

WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2026



The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order

World Knowledge Forum Secretariat

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2026.09.08-10

JANGCHUNG Arena·The Shilla Seoul



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Chairman,
Maekyung Media
Founder,
World Knowledge Forum

Chang Dae-whan

The World Knowledge Forum marks its 27th anniversary this year.

This year's forum opens amidst a deepening crisis of protectionism and an arms race, alongside exponential breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence.

As Korea navigates geopolitical tensions and global supply chain disruptions, broad-based AI advancement has undeniably become an urgent imperative. Frontier AI is now the defining test of a nation's future, with their impact extending beyond industry to defense and politics.

Global superpowers are pouring capital into technological supremacy, raising concerns about AI monopolies and job losses. These rapid transformations fuel social conflict and hinder unity, in both South Korea and around the globe.

AI offers both prosperity and destruction—like Prometheus' fire, it is a double-edged sword. While it promises unprecedented prosperity, it risks uncontrollable catastrophe.

Now, humanity must unite to chart a path for coexistence with AI. Facing this challenge, leading scholars, global CEOs, and political leaders are convening.

We hope the World Knowledge Forum provides insights to navigate this era of great transition.

ABOUT WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM

Hosted by the Maekyung Media, the World Knowledge Forum (WKF) is Asia's largest global business forum. It was launched in 2000, in the immediate aftermath of the IMF financial crisis, with the vision of transforming South Korea into a knowledge-based nation. Held every autumn in Seoul, the forum seeks to discuss balanced growth and prosperity for the global economy.

Over the past 26 years, the World Knowledge Forum has consistently delivered sharp, defining insights during times of global paradigm shifts.

The forum is a hub for knowledge networking, bringing together world leaders, global CEOs, and renowned scholars. It has hosted prominent heads of state—including U.S. President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder—alongside visionary business leaders such as Bill Gates, Sam Altman, Donald Trump Jr., George Soros, and Jim Rogers. Furthermore, distinguished scholars like Jared Diamond, Thomas Piketty, and N. Gregory Mankiw have taken part to seek solutions to the pressing challenges facing humanity.

Today, the World Knowledge Forum continues to evolve as a leading platform for sharing strategies for humanity's future and creating new business opportunities.

WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM IN NUMBERS

69,509 Attendees

Asia's premier business hub, drawing over 3,000 global corporate leaders annually.

6,303 Speakers

World-class leaders from diverse fields delivering high-caliber insights.

230K Social Followers

Reaching 210K YouTube subscribers and 18K Instagram followers to influence all generations.



THEME OF THE YEAR

The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order

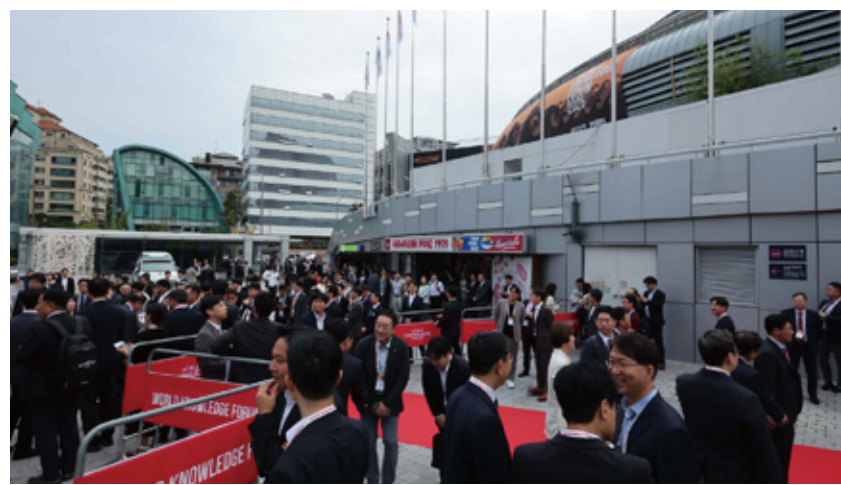
We stand at a defining moment in history where the very paradigm of civilization is undergoing a total transformation.

Moving past the era of free trade, the current international order presents humanity with challenges of a new dimension, marked by intensifying protectionism and geopolitical conflicts.

At the same time, the AI revolution is not only fueling reckless technological rivalries among superpowers but is also triggering supply chain disruptions and an arms race, plunging humanity into an unprecedented vortex of chaos.

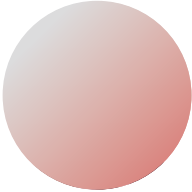
For this reason, the World Knowledge Forum has chosen 'The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order' as this year's overarching theme. Much like the pivotal moment fire was delivered to ancient civilization, AI technology has the potential to fundamentally reshape the entire course of human history. It is projected to bring about an innovation and impact that combines the agricultural, industrial, and digital revolutions.

As fire brought prosperity and progress to humanity and yet carries the power to burn everything to ashes in an instant, we must learn to coexist with AI in a new order. Now more than ever, the insight and wisdom of global opinion leaders are vital. We hope the World Knowledge Forum will serve as a turning point in establishing a new order of coexistence with AI, ultimately benefiting humanity by driving successful productivity innovation and a grand industrial transformation.



SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

2026 Main Speakers



Released on
Aug 3



**Richard
Dawkins**

Emeritus Professor at
Oxford University



**ISHIBA
Shigeru**

The 102nd Prime Minister of
Japan



**Erik
Brynjolfsson**

Professor at
Stanford University



**Barry
Sternlicht**

CEO of Starwood Capital



**Helle
Thorning-Schmidt**

The 41st Prime Minister of
Denmark



**Alex
Edmans**

Professor at
London Business School



**Salvatore
Ferragamo**

CEO of Il Borro



**Sebastian
Thrun**

Founder of
Google X and Udacity



**Jean-Pierre
Hathout**

President of Teradyne Robotics Group
President of Universal Robots



**Nic
Radford**

CEO at Persona AI



**Subodh
Kulkarni**

CEO at Rigetti Computing



**Steven
Levy**

Editor at Large at WIRED



**ZHANG
Ya-Qin**

Chair Professor of
AI Science at
Tsinghua University



**Jason
Kim**

CEO of Firefly Aerospace

SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

2026 Main Speakers



**David
Rhew**

Chief Medical Officer for
Microsoft



**Brandon
Tseng**

President & Co-founder at
Shield AI



**Lorenz
Meier**

Co-founder and CEO of
Aurion



**KIM
Young-Kee**

Professor at
the University of Chicago



**KIM
Jungsang**

Professor at Duke University



**Eric
Adams**

The 111th Mayor of New
York City



**Joseph
Moinian**

Founder and CEO of
The Moinian Group



**Wong
De Rui**

GIC Sustainability CIO



**David
Luboff**

Asia Pacific Co-Head at KKR



**Steven
Durlauf**

Professor at
the University of Chicago



**C.B.
Cebulski**

Marvel Comics
Editor-in-Chief



**Susan
Schwab**

Former USTR



**Chad
Wolf**

Executive Director of AFPI



**Roman
Yampolskiy**

Professor at
University of Louisville



**Janet
Yang**

The 36th President of the Academy of
Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- 1

Registration
Begin your registration at www.wkforum.org
- 2

Select Attendees & Payment Method
Choose attendees and a payment method.
- 3

Complete Payment
Complete your payment by credit card or wire transfer.
- 4

Verify Your Email
Enter the authentication code from your email.
- 5

Registration Complete
Your registration has been successfully completed.

REGISTRATION FEE

Regular rate	* VAT included
Individual and Corporate Registration	
\$ 3,000	
50% Discounted rate	* VAT included
Students, severe disabilities, & patriots' descendants.	
\$ 1,500	

27TH WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM

2026 Theme	The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order
Overview	Dates September 8 (Tue) – 10 (Thu), 2026 Venue Jangchung Arena & The Shilla Seoul
Registration	July13(Mon) – August27(Thu), 2026, 5:00 PM * Complete payment by the deadline to finalize your registration.
Information	-Discounts: Available for full-time students, individuals with severe disabilities, and descendants of independent patriots (up to 5th generation). Verification documents must be submitted to the Secretariat. -Cancellations: Submit by Thursday, August 27, 5:00 PM. Refunds processed post-event (minus fees). -Accommodation: Hotel stay is not included. -Interpretation: Real-time AI simultaneous interpretation provided for all sessions. -Program: Details available on the official website.
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MAEKYUNG MEDIA



South Korea's leading comprehensive media group, covering print, broadcast, and digital platforms to deliver trusted economic and general news.



Founded in 1966, South Korea's most trusted economic daily, offering in-depth coverage of domestic and global industries.



Maekyung Media's comprehensive TV channel, broadcasting fast, accurate news alongside popular entertainment and drama.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

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