

First Circular

**The 18th Korea-China-Japan
Joint Conference on Geography**

**The Role of Geographers in the Era of the
Great Digital Transformation**

November 6-9, 2026

Asia Center, Seoul National University



Created by Nano Banana

Invitation

Welcome to the 18th Korea, China, Japan Joint Conference on Geography!

This conference, where East Asian geographers gather to share knowledge and broaden their intellectual horizons, marks its 18th anniversary this year.

Although our three nations have long experienced nature, cities, regions, and societies in distinct ways, our shared passion for geographical inquiry has always been the driving force that brings us together. In today's world, where every facet of life is being reorganized by digital forces, the traditional meanings of mountains, rivers, cities, and human spaces are calling for new and profound questions.

The Great Digital Transformation—symbolized by AI, satellite observations, sensor networks, and platform technologies—is fundamentally reshaping democracy, urban governance, climate and disaster management systems, mobility, daily life, and the very structure of education and knowledge. At the forefront of these shifts, geography is tasked with a role broader and deeper than ever before.

The geographical tradition of connecting humans with the environment, technology with space, and the local with the global is now merging with the new language of the digital era, evolving into practical wisdom that will shape the spaces of the future.

This conference will serve as a vital platform to discuss the new insights and roles geography can offer amidst these trends. Centered on plenary sessions such as GeoAI and Spatial Data Science, Digital Governance, and the Digital Transformation of Climate and Disaster Management, special and general sessions will cover the full spectrum of geography—including Physical and Human Geography, GIScience, Geography Education, and Historical Geography. This will be a comprehensive opportunity to discuss the present and future of East Asian geography, ranging from natural environments and urban issues to population, migration, settlement systems, and the flows of industry, innovation, culture, and history.

The 18th Conference, held at Asia Center of Seoul National University Asia Center, is more than just an academic exchange; it is a precious occasion to reaffirm the solidarity and friendship of the East Asian geographical community. We hope that the narratives of researchers, who have shared their experiences and knowledge to map out the geography of tomorrow despite numerous changes, will continue to unfold here. Furthermore, the Young Geographer Program is specially designed to support the challenges and growth of the next generation, bringing new vitality to our field.

In addition, the Seoul Digital Transformation Tour will provide a unique opportunity to experience East Asian spaces through the “geographer’s lens” by visiting the actual sites of Seoul’s digital evolution.

To navigate this rapidly changing era together, we must meet once again. The moments we spend listening to each other’s research, asking questions, and opening new perspectives are what collectively build the future of geography.

We look forward to welcoming you to Seoul in November 2026, amidst the beauty of autumn. We sincerely hope to write a new chapter in the narrative of the East Asian geographical community together with you.

Sincerely,

Organizing Committee of the 18th Korea, China, Japan Joint Conference on Geography

Call for Papers

The organizing committee has prepared for sessions that can facilitate discussions regarding emerging geographical issues that fit with the conference theme, **“The Role of Geographers in the Era of the Great Digital Transformation.”**

The rapid advancement of AI is expected to bring profound changes not only to our daily lives but also to the international order. This digital transformation, driven by the diffusion of data, AI, sensors, satellite observation, and platform technologies, is rapidly reshaping the very ways in which we understand and manage diverse spatial phenomena—ranging from urban and regional issues to the environment, disasters, mobility, and education. This conference will serve as a venue to collectively explore the expanding horizons of theories, methodologies, and practices that geography can offer amidst these shifts. Furthermore, we look forward to this being a meaningful occasion to share the latest research achievements from Korea, China, and Japan across all fields of geography, while further strengthening the exchange and friendship among East Asian geographers.

Two plenary sessions—focusing on digital transformation and policy and climate/disaster and digital technology—along with eleven special sessions, will cover specific issues and agendas including East Asian urbanity, the Polar Regions, and Nature Positive initiatives. Furthermore, eight general sessions will encompass major sub-disciplines of geography, such as geomorphology, climatology, urban planning, economic and political geography, population and migration geography, GIScience, remote sensing, and geography education. We are confident that these sessions will provide geographers with significant opportunities to address pressing challenges and advance theoretical frameworks in these fields.

We fully welcome additional proposals for both special and general sessions. The deadline for the session proposals is on June 20, 2026.

Abstract Submission Guideline

- Please submit an abstract of 400-600 words (up to 2 pages) for each presentation.
- Each abstract has to describe the purpose, methods, and conclusions of the paper.

Conference Themes

All the abstracts related to the below or other related themes of this conference are welcome.

Plenary Sessions

- Plenary Session 3: Digital Transformation & Policy
- Plenary Session 4: Climate/Disaster & Digital Technology

Special Sessions

- Special Session 1: Digital Transformation and Reorganization of Spatial Structure
- Special Session 2: Exploring Alternative East Asian Urbanity
- Special Session 3: The Earth's New Heart: Polar Regions
- Special Session 4: Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes of East Asia: Change, Preservation, and Future Directions
- Special Session 5: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Future Earth, and Post-SDGs
- Special Session 6: Voices of Emerging Geographers on GeoAI
- Special Session 7: Research on Surface Processes for Safer Lives
- Special Session 8: Past, Present, and Future of Environmental Research
- Special Session 9: Impact of Development and Migration on National and Regional Economies
- Special Session 10: Rural Depopulation and Regionally Balanced Development
- Special Session 11: Geography's Contribution to Nature Positive

General Sessions

- General Session 1: Earth-surface Processes for Safer Lives
- General Session 2: Resilience of Water and Ecosystems in a Changing Climate
- General Session 3: Livable Cities and Inclusive Regional Transitions
- General Session 4: Geographies of Innovation, Prosperity, and Economic Transitions
- General Session 5: Just Spaces and Governance for Coexistence
- General Session 6: Reconfiguring Mobility and Settlement for Sustainable Population Geographies
- General Session 7: Data & AI for Spatial Understanding Responsible Geography
- General Session 8: Geography Across Time, Education Connecting Knowledge

Presentations

The abstracts submitted will be eligible for placement either in a poster or lectern session.

Program

Keynote Speakers



Prof. Jae Heon Choi

Professor, Department of Geography, KonKuk University

President, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Korea



Prof. Suzuki Yasuhiro

Professor, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University

Chair, Geographical Association of Japan



Prof. Huayu Lu

Professor, School of Geographic and Oceanographic Sciences, Nanjing University

Vice President, Geographical Society of China



Prof. Youngok Kang

Professor, Department of Social Studies Education, Ewha Womans University



Prof. Yano Keiji

Professor, Department of Geography, Ritsumeikan University



Prof. Min Chen

Professor, School of Geography, Nanjing Normal University

Conference Program

Date	Program
Nov. 6 [Friday]	Registration Welcome Reception
Nov. 7 [Saturday]	Opening Ceremony Keynote Speeches Oral/Poster/Special Sessions Business Meetings
Nov. 8 [Sunday]	Keynote Speeches Oral/Poster/Special Sessions Farewell Ceremony Business Meetings
Nov. 9 [Monday]	Fieldtrip (full day) Seoul Digital Transformation Tour

Registration, Payment, and Abstract Submission

	Note	
210USD 300,000KRW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registration fee covers the costs for the conference materials, coffee/tea breaks, Welcome Reception (Friday evening), two lunches (Saturday, Sunday) and the Farewell Dinner (Sunday evening). • Accommodation is not included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online pre-registration is strongly recommended. • Presenters should complete registration before submitting the abstract. • At least one author must register for the conference.

Payment options

- Homepage: Credit cards
- On-site: We accept both cash (in KRW) and credit cards (in USD or KRW)

Individual booking of accommodations for offline conference attendees

- There are various accommodation options, including business hotels, co-op residence, and other reasonable options.
- For detailed information on adjacent accommodation, please contact the conference organizer.

Important Dates

May 15, 2026: Call for Abstracts and Papers

June 30, 2026: Abstract and Paper submission Deadline from participants from China

August 1, 2026: Acceptance Notification for participants from China

September 20, 2026: Abstract and Paper submission Deadline from Korea and Japan

Early October, 2026: Last date for session proposal submission

August 31, 2026: Draft program release

November 6-9 2026: Conference

Venue

Asia Center, Seoul National University

Website: <https://snuac.snu.ac.kr/eng/>

Address: #101 SNUAC 1 Gwanak-ro, Gwanak-gu, Seoul 08826, Korea

Established in 2009, the Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) is a global research institution based in Seoul, South Korea, dedicated to leading the advancement of Asian studies. Founded on the recognition that a deeper, more nuanced understanding of Asia is essential in the "Asian Era," SNUAC has since served as a premier hub for generating and disseminating new knowledge regarding the Asian region.

By integrating regional and thematic research, SNUAC aims to build a solid foundation for Asian studies, nurture next-generation scholars, and facilitate vibrant international exchange. Building upon its achievements over the past 15 years, the center strives to be a global platform for Asian studies that connects Asia with the rest of the world to shape a shared future.

The organization is comprised of the HK+ Mega-Asia Research Group, seven regional research centers, eight thematic programs, and the Asia Regional Information Center. Through innovative research, international conferences, workshops, and the establishment of robust research networks, SNUAC continues to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing across Asia and beyond.

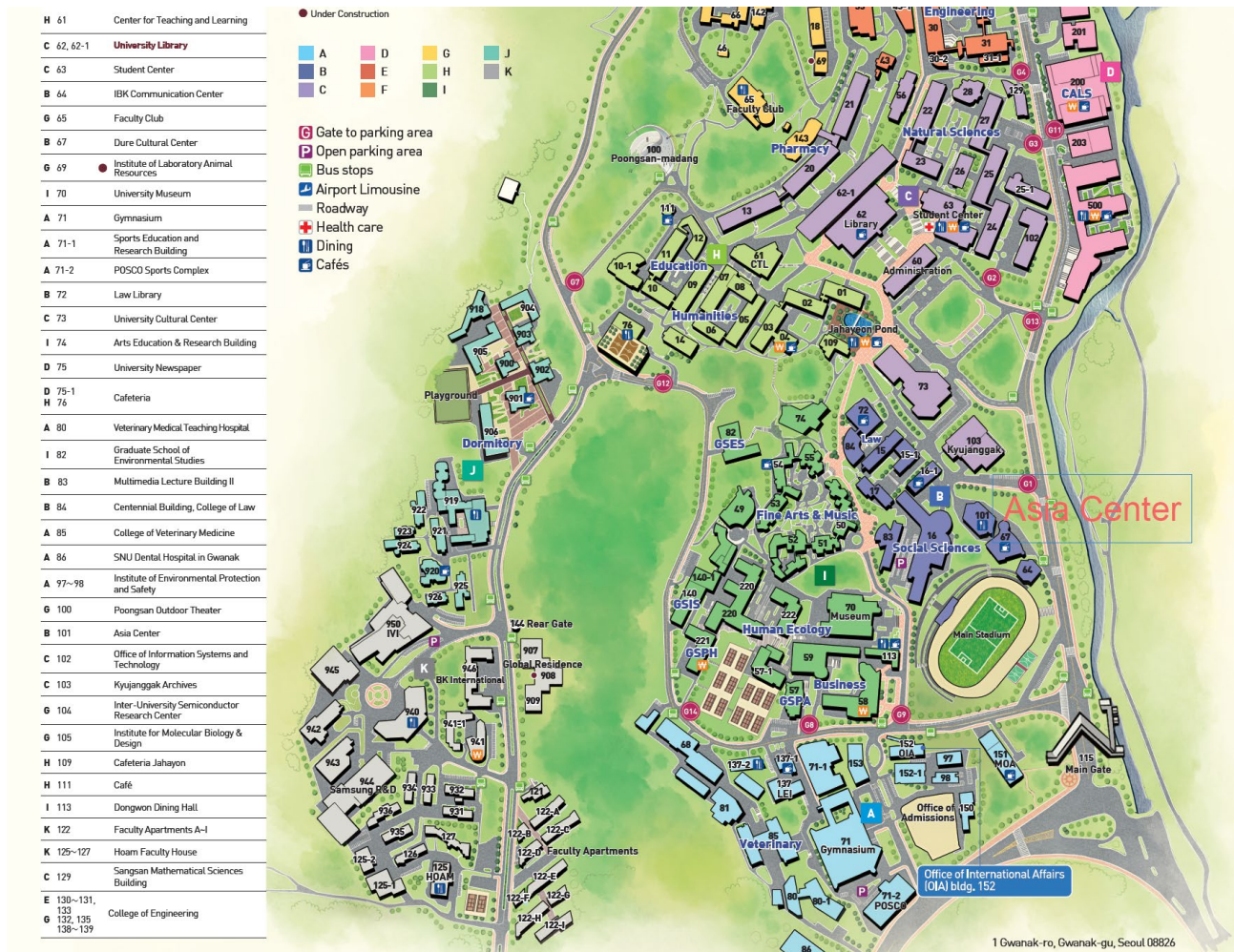
The SNU Asia Center features versatile conference spaces capable of hosting both large-scale plenary lectures and multiple parallel sessions, with excellent accessibility to various campus amenities. It will serve as the ideal venue for geographers from Korea, China, and Japan to gather, exchange ideas, and foster academic solidarity.

Directions to Asia Center, Seoul National University:

<https://snuac.snu.ac.kr/eng/index.php/introduction/directions-to-snuac/>

Directions to Seoul National University:

<https://en.snu.ac.kr/about/campus/gwanak/address>



Post-Conference Field Trip

A full-day field trip is scheduled for November 9, 2026, allowing participants to observe firsthand Seoul's AI industrial ecosystem—comprising industry-academia-research collaboration, startups, and public support—and witness how digital transformation is reshaping urban spaces. This will be followed by case-centered discussions on the 'The Role of Geographers in the Era of the Great Digital Transformation,' focusing on data-driven interpretation, verification, and policy integration.

Site visits will include: SNU AI Research, Seoul AI Hub, and Digital Media City (Sangam DMC).



Seoul AI Hub (source: <https://www.seoulaihub.kr/eng1/company1/company05.asp>)

Organizing Committee

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Kim, Sujeong (Chonnam National University)

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Chen, Fahu (President of GSC, China)

Ida, Yoshiyasu (President of AJG, Japan)

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ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Korea

Climate Research Institute, Konkuk University

Future Earth in Korea, Seoul National University

Korea-America Association for Geospatial and Environmental Sciences

The Institute for Korean Regional Studies, Seoul National University

Sponsors

The Geographical Society of China (GSC)

The Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG)

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