

East Asian Tech Frontiers: AI Governance, Metaverse Cultural Shifts, and Semiconductors

East Asia Tech · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which East Asian nation enacted the "AI Basic Act" in December 2024, set to take full effect in January 2026, aiming to establish a trust-based foundation for AI innovation and becoming the second country globally after the EU to adopt such a comprehensive framework?

- A) Japan
- B) South Korea**
- C) Taiwan
- D) China

2. In Japan, what cultural factor is often cited as a reason for greater acceptance of robots in sensitive roles like elder care, compared to some Western cultures?

- A) A strong emphasis on technological self-reliance.
- B) A view of robots as helpful partners rather than threats.**
- C) A historical precedent of human-robot interaction in traditional arts.
- D) Government-mandated integration programs for robotics in daily life.

3. Which East Asian country has been actively developing and expanding its Social Credit System (SCS), with recent updates in April 2025 focusing on corporate compliance as its core, and is considered a model for behavioral nudging systems globally?

- A) South Korea
- B) Taiwan
- C) Japan
- D) China**

4. Taiwan's semiconductor industry plays a critical global role. As of late 2025, what percentage of the global foundry market did TSMC account for, according to TrendForce?

- A) Approximately 50%
- B) Approximately 60%
- C) Approximately 72%**
- D) Approximately 85%

5. South Korea's AI Framework Act, promulgated in January 2025, introduces specific obligations for certain AI systems. Which of the following is NOT explicitly mentioned as requiring specific obligations under this act?

- A) High-impact AI systems
- B) Generative AI applications
- C) AI systems used in basic search engines**
- D) AI activities impacting the domestic market or users

6. Japan's metaverse market is seeing significant growth, driven by its cultural assets. Which of the following is a key cultural integration trend observed in Japan's metaverse adoption?

- A) Focus on educational simulations of historical samurai battles.
- B) Integration of popular anime, manga, and gaming franchises.**
- C) Development of virtual spaces replicating traditional tea ceremonies.
- D) Emphasis on creating virtual replicas of historical Kyoto districts.

7. China's recent regulatory developments in AI, announced in July 2026, focus on AI ethics, AI agents, and anthropomorphic AI. What is the overarching principle emphasized by these new regulations?

- A) AI must prioritize economic growth above all else.
- B) AI should assist people, not harm, deceive, or exploit them.**
- C) AI development should be unrestricted to foster rapid innovation.
- D) AI should be solely focused on national security applications.

8. In the context of East Asian cybersecurity culture, as noted in a 2024 report, what communication style is suggested to resonate better within the region, considering cultural values like hierarchy?

- A) A direct and blunt approach, emphasizing efficiency.
- B) A strictly informal and peer-to-peer communication style.
- C) A context-rich approach with attention to nuances, possibly top-down.**
- D) A purely data-driven and technical communication style.

9. South Korea's AI Basic Act, effective from January 2026, aims to bolster national competitiveness. Besides R&D and standardization, what other key area does the legislation mandate support for?

- A) Promoting AI in traditional arts and music.
- B) Supporting national AI infrastructures, including training data and data centers.**
- C) Establishing AI-powered agricultural systems.
- D) Developing AI for deep-sea exploration.

10. Which Taiwanese company is identified as a manufacturing and infrastructure partner for the YTL Group's AI data center in Johor, highlighting Taiwan's role in global AI infrastructure beyond just chip production?

A) TSMC

B) Wiwynn

C) MediaTek

D) ASE Technology