

EAIC 2026 Tokyo Successfully Held

The Life Insurance Association of Japan (LIAJ), together with the General Insurance Association of Japan (GIAJ), hosted the 31st East Asian Insurance Congress in Tokyo (the Conference) from Monday, September 14 to Wednesday, September 16, 2026. This marked the return of the Congress to Tokyo, its birthplace, for the first time in 24 years.

Under the slogan, “Back to the Origin, A Bridge to the Future ~Asia Reunites at Tokyo~,” the Conference brought together insurance professionals from more than 20 countries and regions, primarily from across East Asia. Approximately 660 participants attended the Congress, including representatives from insurance and reinsurance companies, regulatory authorities, industry associations, academia, and the media.

Throughout the Conference, participants engaged in active discussions on a broad range of important topics affecting the insurance industry, including international financial regulation, natural catastrophe protection gaps, talent development, healthcare, sustainability, aging societies, and digitalization and AI. The following sections provide an overview of the Conference highlights by day.

September 14 (Day 1)

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony welcomed distinguished guests and participants from across Asia and beyond. Remarks were delivered by Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo, together with Hiroshi Shimizu, Chairman, Nippon Life Insurance Company and then EAIC Vice President and Executive Board Member from Tokyo, and Sally Wan, then EAIC President.

The speakers welcomed the return of the Conference to Tokyo, its birthplace, for the first time in 24 years, and highlighted the importance of dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding within the insurance industry.

To formally mark the opening of the Conference, a traditional *Kagami-biraki* ceremony was held following the opening toast delivered by Koji Ishikawa, Chairman, the GIAJ, and Toshiaki Sumino, Chairperson, the LIAJ. The ceremony provided a symbolic start to three days of discussion, exchange, and collaboration among insurance professionals from across the region.



Welcome Reception

Participants from Japan and abroad, including representatives from EAIC member cities, gathered to renew old friendships and forge new connections.



September 15 (Day 2)

Keynote Speech: *Building Resilience in a Changing World: The IAIS Response to Emerging Risks*

Toshiyuki Miyoshi, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Financial Services Agency, Government of Japan, Chair, IAIS Executive Committee

Macroeconomic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, structural shifts in the life insurance sector, climate-related risks, and advances in AI technologies were described as part of an increasingly interconnected “polycrisis” environment, highlighting the importance of international supervisory cooperation.

The presentation also addressed responses to asset-intensive reinsurance (AIR) and natural catastrophe protection gaps, while emphasizing the role of the insurance industry in supporting economic stability and strengthening societal resilience.



Panel Discussion: *How to Fill the NatCat Protection Gap*

Moderator : Yoshihiro Kawai, Chair, Global Asia Insurance Partnership

Panelists :

Michael F. Rellosa, Executive Director, Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association, Inc.

Kocu Andre Hutagalung, President Director, PT Reasuransi MAIPARK Indonesia

Hakeem Benraheem, Chairman of the Property Insurance Committee, Thai General Insurance Association

Candric Cheng, Assistant General Manager, Fidelidade Macau

Experiences and initiatives from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Macau were shared under the theme of natural catastrophe protection gaps in Asia, including examples of disaster risk financing, parametric insurance and agricultural insurance programs.

The discussion highlighted that narrowing protection gaps requires continued cooperation among governments, regulators and the insurance industry. It also underscored the important role insurers can play through greater insurance penetration and the development of risk data infrastructure.



Panel Discussion: *Talent, Trust and Transformation: Is Insurance Still a People Business?*

Moderator : Selina Lau, Chief Executive, The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers

Panelists :

Julie Chow, Group Chief Human Resources Officer, FWD Group

Terence Ho, Chief Risk Officer, Tokio Marine Nippon Insurance Co., Ltd.

Amelia Lim, Acting Head of Brunei Branch, Tokio Marine Insurance Singapore Ltd

Yeow Hau Tan, Executive Lead, Integration Liaison (Nippon Life), Acenda Group / Advisor, Nippon Life Insurance Company

Participants shared the view that insurance remains a people business built on trust, even as AI and digital technologies continue to transform the industry. Future insurance professionals were seen as requiring not only technological capabilities, but also judgement, empathy, and a commitment to continuous learning.

The importance of developing the next generation of insurance talent through industry-wide efforts, in addition to initiatives undertaken by individual companies, was also highlighted.

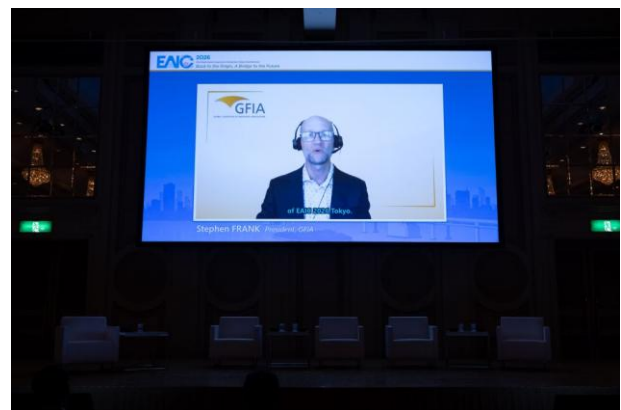
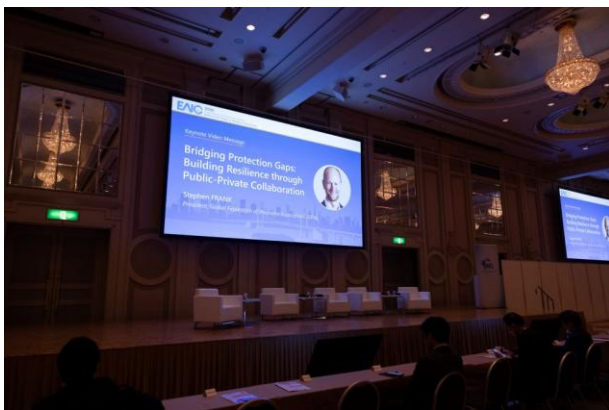


Keynote Speech (Video): *Bridging Protection Gaps: Building Resilience through Public-Private Collaboration*

Stephen Frank, President, Global Federation of Insurance Associations (GFIA)

Protection gaps across a broad range of areas, including natural catastrophes, healthcare, and cyber risks, were highlighted as a challenge extending beyond the insurance industry and affecting society as a whole.

The speech emphasized that public-private collaboration, innovative solutions, technological advancement, and preventive measures are all essential to narrowing protection gaps and strengthening the resilience of individuals, businesses, and communities.



Panel Discussion: *Beyond SDGs and Well-being – Healthcare Transformation –*

Moderator : Norichika Kanie, Ph.D., Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

Panelists :

Kim Soon Chua, CEO, General Insurance Association of Malaysia

Shinichi Kishi, Fellow, Sustainability, Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Company

Channtharong Suy, CEO, Forte Insurance Cambodia

Sally Wan, CEO, AXA Greater China

Aging populations, the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, and the recognition that progress toward the 2030 SDG targets is still only halfway achieved provided the backdrop for discussions on how the insurance industry can contribute to health promotion and the improvement of well-being.

Participants shared the view that insurers can contribute not only to individual health but also to the sustainability of local communities and economies by promoting healthy longevity and improving access to healthcare. From the perspective of “Beyond SDGs,” the role insurers can play as lifelong partners supporting people throughout their lives was also discussed.



Panel Discussion: *Climate, Nature, and Insurance: Driving Sustainability in Asia*

Moderator : Masayuki Tanaka, Managing Director, FALIA

Panelists :

Naoyuki Okano, Programme Officer in the Governance for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (GCSD) programme, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

Umang Vats, Asia-Pacific Regional Analyst, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative

Sara Lamsam, CEO, Muang Thai Life Assurance PCL

Tatsuya Sudo, Corporate Sustainability Dept., MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings Inc.

Integrated challenges relating to climate, nature, and insurance served as the basis for discussions on the need for greater sustainability literacy through closer collaboration among academia, international organizations, and the insurance industry.

The discussion was structured around four key pillars - finance, data sharing, governance, and knowledge sharing - and featured practical examples of initiatives based on the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI), a UN-supported insurance framework. Participants also reaffirmed that the insurance industry in Asia is expected to play a central role in advancing sustainability across the region.



September 16 (Day 3)

Keynote Speech: *The Longevity Society: The Impact of Age-Related Cognitive Decline on Economic Activity and Asset Management, and Policy Responses*

Kohei Komamura, Professor of Faculty of Economics and Director of the Research Center for Financial Gerontology, Keio University

Aging populations and the impact of cognitive decline on asset management and economic activity formed the focus of this keynote speech. The importance of balancing the protection of older people with continued access to financial services was highlighted.

The presentation also emphasized the need to create an environment in which older people can manage and utilize their assets with confidence, while underscoring the importance of collaboration among financial institutions, insurers, government agencies and other stakeholders.



Keynote Speech: *Data Strategy, Governance, and Trust for Insurance in the Age of AI*

Akiko Murakami, Senior Vice President, Chief Data Officer and General Manager of Data Management Department, Sampo Japan Insurance Inc.

Data strategy and governance in the age of AI formed the focus of this keynote speech, highlighting the importance of data quality and cybersecurity in maintaining customer trust.

The presentation also introduced the concept that "Trust must be designed" and emphasized that the adoption of AI is not merely a matter of implementing new technologies, but a transformation that extends to business processes and business models themselves.



Panel Discussion: *Balancing AI Innovation and Trust in Insurance*

Moderator : Shigeharu Ko, Partner, PwC Consulting

Panelists :

Scarlett Bae, Director, RNA Analytics

Yosuke Fujisawa, Data Science Officer, Sumitomo Life Insurance Company

Chandra Reddy, Head of Client Digital & Data Solutions, Asia Pacific, RGA Reinsurance Company

George Alayon, Deputy Director, Bermuda Monetary Authority

The discussion highlighted that successful AI adoption requires organization-wide efforts involving data quality, explainability, and talent development, while recognizing AI as a tool that complements and enhances human judgement and capabilities.

The importance of establishing governance frameworks based on transparency and accountability was also emphasized. Participants further discussed the need for collaboration among insurers, reinsurers, technology providers, and regulators to support the responsible and trustworthy use of AI.



Closing Ceremony

Following closing remarks by Sally Wan, former EAIC President, Hiroshi Tange, EAIC Secretary and Treasurer and Director, the International Affairs Department, the LIAJ, presented the Tokyo Declaration, which had been adopted as one of the key outcomes of the Conference (available [here](#)).

Hiroshi Shimizu, former EAIC Vice President and Executive Board Member from Tokyo, then presented a commemorative plaque to Somporn Suebthawilkul, EAIC Vice President and Executive Board Member from Bangkok, the host city of the next EAIC in 2028, formally handing over the role of host city.

The ceremony concluded with the introduction of the Executive Board Members of the 32nd EAIC and the presentation of the leadership team that will guide preparations for the 2028 Bangkok Conference.



Looking Ahead

The Conference, held in Tokyo, the birthplace of EAIC, for the first time in 24 years, provided a valuable opportunity for participants to share diverse perspectives and experiences, while strengthening connections across markets and regions.

The LIAJ would like to express its sincere appreciation to all participants, speakers, sponsors, and supporters whose contributions helped make the Conference a success.

Building on the insights and connections fostered through the Conference, the LIAJ will continue to deepen dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders across the East Asian region and contribute to the further development of the insurance industry.

*For further information, please also visit the official EAIC 2026 Tokyo website:

<https://event.itbbwt.com/event/DaaKNA>