Three America at 250: AI Pioneers at the San Francisco AI Summit

South Korea sets out its AI strategy, with three BGF honorees among the leaders in San Francisco

BGF Weekly · AI Pioneers · July 26, 2026

On Friday, July 24, 2026, President Lee Jae Myung of South Korea hosted an AI summit at The Midway in San Francisco. Roughly 150 executives, investors, researchers, and startup founders attended. In his keynote, President Lee unveiled the San Francisco AI Declaration, setting out his government's strategy to make South Korea a trusted manufacturing base for AI semiconductors and one of the world's leading AI-powered economies.

Before the summit, President Lee met separately with the chief executives of Nvidia, OpenAI, Anthropic, and Broadcom. Samsung Electronics Executive Chairman Jay Y. Lee, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chair Euisun Chung, and Naver founder Lee Hae-jin also took part.

The commitments announced around the summit were substantial. Nvidia and SK Group set out an initiative exceeding 500 billion dollars, spanning large-scale AI data centers and next-generation memory. Under it, SK Telecom plans a two-gigawatt data center, due online in 2027, running Nvidia's Vera Rubin chips and SK Hynix HBM4 high-bandwidth memory. Anthropic confirmed supply agreements with Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix.

The San Francisco AI Summit, The Midway, San Francisco, July 24, 2026.

THREE PIONEERS HONORED AT HARVARD

Three of the leaders at the San Francisco table are among those named by the Boston Global Forum as **America at 250: AI Pioneers**, in the honors announced at Harvard University on May 1, 2026.

- **Jensen Huang**, Founder and CEO of Nvidia — honored for pioneering the GPU and building the computing infrastructure that made the modern AI revolution possible.
- **Sam Altman**, CEO of OpenAI — honored for bringing generative AI into the lives and work of hundreds of millions of people and accelerating the transformation of society.
- **Dario Amodei**, Co-Founder and CEO of Anthropic — honored for advancing safe and beneficial AI and placing AI safety at the center of frontier-model development.

Less than three months separated the Harvard announcement from the summit in San Francisco. In that interval, the distance between building the technology and shaping the arrangements around it narrowed to nothing. The three were not present as guests of a state occasion. They were principals — counterparties to industrial commitments, supply agreements, and infrastructure on a national scale.

A VISION BGF WILL RECOGNIZE

For readers of the Boston Declaration, the most notable passage of President Lee's address was not the industrial program. He also described what he called a universal AI society — one in which the benefits of AI extend across the whole of society rather than concentrating among a few, in which the fundamental rights of every citizen, from education to health care, are guaranteed more soundly, and in which no one is left behind, including small and medium enterprises, small business owners, and vulnerable groups.

That is the language of human-centered AI, spoken by a sitting head of state, in the same address that committed hundreds of billions of dollars to compute. It is rare to hear the two halves in one speech. They belong together, and the summit is more significant for having joined them than for the sum of its agreements.

The scale is now the point. A two-gigawatt data center is a national-grade undertaking; a five-hundred-billion-dollar program is larger than the economies of most countries represented at any international gathering this year. Resources of that magnitude will be built. The question the San Francisco Declaration leaves open is whether the universal AI society President Lee described will be pursued with the same seriousness as the supply chain — and who is answerable if it is not.

Boston Global Forum · AIWS · BGF Weekly, July 2026. Based on Reuters reporting of July 24, 2026 and contemporaneous coverage of the San Francisco AI Summit.