

**JOINT STATEMENT
THE THIRD ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING
(3rd ASEAN-ROK HMM)**

11 September 2026, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Third ASEAN-Republic of Korea Health Ministers Meeting was held on 11 September 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in conjunction with the 17th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (17th AHMM).

NOTED with satisfaction the good progress in the first year of implementation of the Plan of Action (POA) to Implement the ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), particularly in the health sector, with strong momentum, reflecting our shared commitment to a meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial partnership.

RECALLING that the First ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers Meeting, co-chaired by Indonesia and the ROK in May 2022 and the Second ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers Meeting in August 2024 which emphasised the deepened and practical cooperation to strengthen ASEAN-ROK health cooperation through the 2021-2025 ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda;

FOLLOWING the outcomes of the 26th ASEAN-ROK Summit, held on 27 October 2025 in Malaysia where we renewed our commitment to strengthening health systems to achieve sustainable universal health coverage (UHC), advancing health security for resilient health systems, supporting the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), and recognising the critical role of digital technologies in enhancing the accessibility, efficiency, and quality of health care;

APPRECIATING the continued support of the ROK through the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and contributions of Korean specialised agencies such as the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) and the Korea Human Resource Development Institute for Health and Welfare (KOHI) in the implementation of ASEAN-ROK areas of cooperation through the relevant ASEAN Health Clusters mechanisms;

ACKNOWLEDGING the newly adopted ASEAN Strategic Health Agenda (ASHA) 2026-2030, with the vision of *“Aspiring Towards a Healthier ASEAN Community”* which sets out eighteen Health Priorities for implementation by the ASEAN Health Clusters, guided by the principles of equity, accessibility, safety and quality, people-centredness, solidarity, shared knowledge, meaningful partnership, and a multisectoral approach;

UNDERSCORING the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the ASHA 2026-2030, the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030,

and relevant national and regional frameworks as key foundations for strengthening digital health, health information systems, and **NOTING** the importance of cooperation on the responsible adoption of these technologies as agreed at the 5th ASEAN-ROK Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD).

RECOGNISING the rapidly evolving regional and global landscape, in which health systems face increasingly complex and interconnected challenges and the potential benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation to help address these challenges, while taking into account the progress made by ASEAN Member States in advancing digital health through national strategies, electronic medical records, telemedicine, digital disease surveillance systems, and other innovations. Whilst **NOTING** the differing levels of digital maturity, fragmented health information systems, limited interoperability, workforce-capacity constraints, and varying regulatory approaches continue to affect the full potential of digital health across the region.

EMPHASISING the importance of responsible, safe, equitable, people-oriented and people-centred deployment of AI and digital health technologies, including the need for effective governance, data privacy and protection, cybersecurity, transparency, accountability, and public trust, while taking into account the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics (2024), which sets out principles such as transparency, fairness, non-maleficence, accountability and privacy, Principles of AI Ethics of the Republic of Korea (2026), which sets out principles including human-centeredness, fairness and inclusiveness, safety, and reliability, and the work of the World Health Organization on the ethics and governance of AI for health;

REAFFIRMING our shared commitment to materialising the “Healthy ASEAN: Together Towards Equitable, Future-Ready Health Systems” and to advancing ASEAN-ROK health cooperation under the “**LEAP together: AI Powered Basic Health & Society**” framework so that “AI for All” translates to “Health for All”; and further welcoming the Republic of Korea’s commitment to sharing with ASEAN Member States, through mutual learning, the achievements and experience from the “AI Basic Health Strategy”.

ACKNOWLEDGING that strengthened digital health systems and responsible use of AI will intensify the achievement of UHC, health security, pandemic preparedness and response, continuity of essential health services, evidence-informed policymaking, and improved health outcomes for all;

At the 3rd ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers Meeting, we exchanged views during the roundtable discussion on “*Smarter Data, Better Care: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation for a Connected ASEAN-Korea Healthcare Ecosystem*” and in accordance with our respective national laws and regulations **AGREED** as follows;

1. Build on the robust partnership between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, in promoting the establishment of ASEAN-led mechanisms through which ASEAN Member States jointly respond to complex and cross-border health crises, including infectious diseases, climate change, and social and natural disasters,

and strengthen health security by enhancing surveillance and health workforce capacities, including through the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).

2. Advance ASEAN-ROK cooperation on digital health transformation, including by supporting the development of interoperable, secure, inclusive, and resilient health information systems that respond to the diverse contexts and levels of readiness among ASEAN Member States.
3. Strengthen the capacity of the health workforce, policymakers, researchers, and relevant institutions in digital health, health data governance, data analytics, applications and ethical use of AI, drawing on the experience and expertise of the Republic of Korea reflected in its AI Basic Health Strategy, and work towards the responsible adoption of AI and digital health technologies for improving the health of the peoples of ASEAN Member States, underpinned by appropriate safeguards such as human-centred and inclusive design, interoperability and cybersecurity, so that no one is left behind.
4. Encourage knowledge-sharing on the ROK's experience and expertise in medical AI, wearable health technologies, predictive analytics, primary health care, clinical decision-making, and health-system performance, through a demand-driven cooperation approach that respects the health systems and cultural contexts of ASEAN Member States, and endeavour to ensure that its benefits reach children, older persons, women and girls, persons with disabilities, and the poor and vulnerable.
5. Support the operationalisation of regional digital-health priorities, including the ASEAN Health Knowledge Management Platform, and the development of a regional mechanism to share the practical policy experience of Member States in addressing common challenges of ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea.
6. Harness digital innovation to support equitable progress towards UHC by improving access to quality health services, particularly for underserved, vulnerable, remote, and hard-to-reach populations, and by strengthening prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and continuity of essential services.
7. Continue cooperation to strengthen regional health security and pandemic preparedness, anti-microbial resistance, One Health approach, including through digital disease surveillance, public-health intelligence through the operation of ABVC, emergency operations through the ASEAN Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Network, ASEAN Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), laboratory and diagnostic capacity, and timely information-sharing, as appropriate.

8. Further explore opportunities to mobilise sustainable resources, including through the AKCF, Official Development Assistance (ODA), and other mutually agreed mechanisms, to support practical, demand-driven, and high-impact ASEAN-ROK health initiatives.
9. Continue to deepen ASEAN-ROK cooperation in health, guided by mutual respect, ASEAN centrality, national ownership, and the shared objective of achieving better health and well-being for the peoples of ASEAN and the ROK.

WE LOOK FORWARD to continued exchanges of views and practical cooperation in operationalising our shared commitments and priorities in Myanmar in 2028.
