

AI as a Transformative Technology:

Humanity, Knowledge,
and Civilization

2026

Nov. 20 Fri 1:00pm-
21 Sat 11:30am-



Venue | Yasuda Auditorium, the University of Tokyo

Language : English *ENG-JPN simultaneous interpretation available

AI is rapidly becoming embedded in our daily lives, our institutions, and our societies. It is changing how we access information and make decisions. Even more profoundly, it is reshaping how we understand knowledge, creativity, and human agency. At this moment of technological transformation, we need to consider carefully what AI means for humanity and civilization.

In 2027, the University of Tokyo will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Throughout its long history, our university has pursued excellence across both the natural sciences and the humanities and social sciences. At the same time, scholars in the humanities and social sciences have examined the nature and role of technology from a critical perspective.

Tokyo Forum 2026 gives us an opportunity to bring these traditions together. At this year's gathering, we will discuss both the possibilities and the limitations of AI. We will explore how AI can contribute to human well-being and social inclusion. We will ask how it can help foster meaningful connections across cultures and generations, and how it can support the preservation and transmission of collective memory in the digital age.

Keynote Addresses



Anne BOUVEROT

Special Envoy of the President of
France for Artificial Intelligence /
Chair of the Board
of the École normale supérieure (ENS)



ITO Ren

Co-founder and Chairman,
Sakana AI



ABE Masahiko

Professor, Graduate School of
Humanities and Sociology,
the University of Tokyo

**Register
here**



Free Admission
(Registration required)

AI as a Transformative Technology: Humanity, Knowledge, and Civilization



DAY 1 **Nov. 20 Fri** | 1:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Opening Remarks

1:00pm–1:20pm

- **FUJII Teruo**
President, the University of Tokyo
- **CHEY Tae-won** video message
Chairman, SK Group

Keynote Addresses

1:20pm–2:20pm

- **Anne BOUVEROT**
Special Envoy of the President of France for Artificial Intelligence /
Chair of the Board of the École normale supérieure (ENS)
- **ITO Ren**
Co-founder and Chairman, Sakana AI
- **ABE Masahiko**
Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology,
the University of Tokyo

Plenary Talk

2:20pm–3:30pm

- **Anne BOUVEROT**
Special Envoy of the President of France for Artificial Intelligence /
Chair of the Board of the École normale supérieure (ENS)
- **ITO Ren**
Co-founder and Chairman, Sakana AI
- **ABE Masahiko**
Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology,
the University of Tokyo
- **SOHN Jie-ae** Moderator
Invited Professor, Ewha Womans University

Break

Panel Discussion 1

3:45pm–4:45pm

Demystifying AI: Human Society and Technological Advancement

- **Giovanna TINETTI**
Professor of Astrophysics and Vice Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Natural,
Mathematical, and Engineering Sciences, Kings College London
- **Ahmed Cassim BAWA**
Professor, Johannesburg Business School, University of Johannesburg
- **Grant Jun OTSUKI**
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,
the University of Tokyo
- **Zefan SRAMEK**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Tokyo College, the University of Tokyo
- **SHIMAZU Naoko** Moderator
Professor and Deputy Director, Tokyo College, the University of Tokyo
Institute for Advanced Study, the University of Tokyo

*Please note that the schedule is subject to change.
There may be additions or changes to the list of speakers.



From Tokyo Forum 2025

Contact Us **Tokyo Forum Secretariat**

[E-mail] info@tokyo-forum-form.com

DAY 2 **Nov. 21 Sat** | 11:30 am – 5:30 pm

Youth Session

11:30pm–12:30pm

- Students from universities in South Korea and UTokyo
- **YOSHIOKA Rafaela** (Course Instructor)
Project Assistant Professor, Center for Global Education,
the University of Tokyo

Break

Panel Discussion 2

12:45pm–1:45pm

Knowledge Beyond Borders: Designing AI for Mental Health and Social Inclusion

- **Sharath Chandra GUNTUKU**
Associate Professor, Computer and Information Science,
University of Pennsylvania
- **Neha KUMAR**
Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology
- **LEE Uichin**
Professor, Department of AI Computing, KAIST
- **YATANI Koji** Moderator
Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology,
the University of Tokyo

Break

Business Leaders' Session

2:00 pm–3:00pm

- **FUJII Teruo**
President, the University of Tokyo
- **CHEY Tae-won**
Chairman, SK Group
- **SAWADA Jun**
Chairman and Member of the Board,
Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT)
- **YEOM Jae-ho**
President, Taejae University
- **SUGIMURA Miki**
President, Sophia University

Break

UTokyo 150th Anniversary Session

3:15 pm–4:15pm

The Flow of Memory: Digital Archives Across Time

- **Setsu SHIGEMATSU**
Professor and Chair of the Media & Cultural Studies Department,
University of California, Riverside
- **Arafat SHOUKRI**
Senior Researcher, Al Jazeera Centre for Studies
- **WATANAVE Hidenori** Moderator
Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies,
the University of Tokyo



Break

Wrap up Session

4:30 pm–5:10pm

Dialogues for Tomorrow

- **SOHN Jie-ae**
Invited Professor, Ewha Womans University
- **SHIMAZU Naoko**
Professor and Deputy Director, Tokyo College, the University of Tokyo
Institute for Advanced Study, the University of Tokyo
- **YATANI Koji**
Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology,
the University of Tokyo
- **WATANAVE Hidenori**
Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies,
the University of Tokyo
- **HAYASHI Kaori** Moderator
Executive Vice President, the University of Tokyo

Closing Remarks

5:10pm–5:30pm

- **HAYASHI Kaori**
Executive Vice President,
the University of Tokyo



- **KIM Yoosuk**
President, Chey
Institute for Advanced
Studies

