

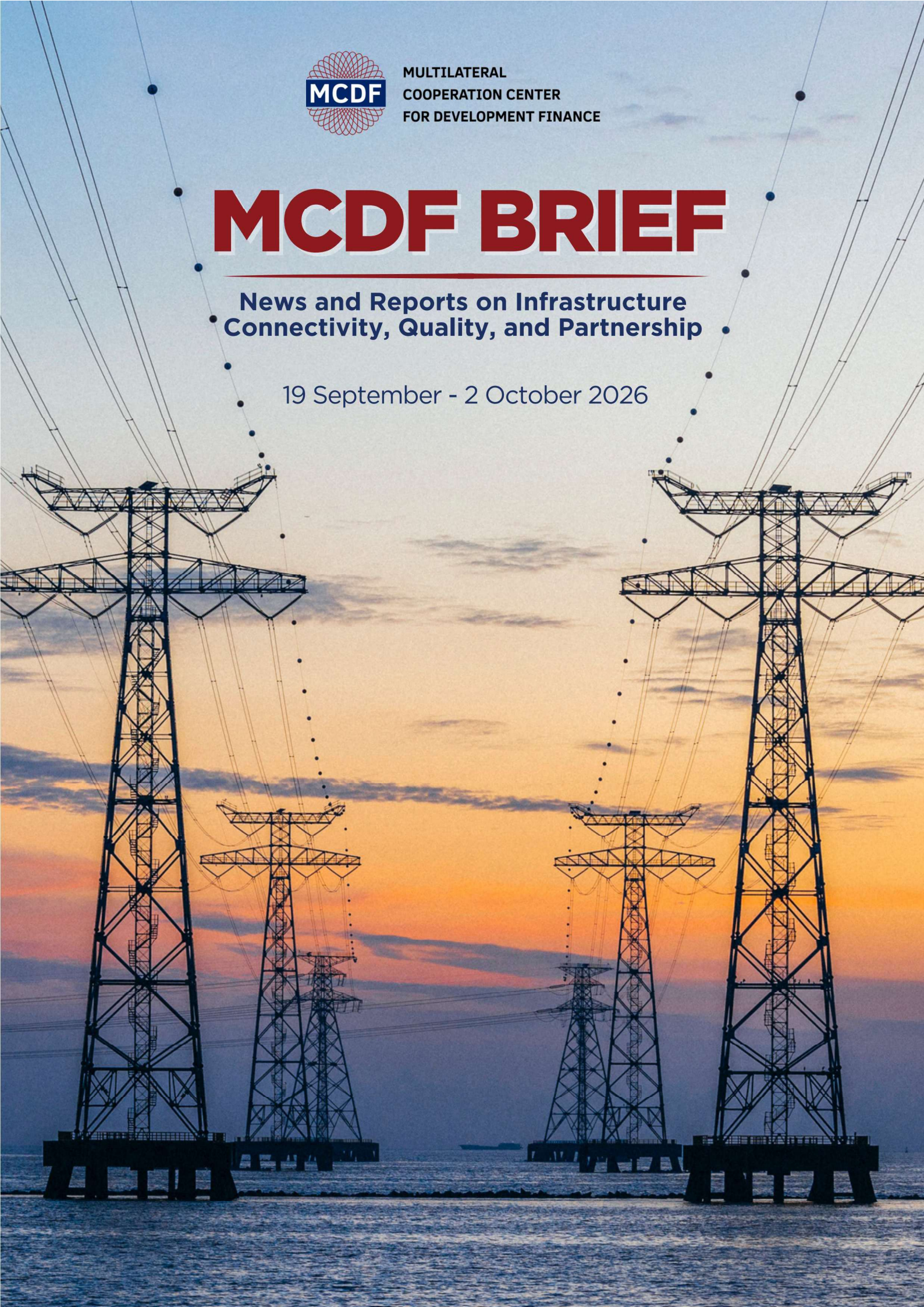


MULTILATERAL
COOPERATION CENTER
FOR DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

MCDF BRIEF

News and Reports on Infrastructure
Connectivity, Quality, and Partnership

19 September - 2 October 2026



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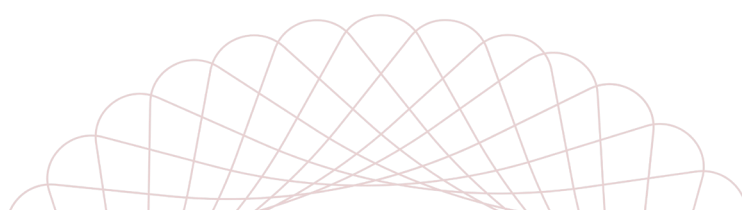
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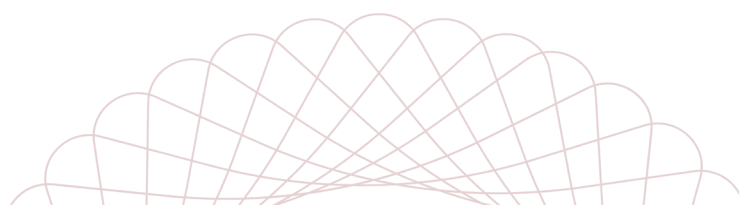
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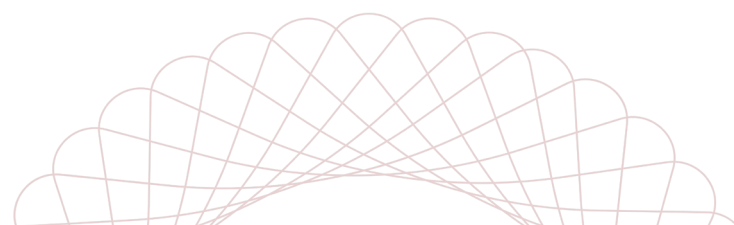
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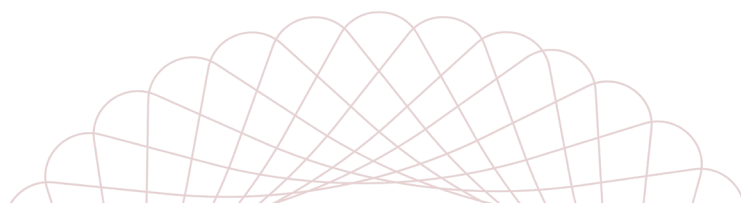
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CONNECTIVITY¹

MCDF NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

MCDF grant to IsDB enhances vulnerable Senegal River Basin's regional digital management

The Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) approved a USD609,000 grant, implemented by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), to strengthen the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). The support will enhance shared digital data, monitoring and decision-making across Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, enabling more coordinated and climate-resilient management of the basin's water, energy and irrigation resources. [Source: MCDF](#)

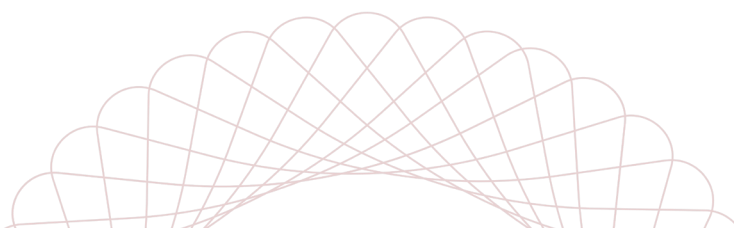
Green and climate resilient development of planned Ethiopia Airport, to be Africa's largest, receives USD2.1 million MCDF grant support through AfDB

The Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) approved a USD2.1 million grant, implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB), to support the planned Bishoftu International Airport in Ethiopia. The grant will integrate international environmental and social standards, climate-risk measures and a decarbonization pathway into project design, while strengthening green investment planning and access to climate and concessional finance. The airport is expected to ease capacity constraints at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport and reinforce Ethiopia's regional aviation and logistics role. [Source: MCDF](#)

MCDF grant of USD1.42 million to AIIB supports Cambodia road connectivity to facilitate regional transport and trade

The Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) approved a USD1.42 million grant to prepare Cambodia's National Road 78C upgrade for Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) financing. Implemented by the country's Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the support will fund feasibility, safeguards and procurement work, enabling all-weather connectivity, safer travel and more efficient trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. [Source: MCDF](#)

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



TRANSPORT

Airport: AfDB secures EUR270 million financing agreement to expand Morocco's airport infrastructure

The African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a EUR270 million loan with Morocco's National Airports Office (ONDA), guaranteed by the national financial institution Tamwilcom, for the Airport Infrastructure Expansion and Modernisation Programme (PEMIA). The programme will expand and modernize airports in Marrakech, Agadir, Tangier and Fez, upgrading navigation, security, baggage handling and digital systems. By 2030, annual capacity is expected to reach 14 million passengers in Marrakech, five million in Agadir, 3.6 million in Tangier and three million in Fez. The investment supports Morocco's Tourism Vision 2030, regional hub ambitions and preparations for major international events, while strengthening safety, connectivity, jobs, tourism, trade and logistics. [Source: AfDB](#)

Airport: EDB participates as an anchor lender in the Bank of America-arranged USD670 million club financing for development of Almaty International Airport

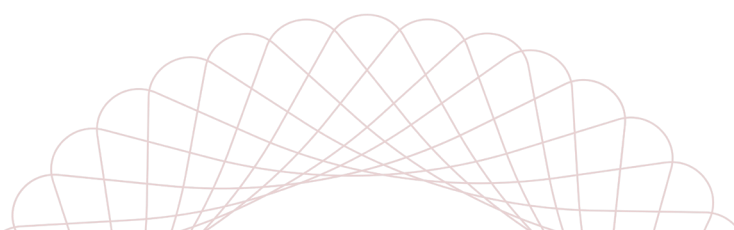
The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) will provide USD100 million in a USD670 million Bank of America-arranged financing for Almaty International Airport. The investment will modernize terminals, airside and de-icing infrastructure and expand cargo facilities. Earlier EDB, German Investment Corporation (DEG), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) financing supported a new terminal, raising annual capacity to 14 million passengers. [Source: EDB](#)

Road: Bids invited for construction of highway project in Kazakhstan

NC KazAvtoZhol JSC invited bids for the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-financed Beineu–Saksaulsky Highway under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Regional Connectivity Program. ADB financing covers 124km of the 559km corridor; another lot covers the 206km Shalkar–Bozoi access road. Contracts combine design, construction and performance-based maintenance. Bids are due on 23 October 2026. [Source: InfraPPPWorld](#) and [KazAvtoZhol JSC](#)

Road: Kenya seeks private investors for USD3 billion highway expansion PPP

Kenya is seeking private investors for an estimated USD3 billion PPP to upgrade the 461km Nairobi–Mombasa Highway into a four-lane, access-controlled toll road. The feasibility-stage



project, one of 13 priorities for 2026/27, aims to improve road safety, cut travel times and strengthen freight links between Nairobi and the Port of Mombasa. [Source: InfraPPPWorld](#)

Railway: AfDB and Germany partner on railway development to boost Africa's regional connectivity and integration

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development agreed to support African railway development and regional integration. Priorities include lower transport costs, interoperable standards, low-carbon mobility, skills and private-capital mobilization. A feasibility study for an African Rail Competence Center, implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), is expected by October 2026. AfDB will support project preparation through guarantees, blended finance and technical assistance. [Source: AfDB](#)

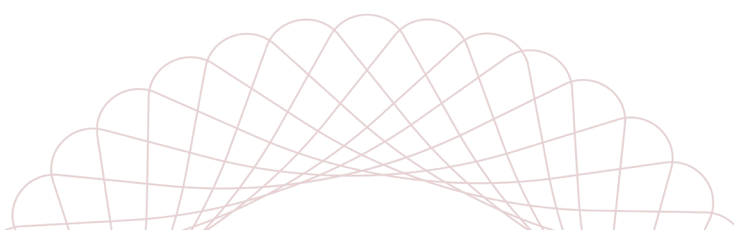
Railway: China opens four high-speed lines

China Railway opened four high-speed lines, totaling 1,142km on 28 September 2026. The 318km Harbin–Yichun line cuts travel from 6h 32min to 1h 46min. The 552km Xiong'an–Shangqiu section advances the Beijing–Hong Kong corridor. The 101km Yichang–Xingshan link reduces Wuhan–Chongqing travel to under four hours, while the 171km Xi'an East–Ankang West line cuts trips to 45 minutes across China. [Source: IRJ](#)

Railway: VinSpeed and Siemens Mobility sign a turnkey contract, deepening cooperation on high-speed rail development in Vietnam

Vietnamese high-speed railway and transport infrastructure company VinSpeed awarded German Siemens Mobility a EUR1 billion turnkey contract for two Vietnamese high-speed rail lines totaling 175km: the 121km Hanoi–Quang Ninh line and the 54km Ben Thanh–Can Gio line. Siemens will supply 10 Velaro Novo trains, communications, electrification and signaling systems under a phased implementation program. The trains can operate at speeds of up to 350km/h, offer 10 percent additional passenger capacity and consume 30 percent less energy than previous models. The project will also deploy Automatic Train Operation (ATO) integrated with ETCS Level 2 signaling, marking the first use of ATO-over-ETCS² on a national high-speed rail network. The agreement builds on a 2025 strategic cooperation and technology-transfer partnership between the two companies and supports Vietnam's efforts to develop modern, efficient and sustainable rail infrastructure. [Source: Siemens](#)

² ATO-over-ETCS (AoE) is an advanced railway automation framework that integrates Automatic Train Operation (ATO) with the safety layer of the European Train Control System (ETCS).



IDB presented 110 transport investment projects totaled USD65 at LAC Transport Forum 2026

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) presented more than 110 Latin American and Caribbean transport projects worth USD65 billion at the first regional Transport Forum held in Miami, Florida, USA on 29–30 September 2026. With transport investment needs exceeding USD630 billion through 2030, the Forum focused on capital mobilization and stronger project preparation and procurement. IDB also launched Transport Delivers, a donor-supported platform targeting USD20 billion in higher-quality, more transparent investments and increased private participation. [Source: IDB](#)

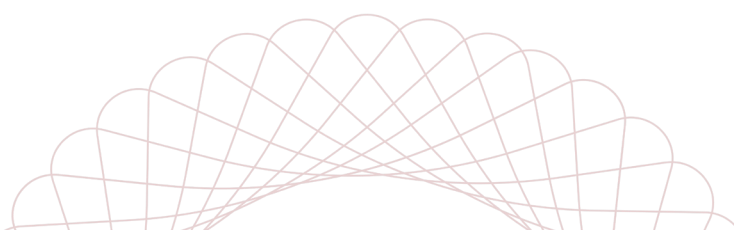
ENERGY

Grid: UN Secretary-General launches Global Grids Accelerator to power growth and clean energy in Africa and South-East Asia

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres launched the Global Grids Accelerator to convert government priorities in Africa and South-East Asia into investable electricity-grid projects. The initiative will coordinate policy, project preparation, finance and implementation support, without creating a new financing institution. It responds to a major transition bottleneck: 2,500 GW of renewable projects await grid connections, while annual grid investment of USD450 billion must rise by 50 percent by 2030 and 80 million km of networks must be added or refurbished by 2040. The Accelerator will support African and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional interconnections, electricity access, energy security and green industrialization, working with UN agencies, multilateral development banks, utilities, investors and technology providers. [Source: AfDB](#) and [SEforALL](#)

Grid: Vietnam Prosperity Bank signs USD27 million loan agreement with JBIC, SMBC, and Joyo Bank to finance power transmission project in Vietnam

Vietnam Prosperity Joint Stock Commercial Bank (VPBank) signed a USD27 million project loan with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and co-lenders Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and The Joyo Bank, Ltd. (Japan) to finance a 220kV transmission line for Vietnam's National Power Transmission Corporation. The first loan under a USD150 million 2024 green-finance facility will expand southern Vietnam's grid capacity and integrate more renewable power under the revised Power Development Plan VIII. Implemented through JBIC's GREEN operations and aligned with Japan's POWER Asia initiative, the financing links international capital to national infrastructure needs. [Source: VPBank](#)



Wind: IDB Invest approves up to USD100 million for wind farms in Argentina

IDB Invest, the investment arm of Inter-American Development Bank, approved up to USD100 million for AES Argentina's Vientos Bonaerenses III and IV wind farms in Buenos Aires Province. AES Argentina is a prominent power generation company operating as a wholly owned subsidiary of US-based AES Corporation. The A/B loan comprises up to USD20 million from IDB Invest and USD80 million from international financiers, mobilizing long-term private capital. The projects will add 102.4MW, doubling the complex's capacity to 202.2MW, and generate 370GWh annually for commercial and industrial customers. IDB Invest will also support stronger environmental, social, safety and community-engagement practices.

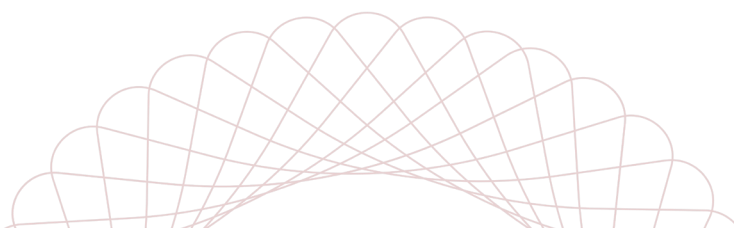
[Source: BNamericas](#)

Wind+storage: Kazakhstan approves USD844 million wind and energy storage project

Kazakhstan approved a 1,000MW wind farm with a 300MW energy storage system in Kostanay region under an agreement between the country's Energy Ministry and Turan Wind Energy, a renewable energy company based in Kazakhstan. The Kazakhstani Tenge (KZT)380 billion (USD 844 million) project is scheduled to start construction in spring 2027 and enter operation by end-2029. Expected to create 750 jobs, it will modernize regional energy infrastructure, attract investment and support Kazakhstan's renewable-energy targets of 15 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050. [Source: Kazinform](#)

Solar+storage: Philippine freeport authority and Chinese Huge Energy solar manufacturer sign MoU for 1GW solar, 100MW substation, and storage projects in the Philippines

The Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority (APECO) of the Philippines, and Chinese solar manufacturer Huge Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore a three-phase, 1GW renewable-energy project on 90 hectares in the Casiguran ecozone, Philippines. Phase one targets 100MW of solar capacity, battery storage and a 100MW substation; later phases would add 350MW of solar and waste-to-energy capacity and a further 550MW. Huge Energy and South Korean EPC firm Dong-A Global will develop the project, subject to feasibility studies and approvals, to improve power supply and support industrial investment. [Source: APECO](#)



Hydrogen: AfDB to back green hydrogen projects in Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, and South Africa with USD20 million grants

The African Development Bank (AfDB) will provide USD20 million in reimbursable grants through the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) to prepare four green-hydrogen projects in Egypt, Morocco, Namibia and South Africa for investment. The projects cover sustainable marine and aviation fuels and low-carbon iron, representing USD23 billion in investment, 20GW of renewable generation, 7GW of electrolyzers and 2,950 MWh of battery storage. The Africa Green Hydrogen Programme aims to improve bankability, mobilize private and foreign investment and support industrial development, exports, jobs and technology transfer. [Source: AfDB](#)

IRENA report: *Delivering on the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030*

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) finds that record renewable-power additions in 2025 narrowed the gap to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Consensus target of 11.2TW by 2030. However, faster end-use electrification and infrastructure expansion remain essential to triple renewable capacity and double annual energy-efficiency improvements by 2030. IRENA tracks the targets agreed by nearly 200 countries at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28). [Source: IRENA](#)

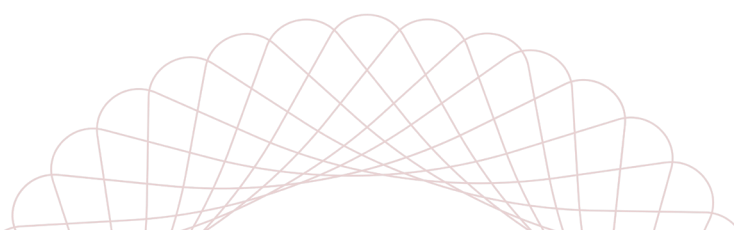
IEA report: *Electrification - Special report*

The International Energy Agency (IEA) finds that global electricity demand has grown twice as fast as total energy use since 2019, driven by electric vehicles, cooling, industrial electrification, data centers and artificial intelligence (AI). Prepared for Türkiye and Australia under the IEA–31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) partnership, the report assesses how electrification can advance across sectors and regions and its implications for energy security, affordability and emissions. [Source: IEA report interactive summary](#) and [IEA report pdf](#)

WATER

Zambezi River Basin countries agree on climate resilience priorities for USD130 million program

The eight Zambezi River Basin countries agreed priorities for a USD130 million regional program to strengthen food security, livelihoods and ecosystem resilience. Developed with the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), African Development Bank (AfDB), Climate



Investment Funds and other partners, it will support natural-resource management, community resilience, institutional capacity and coordination. Planned investments include landscape restoration, improved water management, climate-smart agriculture and opportunities for women and youth. Countries were urged to align national investments with basin-wide results, maintain community engagement and allocate at least 10 percent of national budgets to priority areas. [Source: AfDB](#)

DIGITAL

InfraTech: World Bank supports Kazakhstan with USD75 million loan to scale high-tech startups, create jobs and mobilize private capital

The World Bank approved a Japanese Yen (JPY)12 billion (USD75 million) loan for Kazakhstan's Advancing Learning, Entrepreneurship, and Markets for Artificial Intelligence (ALEM) Project. By 2031, it aims to train 28,000 young people, support 800 startups, create 10,000 jobs and mobilize USD60 million in private capital. A USD20 million fund-of-funds will expand growth-stage finance. [Source: World Bank](#)

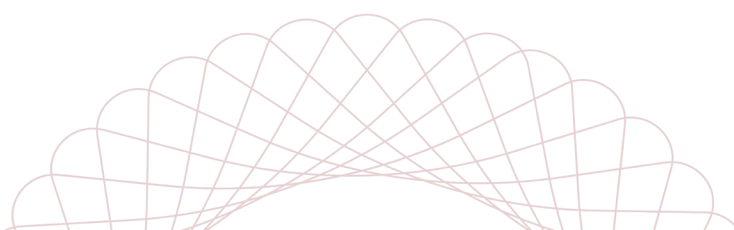
InfraTech: US-Asian technology company Tadaa expands into AI-enabled renewable energy through 1,000-acre solar farm project in Indonesia

Southeast Asia-anchored technology company Treasure Global subsidiary Tadaa Technology partnered with Malaysian renewable-energy developer Kainan to provide AI-enabled systems for a proposed USD367 million, 360MW solar farm spanning 1,000 acres. The project would supply a data center under a 25-year power agreement. Tadaa will integrate IoT infrastructure³, energy management, real-time monitoring, analytics, predictive maintenance and secure cloud systems, targeting USD7.3 million in annual technology revenue at full deployment. [Source: Treasure Global](#)

InfraTech: AfDB, UNDP, and partners launch free AI training for African public officials

The African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), AI Hub for Sustainable Development, Google, and Apolitical, a global online capacity-building organization for public servants, policymakers, and government agencies launched free, self-paced artificial intelligence (AI) training for African public officials. Courses cover AI fundamentals, leadership, trust and procurement, supporting officials working on public

³ Internet of things (IoT) infrastructure is the combination of physical devices, networks, processing tiers, and software that connects and manages smart objects.



services, digital infrastructure, public-private partnerships and innovation. The initiative responds to AfDB analysis estimating that inclusive AI adoption could add up to USD1 trillion to Africa's gross domestic product by 2035, while emphasizing skills and trusted governance. Enrollment is open to officials in AfDB regional member countries. [Source: AfDB](#)

GSM Association launched Breaking Barriers campaign to address internet usage gap

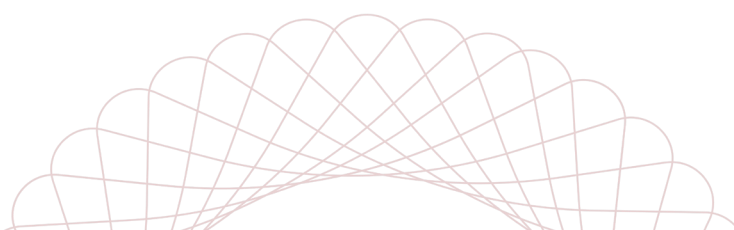
The GSM Association (GSMA) launched the *Breaking Barriers* campaign to address the mobile-internet usage gap, which affects 3.1 billion people, or 38 percent of the global population, despite network coverage and smartphone access. Key barriers include affordability, limited digital skills and relevant services, online-safety concerns and weak enabling conditions, with disproportionate effects on disadvantaged groups, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The campaign brings together policymakers, industry and investors to expand digital inclusion, including through the GSMA Handset Affordability Coalition's efforts to reduce device costs. [Source: Devex](#) and [GSMA](#)

World Bank paper: *How Is Government Using Artificial Intelligence?*

A World Bank survey of 60 economies finds that government adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) is widespread but mostly ad hoc and weakly institutionalized. Common constraints include limited data and budgets; low-income economies more often lack policies, while high-income economies emphasize privacy and ethics. Governance frequently lags deployment, with generative AI tools introduced before formal guidance. The paper argues that public-sector AI strategies should prioritize institutional readiness, responsible use and sector-specific solutions, supported by complementary investment in data infrastructure, analytical skills, organizational capacity and governance. [Source: World Bank](#)

Tomorrow's Infrastructure article: *How Australia's new AI infrastructure standards rewrite the project-finance model for data centres in the Global South*

Australia's proposed mandatory standards for large data centers would link approvals to energy, water, land, community and workforce obligations and conditions for frontier artificial intelligence (AI) training. The framework could become a bankability benchmark for development finance institutions, infrastructure funds and hyperscalers in emerging markets. Microsoft's USD20.5 billion India program illustrates a contrasting, balance-sheet-funded model: its Hyderabad cloud region combines data residency, availability zones, regulated-workload controls, AI hardware and zero-water cooling. Because Microsoft retains demand risk, the model may be difficult for smaller developers to replicate without contracted revenues or blended finance. The article argues that responsible AI infrastructure



increasingly requires early integration of power, water, governance, engineering capacity and quantum-security standards. [Source: Tomorrow's Infrastructure](#)

IEA report: Modernising Grids in the Age of Electricity - Scaling digital technologies and AI for better use of existing networks

The International Energy Agency (IEA) argues that electricity networks must be expanded while existing assets are used more efficiently as demand and variability rise. Digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) can improve grid planning, forecasting, maintenance, situational awareness, resilience and risk management, although AI data centers also increase congestion. The report presents a digital-grid toolkit and identifies where proven grid-enhancing technologies, emerging AI applications and regulatory reform can unlock additional transmission and distribution capacity. [Source: IEA report summary](#) and [IEA report pdf](#)

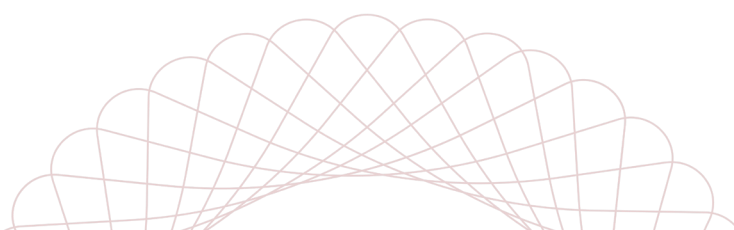
The Economist article: Malaysia is enjoying a massive data-centre boom - Could it help the country escape its middle-income trap?

Malaysia's data-center boom is driving growth in manufacturing, construction and exports, with capacity projected to reach 7.7GW by 2030 and investment equivalent to 18 percent of gross domestic product. Johor has emerged as a major hub due to affordable land, reliable power and supportive policies, while Malaysia has also benefited from semiconductor supply chains and global investment diversification. The government is seeking higher-value projects that create skilled jobs, support research and strengthen domestic supply chains but rising electricity demand, water use and uneven local benefits highlight growing sustainability and infrastructure challenges. [Source: The Economist](#)

TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Caribbean Export and CDB partner to strengthen regional investment pipeline

The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) will strengthen the Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF) pipeline through CDB's PROPEL program, the bank's primary mechanism for mobilizing knowledge and skills from multiple stakeholders including regional and national institutions. Support will improve investor readiness, outreach, matchmaking and follow-up for a pipeline of 30 projects from 11 Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) countries worth USD172 million. At CIF 2026, eight vetted projects are seeking USD39 million across digital transformation, sustainable agriculture, green economy, logistics and transport. The partnership, supported by regional



and multilateral institutions, aims to move projects beyond presentation toward sustained investor engagement and financing. [Source: CDB](#) and [Caribbean Export](#)

EDB outlines vision for regional integration at Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific Forum in Colombo

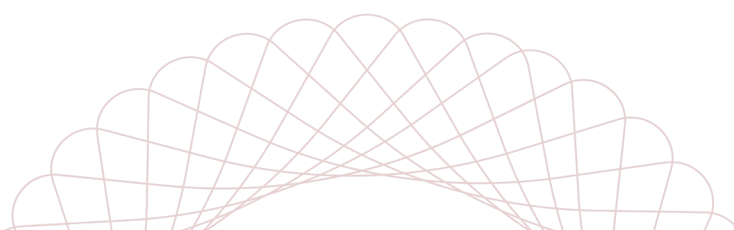
At the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) Annual Meeting, the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) presented regional integration as interconnected infrastructure, harmonized regulation, cross-border investment and integrated supply chains. Its Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) supports investment-project preparation and institutional reforms for member governments. Examples include a Eurasian commodity network, a China–Kazakhstan railway-border-crossing feasibility study and an international financial platform in Uzbekistan. EDB emphasized that technical assistance converts regional concepts into bankable projects, reduces shared vulnerabilities and creates conditions for investment capital. [Source: EDB](#)

IMF paper: *What Matters for the Rise in Trade? Evidence from the African Continental Free Trade Area*

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) paper using firm-level data from 27 African economies finds that the 2018 signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) raised firms' international-sales share by 2.7 percentage points by 2022. Gains were uneven: firms with prior extra-African export experience gained 2.8 points, compared with 1.2 points for Africa-only exporters. Goods producers and firms facing lower capital-adjustment frictions responded most, showing that export networks, financing constraints and goods-services linkages shape how integration benefits are distributed. [Source: IMF](#) and [IMF paper](#)

World Bank book: *Integration - World-Class Trade Logistics Along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor*

A new World Bank book estimates that coordinated investment and reform along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC), or Middle Corridor, could more than triple trade volumes, halve travel times, raise gross domestic product by 3.3 percent and create two million jobs by 2040. Combining infrastructure with trade and transport reforms could quadruple volumes and cut travel times by two-thirds. The corridor requires USD25 billion for rail, ports and feeder roads and USD30 billion for logistics hubs, rolling stock, cargo equipment and digital systems. Priorities include a single digital corridor platform, integrated rail and shipping operations, corridor-wide performance coordination, and more commercial governance of state-owned operators. Strong public-private cooperation is essential to improve reliability, mobilize investment and spread benefits to local economies. [Source: World Bank](#) and [World Bank book](#)



QUALITY

ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

AfDB, OPEC Fund and Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment join forces to strengthen environmental and social safeguards in Africa

The African Development Bank (AfDB), OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund) and Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) convened over 50 African regulators and development-finance representatives. The workshop strengthened capacity on resettlement, biodiversity, inclusion, safety and environmental and social management plans. Building on AfDB country-system assessments, the initiative will improve regulator–financier cooperation and provide tailored country-level training. [Source: AfDB](#)

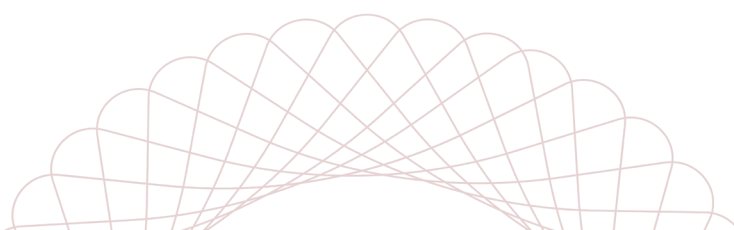
ISO and UNDP launch world's first International Standard to advance action on the Sustainable Development Goals

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched ISO/UNDP 53001, the first requirements-based international standard for managing contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides organizations with a common framework to prioritize relevant SDGs, embed them in governance and operations, set objectives, measure performance and demonstrate accountability. Applicable to businesses, governments and other institutions, the standard is designed for use beyond 2030 and can support development institutions in engaging the private sector through credible, comparable management practices. [Source: UNDP](#)

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

World Bank approves USD110 million for climate-resilient roads in Sri Lanka

The World Bank approved USD110 million from the International Development Association (IDA) Crisis Response Window to reconstruct 600km of roads damaged by Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka using climate-resilient standards. The financing raises support under the Inclusive Connectivity and Development Project (ICDP) to USD610 million. It will directly benefit 830,000 people, support 5,671 jobs and reconnect 22,000 farmers to markets. [Source: World Bank](#)



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ADB report: *Asian Development Bank Outlook September 2026 - Navigating Prolonged Energy Shocks and El Niño*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects developing Asia and the Pacific to grow 5.0 percent in 2026 and 5.1 percent in 2027, after 5.5 percent in 2025. Investment, stimulus and technology exports support resilience, but prolonged energy shocks and El Niño threaten food, fuel and hydropower supply. Inflation is forecast at 4.2 percent in 2026 and 3.5 percent in 2027. South Asia leads at 6.4 percent, while Pacific economies face the sharpest downgrades. Key downside risks include wider conflicts, volatile commodity prices, tighter financial conditions, trade uncertainty and a correction in artificial-intelligence-related asset values. [Source: ADB](#) and [ADB report interactive summary](#)

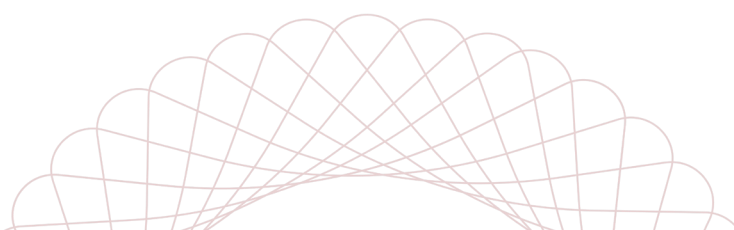
IMF book: *Shaping the Future of Asia: Opportunities and Challenges*

This book published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), examines how demographic change, technological disruption, fragmentation and the energy transition are reshaping Asia-Pacific growth. It calls for productivity, labour-market, integration, capital-allocation and innovation reforms to develop more inclusive and resilient growth engines. [Source: IMF](#) and [IMF book](#)

DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

IMF refines joint IMF-World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank reviewed the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries (LIC-DSF), finding it remains effective but needs updating for more complex debt structures and higher development and climate-financing needs. Reforms will sharpen distinctions between debt stress and unsustainability, refine debt-carrying-capacity measures and thresholds, and add domestic-debt and long-term modules. Enhanced realism tests, broader debt coverage and data-quality incentives aim to improve assessments and transparency. The harmonized discount rate remains 5 percent. The revised framework is expected to apply to country documents after the 2027 IMF Executive Board summer recess, following guidance and training. [Source: IMF](#)



PROCUREMENT, ANTI-CORRUPTION, TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE

CoST launches new Infrastructure Integrity Toolbox

The Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (CoST) launched an Infrastructure Integrity Toolbox for public agencies, financiers, contractors, consultants and civil society. Users can assess 42 project-cycle risks and access over 100 mitigation tools and 70 examples. Developed with United States Department of State support, it provides stakeholder-specific diagnostics and actions. [Source: CoST](#), [CoST flyer](#) and [CoST Toolbox](#)

PROJECT CYCLE AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

AfDB, WB, and IsDB and partners convene Project Implementation Units for Results curriculum workshop to measuring development results

The African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) convened partners in Nairobi to co-create the Project Implementation Units for Results (PIUner) curriculum. The joint platform seeks to replace fragmented results systems with shared standards linked to national systems, professional training, coaching and peer exchange. Its curriculum combines monitoring and evaluation, delivery, behavioural science, data science, artificial intelligence and geospatial tools. Participants agreed priority competencies and a rollout model aimed at strengthening project implementation units, evidence-based decisions and measurable development outcomes across Africa. [Source: AfDB](#)

PARTNERSHIP

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, FUNDS AND INITIATIVES

Nigeria Distributed Renewable Energy Fund reaches commercial launch with support from Africa50, NSIA, SEforAll, ISA, and World Bank

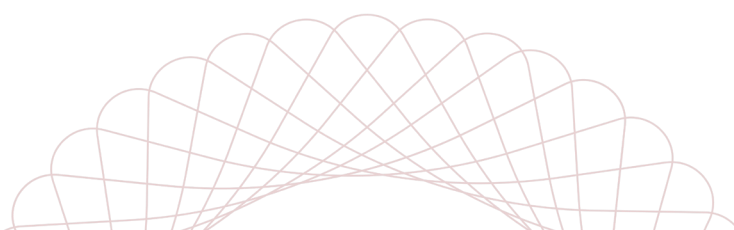
The USD300 million Nigeria Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) Fund has begun commercial deployment to expand mini-grids and standalone solar systems. Co-managed by Africa50 and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), the World Bank and International Solar Alliance (ISA), it combines public and private capital to support underserved communities and businesses. The World Bank contributed USD25 million from the International Development Association (IDA). The platform supports Mission 300 and is designed for replication across Africa. [Source: Africa50](#)

Actis launches fourth Indian renewables platform, Leo Energies, targeting 3GW capacity

Actis launched Leo Energies, its fourth Indian renewables platform, targeting 3GW of wind, solar and battery storage. The platform has agreed to acquire 650MWp of operational solar capacity across five states under long-term power-purchase agreements with public and commercial customers; 160MWp of generation and 50MWh of storage have closed. The initiative builds on Actis' USD1.5 billion investment and 10GW energy portfolio in India, where renewable capacity reached 251GW in 2025 and is expected to expand rapidly through 2030. [Source: Actis](#)

Beryllus Capital and WorldBridge Group sign agreement to launch the Mekong Growth Fund, focused on Cambodia and Southeast Asia

UK-based Beryllus Capital, Cambodia's WorldBridge Group and leading Cambodian business families signed a binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Beryllus Capital Mekong Growth Fund. The institutionally regulated vehicle will target USD200–500 million initially, with potential to exceed USD1 billion, investing in growth and infrastructure across Cambodia, the Mekong corridor and ASEAN, alongside global public markets and private equity. It aims to mobilize Cambodian private wealth and international capital from sovereign funds, development finance institutions and family offices, helping address ASEAN's estimated USD210 billion annual infrastructure-investment need through 2030. The general partner will donate 1 percent of net profits to a Cambodian charitable foundation. [Source: Beryllus Capital](#) and [World Bridge Group](#)



IFIS TOGETHER

IDB and IFAD sign new agreement to scale up joint investment in rural development across Latin America and the Caribbean

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) established a co-financing framework for rural development, sustainable food systems and climate resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean. It shifts cooperation from individual projects to a systematic pipeline combining IDB financing and regional reach with IFAD's smallholder expertise. Priorities include productive capacity, market access and shock resilience, including through the World Bank's AgriConnect initiative. The partners currently co-finance three Brazilian investments worth USD402.5 million, including USD270 million from IDB. [Source: IFAD](#)

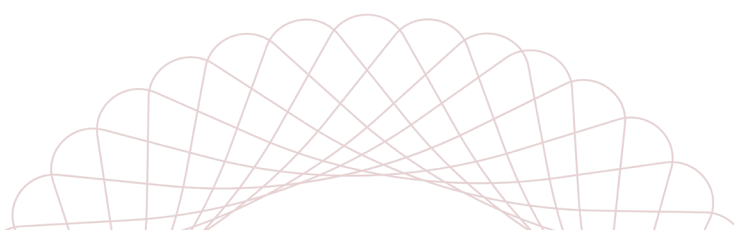
IFIS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY FINANCIERS

500 development banks to meet in Thailand for the 2027 Finance in Common Summit

The sixth Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) will convene more than 500 public development banks in Bangkok on 31 March–2 April 2027, co-hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Members manage USD23 trillion in assets and invest USD2.5 trillion annually. The first Asian FiCS will emphasize project origination, co-financing, private-capital mobilization and reduced institutional duplication, with investment opportunities in climate resilience, clean energy and nature. More than 2,000 participants are expected. [Source: ADB](#)

World Bank, BNDES and CIF partner to support transformation of energy-intensive industries in Brazil

The World Bank and Brazil's National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) will finance industrial decarbonization through a USD1 billion International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan and a USD60 million Climate Investment Funds' Clean Technology Fund loan, expected to mobilize USD1.8 billion more. Support will de-risk low-carbon investments in steel, cement, chemicals, aluminium, fuels and shared hydrogen infrastructure, helping Brazil reduce industrial greenhouse-gas intensity by 30 percent by 2033 while strengthening competitiveness and jobs. [Source: World Bank](#)



Saudi Eksab, IDB Invest, CAF, and IDC Network launch Saudi Eksab, IDC Impact Fund to expand growth capital in north of Latin America

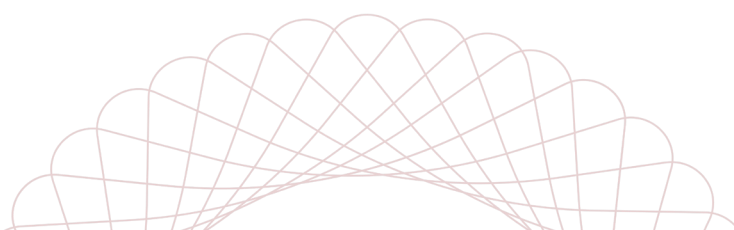
Saudi Eksab for International Investments Company, IDB Invest – the investment arm of Inter-American Development Bank –, CAF—Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and IDC Network, a Guatemala-headquartered alternative asset manager and investment holding company – launched the *Saudi Eksab, IDC Impact Fund*, managed by Valante Capital, IDC Network’s private equity platform. It will provide growth capital to established companies in food, distribution and retail, primarily in Central America and the Caribbean. The partners combine long-term international capital, development-finance expertise and local execution, while promoting stronger operations and international standards. The vehicle is structured to attract further institutional investors and support jobs, food security, productive capacity and sustainable private-sector growth. [Source: CAF](#)

EBRD partners with EFG Holding to support MSMEs in Egypt

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will provide EFG Holding with a USD40 million loan—its first direct facility to the group—to expand financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in rural areas and outside Egypt’s main cities. Egyptian Financial Group Holding Company (EFG Holding) is a leading Egyptian financial services institution with a massive footprint across the Middle East, North Africa (MENA), Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia. Funds will be channeled through eligible EFG Finance subsidiaries, addressing regional credit gaps and supporting private-sector resilience. [Source: EBRD](#)

Qatar Fund for Development launches initiatives with IDB and CAF at *Banking on Development* at UNGA81 side event

At the margins of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), governments, multilateral and regional development banks, bilateral institutions, philanthropy and business convened for *Banking on Development* to discuss mobilizing public and private capital on 24 September 2026 in New York. The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched a Gulf–Latin America and the Caribbean policy framework, while QFFD and CAF—Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean signed an agreement on co-financing and innovative finance. The initiatives aim to connect capital and expertise across regions and translate partnerships into jobs, resilience and scalable development impact. [Source: CAF](#)



IDB Invest partners with Caja Central Financoop and Banco Internacional in Ecuador

IDB Invest, the private sector arm of Inter-American Development Bank, made the following agreements with financial institutions in Ecuador:

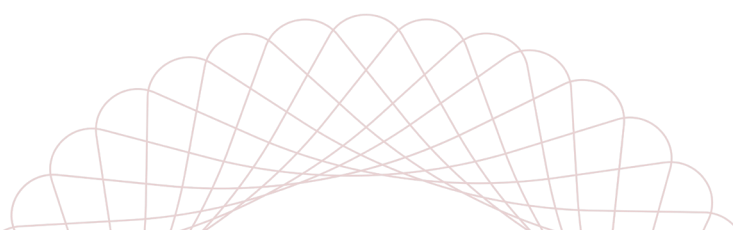
- Up to USD10 million investment in a USD20 million bond issued by Ecuador's Caja Central Financoop, a cooperative financial institution: Proceeds will finance women-led microenterprises. [Source: IDB Invest](#)
- Up to USD100 million financing arrangement to Banco Internacional to expand access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ecuador: The financing consists of a syndicated loan comprising up to USD50 million financed by IDB Invest; up to USD25 million from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through its JICA Trust Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean Development (TADAC); and up to USD25 million expected to be mobilized from participating investors. [Source: IDB Invest](#)

DEVELOPING COUNTRY FINANCIERS

Development Bank of Kazakhstan signs agreements with European partners, MIGA, CCBC and discusses cooperation with Sinosure

The Development Bank of Kazakhstan (DBK) signed several agreements to finance major industrial and renewable energy projects:

- A EUR418 million agreement with Qazaq Kalium and a German-led consortium: will support an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract for a potash mine at the Satimola deposit targeting annual production of 1.5 million tons.
- Preliminary financing terms with Aluminium of Kazakhstan to modernize the Pavlodar Aluminum Plant: to reduce emissions, develop rare-metals production and raise alumina capacity to 1.7 million tons per year.
- A credit facility of up to USD 200 million from Germany's development agency KfW, backed by the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency guarantee, for renewable energy projects: The first investment will be a GW wind farm with a 300MW/600MWh battery storage system in the Zhambyl Region, expected to generate about 4TWh annually, supply 1 million people and avoid 3.5 million tons of CO₂ emissions each year.
- Additional agreements: included a EUR52.5 million framework with Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen and a EUR30 million loan between Kazakhstan's Industrial Development Fund and AKA Ausfuhrkredit-Gesellschaft. [Source: DBK](#)
- Preliminary terms for a credit line of up to RMB2 billion (USD300 million) agreed with China Construction Bank Corporation: The facility will finance energy, industrial,



transport and joint Kazakhstan–China projects while diversifying DBK's funding.

[Source: DBK](#)

- Discussed new areas of cooperation with China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure): Existing cooperation covers refinery modernization and a 50MW wind plant; the parties will explore additional insured-finance instruments. [Source: DBK](#)

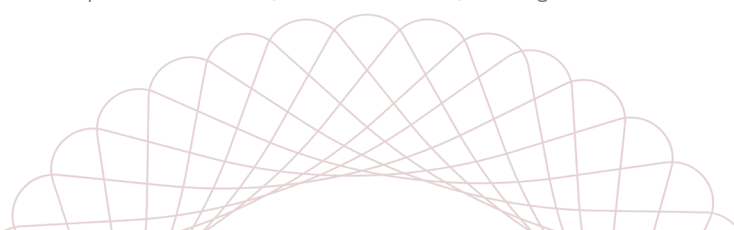
Kolaka Nickel constructs 20MW hybrid solar project in Indonesia with financing from ICBC, SC and CITIC

Indonesian mining and processing enterprise PT Kolaka Nickel Indonesia is developing a 20MW solar plant with a 20MW/30MWh battery system in Southeast Sulawesi to supply lower-carbon power to its nickel-processing operations. Non-recourse financing⁴ closed in January 2026 with Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Indonesia) (ICBC Indonesia), Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia and China CITIC Bank International (CNCBI). The 11th Design & Research Institute of Electronics Industry (EDRI) is the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor, while Znshine Solar will supply the photovoltaic modules, with commissioning scheduled for March 2027. The investment demonstrates how international finance and captive renewables can support industrial decarbonization and energy self-sufficiency. [Source: Vietnam Investment Review](#)

Boston University paper: *From Pledges to Practice - FOCAC 2027 and Africa's Energy And Climate Future*

A Boston University Global Development Policy Center (BU GDC) brief argues that the 2027 Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) should translate expanding energy and climate commitments into measurable delivery. Chinese public lending to Africa has fallen since 2020, while Africa's transition minerals and clean-energy markets have become more important to China. Priorities are catalytic finance for bankable renewable projects, greater support for decentralized energy, stronger adaptation and resilience financing, and use of strategic assets to advance African green industrialization. The brief calls for transparent project tracking, affordable electricity, local value creation and clearer financing commitments. [Source: BU GDC](#) and [BU GDC paper](#)

⁴ Non-recourse financing is a type of commercial loan secured strictly by collateral (typically real estate or hard assets). If the borrower defaults, the lender's only remedy is to seize and liquidate the collateral. The lender cannot pursue the borrower's personal assets, bank accounts, or wages to recover any remaining balance.



OTHER NEWS AND ANALYSES ON PARTNER IFIS

World Bank and UNDP to strengthen partnership with new cooperation framework

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank (WB) launched a Cooperation Framework to systematize joint support for development finance, jobs and growth. Pilots in Nepal, Yemen, Haiti, Lebanon and Ghana will strengthen institutions, business conditions, private investment, rule of law and implementation capacity, including in fragile settings. The framework builds on collaboration in over 100 countries and aligns World Bank's jobs and fragility agendas with UNDP priorities on crisis recovery, investment and prosperity. [Source: UNDP](#)

PRIVATE CAPITAL MOBILIZATION

MDB Task Force on Mobilization report update: *Private Finance Made Available – Measuring MDB/DFI Investment Flows*

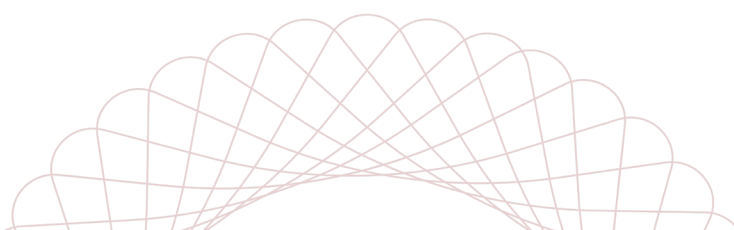
Thirty multilateral development banks (MDBs) and development finance institutions (DFIs) revised joint methodologies for measuring private finance, adding generation and catalyzation indicators and clearer attribution rules. The framework strengthens consistent reporting of mobilized private capital. [Source: IFC methodology package, IFC, AIIB, EIB, IDB, IDB Invest](#)

World Bank book: *Institutions and Prosperity: Public Institutions for Enabling the Private Sector*

This new book examines how regulatory and procurement capacity enables private investment, jobs and innovation. It offers a diagnostic framework linking organizational capability, governance and stronger business environments. [Source: World Bank](#)

WAPPP policy brief: *De-risking for Impact: Instruments and Blended Finance Tools for National Infrastructure Financing Institutions*

A World Association of PPP Units and Professionals (WAPPP) policy brief explains how National Infrastructure Financing Institutions (NIFIs) can close infrastructure bankability gaps by reshaping project risk. It reviews guarantees, credit enhancement, longer-term finance, catalytic capital and blended finance, stressing that instruments must address the specific constraint preventing investment. Effective intervention requires disciplined risk



allocation and careful additionality to mobilize private capital without distorting markets or creating institutional dependence. [Source: WAPPP](#) and [WAPPP policy brief](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 world is changing at extraordinary speed, and AI and digital technologies are reshaping economies, industries, and the future of work. 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 AI and digital technologies drive growth and expand access to jobs is a defining challenge of our era.

Hosted by the World Bank Group 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](#)

Report launch: *Energy Storage at Scale: Insights from Global Regulatory Practice and World Bank Operations*

Time: 22 October 2026 08:00 AM – 09:30 AM (Eastern Time)

Place: Virtual

Organizer: World Bank

Objective: Join our Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) webinar with Valérie Levkov, World Bank Group Vice President for Infrastructure, as keynote speaker to explore how energy storage can accelerate clean energy deployment.

As countries expand wind and solar power, storage helps balance grids, maintain reliability, and integrate more renewable energy. Yet scaling it up often depends less on technology than on addressing institutional, business models and regulatory barriers.

This session will share findings from two new World Bank Group reports—*Remunerating Energy Storage Services: A Global Perspective* and *Evidence to Action: Energy Storage Deployment in World Bank Group Operations*. Drawing on global market practices, project experience, and practitioners' insights, it will explore how countries can improve market access, create more predictable revenues, and design regulations that recognize and compensate the services storage provides.

You'll leave with a clearer understanding of how storage can strengthen grid flexibility and resilience—and which regulatory and business model choices can help make storage investments bankable and scalable.

Target participants: Open to all.

Registration: [Here](#)

Source: [ESMAP](#)

Auctions to Reduce Costs and Scale Up Renewable Energy in East Asia and Pacific - Communities of Practice Webinar

Time: 27 October 2026 03:00 AM - 04:30 AM ET, 03:00 PM - 04:30 PM UTC+8 (TBC)

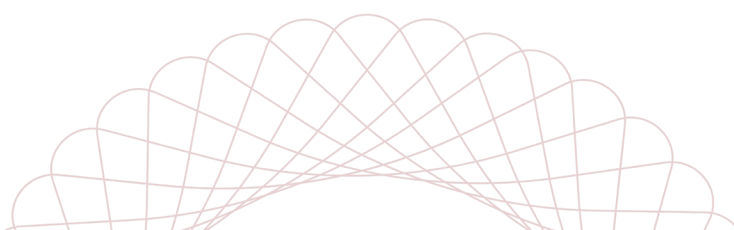
Place: Virtual

Organizer: World Bank

Objective: Join the East Asia and Pacific Energy Community of Practice to explore how renewable energy policy design is shaping the pace and scale of the energy transition across the region — and what it will take to move from megawatt-scale markets to gigawatt-scale deployment.

Come learn why auction mechanisms and well-designed policy instruments are emerging as critical enablers for scaling up renewables, reducing costs, and attracting private investment in countries at varying stages of their energy transition.

Hear from IRENA experts on how to design an effective renewable auctions, and directly from practitioners in China and the Philippines about their experience designing and implementing



renewable energy auctions and policies, the progress they have made, and the challenges they continue to face on the ground.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of the policy options available, what works well and does not work to design renewable energy auctions, and the lessons that can be applied across the East Asia and Pacific region.

Target participants: Open to all.

Registration: A formal invitation with the Zoom link and full agenda will follow.

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

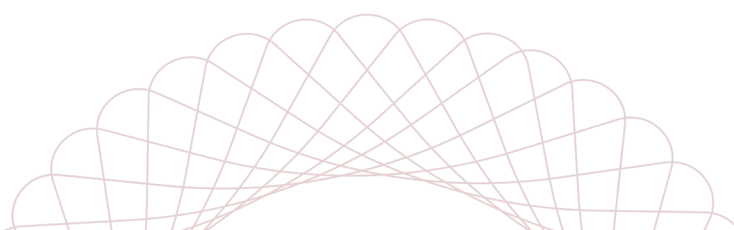
Place: Nairobi, Kenya

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](#)

Finance in Common Summit 2027: *Delivering Sustainable Growth for a More Resilient Future*

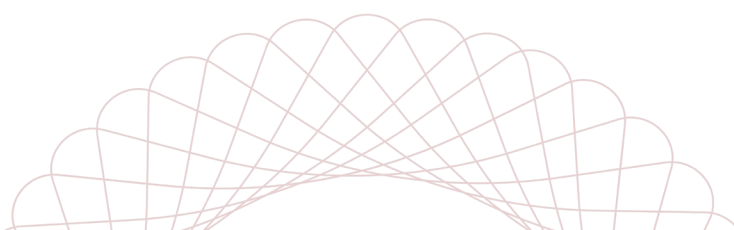
Time: 31 March – 2 April 2027

Place: Bangkok, Thailand

Organizer: FICS and ADB

Objective: The sixth edition of the Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) will be held at the United Nations Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand from 31 March to 2 April 2027. It will bring together more than 500 public development banks and their stakeholders. The summit will be co-hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with support from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and other regional and global partners. Its theme is *Delivering Sustainable Growth for a More Resilient Future*.

Finance in Common is the global forum for all public development banks, publicly mandated institutions that finance long-term economic and social priorities. The 2027 meeting follows gatherings in Paris in 2020, Rome in 2021, Abidjan in 2022, Cartagena in 2023, and Cape Town in 2025. More than 2,000 participants are expected, including public development bank executives, senior government officials, regulators, business leaders, institutional investors, civil society representatives, researchers, and international organizations. The program will include plenary discussions, working sessions, investment pitches, and meetings between financial institutions and prospective partners.



The Bangkok gathering aims to be a Summit of Delivery, connecting public and private financiers with investment opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. The summit will strengthen the role of public development banks as a system, advancing collective action and expanding financing for nature positive investments, building resilience to a changing climate, and clean energy.

The summit will also advance key issues addressed during ADB's 2026 chairship of the Heads of Multilateral Development Banks and the 2026 Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. Priorities include mobilizing more private capital, sharing and co-financing projects with other investors, reducing duplication among institutions, and keeping long-term investment moving during economic crises.

Target participants: Open to all.

Registration: [Here](#)

Source: [FICS Summit 2027](#)

World Bank Group Land Conference 2027

Time: 17 – 21 May 2027

Place: Washington DC, USA and streamlined

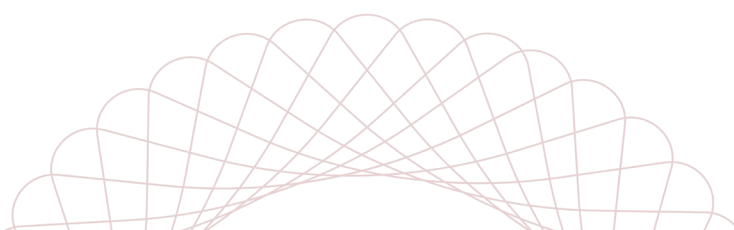
Organizer: World Bank

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.

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