

Digital Nation Summit Tokyo 2026

15 April 2026, JW Marriott Tokyo

Japan's Digital Future: From Vision to Vanguard in Asia Pacific

- Defying the Digital Cliff through Innovation and Strategic Partnerships in Asia Pacific

1. Synopsis

The **Digital Nation Summit Tokyo 2026** will serve as the premier platform for Japan to shape the future of next-generation connectivity, AI, and digital trust in Asia Pacific. The Summit will position Japan not just as a digital visionary, but as the region's "Digital Anchor" and Vanguard—one that actively sets standards, drives innovative partnerships, and connects advanced digital economies with high-growth markets.

As the architect of Society 5.0 and a pioneer in advanced R&D, Japan is uniquely placed to lead the future of 6G, AI-native networks, and trusted digital infrastructure. The Summit will address the region's most urgent challenges within a rapidly evolving landscape—defined by breakthroughs in AI and next-generation connectivity, alongside growing cyber risks and increasingly sophisticated online scams.

2. Critical Strategic Issues

- **Defy the "Digital Cliff":** Tackle the projected risk of a ¥12 trillion annual GDP loss by accelerating innovation, investment, and cross-border ecosystem development.
- **Accelerate AI Investment:** Support Japan's ¥10 trillion national AI investment target to build world-class AI infrastructure and export "Japan-made" solutions to the wider APAC region.
- **Lead in 6G & AI-RAN:** Position Japan at the forefront of 6G and AI-powered network development, driving global standards from its robust technology base.
- **Unlock 5G Value:** Identify sustainable business models and collaborative partnerships for successful 5G monetisation.
- **Advance Cyber Defence & Talent:** Drive the implementation of the Active Cyber Defence (ACD) framework and accelerate Japan's 2030 cybersecurity talent cultivation goals.
- **Build Digital Trust & Inclusion:** Strengthen regional cooperation on cybersecurity, combat scams and fraud, and promote digital inclusion for all.

3. Summit Highlights

- Strategic Policy Alignment: Direct synergy with Japan’s *Digital Infrastructure Development Plan 2030*, including ambitious targets for nationwide connectivity.
- Technology Showcase: Innovations in All-Photonic Networks (APN/IOWN), Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN), AI-RAN, and the evolution of Japan’s spectrum policy.
- Talent & Inclusion: Advancing pipelines in AI and cybersecurity while fostering initiatives for a more inclusive digital society.
- Innovation and Digital Transformation: From Advanced Connectivity to Edge Intelligence: Powering Japan’s AI-Driven Future across Sectors.

08:30 – 13:30	Japan’s Digital Future: From Vision to Vanguard in Asia Pacific
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:05	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA
09:05 – 09:15	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vivek Badrinath, Director General, GSMA
09:15 – 09:25	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Takuo Imagawa, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
09:25 – 09:40	Keynote Presentation: <i>Toward the Digital Future</i> This keynote highlights how rapid growth in mobile data demand is reshaping the telecommunications industry, underscoring the importance of evolving business models alongside continued investment in 5G and future 6G networks. It presents a vision in which Digital Nations are enabled through the seamless integration of networks, data, and AI—unlocking resilient growth, personalized experiences, and lasting societal value beyond connectivity alone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoshiaki Maeda, President and CEO, NTT DOCOMO, INC.
09:40 – 10: 20	Keynote Panel: <i>Pioneering the Future - From 5G-Advanced to Intelligent Networks</i> A policy centred policy discussion on how 5G Advanced and AI-native networks are underpinning the country’s Beyond 5G/6G strategy, highlighting Japan’s leadership in advanced radio technologies, NTN, and AI-RAN. The

	<p>panel will examine national priorities for network resilience, security, and cyber-physical integration, and consider Japan’s influence on regional digital infrastructure strategy across APAC. The session will highlight Japan’s unique position to drive the evolution toward intelligent, autonomous networks.</p> <p>Moderator: Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Cruz, CEO, Globe Telecom • Masafumi Masuda, Senior Vice President, General Manager, Radio Access Network Design Department, NTT DOCOMO, INC. • Toshiro Akiyama, VP and Head of Global Consumer Business, KDDI CORPORATION • Kiyoshi Nozaki, Director, Wireless Planning Department, Wireless System Innovation Division, Technology Unit, SoftBank Corp.
10:20 – 10:30	<p>Report Launch: Accelerating the Digital Leap in Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hakan Dursun, Chief Strategy Officer, GSMA <p><i>*Report handover and photo opportunity*</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p>Coffee & Networking Break</p>
11:00 – 11:10	<p>Keynote Presentation: Advancing Japan’s Digital Future: Inclusive Growth Through Platforms, AI and Connectivity</p> <p>As Japan accelerates its digital transformation, the challenge is to ensure that advances in AI and digital services translate into broad-based social and economic benefit. This session will examine how AI, alongside inclusive digital platforms, collaborative ecosystems and next-generation connectivity, can support national priorities, widen access to opportunity and improve productivity across sectors and communities. The discussion will focus on how Japan can build a resilient and inclusive digital society that serves people and businesses alike, while reinforcing its long-term global competitiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Soldani, Senior Vice President, Innovation and Advanced Research, Rakuten Mobile
11:10 – 11:50	<p>Panel Discussion: Building Trust & Security in a Digital Society</p> <p>This session examines Japan’s urgent need to strengthen trust and security across its digital ecosystem with as focus on the implementation of the Active Cyber Defence (ACD) framework and the GSMA APAC Cross-Sector Anti-</p>

	<p>Scam Taskforce (ACAST). The presentation will outline how GSMA's policy priorities align with Japan's Digital Infrastructure Development Plan 2030, followed by a panel discussion exploring how AI-enabled tools and coordinated cross-sector action can counter sophisticated cyber threats and scams.</p> <p>Moderator: Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy and External Affairs, APAC, GSMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazumi Nishikawa, Deputy Director General for Economic Security, Deputy Director-General for Cybersecurity and Information Technology, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry • Koji Ouchi, Director, Consumer Policy Division, Telecommunications Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications • Dr. Koichi Moriyama, Chief Security Architect, NTT DOCOMO, INC. • Shota Tohara, Manager, Public Policy & Government Affairs, Google Japan
11:50 – 12:00	<p>Presentation: Vision 2040 – Capacity for Japan's Future</p> <p>Over the course of the next decade, Japan's mobile networks will support a far broader set of economic and social functions than today. From advanced manufacturing and connected mobility to distributed AI and public services, demand for reliable, high-quality connectivity will continue to accelerate. Meeting this demand will require spectrum plans to deliver sustained investment in infrastructure and a policy environment that supports innovation while managing cost and complexity. By aligning these elements, Japan can ensure its networks remain a foundation for growth and global leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luciana Camargos, Head of Spectrum, GSMA
12:00 – 13:20	Lunch Break
13:20 – 15:15	From Advanced Connectivity to Edge Intelligence: Powering Japan's AI-Driven Future across Sectors
13:20 – 13:30	<p>Presentation: Connecting the World – Uniting the Ecosystem to Build Digital Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Hoffman, CEO, GSMA Ltd.

13:30 – 13:45	<p>Presentation: <i>Promoting Industrial Digital Transformation</i></p> <p>Japan is accelerating digital transformation across manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, energy, and public services as it works to strengthen competitiveness and address demographic and productivity pressures. This session highlights successful examples where advanced connectivity, cloud-edge architectures, AI automation, and secure data-sharing platforms have delivered measurable impact. Attendees gain practical insights into how Japanese organisations modernise legacy systems, scale digital workflows, and build capabilities to drive economy-wide innovation and resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yusuke Nakabayashi, Partner, PwC Japan
13:45 – 14:00	<p>Presentation: From Robotics to Humanoids: Enabling Physical AI through AI-native Infrastructure</p> <p>As SoftBank expands its role as an AI infrastructure provider, it leverages Telco AI Cloud, AI-RAN (AITRAS), and distributed AI data centres to advance next-generation social infrastructure. This session explores how an integrated architecture—spanning large-scale model training in core (Brain) data centres and low-latency inference enabled by Mobile Edge AI (MEC) —enables scalable AI services, including physical AI applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shun Yamashina, Senior Director, Unified Cloud & Platform Division, Technology Unit, SoftBank Corp.
14:00 – 14:15	<p>Presentation: <i>Advanced Air Mobility development and opportunities in Japan</i></p> <p>Japan is actively advancing Advanced Air Mobility through regulatory trials, technology development, and industry collaboration. This presentation explores current Realisation of Advanced Air Mobility (ReAMo) initiative, policy progress, and emerging business models, highlighting how digital platforms and partnerships are supporting practical deployment and ecosystem readiness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noriyuki Hirayama, Project Manager, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO)
14:15 – 14:30	<p>Presentation: <i>AI Digital Belt</i></p> <p>Telecommunications carriers are required to shift away from conventional communications-centric business model. Towards sustainable growth in the AI era, KDDI is simultaneously pursuing two aspects: a) enhancing our network value and b) transforming the infrastructure for AI. This presentation will introduce "KDDI's AI Digital-Belt strategy" to realise KDDI's vision of an AI-driven future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satoshi Miyaji, Executive Officer, General Manager, Advancing Technology Research Division, KDDI CORPORATION

14:30 – 15:00	<p>Panel: <i>From Advanced Connectivity to Edge Intelligence: Powering Japan’s AI-Driven Future across Sectors</i></p> <p>In this cross-sector panel explores how advanced connectivity to edge intelligence that powers growth. Leaders from MNO, robotics, manufacturing, and technology firms will examine technologies, collaboration models, ecosystem; pragmatic 5G monetisation; and the glidepath to 6G that de-risk innovation and scale wins across Japan and APAC.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Terence Wong, Head of APAC 5G & IoT, GSMA</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yoshio Umezawa, VP and General Manager of Service Innovation, NTT DOCOMO, INC.</i> • <i>Naomi Tomita, Chair, Hapi-robot</i> • <i>Masahiro Okazaki, Head of Mission Critical Enterprise Japan, Nokia</i> • <i>Koji Kawano, 5G Infrastructure Specialist, FUJI SOFT Inc.</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee & Networking Break
15:15 – 17:00	<p>Preparing for the Next Generation of Connectivity: Leveraging Existing Networks, AI, and Ubiquitous Connectivity to Scale the Future Ecosystem</p> <p>This session will examine how existing networks, AI, cloud-native platforms, edge computing, and non-terrestrial networks can be evolved as foundations for the 6G era, highlighting Japan’s leadership in research, standardization, and ecosystem development. Industry leaders will share trends and strategies for building a scalable, collaborative next generation of connectivity ecosystem to accelerate digital transformation and sustainable economic growth worldwide.</p>
15:15 – 15:25	<p>Remarks by Regional Industry Bodies: The importance of regional collaboration in guiding the development of innovative, sustainable, and inclusive 6G ecosystem resilient to external pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professor KyungHi Chang, Committee Chair, 6G Forum</i> • <i>Dr Kumar Sivarajan, Vice Chairman, Bharat 6G Alliance</i>
15:25 – 16:05	<p>Part 1 - Technology Trends & Innovations</p> <p>Part 1 will cover the global 6G vision, next generation of connectivity and key technology enablers, including AI-native networks, AI-RAN, edge computing, and NTN, with a focus on Japan’s leading role in advanced radio technologies</p>

	<p>and network architecture. Speakers will show how existing 5G and cloud infrastructures can be evolved to support intelligent, resilient future networks.</p> <p>Presentation 1: Japan's preparation for the 6G Vision & R&D Priorities</p> <p>Japan's national Beyond 5G/6G roadmap, research leadership, and contributions to global standardisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Akihiro Nakao, Co-Chair XGMF <p>Presentation 2: Evolving Japan's Networks Toward an AI-Native Future of Connectivity</p> <p>How Japanese operators and R&D programmes are advancing AI RAN, edge computing, and NTN to build resilient, next generation networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takehiro Nakamura, Chief Standardization Officer, NTT DOCOMO, INC. <p>Presentation 3: AI-RAN & Intelligent Platforms in Japan</p> <p>How can Japan leverage its expertise in system integration and AI-RAN architectures to accelerate the evolution of existing networks into a scalable national next generation ecosystem and beyond?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Choi Jinsung, Principal Fellow, Technology Unit, CTO Office, SoftBank Corp. & Chair of the AI-RAN Alliance <p>Presentation 4: Accelerating the AI-Native Network Era: How Hyperscale Cloud Unlocks AI-RAN and 6G Readiness</p> <p>As networks evolve from software-defined to AI-native, the convergence of hyperscale cloud, AI infrastructure, and open radio architectures is driving a new paradigm for telco transformation. Industry partners are working with Japanese and APAC operators to accelerate AI-RAN, edge intelligence, and cloud-native modernisation, enabling resilient, autonomous networks for the 6G era. This session will share how cloud and AI platforms underpin scalable, sustainable next-generation connectivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mani Mahadevan, Senior Director, Industry Advisor Telco Asia, Microsoft
16:05 – 16:25	<p>Part 2 - Strategy & Ecosystem Scaling</p> <p>Part 2 will examine commercial strategies, platform collaboration, and new business models in preparation for the era of next generation connectivity</p>

	<p>ecosystem, emphasizing Japan’s leadership in building trusted industrial alliances and scalable digital platforms by highlighting how ecosystem partnerships can drive innovation and digital transformation across industries and regions.</p> <p>Presentation 5: Expectations of AI-RAN and Edge Applications over AI-on-RAN</p> <p>Emerging use cases driven by Japan’s robotics, mobility, smart infrastructure, and cyber physical system innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satoshi Konishi, <i>President & CEO, KDDI Research Inc.</i> <p>Presentation 6: Strategies and Use Cases for Driving Digital Transformation in APAC, Leveraging Japan-Made Solutions and Ecosystems</p> <p>This presentation discusses how next-generation networks and emerging open ecosystems enable commercial innovation and secure digital infrastructure, contributing to digitalization and economic growth in APAC countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hideyuki Ogata, <i>Senior Advisor, OREX SAI</i>
16:25 – 17:00	<p>Part 3 - Panel Discussion Session</p> <p>Scaling the next generation of connectivity ecosystem: APAC’s Technical & Commercial Leadership</p> <p>This panel will discuss how technology and commercial strategies must align to scale the global next generation 6G ecosystem, with the APAC region and Japan playing a central leadership role in fostering international collaboration and ecosystem coordination. The discussion will cover network evolution, AI-native platforms, governance models, and pathways for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Moderator: John David Kim, <i>Head of APAC 6G Partnership Forum, GSMA</i></p> <p>Panellist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takehiro Nakamura, <i>Chief Standardisation Officer, NTT DOCOMO, INC. / XGMF</i> • Jerry Jae Yeol Kim, <i>Executive Research Fellow, LG Uplus / 6G Forum</i> • Toru Sekino, <i>Executive Director, Mobile System Business Unit, 1FINITY</i> • Satoshi Konishi, <i>President & CEO, KDDI Research Inc.</i> • Professor Tony Quek, <i>Director, Future Comms R&D Program, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)</i>

17:00	Closing
17:00 – 18:30	Networking Drinks