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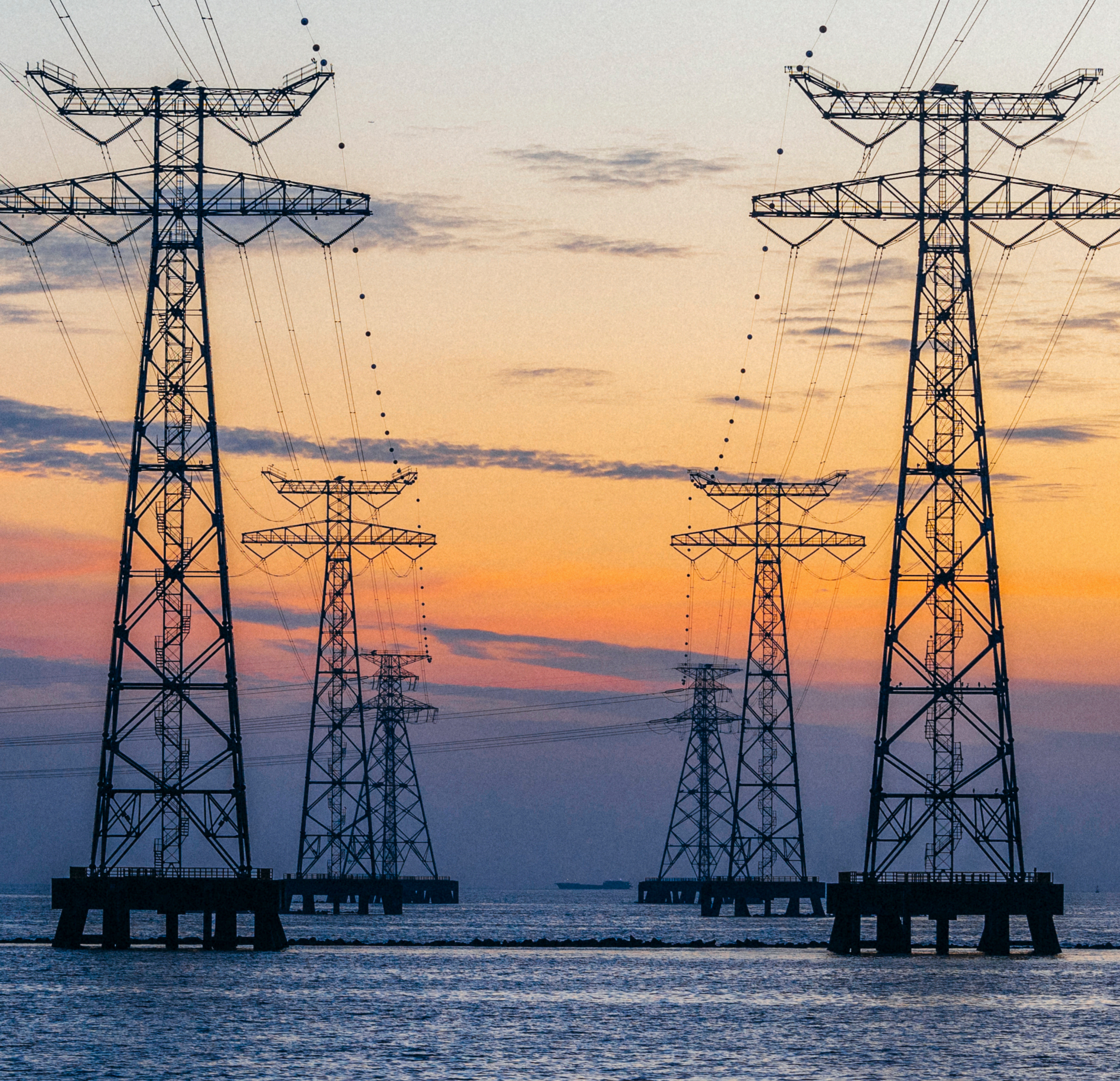
MCDF BRIEF

News and Reports on Infrastructure Connectivity, Quality, and Partnership

27 June - 10 July 2026



Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Administrator of MCDF)
Tower A, Asia Financial Center, No.1 Tianchen East Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100101
Tel: +86-10-8358-0000
secretariat@themcdf.org

CONTENTS

CONNECTIVITY[1]

TRANSPORT

Railway: China opens Xi'an-Shiyan high speed line

China opened the 257 km Xi'an–Shiyan high-speed railway on 30 June 2026, adding a 350 km/h north–south route through the Qinling mountains and shortening Xi'an–Wuhan travel times by 1 hour. The launch sits within a broader rail buildout, including new or advancing projects in Foshan, Wenling–Yuhuan, Sixian–Suqian and Xinjiang. Source: IRJ

Railway: Kyrgyzstan inaugurates construction of new USD 500 million line

Kyrgyzstan launched construction of the 86 km, USD 500 million Balykchy–Tamchy–Cholpon-Ata railway. Supported by Eurasian Development Bank feasibility financing, the line could later link with an Issyk-Kul orbital railway and the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan corridor. Source: IRJ

Railway: Paraguay pursues rail link to Port of Montevideo in Argentina

Paraguay is assessing rehabilitation of the Encarnación–Posadas rail link as part of a potential freight corridor to Uruguay's Port of Montevideo via Argentina. The project could strengthen Paraguay–Uruguay trade integration but depends on Argentine upgrades, access rights and trilateral operating arrangements; no cost, timetable or completed studies have been announced. Source: IRJ

Railway: AfDB approves EUR 205 million to extend high-speed rail line in Morocco

The African Development Bank (AfDB) approved EUR 205 million for Morocco's Rail Infrastructure Development Support Project (PADIF), supporting high-speed rail extension and upgrades on the strategic Kenitra–Marrakech corridor and around the Casablanca rail hub. The project will finance rails, track components and implementation support to increase corridor capacity, improve operational performance, reduce travel times and logistics costs, and strengthen sustainable mobility between Morocco's main economic centers. Source: AfDB

[1] 'Connectivity' infrastructure for MCDF refers to the linkage of communities, economies and nations through transport, communications, energy and water networks across countries.

Railway: AFC achieves financial close on USD 753 million Lobito Corridor Railway Project

Africa Finance Corporation reached financial close for the USD 753 million Lobito Corridor Railway Project in Angola, one of Africa's largest recent cross-border rail transactions. The financing package includes USD 553 million from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and USD 200 million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The project will support rehabilitation, upgrading and long-term operation of the 1,300 km Lobito corridor linking the Port of Lobito with the Democratic Republic of Congo border. Source: AFC

Road: Chinese Shandong signs Kenyan USD 680 million road project PPP agreement

Chinese Shandong Hi-Speed Road & Bridge International Engineering signed a project agreement for the USD 679 million, 94 km Gilgil–Mau Summit section of Kenya's Nairobi–Nakuru–Mau Summit highway PPP. The project forms part of 30-year Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Maintain, and Transfer (DBFOMT) concessions covering the full 233 km corridor, alongside a 139 km section led by China Road and Bridge Corporation and Kenya's National Social Security Fund. Source: GSI

Road and railway: EIB announced EUR 365 million new investment for resilient transport networks in Morocco

The European Investment Bank (EIB) announced EUR 365 million for Morocco's transport sector, supporting resilience and safety upgrades across the motorway network and national rail system. The rail component includes a EUR 15 million EU grant for targeted climate-resilience measures. The financing reinforces Morocco's mobility, logistics and climate-resilient infrastructure agenda, while supporting EU–Morocco connectivity and economic links between Europe and Africa. It complements EIB support for post-earthquake reconstruction and cooperation with the Mohammed VI Investment Fund to mobilize private capital for infrastructure and business investment. Source: EIB

Port: DP World plans new UAE port to bypass Strait of Hormuz

Dubai-based port operator DP World is exploring a new port and container terminal in Fujairah to strengthen the UAE's logistics resilience and reduce reliance on the Strait of Hormuz. The project would allow cargo to access UAE and Gulf markets via the Gulf of Oman, providing an alternative route to Jebel Ali during potential disruptions. Discussions with government authorities are ongoing, with financing and ownership structures yet to be determined. Source: Datamar News

World Bank report: *Handbook for the Development of Air Transport*

The World Bank's *Handbook for the Development of Air Transport* provides a practical reference for governments, development practitioners and sector professionals working on aviation policy, regulation, finance and operations. It covers national aviation strategies, safety and security oversight, market access, competition, demand forecasting, sector revenues, airport and airline governance, environmental management and emerging issues such as decarbonization, sustainable aviation fuels and unmanned aircraft. Source: World Bank

ENERGY

Storage: World Bank approves USD 265 million financing for Ifahsa Pumped Hydropower Storage Project cofinanced with AfDB

The World Bank approved USD 265 million for Morocco's 300 MW Ifahsa Pumped Hydropower Storage Project, cofinanced with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and implemented by the Office National de l'Électricité et de l'Eau potable (ONEE), Morocco's state-owned national utility responsible for electricity and drinking water. The World Bank's contribution combines financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), concessional financing from the Clean Technology Fund, and a grant from the Livable Planet Fund.

The project will strengthen the reliability and resilience of Morocco's electricity system by providing flexible storage capacity to support the integration of higher levels of renewable energy generation and will provide Moroccan electricity consumers with a more reliable, cleaner supply of electricity. Located near Chefchaouen, the facility will provide grid-scale storage to help integrate at least 1 GW of additional solar and wind capacity, improve electricity reliability and support USD 1 billion in private investment. The project is expected to replace 3 TWh of fossil-fuel generation annually, avoid 1.7 million tons of CO_2 emissions and generate 820 direct construction jobs per year, illustrating how multilateral development bank cofinancing can support large-scale clean-energy infrastructure and system flexibility. Source: World Bank

Thermal: AFC disbursed the first tranche of USD 300 million financing in Burkina Faso power plant project

Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) reached financial close and disbursed the first USD 60 million tranche of a USD 300 million corporate loan facility to Aksa Enerji Üretim A.Ş., Türkiye's largest publicly listed power generation company, for a 119 MW thermal power plant in Burkina Faso. The West African country currently imports 60 percent of its power supply. Expected online in 2027, the plant will become the country's largest, reduce reliance on imported electricity by more than half, and provide lower-cost baseload capacity to support energy security, industrial activity and private investment. Source: AFC

ACE paper: *One Grid, Common Rules: Technical Standards Alignment Harmonisation for Catalysing the Multilateral Power Trade Expansion under the ASEAN Power Grid (APG)*

This Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Energy (ACE) paper argues that expanding multilateral power trade under the ASEAN Power Grid requires technical standards alignment alongside regulatory cooperation. It identifies uneven grid maturity, differing interconnection codes, inconsistent system-operation practices and fragmented governance as barriers to scaling cross-border electricity trade beyond bilateral arrangements. Rather than proposing a top-down regional code, the paper recommends a voluntary, bottom-up and phased process, beginning with subregional groups of transmission system operators and regulators to harmonize High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) interconnection standards, grid-security rules, data exchange and operating procedures. The paper highlights that regional power-market integration depends not only on physical interconnectors, but also on shared technical rules, institutional trust and staged implementation that can reduce transaction risks for future cross-border power infrastructure investment. Source: ACE

ODI Global paper: *Has the World Bank really 'accelerated' 50 million electricity connections in Africa?*

The Overseas Development Institute Global (ODI Global) briefing questions whether the World Bank's Mission 300 has genuinely accelerated 50 million electricity connections in Africa, arguing that many reported results appear to come from legacy World Bank and African Development Bank projects approved before the initiative was launched. Evidence from six countries suggests the claimed acceleration often reflects late-stage delivery of existing programs rather than new Mission 300-driven connections:

- Tanzania: Reported acceleration largely reflects completion of Tanzania Rural Electrification Expansion Program (TREEP), approved in 2016 and covering 99.9 percent of villages by end-2024.
- Nigeria: 3.6 million of 4.5 million claimed beneficiaries under Nigeria's Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up Project (DARES) are linked to migrated pre-2024 solar results, with new tenders only contracting in May 2026.
- Ethiopia: Project reporting requires transparent reconciliation of baselines and connection-count methodology.

- Service quality: Headline connections can mask weak supply, including prolonged blackouts in Zambia and project governance problems in Madagascar. Source: ODI and ODI paper

IRENA report: *Renewable power generation costs in 2025*

This report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) finds that renewables remain the lowest-cost source of new power in most markets, with more than 90 percent of utility-scale renewable capacity added in 2025 cheaper than the lowest-cost fossil-fuel alternative. Solar PV averaged USD 44/MWh, onshore wind fell 4 percent to USD 33/MWh, and offshore wind fell 3 percent to USD 78/MWh, while new gas-fired generation approached USD 100/MWh in higher-price markets.

The report estimates that installed renewables avoided USD 480 billion in fossil-fuel costs in 2025, including USD 377 billion across 20 major economies; China accounted for USD 177 billion of savings. The findings strengthen the case for renewable power as both a least-cost investment option and an energy-security hedge, though near-term cost pressures may rise as clean-tech manufacturing investment slows, component prices increase and trade barriers shift. Source: IRENA, IRENA press release and video and IRENA report

DIGITAL

Global leaders launch AI for Good Global Commission to expand access, strengthen trust and accelerate impact

AI for Good was established in 2017 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations (UN) leading agency for digital technologies. The mission of AI for Good is to unlock the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to serve humanity through building skills, AI standards, and advancing partnerships. Rwanda, Salesforce (a cloud-based Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform) and ITU launched the AI for Good Global Commission, bringing together more than 40 government, technology and UN leaders to advance trusted, inclusive AI. With 2.2 billion people still offline, the Commission's development relevance lies in linking AI governance to digital access, infrastructure, and practical applications for public services, jobs and resilience in developing countries. Source: ITU

ITU's Partner2Connect surpasses USD 100 billion in commitments to connect the world

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Coalition exceeded USD 100 billion in commitments at the World Summit on the Information Society

(WSIS) Forum 2026, supporting digital infrastructure, skills, innovation and inclusion as one-quarter of the world remains offline.

Since 2021, P2C has mobilized over 1,000 pledges from 149 countries, with projects in more than 190 countries. ITU estimates universal, meaningful connectivity by 2030 will still require USD 2.6–2.8 trillion. The next phase will focus on implementation, alignment with country priorities and progress tracking.

Key pledges include:

- **Asian Development Bank:** USD 20 billion by 2035 for the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway and broadband access for up to 650 million people.
- **Microsoft:** Connectivity for 450 underserved hubs in Kenya and USD 18 billion in Australia for AI/cloud infrastructure and digital skills.
- **Boston Consulting Group:** USD 500 million for AI social-impact work in education, health, workforce development and poverty reduction.
- **Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment Company:** USD 450 million over 2026–2028 for AI ecosystem partnerships and intelligent transformation.
- **Telkom:** USD 6.1 million for an AI Institute in South Africa.
- **SoftBank:** AI-ready connectivity through AI-RAN and open innovation.
- **GSM Association:** African AI Language Models project for inclusive, locally relevant AI.

ITU will monitor delivery and share good practices. Source: ITU

Broadband and Digital Public Infrastructure: World Bank approved USD 70 million IDA financing for Pakistan’s Connected Punjab Program

The World Bank approved USD 70 million in International Development Association (IDA) financing for Pakistan’s Connected Punjab Program, part of a USD 278 million provincial investment programme, to expand broadband access, digital public services and cashless payments. The programme complements Pakistan’s federal Digital Economy Enhancement Project by translating national digital public infrastructure into provincial service delivery.

By reducing permitting times from 90 to 21 days, the program aims to crowd in at least USD 50 million in private digital-infrastructure investment and expand fixed broadband coverage from 7.8 million to 9.9 million people by June 2031. It also targets 28.9 million users of improved digital public services, raises women’s use of digital government services from 19 percent to 30 percent, and supports 350,000 active users of cashless payment systems. Source: World Bank

Network: IFC supports expansion of digital connectivity in Africa with USD 150 million loan to Airtel Africa

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is providing USD 150 million loan to two Airtel Africa subsidiaries to expand and upgrade mobile networks, improving access to high-speed data services in underserved communities. Airtel Africa is a leading provider of telecommunications and mobile money services, with operations in 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The financing supports digital inclusion, small-business growth, youth access to digital opportunities, and livelihoods linked to mobile money, online trade and informal services. The transaction builds on IFC's broader strategy to mobilize longer-tenor and local-currency financing for reliable digital infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. Source: IFC

Network and Broadband: EBRD finances African telecoms firm Yas with EUR 270 million package to boost connectivity in Africa

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing up to EUR 270 million in senior financing to Yas, the AXIAN Telecom-owned pan-African telecoms operator, to expand digital infrastructure in Senegal, Kenya and potentially other Sub-Saharan African markets. Yas operates across 11 African and Indian Ocean markets and has also committed to increasing women's participation in its workforce and digital-economy initiatives.

The committed EUR 170 million facility includes a EUR 100 million EBRD A-loan, up to EUR 50 million B-loan syndicated to institutional investors, and up to EUR 20 million equivalent in Kenyan shillings. A further uncommitted EUR 100 million may support future acquisitions and capex. Proceeds will finance 4G/5G network modernization and fibre deployment in Senegal and Kenya, following Yas' 2025 acquisition of Wananchi in Kenya. Source: EBRD

World Bank report: *The Behavioral Dividend: Solving the 'Last Mile' Problem in Digital Government*

This World Bank report argues that digital government reforms often underperform because services are designed around administrative processes rather than user behavior. It uses Behavioral User Journey Mapping and the COM-B model to identify barriers such as low awareness, weak capability, limited motivation and high dropout rates, and shows how behavioral science can improve uptake, completion and trust. The report highlights that digital public infrastructure must be paired with user-centered design, iterative testing, inclusion measures and performance metrics to close the last-mile adoption gap. Source: World Bank

CAREC Institute report: *Visiting Fellows Program Report: The Impact of Digital Technology on Digital Trade and Welfare: Evidence from the CAREC Region*

This CAREC Institute report finds that physical digital infrastructure is the strongest driver of digital trade across CAREC economies. Using 2005–2021 bilateral trade data and a structural gravity model, the study shows that a one-standard-deviation improvement in digital infrastructure is associated with a 43 percent average increase in bilateral digital trade, while digital trade provisions in agreements have only limited marginal effects. Scenario simulations suggest that upgrading weaker CAREC digital infrastructure to the regional median could generate USD 915 million in additional annual digital services exports, rising to USD 1.19 billion if infrastructure reached ASEAN standards. The report recommends a phased approach: first strengthen basic regional digital connectivity, then move toward higher infrastructure standards and regulatory alignment to support CAREC 2030 implementation and reduce digital development gaps. Source: CAREC Institute

Green Street Infrastructure article: *AI shifts APAC data center focus to infrastructure*

AI demand is recasting APAC data centers as infrastructure projects constrained by power, land, cooling and supply chains, requiring higher rack density, liquid cooling and major grid capacity. Cushman & Wakefield estimates USD 239 billion in APAC data center capex by 2030, with bankability increasingly tied to powered land, permits, grid access, customer-specific design and direct energy procurement. Source: GSI

The Economist article: *Africans are turning to Starlink - They are fed up with the continent's terrible internet*

Satellite broadband is becoming a useful but limited complement to Africa's weak fibre and mobile networks. Starlink now operates in 27 African countries and could reach one million regional subscribers by early 2027, helping remote users and areas with poor terrestrial service, but affordability, capacity and reliability constraints remain significant. Its broader development impact may come through competition: satellite providers can pressure incumbent operators to lower prices, improve service quality and invest faster in Africa's digital backbone, especially if rivals such as OneWeb/Eutelsat and Amazon's Leo scale effectively. Source: The Economist

TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Corridor: Kazakhstan Railways signs freight agreements worth USD 460 million along the Middle Corridor

Kazakhstan Railways signed four agreements worth USD 462 million with Midia Marine Terminal, Maersk, DHL Global Forwarding and DB Cargo Eurasia to strengthen Middle Corridor freight operations. The deals aim to expand multimodal services, improve Black Sea access, reduce bottlenecks and reinforce Eurasian trade connectivity. Source: IRJ

Corridor and SEZ: IsDB and Kazakhstan advance cooperation across key development sectors, strengthen industrial growth and transport connectivity

Kazakhstan admitted the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) as an Observer to its Foreign Investors' Council, opening scope for deeper cooperation on investment mobilization, private sector development, Islamic finance, digital transformation and diversification.

IsDB and Kazakhstan also advanced cooperation on infrastructure, transport, water security and industrial zones, including the USD 1.3 billion Economic and Industrial Zones Project, preparation of the 462 km Kyzylorda–Saksaulsk Road Corridor, and discussions of a USD 1.15 billion climate-resilient water project. Source: IsDB, IsDB and IsDB

World Bank report: *Special Economic Zones in South Africa 2026: Policy Review*

This review finds that South Africa's Special Economic Zones (SEZ) program has generated South African Rand (ZAR) 14.8 billion (USD 91 million) in revenue and more than 30,000 direct jobs but returns on ZAR 24.2 billion (USD 1.5 billion) in public investment remain concentrated in a few high-performing zones. Key constraints include limited access to incentives, governance and coordination weaknesses, infrastructure gaps, and low private-sector participation. The report recommends reforms to incentives, governance, infrastructure financing and performance monitoring to improve competitiveness, investment attraction and long-term sustainability. Source: World Bank and World Bank report

IMF paper: *Strengthening GCC-CCA Economic Cooperation*

This IMF paper finds that stronger economic integration between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) could boost trade, investment and resilience amid rising geoeconomic fragmentation. While both regions remain reliant on natural-resource exports, growing non-hydrocarbon trade and complementary capital flows—GCC as a capital exporter and CCA as a capital importer—create opportunities for deeper cooperation.

The paper highlights governance, logistics, trade facilitation and cross-border payment systems as key reform priorities. It estimates that improving CCA logistics and governance to top global standards could increase goods trade by 150 percent and 120 percent, respectively, while broader structural reforms could raise foreign direct investment inflows by 0.7 percent of GDP in the CCA and 0.14 percent of GDP in the GCC. The report also emphasizes trade agreements, investment treaties and improved cross-border payment interoperability as important enablers of regional integration, while noting that SEZs, subsidies and PPPs should complement—not replace—broader reforms. Source: IMF and IMF paper

CROSS SECTORAL

EU concludes Global Gateway investment mission to Brazil

The European Union (EU) advanced its Global Gateway partnership agenda, focusing on digital connectivity, clean energy, critical raw materials and sustainable infrastructure. The flagship announcement was a EUR 260.8 million investment in the EllaLink digital corridor, strengthening direct data connectivity between Europe and Latin America and supporting cybersecurity, resilience and environmental monitoring. The mission also advanced cooperation on green hydrogen, including support for the North-East Green Energy Park and a EUR 3 million H2Uppp[2] facility to help projects progress toward financing. Additional initiatives included connectivity solutions for remote Amazon communities, support for Indigenous women's organizations, and engagement on strategic infrastructure and critical-mineral projects. Source: EU

[2] The H2Uppp facility does not refer to a single physical building, but rather the International Hydrogen Ramp-up Programme. This German government-backed initiative supports companies in developing, de-risking, and implementing commercial green hydrogen and Power-to-X (PtX) projects across the globe.

QUALITY

ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

Sustainable Banking and Finance Network: *SBFN Toolkit: Monitoring Sustainable Finance for the Banking Sector*

The Sustainable Banking and Finance Network (SBFN), a World Bank-facilitated platform for financial regulators and industry associations in emerging markets, has launched the *SBFN Toolkit: Monitoring Sustainable Finance for the Banking Sector*. The toolkit provides a practical framework for tracking sustainable-finance progress and addressing the estimated USD 3 trillion annual financing gap for climate and sustainable development goals. Based on a review of 32 measurement frameworks from 21 member countries, it introduces 32 indicators across ESG integration, climate- and nature-related risk management, and sustainable finance, aligned with international standards including the General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information and Climate-related Disclosures (IFRS S1/S2), Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) guidance and International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Principles. Supporting resources include a guidance note, implementation manual and reporting database. The toolkit was developed by the SBFN Data and Disclosure Working Group, co-chaired by the National Bank of Georgia and the Central Bank of Egypt. SBFN Network

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

EBRD and EU extend green investment risk-sharing facility to Sub-Saharan Africa

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Union have extended the EUR 70 million European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) High-Barrier (Hi-Bar) guarantee program to sub-Saharan Africa, marking their first EU-backed guarantee cooperation in the region under the Global Gateway initiative. Originally launched in 2024 with up to EUR 168 million in EU guarantees, the facility is designed to mobilize private investment in higher-risk projects by reducing key financing barriers. The program targets climate-mitigation technologies, energy-sector decarbonization, industrial modernization, and critical-minerals value chains, with particular emphasis on first-of-a-kind and early-stage technologies that struggle to access commercial finance. Source: EBRD

IIF paper: *The Insurability Crunch: When Physical Risk Meets Financial Risk*

This paper by the Institute of International Finance points out that insurance markets are increasingly acting as an early indicator of rising physical climate risks, often signaling vulnerabilities before these are reflected in asset valuations, credit quality, or broader financial stability metrics. As insurance becomes more costly and less available in high-risk areas, the implications extend beyond the insurance sector: assets that are difficult to insure may also become more difficult to finance, trade, or hold on institutional balance sheets.

The resulting transfer of risk has wider economic consequences. When insurers reduce coverage or withdraw capacity, climate-related losses are increasingly absorbed by households, businesses, lenders, and ultimately governments, placing additional pressure on already stretched public finances. While investments in climate resilience can reduce future losses, realizing these benefits requires robust methods to quantify risk reduction and incorporate it into insurance pricing, asset valuation, and investment decisions.

Narrowing insurance protection gaps is therefore both a policy and market priority. Preserving insurability is critical not only for managing climate risks but also for sustaining lending, investment activity, and the efficient functioning of financial and asset markets. Source: IIF and IIF paper

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

IMF report: *World Economic Outlook Update July 2026 - Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects global growth of 3.0 percent in 2026 and 3.4 percent in 2027, with gains from AI-driven investment partly offset by disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict.

Growth prospects vary significantly: energy exporters outside the conflict zone benefit from favorable terms of trade, whereas economies plugged into the technology-led upturn experience stronger activity even if they are energy importers. In contrast, activity weakens for energy importers with limited participation in the technology value chain, a group that includes many low-income countries.

Global inflation is forecast to rise from 4.1 percent in 2025 to 4.7 percent in 2026 before easing to 3.9 percent in 2027, indicating a pause in the recent disinflation trend. The report identifies renewed geopolitical tensions, commodity-price volatility, supply-chain disruptions and trade fragmentation as key downside risks, while faster energy-market normalization, stronger technology investment and reduced trade barriers could improve prospects.

The report highlights the importance of maintaining price stability, rebuilding fiscal buffers, strengthening energy security and AI readiness, and advancing structural reforms and international cooperation to support long-term growth. Source: IMF and IMF report

ADB report: *Asian Development Outlook (ADO) July 2026: A Fragile Outlook as Energy Market Disruptions Persist*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered its growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific to 4.9 percent in 2026 (from 5.5 percent in 2025) as prolonged energy-market disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict weigh on regional prospects. Growth is expected to recover modestly to 5.1 percent in 2027.

Regional inflation is now projected at 4.3 percent in 2026, up from 3.0 percent in 2025, reflecting higher energy, commodity and supply-chain costs.

The report highlights geopolitical tensions, tighter financial conditions and trade uncertainty as key risks, while noting that China's outlook remains unchanged (4.6 percent growth in 2026) and India's forecast has been revised down to 6.6 percent. The report underscores the need to balance growth support with inflation control amid persistent energy-market volatility. Source: ADB, ADB press release, ADB report interactive executive summary and ADB report

UNCTAD report: *World Investment Report 2026*

The report's key global takeaways:

- **Global foreign direct investment (FDI) rose 6 percent to USD 1.6 trillion in 2025**: ending two years of decline.
- **The recovery remains fragile and uneven:** Inflows to developed economies rose 11 percent, while developing economies recorded only 2 percent growth, reaching USD 901 billion.
- **Much of the increase reflected a small number of megaprojects**: especially in AI-related digital infrastructure.
- **The world's top 20 host economies attracted more than 80 percent of global FDI**: while strategic sectors accounted for 44 percent of global greenfield project values, up from 16 percent in 2020.
- **FDI remains a major source of external finance for developing economies**: but its development impact depends on whether it builds productive capacity, jobs, skills and technology transfer.

- **The outlook for 2026 remains clouded**: by trade policy uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, conflicts, high financing costs and economic fragmentation.

Regions:

- **Africa is attracting investment in strategic industries. The challenge is turning it into broader industrial development:**
    - Africa attracted USD 70 billion in FDI in 2025, the third-highest level since 1990.
    - Despite a decline from the exceptional level reached in 2024, inflows remained roughly one-third above the continent's long-term average.
    - Greenfield project values fell by one third, but the number of announced projects increased, pointing to broader engagement through smaller projects.
    - Investors from the Gulf and other Asian economies are becoming important sources of greenfield investment, especially in energy, logistics, real estate and infrastructure.
    - African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) received USD 33 billion in FDI, with inflows concentrated in a few economies linked to natural resources, energy, infrastructure and selected manufacturing projects.
    - Energy, infrastructure and critical minerals are drawing investment, but benefits remain concentrated in a limited number of countries and sectors. Source: UNCTAD
- **Developing Asia leads investment among developing regions as patterns shift within the region:**
    - Developing Asia attracted USD 644 billion in FDI in 2025, remaining the world's largest developing-region recipient.
    - South-East Asia overtook East Asia as the region's largest recipient subregion.
    - India recorded a 44 percent increase in inflows, helping drive growth in South Asia.
    - FDI remains highly concentrated, with eight of the ten largest developing-economy recipients located in Asia. Source: UNCTAD
- **Latin America's investment paradox: more capital, fewer projects:**
    - FDI rose 14 percent to USD 188 billion in 2025.
    - Brazil accounted for much of the increase, with inflows rising from USD 63 billion to USD 77 billion.
    - The region's top 10 recipients captured 95 percent of regional inflows.
    - The value of announced greenfield projects fell by one-third, signaling a weaker pipeline of future productive projects. Source: UNCTAD

Source: UNCTAD, UNCTAD report press release and UNCTAD report interactive executive summary

DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

IIF report: *2026 IIF Investor Relations and Debt Transparency Report: The Transparency Dividend*

The Institute of International Finance (IIF) argues that stronger debt transparency and investor relations can help Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) preserve market access, lower borrowing costs and strengthen sovereign credit profiles by reducing uncertainty and broadening the investor base.

Its assessment of 57 EMDEs finds progress, with 41 sovereigns operating formal investor-relations programs, but disclosure gaps remain on debt composition, contracts, state-owned enterprise liabilities, debt service and forward-looking policy communication. Source: IIF and IIF report

PROJECT CYCLE AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

GCF paper: *Project Preparation Facility (PPF) landscape and partnership analysis*

This Green Climate Fund (GCF) study reviews 75 climate-focused project preparation facilities (PPFs) and finds that, despite a wide range of technical and financial support instruments, the project-preparation landscape remains fragmented, heavily donor-dependent and weakly connected to implementation financing. Key gaps include limited support for adaptation projects, insufficient private-sector participation, and a lack of coordination among facilities.

The study notes that many well-prepared projects fail to secure follow-on financing, while smaller regional facilities often lack pathways to scale promising investments. It highlights the GCF Project Preparation Facility (GCF PPF) as a potential platform for scaling mature projects and improving coordination through structured project-referral mechanisms, stronger partnerships and greater private-sector engagement. With global climate finance reaching USD 1.9 trillion in 2023 but public climate finance declining, the report argues that more effective project preparation will be critical to improving project bankability, mobilizing private capital and narrowing the climate-finance gap. Source: GCF and GCF paper

PARTNERSHIP

MCDF NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

MCDF discusses connectivity partnership with IsDB member countries at its Baku Annual Meetings

MCDF CEO Zhongjing Wang and his team participated in the 2026 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group Annual Meetings in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 16–19 June 2026, meeting IsDB member country officials, International Financial Institution (IFI) partners and development financiers to advance partnerships for sustainable, high-quality connectivity infrastructure. Discussions with Djibouti, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Morocco focused on MCDF's next strategic phase, support for project preparation and capacity building, and opportunities to strengthen bankable pipelines in cross-border transport, energy, digital and water resource management.

Key country engagements underlined demand for MCDF's upstream tools. Nigeria highlighted plans to create a *deal room* for bankable infrastructure projects; Mozambique discussed its development strategy, infrastructure priorities and planned development bank; Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan explored opportunities under the new MCDF Central Asia Fund, including support for regional rail links and line-ministry capacity; and Morocco discussed potential collaboration in MCDF's core connectivity sectors.

The MCDF delegation also reviewed IsDB capacity-building projects supported by MCDF grants and discussed IsDB member country pipeline projects that could benefit from MCDF project preparation support as IsDB's role as an MCDF Implementing Partner deepens. Meetings with the African Development Bank, West African Development Bank and Trade and Development Bank reinforced IFI coordination, while an exploratory discussion with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa marked MCDF's first engagement with the institution.

At the IsDB session on *Financing the Middle Corridor for Resilient Transport and Trade*, MCDF Senior Advisor Ayumi Konishi highlighted how MCDF grants help turn corridor concepts into bankable project proposals. The discussions emphasized coordinated partnerships and innovative financing approaches as essential to advancing resilient regional connectivity infrastructure. Source: MCDF

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, FUNDS AND INITIATIVES

American investment company KKR secures USD 5.8 billion for APAC infrastructure fund

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR), an American investment firm, secured USD 5.8 billion for its third APAC infrastructure fund, focused on energy, utilities, digital infrastructure and transport. Targeting USD 8–9 billion and a final close of USD 6–7 billion by end-2026, the raise signals continued institutional appetite for regional infrastructure platforms. Source: GSI

Schneider Electric and Seraya Partners launch Asia energy platform

French Schneider Electric and Singapore-based Seraya Partners launched Faraday Energy, backed by up to USD 500 million in Seraya equity, to develop and operate distributed, customer-sited energy assets across Asia Pacific, Gulf Cooperation Council countries and selected markets. The platform will provide long-term, OpEx-based energy and decarbonization solutions for commercial and industrial users, grid operators and data centers, combining Schneider's technology with Seraya's infrastructure financing model. Source: GSI

IFIS TOGETHER

IDB and World Bank approve Full Mutual Reliance Framework

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank approved a Full Mutual Reliance Framework to streamline cofinanced sovereign-guaranteed operations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The arrangement allows the two institutions to rely on each other's operational policies for eligible projects, reducing duplication in preparation and implementation while enabling larger, more coordinated financing packages. The framework preserves access to accountability mechanisms and includes coordination procedures for complaints, with projects disclosed under both institutions' access-to-information policies. For borrowers, it is expected to lower transaction costs, simplify engagement with MDBs and support more efficient delivery of development projects. Source: IDB

The Rogun Hydropower Plant Project entered into its second financing phase with World Bank and international development partners

The World Bank approved a second financing phase for Tajikistan's Rogun Hydropower Plant, including a USD 300 million International Development Association (IDA) grant, to support civil works, power-generation equipment, implementation support, quality control, safety, and environmental and social measures.

The project is expected to generate 14,400 GWh of renewable electricity annually—60 percent of Tajikistan's current generation—improve reliable and affordable power access for 10 million people, reduce winter shortages, create more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs, and enable electricity exports to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. It also includes reservoir monitoring, flood-risk management, resettlement and livelihood restoration, and a Benefit-Sharing Program to channel part of project revenues to vulnerable groups.

At the request of the Government of Tajikistan, the World Bank leads the Rogun Coordination Group (RCG), a group of development partners that have approved or have expressed interest in supporting the completion of the project, including Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, CDP (Italy), the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Qatar Fund for Development, and the Saudi Fund for Development. The project also received support from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). Source: World Bank

IFIS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY FINANCIERS

ADB and HDBank sign USD 100 million loan to expand access to finance for MSMEs and women-owned businesses in Vietnam

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 100 million loan with Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City Development Joint Stock Commercial Bank (HDBank) to expand medium- and long-term finance for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with at least 40 percent of ADB's financing earmarked for women-owned MSMEs. As mandated lead arranger and co-coordinator with Standard Chartered Bank (Singapore), ADB also mobilized an additional USD 621 million from 29 commercial banks, strengthening HDBank's access to international capital. The transaction supports inclusive financial systems in Vietnam, where MSMEs account for more than 97 percent of registered firms, 36 percent of employment and 40 percent of GDP, while many smaller and women-led businesses still face barriers to formal credit. ADB will complement the facility with capacity-building support for tailored financial products and financial inclusion. Source: ADB

EBRD provides USD 50 million loan to KMF Bank in Kazakhstan

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing up to USD 50 million financing to Kazakhstan's KMF Bank to expand access to finance for private micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and women-owned or women-led businesses. The package includes a senior loan up to USD 40 million for MSME lending and a senior loan up to USD 10 million under the EBRD's Kazakhstan Women in Business Programme II, with disbursements available in USD or Kazakhstan tenge. Complementary advisory services, training, networking and mentoring through EBRD's Advice for Small Businesses program will support stronger financial inclusion and enterprise growth. Source: EBRD

EIB Global and BRAC Bank unlock EUR 60 million to accelerate Bangladesh's green transition

EIB Global, the development arm of the European Investment Bank, signed a EUR 60 million, 12-year financing agreement with BRAC Bank PLC—the longest-tenor funding extended by a development finance institution to a commercial bank in Bangladesh—to support climate action and environmental sustainability investments by local companies. The package includes a EUR 40 million microfinance loan expected to reach more than 2,500 small enterprises and a EUR 20 million framework loan for green and circular investments, including cleaner production, resource efficiency, renewable energy, waste management and modern equipment. The facility is particularly relevant for Bangladesh's ready-made garment and textile value chains, which account for 85 percent of exports, as EU buyers and regulations increasingly require more sustainable and transparent supply chains. By expanding access to long-term green finance through a leading domestic bank, the transaction supports private-sector competitiveness, climate action and Bangladesh–EU trade links. Source: EIB

DEVELOPING COUNTRY FINANCIERS

IDFC-E3G report: *Empowering Public Development Banks To Deliver*

This report by the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), a global network of 27 national, regional, and international development banks and E3G, an independent think tank working to deliver a safe climate for all, argues that public development banks (PDBs)—including multilateral development banks (MDBs), national development banks (NDBs) and bilateral development finance institutions (DFIs)—are critical countercyclical financiers for emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), but their ability to mobilize private capital is constrained by credit-rating methodologies and prudential rules that do not fully reflect development-finance risk mitigation.

With EMDEs facing higher debt-servicing costs, tighter global financial conditions and widening climate-investment needs, the report calls for more granular evidence on PDB-supported assets, better recognition of preferred creditor treatment, callable capital, guarantees and national development mandates, and more accurate treatment of MDB- and

NDB-backed exposures under Basel III and Solvency II. It highlights that MDB/DFI-backed private loans show default rates of 3.54 percent and recovery rates of 72.9 percent, while private firms supported by MDBs and bilateral DFIs in low-income countries have actual default rates 20 percentage points below levels implied by sovereign ratings.

Key recommendations include expanding participation in the GEMs Risk Database, disclosing instrument-level performance data, refining Credit Rating Agencies (CRA) methodologies for MDBs and NDBs, clarifying capital treatment for guarantees, A/B loans, securitizations, infrastructure and blended-finance structures, and convening PDBs, regulators and rating agencies under the G20 to align data, supervision and capital-mobilization incentives. Source: IDFC–E3G report

OTHER NEWS AND ANALYSES ON PARTNER IFIS

IDB and Canada sign guarantee agreement to mobilize USD 1 billion in investments across Latin America and the Caribbean

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Canada signed a USD 200 million guarantee agreement to support up to USD 1 billion in additional IDB financing for Latin America and the Caribbean, focused on critical-mineral value chains and resilient infrastructure. The guarantee will cover part of IDB's sovereign-guaranteed exposure portfolio, helping optimize its balance sheet and expand lending capacity without additional shareholder capital while preserving financial strength and credit quality. Financing will support projects under IDB LAC Minerals and Ready and Resilient Americas, including responsible mineral processing, related infrastructure, and resilient transport, energy, water and digital systems that can maintain essential services during shocks. Eligible projects must meet IDB environmental, social, integrity and fiduciary standards, illustrating how shareholder-backed guarantees can help MDBs scale development lending and mobilize more capital for strategic infrastructure. Source: IDB

EDB's 20th anniversary and its Annual Meeting outcomes

The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) marked its 20th anniversary at its Annual Meeting and Business Forum in Almaty, convening more than 700 delegates from 44 countries and highlighting the bank's expanding role in Eurasian development finance.

The EDB Council approved the 2027–2031 Development Strategy after the bank exceeded its current investment targets, with projected 2022–2026 accumulated investments of USD 12.2 billion against a USD 10.9 billion target, record annual investment of USD 2.6 billion in 2025, and a green project portfolio up 17 percent to USD 1 billion. The new strategy prioritizes transport and logistics, higher-value-added industries and international capital mobilization, while the forum generated 16 signings across Islamic finance, tourism and logistics infrastructure, agriculture, industry, data centers and sustainable development. ·

Agreements were signed for the construction of a Class A+ warehouse in Almaty worth USD 125 million, the financing of a data center in Kazakhstan for USD 90 million, and support for manufacturers in Uzbekistan for USD 50 million.

International cooperation agreements were signed with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, and other partners on projects in agro-industry, demography, and sustainable development. The event also signaled stronger engagement with partners from China and the Middle East, reinforcing EDB's ambition to serve as a regional investment platform for connectivity, industrial growth and sustainable development. Source: EDB

EDB invites partners to contribute to the development of its E-Handbook – an electronic knowledge platform on IFIs

The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) launched the *E-Handbook: System of International Financial Institutions*, an open digital platform that consolidates data, analytics, dashboards, educational resources and research on multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other development finance institutions. Unveiled at the EDB Annual Meeting in Almaty, the platform aims to strengthen knowledge sharing, support expert dialogue and improve access to information on development institutions, their instruments and emerging challenges. EDB plans to use the platform as a hub for research and collaboration among international organizations, academic institutions and development finance professionals.

There are more than 200 such institutions worldwide, including funds, insurance and guarantee mechanisms, development agencies, export-import banks, and multilateral development banks (MDBs). MDBs occupy a special place in this system due to the scale of their operations, the diversity of their instruments, and their investments in building the capacity of borrowing countries. There are 37 MDBs, which invest approximately USD 200 billion annually.

Today, the system of international financial institutions needs not only capital and financing instruments, but also a high-quality knowledge infrastructure. The EDB E-Handbook is a platform that brings together data, analytics, expert opinions, and educational materials on MDBs and other development institutions in a single open digital space. The EDB's new platform is designed to make information about international financial institutions more accessible to the expert community, government agencies, the business sector, experts, and anyone interested in development finance issues.

The EDB invites experts from international organizations, educational institutions, and research centers to publish their own research on the new platform. The platform can be explored at: https://ehandbook.eabr.org/en/. Source: EDB

UPCOMING EVENTS

MCDF

2026 Workshop Series on Public-Private Partnership Hot Topics

Time: May–July 2026 19:00 – 21:00 (GMT+8)
Workshop 1: PPP Capacity Building 13 May 2026
Workshop 2: Innovations in PPP Transaction Design 17 June 2026
Workshop 3: Data Center PPPs 22 July 2026
Place: Virtual
Organizer: MCDF, Egypt Ministry of Finance, AfDB, ADB, CAF, EDB, PPIAF, WAPP

Objective: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) enable governments to procure and deliver public infrastructure and leverage the resources and expertise of the private sector through risk-sharing arrangements. When properly designed and executed, PPPs can create social value through on-time and on-cost delivery, generating efficiency gains and offering innovation in project design, incorporation of global expertise, and accessing new sources of capital. Conversely, poorly designed and executed PPPs can fail to deliver on these promises and create additional risks compared to traditional financing modalities. Capacity building of developing country governments is therefore important to ensure that their benefits are harnessed and risks mitigated.

Building on the success of the 2024 and 2025 PPP Hot Topic Workshop Series, MCDF and its partners are delighted to launch the 2026 Series. If you are working on PPPs in any role (government, financier, developer, consultant, contractor) this is essential for you to attend for the following reasons:

Enhance understanding of the latest frontier issues in PPPs: The workshops will provide insights and best practices on key topics at the frontier of practice and research. For 2026, this includes developments in PPP capacity building, PPP transaction design, and data center PPPs (see below for details).

- Learn and collaborate with leading International Financial Institutions (IFIs): IFI co-organizers will not only share their latest thinking and tools, while also providing opportunities to request further support through the feedback survey at the end of each workshop.
- Gain insights from experienced PPP units in developing countries: Partners, including PPP centers from Egypt and Kenya, as well as additional contributors brought in by the World Association of PPP Units and Professionals (WAPPP) and other co-

organizers, will share practical approaches to addressing common challenges in PPP project development and implementation.

- Strengthen Professional Networks: Through MCDF's event management platform and in the workshops, participants can connect with other practitioners.

Target participants: Staff from PPP units, ministries of finance and planning, and PPP practitioners from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia. Project developers, financiers, contractors and consulting companies.
Registration: Here
Source: MCDF

OTHERS

Public Debt Management Conference 2026

Time: 10 -11 September 2026
Place: Paris, France
Organizer: OECD, Italian Treasury, World Bank

Objective: The Public Debt Management Network, an initiative jointly fostered by the OECD, the Italian Treasury, and the World Bank, is organizing the 4th Public Debt Management Conference at the OECD Headquarters, Paris, France, on September 10-11, 2026. The event is aimed at promoting the sharing and advancement of knowledge on public debt management among practitioners, institutions and academics.

The 4th edition of the Conference will focus on key topics including fiscal policy and debt sustainability in a context of macroeconomic uncertainty, sovereign debt restructuring, sustainable debt instruments. Furthermore, new findings on primary and secondary market functioning and investor dynamics, as well as transparency and governance in debt management strategies, will be presented and discussed.

The Conference will feature a keynote address by Sir Robert Stheeman, non-executive Director, Morgan Stanley, and former CEO of the UK Debt Management Office.

The Conference will be held in-person. If you are interested in participating, please complete the registration form. The deadline for the registration is July 23, 2026. A confirmation message regarding participation will be communicated by 31 July 2026. Please note that, due to limited capacity at the venue, participation is subject to confirmation.

Participants are expected to cover their own travel, accommodation, and related expenses. Practical information, including directions to the OECD and nearby hotels, is available on the OECD Conference Centre page.

The visa application process may take up to four weeks. Participants are therefore encouraged to apply well in advance via the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs website. Please note that the OECD is not in a position to assist with visa arrangements. European Union citizens do not require a visa to enter France. For any questions regarding the Conference organisation, please contact publicdebt@oecd.org.

Registration: Here
Source: PDM Network

8th World Bank/ ODI Global / IFS Public Finance Conference

Time: 24 - 25 September 2026
Place: Washington DC, USA and streamlined
Organizer: World Bank, ODI, IFS

Objective: We are pleased to announce the 8th World Bank/ODI Global/Institute for Fiscal Studies Public Finance Conference, taking place in Washington, DC on September 24-25, 2026, hosted by the Development Economics Vice Presidency and the Fiscal Policy Unit of the World Bank. This annual conference brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss cutting-edge research on public finance of relevance for low- and middle-income countries (L&MICs).

We primarily focus on research related to L&MICs but also welcome relevant studies from high-income contexts. We invite submissions across all areas of public finance, including:

- Tax Policy and Administration
- Subsidies and Compensation/Wage Bill Reforms
- Political Economy of Fiscal Reforms
- Public Financial Management, Public Goods Provision, and Procurement
- Cash Transfers, Social Protection and other Poverty Alleviation, and Inequality Reduction Programs
- Artificial Intelligence in Public Finance

We are pleased to feature Nathaniel Hendren, Professor of Economics at MIT and Founder/Co-Director at Policy Impacts, as our keynote speaker.

The conference will take place in person in Washington DC with streaming available for non-presenting attendees. Presenters are expected to attend in person. The organizers will arrange economy-class travel for invited presenters.

Target participants: Researchers, policy makers
Registration: No need for the streamlining.
Source: World Bank

Global AI and Digital Summit 2026

Time: 19 – 22 October 2026
Place: Seoul, Republic of Korea and online with selected live streams.
Organizer: World Bank and Korea

Objective: The Global AI & Digital Summit 2026 comes at a pivotal moment, as countries seek not only to keep pace with technological change, but to turn it into more and better jobs, higher productivity, and broader opportunity. With 1.2 billion young people entering the workforce in developing countries over the next 10-15 years, how artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies drive growth and expand access to jobs is a defining challenge of our era.

Hosted by the World Bank together with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT and Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Summit will bring global leaders to explore how AI and digital transformation can deliver practical development gains. The Summit will also highlight the importance of responsible AI that builds trust to ensure that innovation serves people and development goals.

The Summit will spotlight how digital access, affordability, ecosystems and AI readiness are the foundation for unleashing inclusive digital and AI solutions. And how practical, context-specific AI applications can strengthen businesses, improve public services, and expand access to opportunity, including in low-connectivity environments. Across sectors such as agriculture, health, education, tourism, and government services, the emphasis is on how digital tools and AI can help countries translate innovation into results.

Target participants: Governments, development partners, private sector leaders, researchers, civil society, and youth.
Registration: By invitation only except for the live-stream sessions.
Source: World Bank

Africa PPP Infrastructure Finance, Investment & Partnerships Summit (Africa PPP) 2026: *Building Africa's Prosperity: Transformative Infrastructure, Investment and Partnerships to Accelerate Economic Development*

Time: 11 – 13 November 2026
Place: Nairobi, Kenya
Organizer: Kenya, AMETrade

Objective: The 16th Africa PPP Infrastructure Finance, Investment & Partnerships Summit will take place in Nairobi on 11–13 November 2026, focusing on how Africa can convert infrastructure ambitions into bankable projects, investable pipelines and practical public-private delivery partnerships. The event comes as Kenya's PPP Directorate reports 51 PPP projects, including 10 under implementation and 41 at different stages of preparation, and as the country advances a National Infrastructure Fund to mobilize private and institutional capital while reducing reliance on public debt.

At continental level, the summit responds to a shift from capital scarcity toward more effective capital deployment. Africa Finance Corporation's 2026 infrastructure report notes that non-bank domestic capital pools exceed USD 2 trillion and pension and insurance assets exceed USD 1 trillion, underscoring the need for stronger project preparation, risk-sharing tools and integrated infrastructure systems linking energy, transport, industry and digital networks. Against this backdrop, Africa PPP 2026 will convene governments, PPP units, infrastructure agencies, MDBs, DFIs, institutional investors, commercial lenders, developers and advisers to move projects from concept through preparation, procurement, financial close and implementation.

Sessions will examine infrastructure as a driver of regional integration, industrialization and productive growth, including how national development plans can become credible PPP pipelines, how domestic savings can be channeled into infrastructure, and how MDBs, DFIs and regional development banks can help de-risk projects and mobilize private capital. Kenya will provide a practical host-country context as an East African logistics, financial, digital and industrial hub linked to regional priorities including corridors, power transmission, affordable housing, water, special economic zones and EAC and AfCFTA trade flows.

The programme will cover roads, rail and border infrastructure for intra-African trade; bankable energy, transmission and regional power trade; water, health, housing and waste PPPs; ports, maritime logistics and aviation; and infrastructure for agriculture, agro-industrialization and food security. A full-day pre-conference masterclass on 11 November, *From Vision to Investment*, will provide practical guidance on project preparation, pipeline development, procurement strategy, investor due diligence, contract structuring and implementation. Curated meetings, project discussions, networking sessions and technical and investment visits will support focused engagement among project owners, capital providers, advisers and delivery partners.

Target participants: Open to all.
Registration: Here
Source: 16th edition of Africa PPP

World Bank Group Land Conference 2027

Time: 17 – 21 May 2027
Place: Washington DC, USA and streamlined
Organizer: World Bank

Objective: The World Bank Group Land Conference has catalyzed the global land community for over 20 years. The Land Conference is the premier global forum for the land sector, bringing together participants from governments, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector to showcase policy-relevant research, discuss technical issues and sector good practice, and inform our dialogue. The Land Conference also aims to encourage cross-sectoral knowledge exchange and has incubated numerous investments, initiatives, and research projects led by diverse stakeholders, including the Voluntary Guidelines, the Land Governance Assessment Framework, and the Stand for Her Land Campaign. The theme for the 2027 Land Conference will be "*Land Markets for Jobs and Growth*." Stay tuned for updates on registration and the call for proposals, expected in October 2026.

Target participants: Open to all.
Registration: No need for the streamlining.
Source: World Bank

MCDF Brief

The bi-weekly Brief is a collection of news, research, analysis, and case studies/best practices, featuring "connectivity", "quality" and "partnership" to facilitate information and knowledge sharing among MCDF partners and potential partners. Topics cover but are not limited to: transport; communications; water; climate and energy; digitalization; debt sustainability; biodiversity; procurement; environmental, social, and governance (ESG) including anti-corruption safeguards; and transparency and information disclosure.

About MCDF

The Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) is an independent multilateral initiative to foster high-quality infrastructure and connectivity investments that adhere to the Accredited International Financial Institutions (IFIs) Standards.

Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance
Tower A, Asia Financial Center
No. 1 Tianchen East Road
Chaoyang District, Beijing
www.themcdf.org