

AI will lead to labor shortages, Bezos says

PARIS — Artificial Intelligence (AI) will lead to labor shortages, not the replacement of humans, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos predicted in a highly optimistic appearance at the VivaTech technology conference in Paris on Wednesday.

Mr. Bezos put forward a rosy vision of how technology will help humanity, speaking about projects including his space venture Blue Origin and his new AI startup Prometheus, which is aimed at speeding up physical manufacturing.

“I know there’s a lot of concern that many people have, including many smart people, that AI is going to make humans redundant and so on,” Mr. Bezos said. “I totally disagree with this point of view. And I think, in fact, AI is going to create a labor shortage.”

The comments come as global companies cut thousands of jobs after investing heavily in AI, with many, primarily tech firms, pointing to higher efficiencies from the technology’s rapid adoption.

US-based employers announced 97,006 job cuts in May with AI linked to 40% of the layoffs, according to a report from global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas.

Half of Americans fear the rise of AI could put them or someone in their household out of work, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found this month.

From Gen Z entering the job market to unions at South Korean carmakers and Hollywood scriptwriters, there has been a widespread pushback against AI use.

Mr. Bezos, the world’s fourth-richest person with a net worth around \$250 billion, argued that people have “endless” things to do, and are currently limited by barriers that he said AI would lower.

Amazon has trimmed some 30,000 corporate roles since late last year, partly due to AI efficiency gains. Its CEO Andy Jassy has said increasing automation through AI tools will result in corporate job losses. — **Reuters**

One in five doctors in PHL reports burnout struggles

ONE in five doctors based in the Philippines is considering changing employers due to excessive workloads and burnout, according to a report by Bain & Co.

In its 2026 Asia-Pacific Front Line of Healthcare Report, it noted that 20% of doctors in the Philippines are considering switching employers as they grapple with excessive workload (49%), the lack of recognition/appreciation (47%), and burnout (36%).

“Doctors ranked ‘professional development’ and ‘technology and tools’ as their most valued professional dimensions — ahead of compensation,” according to the report.

However, only 30% of doctors reported that they were “very satisfied” with either dimension, Bain & Co. said.

It said the phenomenon was also observed in mature markets, with similar data emerging out of Australia.

Other reasons that the respondents cited for switching employers were personal circumstances (32%), lack of opportunity for career development/advancement (27%), not being treated with respect and dignity (22%), insufficient autonomy and flexibility (21%), and others (6%), the report said.

The report also noted that clinicians in the Philippines experience significant waste and inefficiency in their organizations.

The survey found that 37% of Philippine doctors grappled with excessive paperwork, and 37% reported performing low-value and repetitive tasks that could be automated or simplified.

It added that 33% of doctors working in the Philippines spend a lot of time waiting on administrators to complete the tasks they need them to do; while 32% waste time waiting on other clinical professionals to finish their tasks.

While 60% of the world’s population lives in the Asia-Pacific and accounts for a high share of the global disease burden, it only accounts for 22% of global healthcare spending, Bain & Co. said.

The region also suffers from a shortage of healthcare workers, with only 1.6 doctors available per 1,000 people. This is well below the World Health Organization’s recommendation of a minimum of 2.5 physicians needed for every 1,000 people.

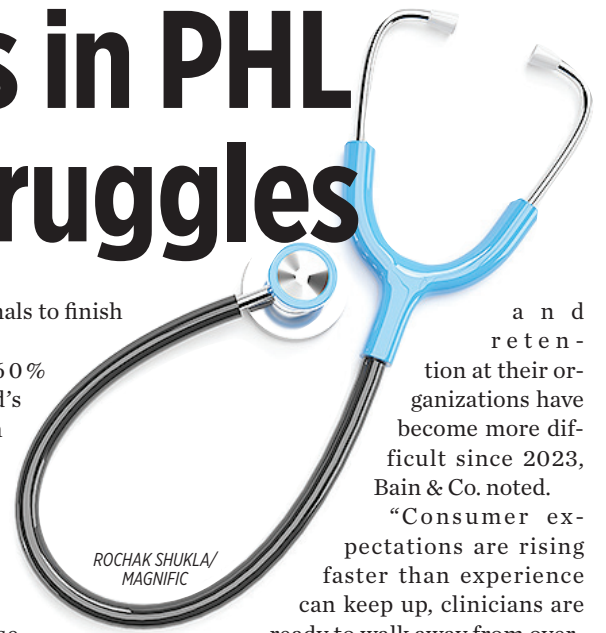
About 30% of doctors in the Philippines believe recruitment

and retention at their organizations have become more difficult since 2023, Bain & Co. noted.

“Consumer expectations are rising faster than experience can keep up, clinicians are ready to walk away from overburdened systems, and artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities are outpacing organizational readiness,” it said.

The report also found that consumers in the region have increased their trust in various healthcare providers beyond general practitioners and clinics.

The Bain Asia-Pacific Front Line of Healthcare Survey was conducted in December 2025, the company said. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**



OPINION

What to do with unnecessary meetings

I’m a newly hired vice-president of a medium-sized organization. On my first day, my senior told me that we should be conducting weekly update meetings. He said: “That’s the way we’ve always done it.” I don’t buy the idea because most meetings go on for too long, and are dull and unproductive. Besides, e-mails are better than extensive discussions. I’d like to know your ideas on this. — **Green Anchor.**

IN THE WORKPLACE REY ELBO

One, keep all meetings short. They should take less than one hour. In many Japanese organizations, they do it in about 15 minutes, but they do it first thing in the morning every day. Otherwise, do it 30 minutes shortly before closing time to eliminate small talk.

Two, limit the number of attendees to your direct reports. Every time you add a name, it also adds another five minutes or more as the participants seek to justify their presence. Of course, this is not an absolute rule.

Three, assign a sub-committee to tackle details. Create an ad hoc meeting to discuss a complex idea or problem separately. Then, ask them to submit a complete report on the following day.

Four, ask everyone to anticipate all issues. Let them do their homework. It’s a waste of time waiting for answers, especially during a short meeting. It’s worse if the issue involves one’s area of expertise.

Five, e-mail the next-day agenda. This is in support of number four above. Do this within the first two weeks until everyone has been acclimatized to the protocol. After that, expect everyone to know what’s expected.

Six, simplify the discussion. Don’t get everyone fixated on charts and graphs with blurred, tiny numbers. Ban Power Point presentations. They are time consuming. The best presentation is one that needs no explanation.

Seven, decide whether a topic is worth discussing. Otherwise, send a brief e-mail to the parties concerned instead of having a face-to-face meeting. As much as possible, avoid CCing or BCCing everyone.

Regular meetings are the show business of the corporate world. That’s where people strengthen their work relationships with each other while trying to achieve department objectives. And that’s where you can see everyone’s performance in action.

Don’t give your senior the impression that you know everything. Of course, there are good and bad meetings where people take full responsibility and treat the group with utmost respect. There will be meetings with people who talk too much or blame others for their situation.

Your big chance for changing the system is to improve it. Therefore, your goal is to foster consensus on major issues, ensure co-ownership, and propose ideas that were never considered before.

MEETING PROTOCOL

If you think that meetings are being held simply out of habit, then put forward some questions. Couch them diplomatically. Instead of saying, “I think we should...” ask, “What if...?”

Not all meetings are bad. That’s why they should be reviewed thoroughly with the help of your team. There are do’s and don’ts in managing meetings. You can win points without alienating your team. Explore the following approaches:

Eight, send trial balloons to selected people. Don’t try to propose a totally new program in final form. Most people may resent it.

Nine, stop arguments right away. Let the protagonists resolve the issue between them without involving others. Just the same, be conscious of any unresolved problems that could adversely affect morale.

Ten, allow no interruptions or intrusions. Once a meeting starts, be attentive to everyone. Do not allow phone calls or visitors, unless it’s a valuable customer.

MAKING MEETINGS IMPORTANT

The “way we’ve always done things” is a comfortable trap, but as a new leader, you have leverage to rewrite the script. Meetings shouldn’t be a corporate tax paid in wasted hours; they should be a high-yield investment in your team’s collective intelligence.

By trimming the fat, like banning agonizing PowerPoint decks, capping attendance, and ruthlessly protecting everyone’s time — you shift the culture from passive attendance to active engagement. You aren’t just cutting down meeting lengths; you are signaling that your team’s focus is a premium resource.

Treat these protocols as a collaborative experiment rather than an executive decree. Once your department experiences the liberating reality of 15-minute alignment sessions and clear, action-oriented e-mails, no one will look back, including the most senior person on your team.

Consult REY ELBO for free insights on people management. Send your comments or questions to elbonomics@gmail.com or DM him on Facebook, LinkedIn, X or via <https://reyelbo.com>.



BBC to cut 550 jobs in cost-saving drive, including news division layoffs

LONDON — Britain’s BBC public service broadcaster will cut 550 jobs, including in its news and content divisions, as part of plans under new director-general Matt Brittin to save 500 million pounds over the next three years.

The BBC is facing a battle to stay relevant as viewers, particularly younger audiences, shift to streamers and other digital platforms.

In March, the corporation named former Google executive Brittin as its new director general. At the time, BBC Chair Samir Shah said there was a need for radical reform at the publicly funded organization, and Mr. Brittin said it faced a moment of “real risk.”

The cuts to its news operation will include closing some long-running programs, merging production teams across

shows and a review of senior on-air roles.

The BBC, which had about 21,500 employees as of March last year, said the full package of changes announced on Wednesday would deliver around 160 million pounds of the 500 million target.

Further savings, including cuts of around 700 corporate division jobs, will be announced in the coming months, it said.

Total job losses would be around 1,800 to 2,000 over the next three years.

Mr. Brittin must negotiate a new funding settlement after the broadcaster’s Royal Charter expires at the end of 2027. Options include retaining the license fee paid by TV-watching households or moving to subscriptions or funding from advertising. — **Reuters**

BusinessWorld

CYBERSECURITY SUMMIT

Toward Stronger Digital Defenses

July 21, 2026 • 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. • The Ballroom of Hilton, Newport World Resorts

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Be among the first to register and enjoy exclusive 30% discount on your ticket.



SECURE YOUR SEATS TODAY!