

ASEAN-Korea Sustainable Innovation Program

Cross-Border AI Governance for Sustainable Development and Creative Culture

I. BACKGROUND

As AI technologies continue to advance rapidly, governments across ASEAN are exploring their application across a wide range of sectors, including public administration, education, healthcare, transportation, disaster management, urban development, and creative culture. AI is increasingly recognized as a key driver of digital transformation, innovation, and sustainable development, offering new opportunities to improve public service delivery, strengthen economic competitiveness, and foster cross-border collaboration.

At the same time, the growing cross-border nature of data flows, digital services, and AI applications has created governance challenges that extend beyond national boundaries. Issues such as data sharing, interoperability, AI safety, cybersecurity, and regulatory coordination require closer regional cooperation and policy alignment. As ASEAN member states pursue digital transformation agendas at varying levels of digital readiness and institutional capacity, there is an increasing need to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms and promote practical collaboration on AI governance.

Technological innovation is also increasingly intersecting with culture, creativity, and people-to-people connectivity. Emerging AI applications present new opportunities to support creative industries, enhance cultural exchange, and strengthen regional networks while contributing to broader economic and social development objectives.

Against this backdrop, identifying key policy and technical chokepoints and exploring areas for future cooperation have become important priorities for both ASEAN and its dialogue partners. The Republic of Korea offers valuable experience in advancing digital transformation, developing AI ecosystems, and promoting responsible AI governance through investments in digital infrastructure, data systems, digital government initiatives, and innovation-driven growth.

Building on the achievements of the 2025 ASEAN-Korea Sustainable Innovation Talks, this year's initiative aims to ensure program continuity by focusing the core agenda on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its implications for regional cooperation and sustainable development. To support ASEAN-Korea cooperation in this field, the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) proposes to organize an ASEAN Special Session on "Cross-Border AI Governance for Sustainable Development and Creative Culture" in conjunction with the 2026 World Gyeongju Forum.

The session will provide a platform for policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and networking among government officials, researchers, industry representatives, and other stakeholders from ASEAN member states and Korea. It will facilitate discussions on emerging policy challenges, opportunities for regional cooperation, and practical approaches to advancing inclusive, secure, and responsible AI development. The session will also seek to identify future areas of ASEAN-Korea collaboration and contribute to strengthening regional connectivity, innovation, and sustainable development in the digital age.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To promote policy dialogue and knowledge exchange on cross-border AI governance, creative culture, and AI ecosystem development between ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea
- To identify key challenges, policy issues, and cooperation opportunities related to data governance, interoperability, AI safety, cybersecurity, and digital transformation across the ASEAN region
- To facilitate discussions on practical areas for future ASEAN-Korea cooperation and the development of follow-up collaborative initiatives
- To strengthen networks among government, research, and industry stakeholders and support the development of regional action plans for AI and digital cooperation

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced policy dialogue and cooperation networks between ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea on AI and digital transformation
- Improved understanding and practical skills related to cross-border AI governance, creative culture, and AI ecosystem development
- Development of practical recommendations and action plans to support future ASEAN-Korea collaboration
- Increased visibility of AKC program through linkage with the World Gyeongju Forum

IV. PROGRAM OUTLINE

1. DATE AND VENUE

- Date: 8-10 October
- Venue: Gyeongju, Republic of Korea
- Format: Offline, 2-day program consisting of Forum and Workshop

2. COOPERATING/SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE)
- ASEAN Secretariat
- ASEAN Embassies in Seoul

3. PARTICIPANTS (TARGETS)

- Three delegates from 11 ASEAN Member States (approximately 33 participants), comprising representatives from government, research, and private sector
- Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat

4. TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Day 1 (October 7, Wednesday) — Arrival in Korea & Transfer to Gyeongju	
All Day	• ASEAN participants arrive in Korea • Transfer to Gyeongju and registration
Day 2 (October 8, Thursday) — Opening Ceremony, High-Level Session & Keynote	
14:00–15:00	(Opening Ceremony) World Gyeongju Forum
15:00–16:00	(High-Level Session) World Gyeongju Forum High-Level Dialogue (Tentative) <i>Organized by KOFICE</i> ① Welcome remarks by distinguished guests ② High-level dialogue on culture, creativity, and youth engagement ③ Reflection on the legacy of the 2025 APEC Summit and its implications for global cooperation and shared prosperity ④ Exchange of perspectives on fostering innovation, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding
16:00–18:00	(Keynote Session) People-Centered AI: Sustainable Development Through Culture and Creativity <i>Explore how AI can advance sustainable development by empowering people, strengthening communities, and supporting cultural and creative sectors</i> Presentation 1: AI, Creativity, and Cultural Sustainability ① AI as a catalyst for innovation in cultural and creative industries ② People-centered AI governance for sustainable and inclusive development ③ Advancing inclusive economic growth and creative entrepreneurship in the digital era ④ Balancing innovation, ethics, and human creativity in AI governance Presentation 2: Korea's Experience in Human-Centered AI and Creative Innovation ① AI in K-content, media, arts, and creative production ② Preserving, revitalizing, and promoting cultural heritage in the digital age ③ Q&A and discussion
18:00–20:00	Official Dinner
Day 3 (October 9, Friday) — Thematic Sessions (1 & 2), ASEAN-Korea Workshop	
09:30–11:30	(Session 1) Cross-Border AI Governance <i>Share global AI governance trends and key policy issues; explore ASEAN-Korea cooperation directions focusing on cross-border challenges including data governance, AI safety & trustworthiness, and interoperability.</i>

	Presentation 1: AI Governance Across Borders ① Global AI governance trends and key issues ② Data governance, AI safety and trustworthiness measures ③ Major global AI policy issues and developments Presentation 2: Korea's AI Policy & Digital Government ① National AI strategy and AI Basic Act implementation status ② Public sector AI utilization and digital government case studies ③ Q&A and discussion
11:30–13:00	Lunch
13:00–15:00	(Session 2) Digital Infrastructure & AI Ecosystems <i>Share strategies for building AI-based digital ecosystem development; explore ways to bridge the regional digital divide and expand cooperation.</i> Presentation 1: Building AI-Ready Infrastructure ① Data, cloud, and network infrastructure for the AI era ② AI industry ecosystem development and innovation support policies Presentation 2: Korea's Digital Infrastructure & AI Ecosystem ① National data policy and AI computing infrastructure development ② AI industry development on semiconductors, telecommunications, and cloud ③ Q&A and discussion
15:00–18:00	(Workshop) ASEAN Member Country Presentations & Action Plan <i>Share AI policy and digital transformation status by country; identify regional cooperation needs and key chokepoints</i> Internal Session (detailed proceedings TBD) ① Country-by-country AI policy and digital transformation status presentations ② Identification of regional cooperation needs and key chokepoints ③ ASEAN-Korea cooperation tasks and action plan development
Day 4 (October 10, Saturday) —ASEAN-Korea Cultural Exchange / Departure	
09:00–12:00	Cultural Exchange and Networking ① Participation in World Gyeongju Forum side events (optional) ② Departure to airport