No.	Questions	Answers
1	Who is the main organizer of the 2026 Korea-ASEAN AI Development/Startup Competition?	The program is funded by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and organized by the National IT Industry Promotion Agency (NIPA) of the Republic of Korea. It is implemented as part of a Korea-ASEAN cooperation initiative aimed at strengthening digital innovation and AI startup collaboration between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN Member States. As the Philippines holds the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026, the program is supported in the Philippines by the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD), an agency under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).
2	Who can apply for the competition?	We welcome AI startups at various stages of growth, from early-stage to growth-stage, provided that they have developed at least a functional prototype or Minimum Viable Product (MVP). Eligible applicants include startups and pre-startups whose representatives are nationals of the Republic of Korea or one of the 11 ASEAN Member States. Startups must have been established within the past seven years, meaning they must have been established as a sole proprietorship or corporation on or after 29 July 2019. Pre-startups must not be registered as business proprietors, regardless of business type, as of the date

		of the recruitment announcement. Applicants must be developing AI-based technologies or solutions that contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Eligible sectors include, but are not limited to, agritech, foodtech, healthtech, edtech, cleantech, climatetech, fintech, smart manufacturing, mobility, logistics, and other AI-driven industries.
3	Which countries are eligible?	Eligible countries include the Republic of Korea and the following 11 ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.
4	Is there a fee to apply?	No. There is no application or participation fee.
5	What is the application period?	The application period is from 28 July 2026 (Mon) to 21 August 2026 (Fri), 16:00 (PHT). Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications at least two to three days before the deadline to avoid possible delays caused by network congestion or other technical issues.
6	What are the benefits of participating?	Selected startups will participate in a customized online acceleration program designed to strengthen their global market readiness and investment capabilities. The program includes: • Pre-Program Orientation • 1:1 Expert Mentoring • IR & Pitch Coaching • Korea-ASEAN Seminars • Business Matching & Networking • Post-Award Support for winning

		startups Selected startups will also have the opportunity to participate in the Final Competition & Demo Day in the Philippines in November 2026. Round-trip airfare and hotel accommodation will be provided in accordance with the program guidelines.
7	Who are the mentors and judges?	Mentors and judges will consist of experienced professionals from venture capital firms, accelerators, corporations, academia, industry, and relevant public organizations in the Republic of Korea and ASEAN. They will be selected based on their expertise in AI technologies, startup investment, business development, global market expansion, and startup ecosystem support. The final list of mentors and judges will be announced before the relevant program sessions and evaluations.
8	Is it necessary for the CEO or founder to represent the company, or can a member of the senior management team serve as the representative?	The startup must be represented by its CEO, founder, or another C-level executive who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the company. The designated representative should be able to participate in the acceleration program, online evaluations, and the Final Competition & Demo Day.
9	What is the program timeline?	The tentative program schedule is as follows: • **Application Period:** 28 July–21 August 2026 • **Document Review:** 27 August 2026 • **Pitching video Evaluation:** 28 August 2026

		• **Final Announcement:** 1 September 2026 • **Online Acceleration Program:** September–October 2026 • **Final Competition & Demo Day:** 4 – 5 November 2026 The schedule is subject to change depending on program operations and unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be announced through the official program website.
10	How many teams will be selected?	A total of 24 startups will be selected. Two startups will be selected from each of the 12 participating countries, consisting of the Republic of Korea and the 11 ASEAN Member States.
11	Will travel or accommodation be provided?	Yes. Round-trip airfare and hotel accommodation will be provided for selected startups participating in the Final Competition & Demo Day in the Philippines. Travel support will generally be provided for the designated representatives of each selected startup in accordance with the program guidelines. Detailed information regarding eligible participants, flight arrangements, accommodation, and required travel documents will be shared before the event.
12	How will the winners be selected?	Startups will be evaluated through a Document Review and an Online Pitch Evaluation based on the following criteria: AI Technology & Innovation Business Viability & Commercial Potential SDG Contribution & Social Impact ASEAN Market Readiness & Global Scalability Team Capability & Execution The final selection will be determined

		based on the combined evaluation results in accordance with the program criteria.
13	How can I stay updated?	Visit the [official program website— to be announced] for official announcements and updates.
14	What are the prizes for the winners?	Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) startups in the Final Competition as follows: ● 1st Place: USD 20,000 (approximately KRW 29 million) ● 2nd Place: USD 10,000 (approximately KRW 14 million) ● 3rd Place: USD 5,000 (approximately KRW 7 million)
15	What support is provided to selected teams?	The 24 selected startups will participate in an online acceleration program from September to October 2026. The program includes: • Pre-Program Orientation • Customized 1:1 Expert Mentoring • IR & Pitch Coaching • Korea-ASEAN Seminars • Business Matching & Networking Startups participating in the Final Competition & Demo Day will also receive round-trip airfare and hotel accommodation in accordance with the program guidelines. Winning startups will receive additional post-award support, including follow-up meetings with investors and global partners, connections to overseas market expansion programs, and opportunities for investment and business collaboration.
16	How do I apply?	Applicants must complete the following steps: 1. Visit the official program website. 2. Download the application form and

		related documents. 3. Complete the application form offline. 4. Prepare all required supporting documents. 5. Submit the completed application package by email to [aiyouthfesta.info@gmail.com]. 6. Submit the application no later than Friday, 21 August 2026, 16:00(PHT). Applications submitted after the deadline or without the required supporting documents will not be accepted.
17	Will the information I submit be made publicly available?	No. All submitted information will be kept confidential and used solely for the operation, evaluation, and administration of this program in accordance with the Personal Information Collection and Use Consent Form.
18	What key documents are required when applying?	Applicants are required to submit the following documents: ● Completed Application Form ● Signed Participation Agreement ● Pitch Deck (PDF format) ● Certificate of Incorporation (or equivalent business registration document) ● Personal Information Collection & Use Consent Form ● Optional Supporting Documents (e.g., investment records, awards, certifications, patents, or company profile)
19	Who can I contact for questions or technical issues?	If you have any questions regarding the program or need technical assistance with the application portal, please contact us using the details below. Program Inquiries: Email: aiyouthfesta.info@gmail.com Tel: +82-2-6956-2043