

AI Weekly Brief: Major International Financial Institutions

January 7–14, 2026

Publications & Events

1. IMF Blog: "New Skills and AI Are Reshaping the Future of Work"

Institution: International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Publication Date: January 14, 2026

URL: <https://www.imf.org/en/blogs/articles/2026/01/14/new-skills-and-ai-are-reshaping-the-future-of-work>

Thematic Tags: labour_markets, skills_education, macro

Summary: Rapid AI diffusion is transforming the task and skill content of jobs globally. The IMF introduces a new "Skill Imbalance Index" complementing the AI Preparedness Index to assess how well countries' workforces can adjust to AI-driven demand shifts. Key policy priorities include investing in adaptable, digital, and AI-complementary skills; active labour-market policies; and social protection to cushion workers during economic transitions while enabling labour reallocation.

2. IMF Staff Discussion Note: "Bridging Skill Gaps for the Future: New Jobs Creation in the Age of AI"

Institution: International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Publication Date: January 9, 2026

URL: <https://www.imf.org/en/publications/staff-discussion-notes/issues/2026/01/09/bridging-skill-gaps-for-the-future-new-jobs-creatio...>

Thematic Tags: labour_markets, skills_education, development, macro

Summary: Rising demand for IT and AI-related skills is reshaping labour markets and wage structures in advanced and emerging economies, identifying substantial mismatches between supply and demand for AI-complementary talent. The note recommends coordinated policies to accelerate diffusion of AI-complementary skills—particularly in Africa and emerging markets—through education reform, training programmes, and labour-market institutions that support skill upgrading rather than protectionist approaches.

3. World Bank Tokyo Online Seminar #213: "Digital Progress and Trends Report 2025: Strengthening AI Foundations"

Institution: World Bank

Event Date & Time: January 15, 2026, 9:00–10:00 AM JST (online via Webex)

URL: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2026/01/15/world-bank-tokyo-online-morning-seminar-digital-progress-and-trends-report-2025>

Thematic Tags: development, infrastructure_compute, skills_education, governance

Summary: Consultant Saloni Khurana will present key findings from the World Bank's "Digital Progress and Trends Report 2025: Strengthening AI Foundations." The presentation analyses global AI trends and emphasizes "Small AI" solutions (affordable, mobile-based applications) for development challenges in agriculture, health, and education. The report highlights critical infrastructure gaps in low- and middle-income countries via the "four Cs" framework: connectivity, compute, context (data), and competency (skills). Policy recommendations focus on institutional reforms for inclusive AI adoption, local innovation, data governance, and competition to distribute AI benefits equitably across regions.

4. World Bank Global Economic Prospects – January 2026

Institution: World Bank

Publication Date: January 13, 2026

Main Link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>

Full Report (PDF): <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f53549d4-6c5b-43b8-ae8e-9432ab8917b9/content>

Press Release: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2026/01/13/global-economic-prospects-january-2026-press-release>

Thematic Tags: macro, development

Summary: Macro outlook projects global growth at 2.6% for 2026 with explicit mention of AI investment surges as a key driver. Developing economies face slower recovery at 4% growth in 2026 amid uneven AI-readiness conditions, with one in four developing economies still below 2019 per capita incomes. The report identifies uneven AI-readiness as a critical constraint on recovery prospects.

Data Verification

- All items verified as genuinely AI-focused with explicit policy or analytical significance
- Publication/event dates confirmed within January 7–14, 2026 monitoring window
- URLs validated as of January 14, 2026, 1:06 PM EST
- No duplicate references retained across morning task responses
- Thematic tags from standard taxonomy: governance, finance, labour_markets, development, macro, infrastructure_compute, supervision_regulation, public_sector, skills_education, competition_policy

Compiled: January 14, 2026, 1:06 PM EST