Concept Note

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Project Overview

Project Year and Session	2025 2		
Project Title	APEC Conference on Harnessing AI for Resilient and Inclusive Health Systems		
Fund Source	APEC Support Fund (ASF)	**Sub-Fund**	ASF: Human Security (HSS)
APEC Forum	Health Working Group (HWG)	**Co-Proposing Forum**	
Proposing APEC Economy	Chinese Taipei;	**Co-Proposing Economy**	
Co-Sponsoring APEC Economies	Japan; Malaysia; Philippines;	**CN Final Submission Date**	11-08-2025
Expected Start Date	01-04-2026	**Project Completion Date**	30-06-2027
Project Topic(s)	Health;		
Project Summary	Global healthcare systems are under pressure due to ageing populations, rising chronic diseases, and escalating care costs. The World Health Organization projects a shortfall of at least 10 million health workers by 2030, threatening access to essential services and universal health coverage, compelling authorities to seek solutions to enhance efficiency and sustainability. To address these issues, governments can act as enablers to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) development through partnerships with related healthcare institutions to offer a powerful opportunity to enhance healthcare delivery by supporting earlier and more accurate diagnostics, streamlining operations, and optimizing outcomes, while advancing digital health policies, investing in infrastructure, and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration. Therefore, this conference is proposed for 2026, bringing together policymakers, healthcare experts, and leaders to discuss AI-driven healthcare innovation. It will feature interactive sessions on how AI is used in healthcare, strategic discussions on digital transformation, collaboration-building efforts, and a site visit.		
List All Project Outputs	1. Background Paper 2. Conference 3. Conference Summary Report		

Project Alignment to APEC's Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Aotearoa Plan of Action

Alignment to Primary Driver	3 Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth	**Primary Objective**	3.1 Economic resilience and health & wellbeing inclusiveness
Alignment to Secondary Driver (Optional)	2 Innovation and Digitalisation	**Secondary Objective (Optional)**	2.3 Digital infrastructure and transformation

Budget

a. Labor Costs (USD)	3,000.00				
b. Travel (USD)	71,000.00				
c. Hosting (USD)	1,000.00				
d. Publications & Distribution (USD)	0.00				
e. Other (USD)	0.00				
Total Amount Being Sought from APEC (a+b+c+d+e) (USD)	75,000.00	**Self-Funding Amount (USD)**	80,000.00	**Total Project Value (USD)**	155,000.00

Main Project Overseer Information

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Alternate Project Overseer Information

Project Synopsis

Project Objective	This project aims to organize a capacity-building workshop that brings together policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and industry stakeholders to share best practices, successful use cases, and policy frameworks for applying AI in healthcare. It seeks to enhance understanding, promote cross-sector collaboration, and support APEC

	economies in developing more inclusive, efficient, and resilient healthcare systems through AI adoption.

1. Relevance

1a. Issues	Healthcare systems around the world are under growing strain from ageing populations, the rising prevalence of chronic diseases, and the increasing cost of care. These pressures are compelling public health authorities to seek innovative solutions that can enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of healthcare delivery. Adding to these challenges is a severe and widening gap in the healthcare workforce. The World Health Organization estimates a global shortfall of at least 10 million health workers by 2030, with upper projections exceeding 78 million. This shortage threatens to limit access to essential health services, particularly in underserved communities, and undermines efforts to achieve universal health coverage. In this situation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents a transformative and powerful opportunity to reimagine how healthcare can be delivered by supporting earlier and more accurate diagnoses, tailoring treatment decisions, reducing unnecessary procedures, and optimizing patient outcomes, and further be applied to automated time-consuming administrative processes such as medical billing, appointment scheduling, and clinical documentation, freeing up healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care. Therefore, governments should not only act as enablers for laying the groundwork for AI adoption by shaping policy, financing foundational digital infrastructure, and ensuring that innovation aligns with public health goals, but also actively advance digital health policies and infrastructure to create the necessary conditions for the effective application of AI. To maximize AI's benefits in healthcare systems, it demands a strategic and coordinated approach to build digital health infrastructure, establish regulatory and ethical frameworks, and foster multi-sectoral collaboration, including investing in interoperable data systems, enabling secure access to health data, and promoting responsible AI development through partnerships with academia, healthcare institutions, and the private sector. Thereby, we can improve health outcomes, reduce health disparities, and strengthen health systems for the future.
1b. Alignment to APEC	(1) This project supports the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 by contributing to strong, balanced, secure, sustainable, and inclusive growth. The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare has the potential to improve the quality of care, enhance equity in health access, and provide more effective tools to support healthcare professionals. These advances bring tangible benefits to individuals and communities, ultimately improving overall health and well-being. In the long term, AI contributes to the sustainability and resilience of healthcare systems, which better equips APEC economies to respond to shocks, crises, pandemics, and other public health emergencies. (2) This project is closely aligned with APEC's 2025 policy priority to "Innovate: Facilitating an enabling environment for digital innovation." Promoting the adoption of AI in healthcare represents a strategic step toward building a robust digital health infrastructure, establishing sound regulatory and ethical frameworks, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration. These efforts not only accelerate healthcare innovation but also enhance regional competitiveness and integration. By advancing responsible and inclusive AI adoption, this project ensures that all economies and communities across the Asia-Pacific can benefit from the transformative potential of digital technologies.
1c. Align	This project aligns with the APEC Health Working Group (HWG) 2021–2025 Strategic Plan and "The North Star" strategic vision by contributing to the

ment to Forum	strengthening of health systems and enhancing preparedness, response, and recovery capacities for public health emergencies. Through the promotion of AI applications in healthcare, this project will support the development of enabling policy environments and the advancement of digital infrastructure. These efforts will accelerate digital transformation in the health sector, improve health outcomes, reduce health disparities, and increase system resilience. By facilitating access to safe, effective, quality, affordable, and sustainable healthcare services. This project contributes to healthier populations across the life course. Ultimately, it will help reinforce health systems in support of the broader goal of achieving universal health coverage.

2. Eligibility and Fund Priorities

This project aims to explore effective collaboration models and showcase practical applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare, with a focus on improving diagnostic accuracy, enabling earlier disease detection, and enhancing health data management. These innovations are expected to strengthen the capacity and resilience of health systems, thereby improving preparedness and response to public health emergencies and advancing human security, particularly in the context of pandemics and health crises.
By facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experiences among APEC member economies, this project will enhance workforce capabilities and expand service delivery capacity. Strengthened health systems will, in turn, be better positioned to respond rapidly and effectively to future public health emergencies, while also supporting the long-term sustainability of universal health coverage. In this regard, the project directly aligns with the eligibility criteria of the APEC Support Fund (ASF) Sub-Fund on Human Security, by contributing to capacity building in human security and public health emergency preparedness.

3. Capacity Building

In this project, we aim to provide APEC member economies with a platform to exchange insights and discuss collaboration models among public authorities, industry, and academia on the application of AI in healthcare. Key focus areas include the integration of AI in healthcare programs, practical applications within hospital settings, and strategic approaches adopted by healthcare organizations to achieve meaningful digital transformation. These efforts are directed toward improving care quality, reducing healthcare costs, and mitigating workforce turnover.

Currently, APEC member economies are actively promoting the application of AI in healthcare to improve diagnostic efficiency, optimize medical workflows, and strengthen telemedicine services. For example, several economies such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam have collaborated with industries to support AI-driven healthcare innovations; Malaysia also announced the “Health White Paper” in 2023, outlining the roadmap of healthcare reform in the next 15 years, with emphasis on digital healthcare transformation, including health data analytics and AI diagnosis. In addition, hospitals in Thailand and the Philippines have adopted AI technologies to assist in diagnosis and telemedicine services. However, despite the growing implementation of AI-based healthcare services in the APEC region, key challenges remain, such as regulatory uncertainty and insufficient infrastructure and professionals.

Through the project, all economies’ participants will be able to strengthen their knowledge and technical capacities by learning from successful practices and policy implementation experiences shared by peers. This collaborative exchange will help build the foundational capabilities needed to adopt and scale AI solutions in healthcare systems across the region.

4. Methodology

4a. Work Plan

	SN	Start From	Finish By	Activity	Deliverables
☐	1	01-04-2026	30-04-2026	The conference agenda will be drafted. All of the tentative sessions, themes, speech topics, and other activities of the conference will be preliminarily generated for further discussion. Possible speakers and moderators and will be listed based on recommendations from experts, related agencies, as well as consultation with co-sponsoring economies and HWG experts.	Generating draft agenda and listing possible speakers and moderators.
☐	2	01-05-2026	30-06-2026	Send out Administrative Circular to all member economies to nominate participants.	Administrative circular
☐	3	01-07-2026	31-07-2026	Confirm the list of conference participants and work with conference organizing team coordinate their participation.	Confirm and submit the Event Attendance List.
☐	4	01-09-2026	30-09-2026	Hold the 2-day conference Submit conference attendance list to the Secretariat. Conduct post-conference evaluation.	Conference implementation Conference Agenda, the results of post-conference evaluation
☐	5	01-10-2026	01-10-2026	Submit the APEC Project Monitoring Report to the Secretariat.	APEC Project Monitoring Report
☐	6	01-11-2026	31-12-2026	Submission of the Conference Summary Report to the Secretariat to review, followed by HWG endorsement.	Endorsed Conference Summary Report
☐	7	01-02-2027	31-03-2027	Submit the APEC Project Completion Report and supporting documents to the Secretariat.	APEC Project Completion Report
☐	8	01-06-2027	30-06-2027	Participation in the Long-Term Evaluation of APEC Projects survey conducted by the Secretariat.	Long Term Evaluation of APEC Project

4b. Beneficiaries	The targeted beneficiaries of this project include health policymakers, public health officials, healthcare workers, and researchers /scholars /analysts whose work is related to healthcare delivery and quality, digital health, health resource allocation, medical reimbursement decisions, health information technology in APEC economies and relevant stakeholders. It is expected to benefit them from: 1. Learning experiences from other economies on collaboration models among public authorities, industry, and academia on the application of AI in healthcare. 2. Discussing practical applications within hospital settings. 3. Exploring strategic approaches adopted by healthcare organizations to achieve meaningful digital transformation.
4c. Evaluation	Indicators for measuring the project outcomes may include the following: (a) the number of member economies participating in the workshop (b) the percentage of participants reporting built capacity and enhanced knowledge (c) percentage of participating men/women.
4d. Linkages	We plan to engage all the Ministries/Departments of Health of APEC economies in nominating eligible participants. Experts from APEC and non-APEC member economies and other organizations such as NGOs, and research centers will be invited to participate as either moderators or speakers.

Project Overseer Declaration	☑ I agree to the declaration stated below	**Date**	05-08-2025

As Project Overseer and on behalf of the above said Organization, I declare that this submission was prepared in accordance with the Guidebook on APEC Projects (the Guidebook) and any ensuing project will comply with said Guidebook. Failure to do so may result in the BMC denying or revoking funding and/or project approval. I understand that any funds approved are granted on the basis of the information in the document's budget table, in the case of any inconsistencies within the document. By submitting this APEC Concept Note to the APEC Secretariat, you (each Project Overseer or point of contact) agree that the APEC Secretariat will collect, use, disclose, and transmit the data contained in the APEC Concept Note, which you have provided to the APEC Secretariat, in accordance with the Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act 2012 and the APEC Secretariat's data protection policy (https://www.apec.org/PrivacyPolicy). The APEC Secretariat will transfer any data provided in this form, which may contain personal data of Project Overseer(s), to APEC member economies overseas via the APEC Secretariat.