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Ministry of Data and Statistics (MODS) Spearheads Global Dialogue with OECD and ADB on Global Data Standards for AI Era

The Ministry of Data and Statistics (MODS), led by Minister Hyungjun AHN, launched a high-profile international workshop in Seoul on Tuesday under the official theme: "From Standards to Intelligence: Strengthening Capacity for SDMX and AI-Driven Official Statistics."

Co-hosted alongside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the three-day workshop brings together more than 80 data experts from 25 countries. Participants are exploring how to combine data standards and artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the production, management and use of data. A key focus is Statistical Data and Metadata exchange (SDMX), an international standard for exchanging statistics and related information across different systems. Participants are discussing how SDMX and AI can help AI systems more accurately understand and use statistical data.

"In the AI era, the competitiveness of data lies not simply in its volume, but in building 'AI-ready data' that AI can properly understand and use in context," said MODS Vice Minister Myoung-ho Lee in his opening remarks. "I hope this workshop will allow us to share experiences and challenges and discover new possibilities for using data more easily and accurately in the AI era."

The workshop features experts in data standards and AI from major international organizations, including the OECD and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). The first two days cover data standardization and management for AI and AI-assisted improvements in data quality and production efficiency, respectively.

On the final day, participants will take part in the “SDMx + AI Innovation Hackathon,” using the Model Context Protocol (MCP) to develop and present data service models that enable AI to access and use official statistics. Through hands-on sessions and the hackathon, participants will explore practical ways to make data more accurately and conveniently accessible through AI.

Vice Minister Lee noted that “the paradigm of the AI race is rapidly shifting from competition over AI models themselves to pursuit of ‘Good Data’ that AI can trust and use immediately.” He expressed his hope that through the workshop, participants will share experiences and explore how bringing data and AI together can enhance the value of both, while enabling people and governments to use data more easily and accurately.

Building on this workshop, MODS plans to further strengthen data cooperation with countries across the Asia-Pacific region and accelerate innovation in statistical and data infrastructure in line with evolving global data standards for the AI era.

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Annex 1.

Workshop Program

Day	Time	Programme	
9.15. (화)	09:00~09:30	Registration	
	09:30~10:00	Opening	Opening Remarks and welcoming address (Group Photo)
	10:30~12:00	Session1	AI state of play
			• Current AI capabilities and limitations • LLMs, context, prompts, tools, agents and MCP • The role of metadata in grounding AI responses • Current trends and why today's technology represents only a snapshot of a rapidly evolving landscape
	12:00~13:30	Lunch	
	13:30~14:30	Session1	Cted
	14:30~15:00	Session2	What makes (Meta)data AI-Ready?
			• Characteristics of SDMX structural and referential metadata artifacts that enable AI systems to discover, understand and correctly interpret statistical information • Improve SDMX artifacts (codelist, dataflow, ...) using FMR and .Stat Suite and immediately test the impact through AI interactions using MCP
9.16. (수)	15:00~15:30	Break	
	15:30~17:00	Session2	Cted
	17:00~17:30	Hackathon Orientation 1	
	17:30~18:30	Networking Reception	
	09:00~10:00	Session2	Cted
	10:00~10:30	Break	
	10:30~12:00	Session2	Cted
	12:00~13:30	Lunch	
	13:30~15:00	Session3	AI Supporting Data Producers
			• Where can AI tools help data producers improve quality? • State of play of helper tools(eg: MAIA, Codelist Mapper) • Discussion on AI-assisted codelist mapping and recoding support use cases • MCP-based authorizing workflows
9.17. (목)	15:00~15:30	Break	
	15:30~16:30	Session3	Cted
	16:30~17:00	Wrap up on Workshop	
	17:00~17:30	Hackathon Orientation 2	
	09:30~12:00	Hackathon	SDMX + AI Hackathon team project
	12:00~13:30	Lunch	
	13:30~16:30	Hackathon	Cted
9.17. (목)	17:00~17:30	Awards	• Awards Ceremony



- MODS Vice Minister Myoungho Lee delivered the opening remarks on the international workshop on "From Standards to Intelligence: Strengthening Capacity for SDMX and AI-Driven Official Statistics."



- Group photo of Key Participants
 - MODS Vice Minister Myoungho Lee (6th from the left)