

Third Meeting of the Global Initiative on Artificial Intelligence for Health (GI-AI4H)

Practical information for participants –

As of 14 August 2026

Hangzhou, China | 16–18 September 2026

Dates

Wednesday, 16 September–Friday, 18 September 2026 (three days).

- **The pre-meeting day (16 September)** is dedicated to site visits showcasing AI for health research, development and implementation in China.
- **Day 1 (17 September)** features a high-level policy dialogue on AI governance and cross-border collaboration, together with parallel technical sub-forums.
- **Day 2 (18 September)** focuses on progress reports and consultations involving the GI-AI4H Working Groups and Topic Groups.

The latest programme details will be available [here](https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2026/09/16/default-calendar/third-meeting-of-the-global-initiative-on-ai-for-health) (<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2026/09/16/default-calendar/third-meeting-of-the-global-initiative-on-ai-for-health>).

Venue information

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Pre-meeting site visits

Site-visit locations, meeting points, and transport arrangements will be shared with registered participants once finalised.

Thursday, 17 September 2026

[Hangzhou Blossom Water Museum Hotel](#)

杭州宝盛水博园大酒店

No. 118 Shuibo Road, Xiaoshan District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

浙江省杭州市萧山区水博路118号



Friday, 18 September 2026

National Artificial Intelligence Application Pilot and Test Base (Medical) – Zhejiang

国家人工智能应用中试基地（医疗）·浙江

No. 733 Jianshe 3rd Road, Xiaoshan District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

浙江省杭州市萧山区建设三路733号



Further venue-specific information, including meeting-room details and any maps or directions provided by the local hosts, will be shared with registered participants once available.

Registration for in-person or online attendance

Registration is open to the public, subject to approval. Participants must register in advance through the [ITU event registration page](https://www.itu.int/go/giai4h/reg) (<https://www.itu.int/go/giai4h/reg>) and indicate whether they will attend in person or online.

A free ITU user account is required. Participants who do not already have an account can create one through the event registration page. Existing users who have forgotten their password can reset it through [ITU User Management](https://user.itu.int/login) (<https://user.itu.int/login>).

In-person participation is self-funded. Registration requests are reviewed by the Secretariat, and registrants will receive an automated email once their registration has been approved. Participants are encouraged to register well in advance.

Online participation

All participants—whether attending in person or online—must register for the meeting in advance. Once their registration has been approved, online participants can access the meeting through [ITU MyMeetings](https://remote.itu.int/) (<https://remote.itu.int/>). Participants must sign in using the same ITU account used to register for the meeting.

After signing in, select “Meeting of the Global Initiative on AI for Health” from the list of available meetings. Sessions can be joined from 30 minutes before their scheduled start time by selecting JOIN.

If the meeting is not displayed, confirm that you are signed in using the correct ITU account. Access may not yet be available if registration approval is still pending. If the JOIN button is unavailable after the access period has begun, refresh the browser.

Time zone and time difference

Hangzhou observes **China Standard Time (UTC/GMT+8)** throughout the year and does not observe daylight saving time. Unless otherwise indicated, all programme times are given in China Standard Time.

Participants joining online should use a [time-zone converter](#) to check the corresponding times in their location.

Organizers, hosts and contacts

The meeting is jointly organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It is hosted in China by the China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC), the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), and the China Health Economics Association (CHEA).

Secretariat contacts (for programmatic matters):

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	World Health Organization (WHO)	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
• Simão Campos: simao.campos@itu.int • Eva Keller: eva.keller@itu.int • aiforhealth@itu.int	• Ursula Yu Zhao: zhaoy@who.int • Sameer Pujari: pujaris@who.int • ai@who.int	• Nancy Pignataro: nancy.pignataro@wipo.int

Local host contact (for logistical matters): To be provided.

Visa and entry requirements

Participants should confirm the entry requirements applicable to their nationality and passport type well in advance of travel. Those requiring a visa should apply as early as possible. Current information on China's [unilateral visa-exemption policies](https://en.nia.gov.cn/n147418/n147463/c183390/content.html) (<https://en.nia.gov.cn/n147418/n147463/c183390/content.html>) is available from the National Immigration Administration (NIA). Participants should also consult the Chinese embassy or consulate responsible for their place of residence regarding the requirements applicable to their individual circumstances.

Participants requiring a formal invitation letter for visa purposes should contact the WHO Secretariat at ai@who.int as early as possible.

Arrival card and health declaration: Foreign nationals may complete the [Arrival Card online](https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPC/) (<https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPC/>) before travelling through the NIA's free official service. The service is also available through the [NIA 12367 app](#) and the NIA 12367 mini-programmes on WeChat and Alipay. Travellers who are unable to complete the Arrival Card in advance may use the electronic devices or paper forms available at ports of entry.

Travellers experiencing symptoms of an infectious disease must report their health status to China Customs.

Arrival – airport and rail

Hangzhou is served by **Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (IATA: HGH)**. The city is also connected to Shanghai and other major cities by high-speed rail, principally through Hangzhou East Railway Station. The journey from Shanghai takes approximately one hour on the fastest services.

The local hosts will confirm detailed transfer arrangements between the airport or railway stations and the recommended hotels.

Passengers carrying RMB 20,000 or more in cash, or foreign currency cash equivalent to USD 5,000 or more, must declare it to China Customs. Goods subject to customs declaration must also be declared.

Taxi from the airport to central Hangzhou: A metered taxi from Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport to central Hangzhou generally costs approximately RMB 100–140 and takes 35–60 minutes, depending on traffic.

Practical tips:

- 1) Use the official taxi rank and make sure the driver uses the meter, rather than agreeing to a pre-determined fare. Payment can be made in RMB cash or through Alipay or WeChat Pay; direct payment by international card is often not available. It is advisable to show the destination name and address in Chinese.
- 2) Ride-hailing services such as DiDi (滴滴) can be accessed through the DiDi app or through Alipay or WeChat. The DiDi app supports international cards, subject to card-issuer verification. Pick-up is from the designated ride-hailing area on [level B2 of the airport's Transportation Centre](#).
- 3) For reference, here is a short video explaining how to use ride-hailing taxi apps in China: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DV933d2ia_k/

Getting around in Hangzhou

- ☐ **Metro:** Hangzhou's metro network connects the airport, railway stations, city centre and West Lake area, and is a convenient and economical way to travel.
- ☐ **Taxis and ride-hailing:** Licensed taxis and DiDi ride-hailing services are widely available. The DiDi app supports international cards, subject to card-issuer verification.
- ☐ **Buses and bikes:** Public buses and shared bicycles are widely available; most services accept mobile payment via WeChat or Alipay.

Hotels

Participants may wish to consider the Hangzhou Blossom Water Museum Hotel, which is the meeting venue on Thursday, 17 September: <https://www.trip.com/hotels/hangzhou-hotel-detail-472889/hangzhou-blossom-water-museum-hotel/>

The local hosts will provide additional hotel recommendations near the meeting venues. Participants must make their own hotel reservations and cover all related expenses. Please note that, unless otherwise indicated, **no preferential rates** have been negotiated for this meeting. As September is a popular travel period in Hangzhou, we strongly recommend booking early.

General information

Hangzhou

Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang Province, located in eastern China at the southern end of the Grand Canal and on the shores of the renowned West Lake, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Blending historic culture with cutting-edge innovation, Hangzhou is one of China's leading digital-economy and artificial-intelligence hubs, home to major technology enterprises and research institutions. Its advanced digital infrastructure and thriving health-technology ecosystem make it a fitting host for the third GI-AI4H meeting.

Climate

In mid-September, Hangzhou is typically warm and humid as summer transitions to early autumn, with daytime temperatures generally ranging between about 24°C and 30°C and occasional rain.

Light, breathable clothing with a layer for air-conditioned indoor venues is advisable. For up-to-date forecasts, please consult a weather service before travelling.

Currency and ATMs

The official currency of China is the Renminbi (RMB / CNY).

Foreign currencies are generally *not* accepted for everyday purchases, so participants are advised to exchange currency in advance or on arrival.

Major currencies and traveller's cheques can be exchanged for RMB at the airport, at banks displaying a "Currency Exchange" sign, and at many hotels.

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are available at the airport, major hotels, shopping centres and transport hubs for cash withdrawals.

Credit cards and mobile payment

Major international credit cards such as VISA, Mastercard, American Express, JCB and UnionPay are accepted at locations displaying the corresponding logos and can be used to withdraw cash from compatible ATMs. Mobile payment is widely used and convenient in China.

Tips:

- ☐ Download WeChat (Weixin), Alipay (Zhifubao) or UnionPay Cloud QuickPass, and register using a mobile number, email, Apple ID or Google account.
- ☐ Link an overseas bank card from a major international scheme (e.g. Visa, Mastercard, UnionPay) to the app to enable payments across China. You can do this before and after arrival in China. If prompted to provide additional identity information, you may complete real-name verification using your passport to continue using the service. If you encounter any transaction limits, check with both your issuing bank and the mobile payment service provider.

- If you use an overseas wallet that partners with UnionPay International, Alipay+ or WeChat Pay, you may be able to pay directly with your existing wallet without downloading a new app.

Electricity and water supply

Electricity in China is supplied at 220 volts, 50 hertz. Standard sockets accept Type A plugs (two flat parallel pins) and Type I plugs (three flat pins, with two angled). Please check your electrical appliances before use and bring a suitable travel adapter if needed.

Tap water is not potable; bottled water is recommended for drinking.

Telecom services and SIM cards

Mobile services in China are stable and reliable. Phones supporting 4G (TD-LTE/FDD-LTE) or 5G networks with active roaming agreements can be used normally.

You can buy prepaid SIM cards for short-term use at the airport and at official stores of China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom (passport required for registration).

If your phone supports eSIM, you can purchase a travel eSIM before arrival.

Wi-Fi and internet access

Free Wi-Fi is generally available at the meeting venues and recommended hotels; details will be provided on site.

Please note that some international apps and websites may be inaccessible on standard networks in mainland China; participants who rely on specific services may wish to make arrangements in advance (for example, international roaming).

Postal services

Post offices generally open from 09:00 to 17:00. Many hotels can also assist with mailing and courier services.

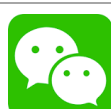
Tipping

Tipping is uncommon in China and generally not expected in restaurants, taxis, or hotels.

Smoking policy

Smoking is prohibited in indoor public places across China, and in outdoor areas near schools, hospitals, sports and cultural venues. Please use designated smoking areas only.

Commonly used mobile applications

Purpose	App		Notes
Payment	WeChat (Weixin)		Link an international card; passport verification may be required.
	Alipay (Zhifubao)		
	UnionPay Cloud QuickPass		
Communication	WeChat (Weixin)		Widely used for messaging, calls and payments.
Navigation	Baidu Maps		Reliable local maps and public-transport routing.
	Amap (Gaode Maps)		
Ride-hailing	DiDi (滴滴)		Book taxis and private cars; supports card payment.

Medical facilities and hospitals

Hangzhou has several large, well-equipped hospitals offering emergency care, including several affiliated with Zhejiang University School of Medicine. Local hosts will confirm the nearest hospital and any on-site medical arrangements. Participants are advised to travel with adequate international health insurance and any personal medication they may require.

Emergency numbers

Service	Number
Police	110
Fire	119
Medical emergency / ambulance	120

Tourist information

If you would like to learn more about Hangzhou or extend your stay, popular attractions include West Lake (Xihu), the Grand Canal, Lingyin Temple and the Longjing tea plantations. The local hosts may share further recommendations with registered participants.
