

# Nigeria Artificial Intelligence Industry Collective



## NIGERIA AI COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY MONTHLY DIGEST

MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 2025

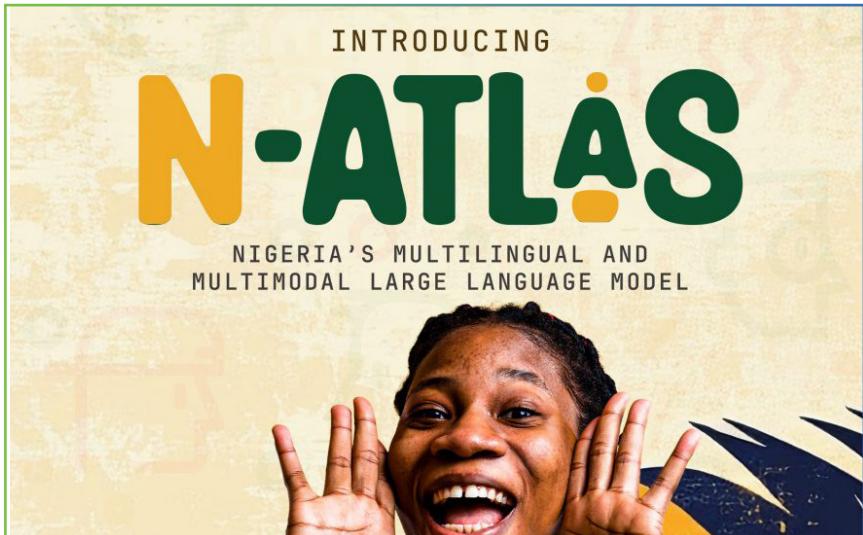
This Month's Highlights:

OpenAI and Oracle

Seal Landmark \$300 Billion Agreement

### Nigeria Unveils N-ATLAS to Digitise Indigenous Languages

The Nigerian government, in collaboration with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and top linguistics research bodies, has launched the Nigerian Atlas of Languages and Speech (N-ATLAS). This pioneering open-source initiative seeks to digitise and preserve Nigeria's rich tapestry of over 500 indigenous languages by harnessing advanced artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP) technologies. N-ATLAS aims to create comprehensive digital archives featuring speech recognition, text-to-speech synthesizers, and multilingual translation tools specifically designed for Nigerian languages. Beyond preservation, these tools will enhance education delivery, digital communication, and cultural participation, bridging Nigeria's diverse communities through technology. Early pilot programmes engaging local language speakers and educational institutions are already underway, with plans for a nationwide public rollout by early 2026. N-ATLAS sets a global example of how AI can nurture linguistic diversity in the digital age, making Nigerian languages more accessible and relevant to young people and technology users. The initiative underscores Nigeria's emergence as a leader in African-driven AI innovation, setting a precedent for other nations to similarly reclaim their linguistic identities in the digital age.



## UNGA 2025 Sets the Stage for Inclusive, Responsible Global AI Governance

The 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York last week marked a pivotal moment for artificial intelligence on the world stage. Countries, experts, and global organisations came together to chart a shared path towards responsible, inclusive, and equitable AI development with a special eye on delivering benefits to emerging markets and developing nations.

Representing Nigeria's vibrant and rapidly growing AI ecosystem, the Nigeria AI Collective team was present throughout the event, showcasing the country's remarkable progress in leveraging AI for social impact. This included demonstrations of cutting-edge initiatives driving inclusion, digital empowerment, and ethical AI adoption, highlighting Nigeria's potential as a key player in the global AI landscape.

UNGA saw the launch of two major global AI governance frameworks: the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, a platform for governments, scientists, and civil society to coordinate policies and share knowledge; and the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, which will provide expert, unbiased assessments of AI's societal impacts.

For countries like Nigeria, these initiatives offer a rare chance to influence global AI policies that respect the unique realities of different economies and cultures. The UN highlighted the urgency to bridge the digital divide, promoting wider access to AI technologies and fostering capacity building in developing and least developed countries. Enhanced access to AI tools and investment in skills development are seen as essential to empower emerging markets to harness AI in sectors such as healthcare, education, and agriculture which are pillars for sustainable development.

The UNGA also drew renewed attention to the Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI, which commits signatories to develop AI in ways that uphold human rights, promote transparency, fight misinformation, and foster inclusivity. Women and girls' inclusion in AI education remains a priority, alongside support for local innovation ecosystems in the Global South.

Africa's ambitions were on full display, with pioneers like Strive Masiyiwa of Cassava Technologies announcing the continent's first AI factory network, set to deploy powerful Nvidia GPUs across several countries by 2026. This effort aims to fuel homegrown AI innovation rooted in African realities and data sovereignty. Meanwhile, corporate giants like Meta affirmed plans for expanded investment in African digital ecosystems. Such developments signal confidence in Africa's capacity to lead its own AI-powered future.

To complement infrastructure efforts, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and partners launched the Digital@UNGA initiative, pledging billions to scale AI skills training worldwide. Microsoft, UNICEF, and Google, among



others, committed to connecting millions of learners particularly from underserved regions to digital tools, robotics, and AI education. This addresses a critical gap in global AI readiness and aims to prepare emerging markets for future job opportunities.

The future work of the Global Dialogue will prioritise emerging technologies such as autonomous AI agents and create frameworks to assess AI trustworthiness. These discussions will be conducted with a view to harmonising AI developments with fundamental human rights and international law, ensuring that AI deployment across countries of varying capacity is safe, ethical, and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The overall message from UNGA 2025 is clear: AI holds enormous potential to accelerate human progress, but only if its governance and benefits are truly global in scope and rooted in solidarity. Developing countries, including Nigeria, are now positioned to participate fully in shaping an AI-led future that fosters inclusion, respects sovereignty, and promotes shared prosperity.

### Empowering Rural Girls in Ondo: New AI Learning Platform Launched by SARAFACDI

Across Ondo State, girls in rural communities often face significant hurdles when it comes to accessing quality education, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In an inspiring move to advance digital literacy and bridge educational gaps, the Slum and Rural Aid for African Child Development Initiative (SARAFACDI) has launched TechUpRuralGirls II alongside SabiAI, an AI-powered WhatsApp learning platform. This initiative targets vulnerable rural girls in Ondo State, Nigeria, providing training in essential digital skills including computer and AI literacy, graphic and web design, robotics, social media management, and photography.

The programme empowers participants by delivering content in multiple local languages via chat and voice on WhatsApp, making learning accessible to those facing language and cost barriers. Starting 25th September 2025 at Fiwasaye Girls Grammar School in Akure, the initiative aims to reach 200 children across rural Ekiti and Ondo States. Beyond training, the top performers will receive internship opportunities, and ICT clubs and competitions will sustain engagement post-training. SARAFACDI tackles the gender gap in STEM, as only 22% of Nigerian engineering and technology graduates are women and aims to open new digital horizons for rural girls, catalysing their future participation in Nigeria's digital economy.



OpenAI and Oracle have inked a historic \$300 billion deal to build and operate AI computing infrastructure, marking one of the largest cloud agreements in history. This five-year pact supports Project Stargate, an ambitious plan to erect expansive AI data centres across the United States and beyond. Oracle's extensive investment in high-performance Nvidia GPUs complements OpenAI's drive

to advance AI capabilities for commercial and consumer applications.

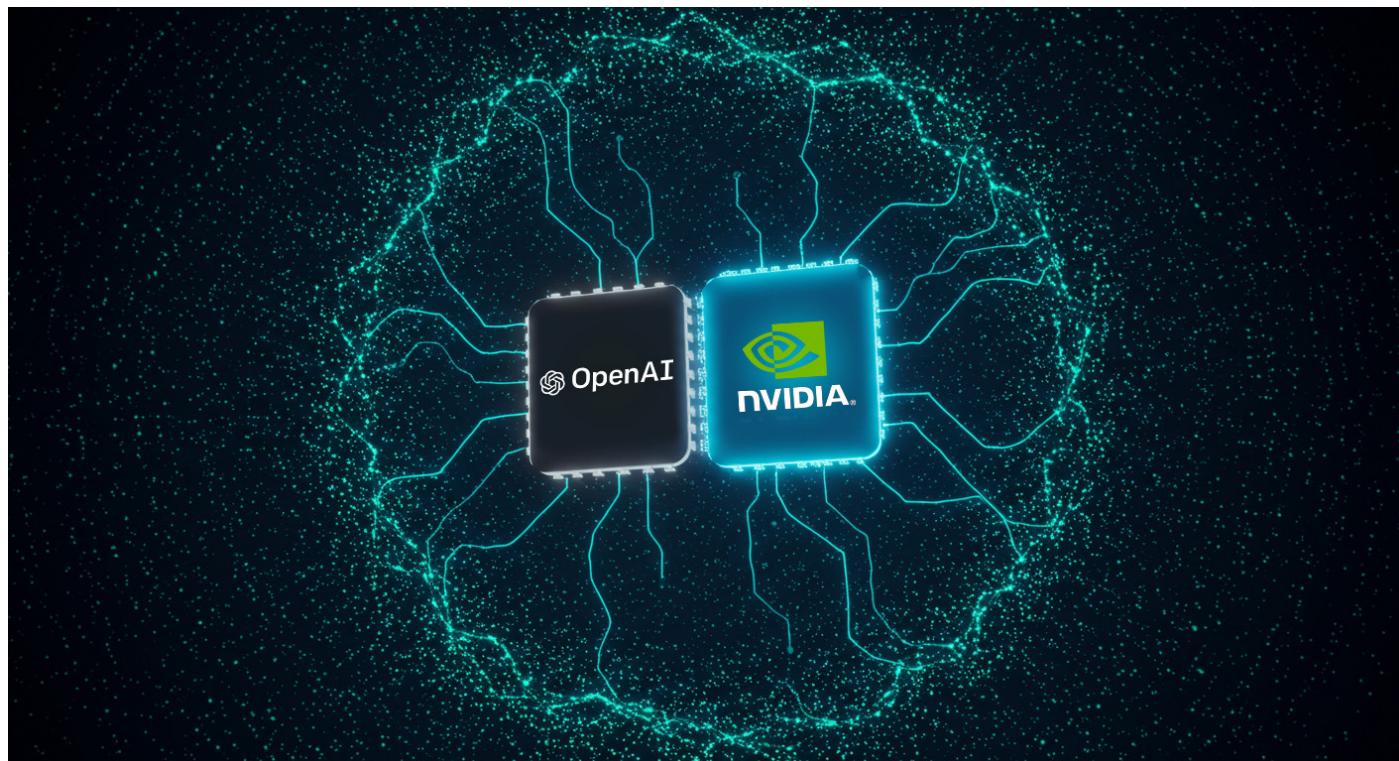
This monumental partnership has driven Oracle's stock to record highs and signals a transformative push in AI infrastructure development. OpenAI plans to leverage this infrastructure to accelerate the training and deployment of next-generation AI models, cementing its position on



## Nvidia and OpenAI Join Forces to Revolutionise AI Infrastructure

Further strengthening AI's foundation, Nvidia and OpenAI have announced a strategic partnership to deploy at least 10 gigawatts of Nvidia systems, representing millions of GPUs, to fuel OpenAI's next-generation AI infrastructure. The collaboration will see Nvidia progressively invest up to \$100 billion as infrastructure is rolled out, beginning with deployment on the Nvidia Vera Rubin platform in the second half of 2026.

This initiative will enable OpenAI to train and run complex AI models on an unprecedented scale. The partnership underscores Nvidia's leadership in AI hardware and OpenAI's ambition to push the boundaries of AI research towards deploying superintelligence. The partnership's goals include breakthroughs in AI system efficiency and performance, with initial outcomes expected to be showcased at the AI World Summit in 2026. This alliance exemplifies how collaboration between hardware and AI research leaders can unlock next-generation capabilities critical for industries from healthcare to autonomous systems. Together, they aim to transition AI from experimental labs into real-world applications across industries, facilitating new levels of AI-powered innovation and accessibility worldwide.



## FTC Probes AI Chatbot Companions from Meta, OpenAI, and Others

The rise of AI chatbots as companions and assistants has prompted the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to open an investigation into their data privacy and ethical use. Major companies including OpenAI, Meta, Google's xAI, Snap, and Character.AI, known for products that simulate human conversation, are under scrutiny to assess how users' data is collected and protected. The inquiry will focus on safeguards against harm, manipulative behaviours, and transparency, especially for vulnerable users such as children, teenagers and the elderly, especially as these AI systems become emotional companions for young users. This move signals a broader regulatory awareness worldwide about the need for strong oversight as AI becomes more integrated into daily life.

The FTC's action seeks detailed information on safety measures, product usage restrictions for minors, data collection practices, and how companies inform users and parents about potential risks. The investigation comes amid lawsuits claiming AI chatbots contributed to negative mental health outcomes for teens. It highlights the balance societies must strike between harnessing AI's benefits and protecting consumers, ensuring technologies are developed and deployed with trust and responsibility.

## MIT-Led Innovation Boosts Generative AI's Capability to Design Quantum-Ready Materials

Researchers led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have unveiled SCIGEN (Structural Constraint Integration in Generative Model), an innovative tool that enhances generative AI's ability to design novel materials tailored for quantum computing and other high-impact technologies. SCIGEN integrates physical and geometric constraints into the AI's design process, enabling it to generate stable, viable quantum materials rather than impractical or unstable structures often produced by conventional AI models. By simulating atomic arrangements and predicting performance under diverse conditions, this AI tool shortens the traditionally lengthy and costly process of materials science research.

The breakthrough promises to fast-track the discovery and creation of quantum-ready materials with extraordinary properties such as superconductivity and advanced energy storage capabilities, potentially revolutionising sectors like computing, telecommunications, and green energy. By embedding 'design rules' that respect real-

world physics, SCIGEN bridges AI creativity with scientific rigour, reducing research timelines and opening new frontiers for AI-driven materials science. This interdisciplinary achievement highlights the expanding role of AI not only in software applications but also in cutting-edge scientific discovery.



## Cassava Technologies and Accenture Collaborate to Expand Sovereign AI Across Africa

The image is a composite of several elements. On the left, the Cassava.ai logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized 'A' icon followed by the word 'CASSAVA' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'ai' in a smaller, lighter font to its right. Below the logo, the tagline 'AI is the beginning of better business' is written in a large, bold, green font. To the right of the text, there is a dark silhouette of a person standing and facing away from the viewer, looking towards a large, multi-screen digital display. The display shows various data visualizations, including line graphs, bar charts, and a circular progress bar. In the background, a blurred city skyline is visible under a dark sky. The overall theme is technology, data, and business.

Cassava Technologies, a leading African technology company, has entered a strategic collaboration with Accenture to scale sovereign AI cloud solutions across the African continent. The company partnered with the South African Artificial Intelligence Association (SAAIA) to provide local AI researchers and entrepreneurs access to powerful computing resources through Cassava's GPU-as-a-Service platform, housed in secure African data centres accelerated by Nvidia AI technology. This move is helping to build Africa's first AI factory in South Africa, equipped with thousands of Nvidia GPUs, designed to power advanced AI projects across the continent.

Building on this foundation, Cassava is expanding its AI infrastructure footprint to other African countries including Nigeria, Kenya, Morocco, and Egypt. Partnering with global firm Accenture, the collaboration focuses on delivering sovereign AI solutions that protect African data sovereignty while addressing pressing local challenges in agriculture, healthcare, and financial services.

This combined effort aims to empower African governments, businesses, and innovators with AI tools suited for local needs, helping the continent to lead its own digital transformation and economic growth with homegrown, sustainable technology.

### Home-grown Research with Global Recognition

#### Paper: [A Deep-Learning-Based Model for the Detection of Diseased Tomato Leaves](#)

**Authors:** Akram Abdullah, Gehad Abdullah Amran, S. M. Ahanaf Tahmid, Amerah Alabrah, Ali A. AL-Bakhrani, and Abdulaziz Ali.

This paper is one of Nigeria's 20 peer-reviewed artificial intelligence (AI) research papers published under the Nigerian Artificial Intelligence Research Scheme (NAIRS), a federally funded initiative launched in early 2024 to boost local AI research capacity and ensure Nigerian institutions lead in AI innovation.

The study presents a deep learning model using YOLOv8 computer vision architecture to detect tomato leaf diseases, specifically targeting "tomato Ebola," a devastating crop disease in Nigeria. The researchers created the TomatoEbola dataset, the first annotated dataset from Nigerian farms, capturing real-world complexities such as multiple leaves per image. The model demonstrated a mean average precision of approximately 74% and fast inference times, surpassing existing state-of-the-art methods.

This AI-driven solution can detect multiple disease instances per image and operate effectively under diverse environmental conditions, enabling real-time agricultural monitoring. By facilitating early disease detection and targeted pesticide application, the research supports improved crop management and food security. It exemplifies NAIRS's goal of generating practical, data-driven AI solutions addressing Nigeria's local challenges, marking a significant stride in Nigeria's emergence as a hub for AI innovation on the continent.

#### Paper: [AfriMed-QA: A Pan-African, Multi-Specialty, Medical Question-Answering Benchmark Dataset](#)

**Authors:** Charles Nimo, Tobi Olatunji, Abraham Toluwase Owodunni, Tassallah Abdullahi, Emmanuel Ayodele, et al.

The paper "AfriMed-QA: A Pan-African, Multi-Specialty, Medical Question-Answering Benchmark Dataset" introduces the first large-scale, pan-African medical QA dataset designed to evaluate and develop large language models (LLMs) tailored for African healthcare. The dataset comprises 15,000 questions including multiple-choice, short-answer, and consumer queries. It was sourced from over 60 medical schools across 16 African countries, covering 32 medical specialties. The dataset aims to address the lack of diverse, localized medical data in AI training, reflecting African clinical and cultural contexts.

The authors evaluated 30 open and closed-source LLMs on multiple performance metrics such as accuracy, bias, factuality, and potential harm, revealing significant variability across specialties and regions. Biomedical-specific LLMs generally underperformed compared to general models, and smaller edge-friendly models struggled to pass clinical thresholds. Human evaluation showed that consumers preferred LLM-generated answers in many cases, underscoring the potential of LLMs to enhance healthcare access in Africa despite regional challenges. The study recommends AfriMed-QA as a benchmarking and fine-tuning resource to develop equitable, culturally attuned medical AI tools for Africa and similar regions.

## Opportunities and Events

An overview of upcoming events, available funding, proposal invitations, and other timely opportunities shared within the Community.

### Call for Edge AI Innovations in Africa

The ITU AI for Good initiative has launched a call for Edge AI innovations in Africa, inviting startups and researchers to develop AI solutions that operate efficiently on low-power, offline devices near data sources. This technology promises to transform key sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and energy in resource-limited settings.

**Deadline – 6th October 2025**

### Grants for Advancing Public Health Decision-Making through AI-Driven Disease Modelling

The Gates Foundation seeks applications to fund partnerships, innovative methods, and tools that apply AI in transformative ways to address high-priority, real-world challenges in disease modelling for the African context.

**Deadline – 6th October 2025**

### Apply for Water Council Fall 2025 Tech Challenge

The challenge seeks technology solutions and new systems, processes or tools for decision-making support for water quality addressing any stage of the water cycle related to human consumption, including drinking water and wastewater systems across residential, commercial and utility-scale applications as well as their distribution networks.

**Deadline – 10th October 2025**

### UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge

The UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge 2025 invites early- and growth-stage, private, for-profit companies registered in UNICEF programme countries to apply. Eligible startups must have a working prototype or minimum viable product, be open source or willing to become open source, and aim to positively impact vulnerable children through climate and health-related solutions. The challenge provides funding, mentorship, and global exposure to help scale innovations addressing climate change impacts on children. Women-led and youth-led startups are especially encouraged to apply.

**Deadline – 21st October 2025**

### ERA Fellowship Winter 2026

The ERA Fellowship Winter 2026 is an eight-week, fully funded research programme held at Cambridge, UK, from February 2 to March 27, 2026. It supports researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers focused on mitigating risks from advanced AI systems through technical safety, governance, and policy research. Fellows receive a salary, accommodation, meals, visa support, and travel reimbursement. The fellowship also offers expert mentorship, research resources, and a collaborative community. Applications are open to individuals 18 years or older from diverse backgrounds, including PhD students, early-career researchers, and professionals transitioning into AI governance or safety.

**Deadline – 27th October 2025**

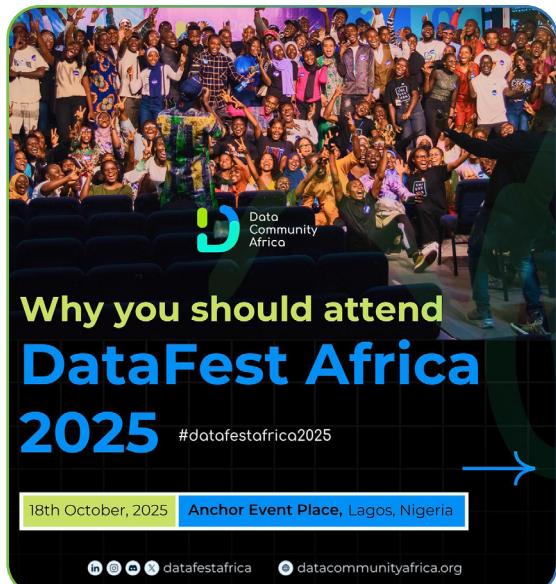
## Upcoming Events

### 1. DataFest Africa

**Date:** 17-18th October 2025

**Location:** Lagos, Nigeria

DataFest Africa is Africa's premier festival celebrating data science, artificial intelligence, and technological innovation. The 2025 edition, themed "AI in Africa: Solving Today's Problems, Building Tomorrow's Systems," will bring together over 4,000 attendees including data scientists, engineers, policymakers, educators, and entrepreneurs from across the continent. With 10+ expert speakers and interactive panels, workshops, and keynotes, the event fosters community-driven conversations and hands-on experiences focused on data governance, ethical AI, digital rights, and African-led solutions. It is the ultimate gathering for anyone passionate about Africa's data-driven future.



### 2. Data Science Nigeria 2025 AI Bootcamp

**Date:** 20-24th October 2025

**Location:** Lagos, Nigeria

The Data Science Nigeria(DSN) AI Bootcamp is Africa's leading AI training programme, offering an immersive, all-expenses-paid experience to build advanced machine learning skills. It prioritises hands-on projects, expert mentorship, and real-world problem-solving to prepare selected participants from across different states in Nigeria. The bootcamp aims to accelerate Africa's technological growth by developing skilled AI talents ready to drive innovation and socio-economic development on the continent.

### 3. MWC Kigali 2025

**Date:** 15th October 2025

**Location:** Kigali, Rwanda

The MWC Kigali event explores how mobile technology and digital solutions can address challenges and create opportunities in Africa, covering topics like 5G, FinTech, the digital economy, and health tech.



## Upcoming Events



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A white humanoid robot wearing a colorful, patterned headwrap and a matching shawl, standing against a purple and black geometric background.

### 4. TechCabal Moonshot 2025

**Date: 15th October 2025**

**Location: Lagos, Nigeria**

Moonshot is the conference that brings together Africa's tech ecosystem in person to network, collaborate, share insights, and celebrate innovation on the continent.



Meet the Sponsor

Google

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29-31 OCT 2025 [www.aiexpoafica.com](http://www.aiexpoafica.com)

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### 5. AI Expo Africa 2025

**Date: 29th October 2025**

**Location: Johannesburg, South Africa**

AI Expo Africa, now entering its 8th successful year, is the largest business focused Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and smart tech trade event in Africa, uniting 1000s of Enterprise buyers, suppliers & innovators across the region.

## Thought Leadership



### Dr. Bosun Tijani

*(Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Nigeria)*

Dr Bosun Tijani was featured in TIME 100 AI Leaders 2025 (Aug 28, 2025)

"There's an opportunity to strengthen the quality of AI by helping to digitize our own reality, the reality is, there's no country where you have the ecosystem that is creating AI without government participation." (2025)

Read more: [Times](#)



### Karl Toriola

*(CEO, MTN Nigeria)*

Karl Toriola spoke on Tech Infrastructure & AI Readiness, GITEX Nigeria 2025 (Sept 3, 2025)

"Nigeria must urgently invest in data infrastructure, stable power supply, and human capital development to support AI growth. The scale of demand from AI systems will far outpace existing capacity. "It is estimated that data consumption from AI will be 16 times today's level. Data centres being built globally now require energy on the scale of a nuclear power plant each, and that is where we face a huge gap." (2025)

Read more: [Independent](#)



### Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi

*(Director-General, NITDA)*

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi spoke on Harnessing AI for Strategic Leadership at GITEX Africa 2025

"AI is shifting the skills we value today, as well as the processes we use to do our daily work, so to drive strategic leadership, you need to be an AI-driven leader and find a way to use AI as a tool to create co-intelligence whereby you bring people and computers to work together to deliver your strategic vision as a leader," (2025)

Read more: [NITDA](#)

## Nigeria AI Collective Joins DataFest Africa as a Sponsor

We are excited to be part of DataFest Africa 2025, taking place on October 17-18th, 2025, in Lagos. As one of Africa's leading gatherings dedicated to data science and AI, this event provides a vibrant platform to showcase Nigeria's advancements in ethical and inclusive AI development.

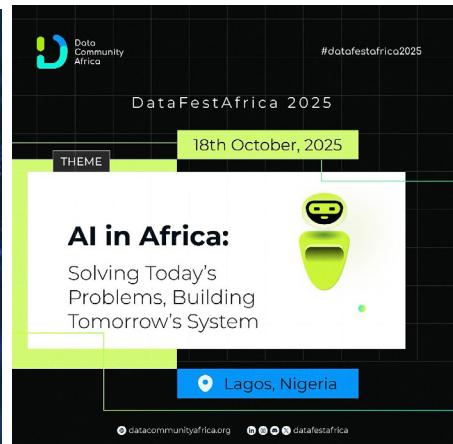
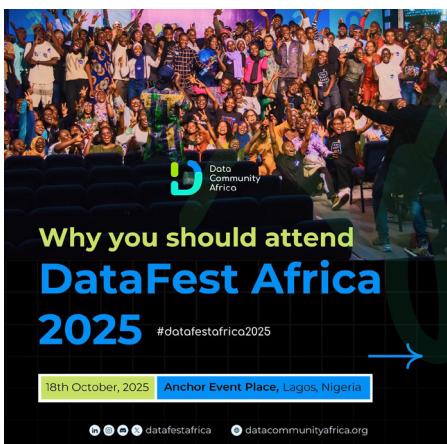
Alongside engaging with experts, policymakers, and innovators across sectors, Nigeria AI Collective will spotlight its ongoing efforts to foster AI solutions that address real-world challenges and promote sustainable growth in Nigeria and beyond.



We warmly invite all attendees to visit our stand during the event. It will be an excellent opportunity to connect with our team, learn more about our work, and explore ways to get involved in upcoming initiatives.

***Look out for exciting announcements and opportunities from the Collective during the event, with plans to unveil new initiatives that aim to further strengthen Nigeria's position as a leader in African AI innovation.***

Whether you are attending in person or following online, there will be plenty to connect with, learn from, and be a part of. We look forward to seeing you at DataFest Africa!



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