

Week of August 3-7

AI FOR ALL GLOBAL BRIEF

GLOBAL SIGNALS

Gulf Sovereign AI Investments Survived Kinetic Conflict Test

Mubadala, PIF, and QIA committed \$21 billion-plus combined to Gulf AI infrastructure in 2025. Brookfield confirmed its \$20 billion QIA partnership one week after Iranian drone strikes hit AWS facilities in Bahrain and UAE in March 2026 — the first kinetic attack on major cloud infrastructure in history.

Gulf capital treated the strikes as a pricing problem rather than an exit signal. The message to markets and to Washington was explicit: these states regard AI infrastructure as strategic enough to absorb war risk, not merely commercial enough to walk away from at the first sign of instability.

Why it matters: For policymakers watching how capital responds to physical risk to AI infrastructure, the Gulf case is the first real data point. It suggests that once a state treats compute as strategic infrastructure, geopolitical risk gets priced in and absorbed rather than avoided — a precedent other regions courting AI investment will be watched against.

Source: [IISS](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Kelly Services' August 3 briefing and Robert Half's April survey of 2,000+ hiring managers converge: 66% of US employers plan to increase permanent hiring in H2 2026, and 32% of managers who eliminated a role due to AI later rehired for the same or similar position. [\[source\]](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

DayOne and Firmus Are Building Southeast Asia's Next AI Corridor on an Indonesian Island

DayOne partnered with Australia's Firmus Technologies to develop a 360 MW data center campus on Batam Island, Indonesia — minutes from Singapore by ferry — as part of “Project Southgate.” Firmus separately signed a 12-year, 600 MW wholesale energy supply agreement with Gunvor Group to power the next phase of the buildout.

The site logic is deliberate: Batam sits just outside Singapore's own tightly constrained grid, letting the corridor absorb AI compute demand the city-state increasingly cannot accommodate domestically.

Why it matters: Batam's proximity to Singapore lets it capture compute demand priced out of the city-state's own grid — a template for how smaller, energy-rich neighbors capture AI infrastructure investment that dense regional hubs can't accommodate themselves.

Source: [Data Center Knowledge](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Nigeria opened West Africa's first hyperscale-ready AI data center in Lagos; Zambia partnered with Huawei and Smart Zambia for a national AI data center; Google opened an applied AI lab in Ghana — African AI infrastructure is moving from rhetoric to operations. [\[source\]](#)

EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPACITY

Samsung Just Reinstated Its AI Training Program for 20,000 Indian Youth — With Government Backing

Samsung Innovation Campus began its fourth year in India, targeting 20,000 young adults aged 18 to 25 for hands-on AI training across 10 states, delivered jointly with the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India and the Telecom Sector Skill Council.

The program combines theoretical knowledge with project-based learning and mentorship — not a one-off workshop, but a structured pipeline intended to feed India's AI workforce ambitions directly.

Why it matters: This is workforce-pipeline infrastructure, not a pilot — government skills councils co-delivering at 10-state scale is a different order of commitment than a corporate CSR announcement.

Source: [RSWebSols](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Community-level AI integration in sub-Saharan Africa — agricultural extension services, health worker tools, informal market platforms — is advancing outside formal education systems, offering a capacity-building model that doesn't wait for national curricula to catch up. Some country-level details remain directional, not yet confirmed. [\[source\]](#)

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The World's First Fully AI-Generated Feature Film Just Premiered — With Licensed Celebrity Likenesses

Higgsfield AI's "The Cully Hill Boys," a 110-minute feature starring AI-generated likenesses of real celebrities under formal licensing agreements, premiered in New York on August 5. It follows SAG-AFTRA's AI consent provisions won through its 118-day strike, and Congress is now moving to codify likeness-licensing protection into federal law.

The significance is structural: this is the first feature-length test of a licensing-first model, where consent and compensation are negotiated before deployment rather than litigated after the fact.

Why it matters: This is the licensing-first model creators have been demanding — consent and compensation built in before deployment, not litigated after the fact — tested at feature-film scale for the first time.

Source: [Forbes](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The EU AI Act's IP enforcement provisions are now active, creating the first binding compliance obligations for AI-generated content on European platforms — exposing the gap between enforcement architecture and the absence of a functioning licensing market it's meant to protect. [\[source\]](#)

REGIONAL LENS

The Global South Is About to Get Its Own Room at the UN — Literally

The AIFOD Geneva Summit 2026 convenes August 12–14 in the Assembly Hall of the UN Office at Geneva — the largest room in the building, chosen deliberately — bringing together 500-plus delegates from 150-plus nations across four working tracks: regional compute pools, models trained in languages like Yoruba, Bengali, and Swahili, applied AI for agriculture and health delivery, and a coordinated Southern policy voice at the UN.

The summit builds toward the “Geneva Compact,” a jointly drafted statement on AI sovereignty carried forward to a follow-up summit in Nairobi in 2027.

Why it matters: Most AI summits center the countries that already have the compute. This one is built around the 150-plus nations “historically consulted last, or not at all” — the first time that room at the UN has hosted a summit organized that way.

Source: [AIFOD Geneva Summit, official](#) | [UN Indico registration](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Rio de Janeiro hosted the sixth Rio Innovation Week (August 4–7), drawing an estimated 200,000 visitors under the theme “Symbiosis,” convening international investors and policymakers on AI, cybersecurity, and sustainable development. [\[source\]](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

The Korea-WBG Global Digital Knowledge Center Is Operational — and Designed for Practitioners, Not Just Policymakers

The Korea-WBG Global Digital Knowledge Center, launched by the World Bank Group and the Republic of Korea in Seoul on December 1, 2025, aims to translate policy frameworks into implementable toolkits for government officials and development practitioners, with South-South peer learning built in as a core mechanism rather than routing knowledge transfer through Northern institutions.

The center's four pillars — knowledge and analytics, capacity building, convening and partnerships, and innovation grants — are designed to help low- and middle-income countries close a stark gap: fewer than 1% of people in low-income countries currently use generative AI tools, per the World Bank's own launch data.

Why it matters: For a government official in Senegal or Cambodia drafting AI regulation without the legal infrastructure EU or US agencies take for granted, the difference between a report and a toolkit is the difference between a reference document and something usable.

Source: [World Bank, official press release](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- AfDB's \$10 billion AI infrastructure facility and UN Global Dialogue side-events — advocacy windows for Global South representation are closing faster than funding calls open; early engagement recommended before October. [\[source\]](#)

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

The AI labor paradox. Kelly Services and Robert Half's converging data this month show something counterintuitive: companies deploying AI at scale are hiring more, not less. Two-thirds of US employers plan to increase permanent hiring in the second half of 2026, and nearly a third of managers who eliminated a role because of AI have already rehired for the same position. The bottleneck was never the technology — it is the human capacity to manage, audit, and redirect AI systems inside real organizations, a skill set in far shorter supply than the tools themselves. For workers who have spent two years hearing that AI is coming for their jobs, this is a genuine reversal of the narrative, but only if reskilling infrastructure moves at the speed of the moment. The window will not stay open indefinitely.

AI for All Global Brief is a publication of Tomorrow Foundation.