

SNU side event concept note for GHS conference 2026

Concept note

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic and other global outbreaks such as Mpox reveal gaps in national and global health security systems. These gaps are found in surveillance, laboratory capacity, workforce readiness, emergency coordination, and equitable access to countermeasures.

Therefore, it is important to collaborate through multilateral and multisectoral partnerships and strengthen preparedness for future pandemics.

The Republic of Korea has played an increasingly prominent role in advancing global health security through the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). Key Korean institutions driving this effort include the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which provides development cooperation funding for GHSA implementation in partner countries, and the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), which contributes technical expertise in disease surveillance, laboratory capacity, and emergency response. Together, KOICA and KDCA have strengthened Korea's position as a leading contributor to global health security.

A key example of this commitment is KOICA's **"Increasing Health Security Capacities through the Global Health Security Agenda Phase 2 Project (GHSA Phase II Project)" in Ghana**, which supports bilateral cooperation between Ghana and Korea in collaboration with Ghana Health Service, U.S. CDC, WHO, University of Ghana, and Seoul National University. This project has provided a critical foundation for building Ghana's core capacities in surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce development including the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), and emergency preparedness and response.

This side event brings together diverse experiences from these institutions on capacity building regarding real-world outbreak response. It will demonstrate how coordinated action, anchored by Korean development cooperation, translates into resilient health systems.

Purpose of the side event

This side event aims to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and dialogue on practical approaches to strengthening national and global health security through collaboration.

Specifically, the event seeks to:

1. Highlight the role of multilateral partnerships in advancing GHSA priorities and IHR capacities.

2. Showcase integrated preparedness and response models, including laboratory strengthening, surveillance, emergency operations, vaccination strategies, and workforce development, as applied during the Mpox outbreak in Ghana.
3. Emphasize workforce development and FETP engagement as a scalable and sustainable mechanism for rapid outbreak investigation and response.
4. Foster discussion on lessons learned, remaining challenges, and opportunities for future collaboration to enhance pandemic preparedness globally.

Methods

The side event will consist of thematic presentations with interactive discussion and Q&A, structured to connect policy-level frameworks with operational experience.

- KOICA's contribution to Global Health Security will be discussed through an exploration of KOICA's GHS activities worldwide. The process of project concept proposals will be also explained for those who want to apply for grants.
- The GHS Bilateral Cooperation between Ghana and Korea will be a panel of different institutions including Ghana Health Service, US CDC, WHO, University of Ghana and Seoul National University. This will be highlighted through the 2025 Mpox response, GHSA Phase II partnership with Ghana and the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). This partnership illustrates how frontline and intermediate trainees can support outbreak investigation, community-based surveillance, and rapid response.
- KDCA's contribution to GHS will be discussed through regional best practices in Mongolia and JEE outcomes.

The session will include open discussions, allowing participants to reflect on how collaborative approaches can be adapted across regions to build resilient, interoperable health security systems for future pandemics.

Overview and program

- **Title:** "Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness: Overcoming challenges through Collaboration"
- **Subtitle:** Strengthening Multisectoral Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness

- **Date and time:** 8 June 2026, from 1:40 to 5:00 (GMT)
- **Venue:** Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Room 304
- **Participants:** about 96 attendees

Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker / Organization
Theme 1: Contribution of KOICA in GHS		
1:40 – 2:00	Welcome Remarks	
2:00 – 2:40	Activities of KOICA for GHS worldwide Process of Project Concept Proposal Q&A and Discussion	KOICA
Theme 2: GHS Bilateral Cooperation – Lessons from Ghana & Korea		
3:00 – 4:00	Best Practice in Ghana (Ghana Health Service) US CDC WHO AMR FETP	Moderator: GHS US CDC WHO Univ. of Ghana GFETP graduates (video)
Theme 3: Contribution of KDCA in GHS		
4:20 – 4:50	Best Practice in Mongolia JEE Result Q&A and Discussion	KDCA
4:50 – 5:00	Closing	