fariza Ngah</b> Deputy Director General Ministry of Health, Malaysia
LLM for Primary Health Care	<b>Natarajan Rajaraman</b> Director, EquiTech Collective
AI-Enabled Health and Care Systems for Healthy Ageing: Evidence and Lessons from Korea	<b>Hongsoo Kim</b> Professor, Seoul National University
Open Source, On-Device AI for Improving Healthcare Delivery	<b>Chris Paton</b> Associate Professor, University of Auckland
Digital Twin Powered Equitable Patient Access in Queensland Hospital	<b>Sankalp Khanna</b> Research Team Leader, Health Intelligence The Australian e-Health Research Centre, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Plenary Discussion and Synthesis	<b>Moderator</b>  <b>Rui Liu</b> Senior Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
<b>Session 2. Should we adopt this AI?</b>	
AI Applications for Primary Healthcare: Pyeongchang's Experience	<b>Kunhee Park</b> Director General Pyeongchang County Health and Medical Center Republic of Korea

Value-Based Assessment for AI Use Case Prioritization	<b>Mengji Chen</b> Technical Lead, Research, Ethics and Innovation WPRO, WHO
Group Exercise	<b>All participants</b>
Group Report Back	<b>Group volunteers</b>
Synthesis	<b>Jae Kyoung Kim</b> Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
<b>Session 3. We've Decided to Adopt - What Must be in Place?</b>	
Minimum Ecosystem	<b>Mengji Chen</b> Technical Lead, Research, Ethics and Innovation WPRO, WHO
Digital Public Infrastructure for AI	<b>Carolyn Florey</b> Digital Development Specialist, ADB
Development National AI Strategy for Health – India	<b>Karthik Adapa</b> Regional Advisor - Digital Health, SEARO, WHO
Group Exercise	<b>All participants</b>
Insights Synthesis and Country Takeaways	<b>All participants</b>
<b>Session 4. Future-Ready Health Workforce: Building Competency for Human-AI Collaboration</b>	
Introduction of the Session and Panelists	<b>Sunju Lee</b> Technical Officer, Capacity and Leadership Strengthening WPRO, WHO
Scene-setting Presentation: A Mapping of AI Education and Training Initiatives for Health Professionals in the Western Pacific	<b>Yangmu Huang</b> Associate Professor, School of Public Health Peking University

AI-ready Without the Foundation: The Medical Education Dilemma	<b>Iris Thiele Isip Tan</b> Professor, College of Medicine Chief, Medical Informatics Unit University of the Philippines Manila
DepEd AI program – AI in basic education	<b>Dexter Galban</b> Assistant Secretary for Strategic Management Department of Education, Government of the Philippines
AI capacity building for health workforce in Korea	<b>Junghwan Park</b> Director, Division of Health Data Development Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea
Closing the AI training Gap through Collaboration: AVPN's Efforts	<b>Young Park</b> Director, Special Projects, AVPN
Reflection on Presentations: Key Takeaways and Thoughts for Further Discussion	<b>Jasper Tromp</b> Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore
Q&A to Speakers	<b>Moderator</b>  <b>Sunju Lee</b> Technical Officer, Capacity and Leadership Strengthening WPRO, WHO
Audience Reflections and Wrap-up: Mentimeter Exercise	<b>Moderator</b> <b>Yesle Kim</b>  Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
<b>Session 5. The Political Economy of AI in Health: Understanding Stakeholder Interests and their Impact on Equity</b>	
Opening Remarks for Day 2	<b>Antonio Zaballos (Virtual)</b> Director, Digital Sector Office, ADB

<p>Scene-setting Presentation: What are the Key Considerations from Different Stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Annie Chu</b> Coordinator, Health Policy and Service Design Division WPRO, WHO</p>
<p>China's Ecosystem Navigates Developer–Provider–Regulator Relationships</p>	<p><b>Zhiwen Miao</b> Acting Director Center for Health Statistics and Information (CHSI) National Health Commission, People's Republic of China</p>
<p>Paving the Pan-American Highway for Digital Health</p>	<p><b>Jennifer Nelson (Virtual)</b> Senior Digital Health Specialist Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</p>
<p>Panel Discussion</p>	<p><b><i>Moderator</i></b></p> <p><b>Lluís Vinyals Torres</b> Director, Division of Health Systems and Services WPRO, WHO</p> <p><b><i>Panelists</i></b></p> <p><b>Zhiwen Miao</b> National Health Commission, People's Republic of China</p> <p><b>Clive Tan</b> Assistant Professor, Senior Consultant, Tan Tock Seng Hospital; Director, Home Team Medical Services, Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore</p> <p><b>Chikako Masuda</b> Head of Intelligence Research, Digital Agency, Japan</p> <p><b>Byeongjo Kong</b> Digital Technology Specialist (AI and Data Analytics), ADB</p>
<p>Synthesis</p>	<p><b>Eduardo Banzon</b> Director (Health)</p>

	Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
<b>Photo Opportunity / Networking Break</b>	
<b>Session 6. AI and Health Financing: Supporting Fair Coverage and Protection</b>	
Opening and Scene-setting presentation: AI and Health Financing	<b>Akihito Watabe</b> Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
Country experience: Indonesia	<b>Rudy Kurniawan</b> Lead, Innovation and Health Financing Team Center for Data and Information Technology Ministry of Health, Indonesia
Country experience: Uzbekistan	<b>Mircea Buga</b> Chief Specialist, Department of Budget Formation and Execution State Health Insurance Fund, Uzbekistan
Panel discussion (Country Perspective)	<b>Moderator</b>  <b>Akihito Watabe</b> Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB  <b>Panelists</b>  <b>Rudy Kurniawan</b> Lead, Innovation and Health Financing Team Center for Data and Information Technology Ministry of Health, Indonesia  <b>Setiaji Setiaji (virtual)</b> Director of Information Technology

	<p>BPJS-Kesehatan, Indonesia</p> <p><b>Mircea Buga</b> Chief Specialist Department of Budget Formation and Execution State Health Insurance Fund, Uzbekistan</p> <p><b>Francis Uy</b> Chief Architect, Founder and CEO, Sinag Solutions</p> <p><b>Zhang Yuanzhi</b> Director of the Data Service Division, Big Data Center National Healthcare Security Administration People's Republic of China</p> <p><b>Saurav Bhattarai</b> Team Lead, openIMIS Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</p>
Plenary Discussion and Synthesis	<p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p><b>Annie Chu</b> Coordinator, Health Policy and Service Design Division WHO WPRO</p>
<b>Session 7. AI Regulation and Oversight: Pathways for Different Realities</b>	
Scene-setting Presentation: Responsible AI for Health: Learnings from the Global Landscape and Emergence of a Global Regulatory Network	<p><b>Peiling Yap</b> Chief Scientist HealthAI – The Global Agency for Responsible AI</p>
Country experience: Singapore's regulatory framework for health AI	<p><b>John C W Lim</b> Executive Director, Centre of Regulatory Excellence (CoRE) Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore</p>
Regulatory Sandboxes	<p><b>Jasper Tromp</b></p>

	Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore
Health Data Governance Frameworks in the Era of AI	<b>Kirsten Mathieson</b> Deputy Director and Policy Lead, Transform Health
Collaboration in Practice: HealthAI's Global Regulatory Network and Community of Practice for Responsible AI in Health	<b>Jhon Magkilat</b> Knowledge and Training Advisor HealthAI – The Global Agency for Responsible AI
Panel Discussion and Q&A	<b>Moderators</b>  <b>Jae Kyouon Kim</b> Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB  <b>Mengji Chen</b> Technical Lead, Research, Ethics and Innovation WPRO, WHO
Plenary Q&A	<b>Moderators</b>
Synthesis	<b>Mengji Chen</b> Technical Lead, Research, Ethics and Innovation WPRO, WHO
<b>Session 8. The Way Forward – Building Alliances and Regional Partnerships</b>	
Opening	<b>Albert Domingo (Video)</b> Undersecretary, Department of Health Republic of the Philippines
Scene-setting Presentation	<b>Dilip Hensman</b> Coordinator, Health Information and Intelligence WPRO, WHO
Partnership Powered Standards, Interoperability and Digital Innovation	<b>Sankalp Khanna</b> Research Team Leader, Health Intelligence The Australian e-Health Research Centre, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

<p>Developing an Equitable AI Foundation Model Using Real and Synthetic Data - The Global RETFound Consortium</p>	<p><b>Paul Nderitu (Video)</b>          Medical Retina Fellow, Moorfields Eye Hospital (London) and Senior Research Fellow, University College London - Global RETFound Consortium</p>
<p>Regional Collaboration for the Adoption of AI in Health</p>	<p><b>Alvin Marcelo</b>          Director, Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN)</p>
<p>ASEAN's AI Strategy and guidance for Member Countries</p>	<p><b>Sivaram Superamanian</b>          Assistant Director, Digital Economy Division          ASEAN Economic Community Department</p>
<p><b>Panel discussion</b></p>	<p><b><i>Moderator</i></b></p> <p><b>Akihito Watabe</b>          Health Specialist          Human and Social Development Sector Office          Sectors Department 3, ADB</p> <p><b><i>Panelists</i></b></p> <p><b>Hoon Sang Lee</b>          Director of Strategic Planning, RIGHT Foundation</p> <p><b>Sivaram Superamanian</b>          Assistant Director, Digital Economy Division          ASEAN Economic Community Department</p> <p><b>Aliyah Evangelista</b>          Consultant, Health Financing Information Systems Technical Lead,          ADB</p> <p><b>Narisa Mantharngkul</b>          Program Director, Advanced Medical Devices Technology &amp; Medical Robotics, Technology and Innovation in Life Sciences National Agency (TILSNA), Government of Thailand</p>

Synthesis	<b>Akihito Watabe</b> Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
<b>Closing Session</b>	
Closing remarks by ADB	<b>Eduardo Banzon</b> Director (Health) Human and Social Development Sector Office Sectors Department 3, ADB
Closing remarks by WHO	<b>Hiromasa Okayasu</b> Director, Division of Data, Strategy and Innovation WPRO, WHO