

Week of Sept 7-11

AI FOR ALL GLOBAL BRIEF

GLOBAL SIGNALS

Nigeria's Data Localization Deadline Is Forcing a Harder Question Than “Where's the Server”

Nigeria's financial sector faces a January 1, 2027 deadline to comply with the Central Bank's data-localization rules — but as one industry CIO put it ahead of this week's invitation-only “Power Brunch” convening in Lagos: “Changing the address of the data is not the same as having sovereignty over it.”

Banks moving primary records to Lagos data centers often still send analytics, technical support, and backups abroad — meaning the data is physically in Nigeria while its operational lifecycle isn't. Full compliance means duplicating systems, retraining teams, and redesigning applications built around global cloud infrastructure.

Why it matters: Localization done right could become industrial policy — predictable demand from Nigeria's biggest tech buyers (banks, fintechs, government) building real domestic cloud, AI, and infrastructure capacity. Done as a rushed compliance exercise, it just relocates complexity at higher cost with less resilience.

Source: [TechCabal](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Brazil's Federal Senate is set to hold a floor vote September 16 on Bill 2338/2023 — a risk-based AI framework that would become the first comprehensive AI law in Latin America. [\[source\]](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mexico's Bet on Genuinely Sovereign AI Compute — Not Just Hosting Someone Else's

Mexico's Rafay-AI-GDC partnership is building NVIDIA-aligned AI factory infrastructure targeting universities and public institutions across Latin America — a small but concrete test of whether the region can develop AI compute it actually controls, rather than simply hosting hyperscaler capacity built and governed elsewhere.

The deal dates to May 2026 with no fresher primary hook this week; it's included on Global South coverage grounds because the underlying question — whether Latin America builds sovereign compute or just rents someone else's — remains open and unresolved.

Why it matters: For universities and public institutions across the region, the difference between hosting foreign hyperscaler capacity and controlling domestic AI infrastructure determines whether local researchers can actually shape what gets built, not just consume what arrives.

Source: [PR Newswire](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Chinese AI firms including Moonshot AI, ByteDance, Alibaba, and Tencent are reportedly bypassing Nvidia export controls by routing compute access through data centres in Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan. Sourced via secondary aggregator citing CNBC; a separate disputed Nvidia-chip claim in the same report is excluded. [\[source\]](#)

EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPACITY

Ghana Just Proved the Train-the-Trainer Model Works at Scale — 3,300 Learners In

Ghana's national AI-in-TVET rollout, run with Ghana TVET Service and GETFund, has moved 30-plus master trainers and over 3,300 learners through Microsoft-certified AI learning pathways — scaling a structured train-the-trainer model piloted in 2025 at AAMUSTED, Ghana's leading technical-education institution.

Selected master trainers complete an intensive bootcamp and Microsoft-accredited learning pathways, then share their knowledge with colleagues and learners — personalized learning journeys designed to build confident, effective, and ethical AI use.

Why it matters: Most AI skills capital flows to data centers, compute partnerships, and investment summits — not to the individual learner converting AI skills into employment. This is what it looks like when human-capacity investment is treated as infrastructure in its own right.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The ASEAN Foundation received official endorsement to expand “AI Ready ASEAN,” targeting 1.7 million students, teachers, and university staff across Southeast Asia by 2028, backed by Google.org and the Asian Development Bank. [\[source\]](#)

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Suno's GEMA Defeat Forced Disclosure of Its Revenue. Now the Real Fight Is Who Gets Paid.

Munich's ruling against Suno (July 31) ordered Suno to disclose the scale of its use and pay damages — the first time a court has forced an AI music company to open its books. That disclosure order is reshaping the fight: the American Federation of Musicians has amended its suit against Warner and Atlantic specifically over Udio's “Starstruck” feature, shifting the battle from whether AI companies owe money for training data to who among rights-holders and working musicians actually receives it.

Meanwhile Warner's own label group has already reached a licensing agreement with Suno; Universal and Sony remain plaintiffs in the pending US case.

Why it matters: A settlement or ruling that establishes AI companies must pay is only half the story for a working musician — the unresolved question is whether the money reaches the artist whose catalog was used, or gets absorbed entirely by labels and publishers negotiating on their behalf.

Source: [Bird & Bird](#) | [OnlyAI.fm](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Believe and Suno announced a global strategic partnership on September 8 covering Believe and TuneCore repertoire — artists and labels opt in, with compensation structured as a revenue share, a real example of the payment model the GEMA/AFM fight is arguing over. [\[source\]](#)

REGIONAL LENS

US Grid Regulators Issue an Ultimatum to PJM as Data-Centre Demand Turns Power Costs Into a Political Liability

PJM's most recent capacity auction procured 138,318 MW of generation resources — data centres accounted for \$6.3 billion, or 38% of total charges. FERC Chair Laura Swett has given PJM until end of September to agree to governance and stakeholder reforms, or FERC will impose its own. PJM's board is separately developing a one-time backstop auction to procure the roughly 6.8 GW shortfall the main auction failed to clear.

For years the cost of powering the AI buildout was an industry planning problem, absorbed inside utility boardrooms. It is now a public question with a hard federal deadline, because the costs are landing directly on ratepayers.

Why it matters: The 65 million households and businesses on the PJM grid will pay a share of the \$6.3 billion in data-centre capacity charges whether or not they have any relationship with AI infrastructure. FERC's September deadline is the last scheduled intervention before those costs flow into 2027 rate cases.

Source: [Environ Energy](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Southeast Asia now hosts 2,000-plus data centres across Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, with investment projected to reach \$30 billion by 2030 — an infrastructure race shaped by AI workloads and a US-China tech-stack tug-of-war. [\[source\]](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

GITEX Global 2026 — the Window for African and Global South Founders to Access Gulf Capital Is Open Now

GITEX Global 2026 in Dubai (December 7–11) is consolidating Expand North Star, the region's largest founder-investor matchmaking platform, into the flagship event for the first time. Exhibitor applications, startup competition submissions, and investor-matchmaking slots typically close three to four months ahead of the event — meaning the planning window is now, not in November.

Delegation programs through the African Union, regional development finance institutions, and national investment promotion agencies often cover or subsidize attendance for qualifying startups — those applications also move on a September-October timeline.

Why it matters: For a founder in Lagos, Nairobi, Accra, or Dhaka watching Gulf capital increase its appetite for African and South Asian AI startups, GITEX is the most accessible single venue where that capital is physically present and structured for first meetings.

Source: [GITEX Global, official](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The UN's AI for SDGs Global Youth AI Future Innovation Competition closes applications September 15 — global youth teams building AI solutions for education and sustainable development, with finals in Macao in November. [\[source\]](#)

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

India's NPCI wants AI agents inside UPI — but its own board member just said, on the record at the same conference, that AI shouldn't approve the payments. That tension is this week's real signal: every section in this issue is a version of the same question, asked from a different angle. Who decides where the line sits between what a system can recommend and what it can execute? Nigeria's localization deadline asks who controls data once it's technically local. PJM's ultimatum asks who bears the cost when a grid can't keep up. Mexico's sovereign compute bet asks who controls infrastructure versus who merely hosts it. None of these questions have settled answers yet — which is exactly why the institutions building the infrastructure are also the ones publicly arguing about where to draw the lines.

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