



**Ministry of Health
and Welfare**

13, Doum 4-ro, Sejong-si, Republic of Korea 30113

Ms.Karmen Joller
Minister of Social Affairs
Republic of Estonia

July 23, 2026

Dear Ms.Karmen Joller,

Rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have highlighted the need to harness these technologies to address healthcare disparities and tackle continuing challenges that have remained unresolved for decades. To this end, there is a growing need for leaders in the health and medical sectors to come together to discuss the future that AI innovation will bring, the emerging biohealth markets that AI will create, and investment strategies to ensure the sustainable development of AI technologies.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been co-hosting the World Bio Summit annually since 2022. This year marks the 5th World Bio Summit, which will be held from 21 to 22 October 2026 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and to further elevate the Summit into a truly global platform capable of leading the international biohealth agenda – a “World Economic Forum for Biohealth”. The theme of this year’s Summit will be “Expanding Biohealth Innovation Through AI”, and the event will be held in conjunction with the 49th IHF World Hospital Congress. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea intends to announce the “AI Healthcare Seoul Declaration” together with WHO and the International Hospital Federation during the Summit.

Your vision for future technologies and insights in ambitious policies shared at the World Bio Summit will drive health innovation for all. I sincerely look forward to welcoming you in Seoul.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jeong, Eun kyeong

Jeong, Eun Kyeong
Minister of Health and Welfare
Republic of Korea

WORLD BIO SUMMIT 2026

21-22 October 2026

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background

With the aim of sharing its experience in responding to COVID-19 and devising effective strategies for responding future pandemics based on technological innovation, the Republic of Korea hosted the 1st World Bio Summit in 2022 to discuss global cooperation in the biohealth sector, including equitable access to vaccines and treatments. The 5th World Bio Summit aims to shift the focus of discussion beyond the agenda of “Preparedness and Response to Future Pandemics” to the emerging agenda-“Artificial Intelligence”, which is gaining prominence across all economic and social sectors, including healthcare.

AI, which has recently experienced rapid development, is fundamentally transforming the growth model of the biohealth industry—including pharmaceuticals and medical devices—across all sectors, from research and development to clinical trials and technology commercialization, moving beyond its role as a mere auxiliary tool. Furthermore, countries are actively exploring the role of AI in bridging healthcare disparities that exist within regions and between nations, as well as in solving long-standing challenges. As AI establishes itself as a key element in creating new value and solving complex challenges, it is now time to engage in in-depth deliberation on how to utilize AI ethically and ensure that its benefits are equitably distributed, even to groups or nations that might otherwise be excluded from these advantages. Bringing together international leaders and experts in the healthcare sector to exchange views and share insights is a critical task we face as we enter this era of AI transformation.

Overview

The Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, will host the 5th World Bio Summit in Seoul from October 21 to 22, 2026. Held in conjunction with the 49th IHF World Hospital Congress, this year’s Summit will serve as a forum for the exchange of cutting-edge biohealth ideas and communication, bringing together Heads of States, Ministers of Health, leaders of International Organizations and civil society groups, as well as medical community, academia, and executives from the biohealth companies and AI companies. The theme of this year’s World Bio Summit is “Expanding Biohealth Innovation through AI.” Under this overarching theme, the Summit will be structured around the forward-looking agenda “3 NEWS.” Specifically, these are: the future brought about by AI innovation (Session 1), the biohealth market to be created by AI (Session 2), and investment strategies for sustainable AI development (Session 3). The goal of this year’s Summit is to foster a shared understanding of how AI is reshaping the science, markets, and finance of biohealth, and to develop concrete models of cooperation for the equitable distribution of its benefits across the entire biohealth sector. Additionally, The Republic of Korea will jointly announce the “Seoul Declaration on AI Healthcare” with the International Hospital Federation and the WHO,

pledging continued cooperation within the international community. The World Bio Summit, which will serve as a forum for discussing the latest healthcare agendas—including the AI transformation and the elimination of healthcare disparities—is expected to emerge as the platform which is capable of leading the global healthcare agenda.

Program at a glance (*tentative*)

- ◆ **Title:** World Bio Summit 2026 (WBS 2026)
- ◆ **Host:** Republic of Korea and World Health Organization (WHO)
- ◆ **Date / Venue:** 21-22 October, 2026 / Seoul, Republic of Korea
- ◆ **Theme:** Expanding Biohealth Innovation Through AI
- ◆ **Speakers and participants**
 - Heads of States and Health Ministers
 - Heads of international organizations and private foundations
 - Heads of international developmental banks
 - Heads of global pharmaceutical companies and AI companies
- ◆ **Programs**
 - Opening Ceremony and Leaders' Dialogue
 - Announcement of "AI Healthcare Seoul Declaration"
 - Welcome Reception and Dinner (A joint dinner with IHF on Day 1)
 - <Session 1> New Science: The Future AI Will Bring
 - <Session 2> New Value: The Values AI Will Create
 - <Session 3> New Finance: Biohealth Innovation Through AI-Based New Finance and Global Partnerships
 - Side Events
 - Closing Ceremony

Contents of each session (*tentative*)

Session 1	Title	New Science: The Future AI Will Bring
	Overview	This session will discuss the future brought about by a new approach to science—AI—in which researchers independently carry out the entire process, from hypothesis formulation to experimental design. It addresses key questions regarding how humanity will utilize this innovative science to overcome long-standing challenges, and how to manage both its benefits and risks for the benefit of all. Through this, we aim to contribute to the formation of a shared understanding within the international community to responsibly advance AI-based scientific discoveries and ensure that their benefits are equitably shared globally.
	Session Topics	• Science reimagined by AI scientists • Solutions to healthcare challenges using AI • Strategies for the global dissemination of the benefits of AI

		innovation • Strategies for managing the side effects and risks of AI innovation
Session 2	Title	New Value: The Values AI Will Create
	Overview	This session provides a platform to explore the new value and innovative changes that AI will bring to the biohealth industry as a whole. AI goes beyond being a mere technical tool; it is opening up new possibilities across the entire process of disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and post-treatment care, and is transforming both the way healthcare services are delivered and the very structure of value creation within the medical industry. In particular, AI-based healthcare, the development of new drugs and medical devices, and innovations in healthcare systems are accelerating the establishment of a more precise, efficient, and sustainable healthcare system. This session will focus on discussing the new value that AI creates for the biohealth industry and how these changes can contribute to improving the quality of medical services, strengthening industrial competitiveness, and, ultimately, promoting human health. Through this discussion, we aim to explore ways in which AI-driven biohealth innovation can establish itself as a new paradigm for future healthcare and spread positive value throughout the global healthcare ecosystem.
	Session Topics	• AI-based innovation in healthcare • AI-based innovation in development of new drugs and medical devices • AI-based innovation in medical system (AI-native hospital)
Session 3	Title	New Finance: Biohealth Innovation Through AI-Based New Finance and Global Partnerships
	Overview	Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technology are gaining attention as a key driver for solving complex challenges in the biohealth sector and promoting human health. Meanwhile, to achieve AI-driven innovation in biohealth, it is essential to expand high-quality data, address AI bias, accelerate interdisciplinary research that combines the strengths of nations and research entities, and develop strategies for applying AI to global public health. In other words, global collaborative research and multifaceted funding strategies are more critical than ever for biohealth innovation in the AI era. This session will share trends in cross-border public funding and open innovation for the development of AI and biohealth technologies, and will engage in an in-depth discussion on how to build a global investment ecosystem that accelerates the market entry and scaling up of innovative technologies.
	Session Topics	• Future biohealth innovation policies and their integration with national R&D platforms • Investment directions for biohealth AI R&D, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and global public health cooperation models • AI-based global open innovation • Investment ecosystems in biohealth

Timetable (tentative)

Date	Time	Lewest Hall (2,000 people)	Square Ballroom A (300 people)	Square Ballroom B (200 people)	Room 501 (300 persons)	Room 400
Wendesday, 21 Oct	08:00-10:00	Rehearsal (8:00~10:00)	Preparations for the event	Side events	Side events	Bilateral meetings
	10:00-12:00	Opening Ceremony & AI Declaration (10:00~12:00)				
	13:00-14:00	Preparations for the event				
	14:00-16:00		Session 1 (14:00~16:00)			
	16:00-18:00		Session 2 (16:00~18:00)			
	18:00-20:00	Joint Dinner WBS & IHF (18:30~20:00) (※500 people)	-			
Thursday, 22 Oct	08:00-10:00	Preparations for the event	Preparations for the event	Side events	Side events	Bilateral meetings
	10:00-12:00	Rehearsal (10:00~12:00)	Session 3 (10:00~12:00)			
	12:00-14:00	Joint Closing Ceremony WBS & IHF (12:00~13:00)	Side events			
	14:00-16:00	-				
	16:00-18:00	-				
	18:00-20:00	-				