

Building Global Accessible Public Services Products

by NDB VP&COO on July 17, 2026

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Distinguished guests, colleagues, friends,

Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure for me to be here at "Win-Win BRICS" Forum of 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference today. Over the last few years, WAIC has proven to be a successful forum turning cutting-edge AI concepts into tangible realities and shaping the future of global digital governance. Today's event presents a unique opportunity to discuss how advancement in IT technologies and use of AI could improve infrastructure investments and provision of public services, and how financial institutions could support investment in digital infrastructure and services.

NDB, established by BRICS countries 11 years ago, transformed from an ambitious idea of multilateral development bank led by developing countries into a fully operational financial institution. As we embark onto the "second golden decade", the Bank is formulating a new General Strategy that will target investment in the digital economy and support development of AI infrastructure. For multilateral development banks, it is crucial to understand how technological advancement could be effectively leveraged to efficiently support development agenda of our member countries.

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As we look ahead to the future, it is also important to reflect on the significant milestones NDB has already achieved.

By June 30, 2026, NDB had approved a total of 141 projects, with the cumulative approval amount reaching USD 44.2 billion. NDB's key areas of operation include Transport Infrastructure (36%), Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency (12%), as well as Water & Sanitation, Social Infrastructure, Environmental Protection, and Digital Infrastructure. NDB was the first MDB to actively adopt use of local currency financing. Around 30% of NDB portfolio is financed in national currencies of member countries, including a substantial number of transactions outside China denominated in RMB. NDB has become the largest issuer of panda bonds and plans to continue expansion of its local currency financing franchise. NDB has been investing considerable resources in expansion of non-sovereign business with 2025 becoming the first year when non-sovereign operations exceed 30% of annual loan approvals. This was driven by a successful diversification of our financing instruments, spanning corporate finance, financial intermediaries, and equity investments.

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When we talk about AI, we do not view it in isolation. Instead, we see it as a transformative tool deeply embedded across our entire project portfolio. In numerous projects, we have integrated smart digital operational platforms as core components. By leveraging AI models, we can implement real-time monitoring, predictive demand analysis, and comprehensive efficiency assessments. This approach ensures that AI is not just a standalone technology, but a fundamental driver of resilience and sustainability across all our development initiatives.

Specifically, allow me to illustrate how NDB's financing strategy encompasses both the foundational and practical applications of AI.

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The Brazil Smart Hospital project is a prime example of this commitment, serving as a national pilot for the future of public healthcare in emerging economies.

Located within the historic Hospital in São Paulo, this 120,000-square-meter facility will integrate emergency care, neurology, and intensive treatment with a fully digital backbone.

At its core is an advanced AI platform that powers AI-driven patient scheduling, centralized electronic health records, telemedicine services, and clinical decision support systems. This intelligent infrastructure is designed to significantly enhance operational efficiency and patient outcomes. Upon completion, the hospital is projected to increase its annual patient treatment capacity in key specialized areas from 160,000 to 280,000, representing an expansion of over 70%.

Critically, this project does not simply import foreign models; it adapts cutting-edge technologies to the specific context of Brazil's Unified Health System. By training local health professionals in these advanced digital tools and designing scalable, interoperable systems, NDB is helping Brazil address long-standing inefficiencies and reduce wait times that have challenged its public healthcare system for decades. This focus on AI and intelligent applications makes the model highly transferable, offering a practical template that other NDB member countries can adopt and tailor to their own contexts, with NDB's support in technical design, financing, and knowledge sharing. This project exemplifies how a multilateral development bank can empower an intelligent ecosystem—using digital finance to transform physical infrastructure into smart, inclusive, and responsive public services.

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NDB also consistently supports the digital intelligence transformation by embedding AI into core infrastructure.

- The Qingdao Metro Line 6 Project leverages a cloud-based Intelligent Subway Operations System, integrating AI and IoT sensors across full lifecycle in project implementation—setting a national benchmark for “smart metro” development.

- Xi'an Xianyang International Airport Phase III Expansion Project expanded utilization of AI-driven collaborative decision-making and digital twin platforms to optimize ground operations, streamline security screening, and enhance real-time passenger flow management.
- Shanxi Taiyuan Wusu Zero-carbon Airport Project employs an AI-driven energy-carbon management platform to optimize peak shaving and balance green power supply with demand, facilitating the achievement of zero-carbon operations.

NDB has been actively supporting investment in clean and renewable energy. In 2025 NDB took a strategic decision to support investment in nuclear energy, becoming one of the first MDBs to do so. This decision reflects our commitment to supporting our member countries' diverse energy needs and their transition to a low-carbon future. Crucially, this move directly strengthens the foundational energy layer for AI. Nuclear power provides a stable, 24/7 baseload electricity that is critical for powering energy-intensive AI data centers and computational hubs.

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Looking forward, NDB aims to be not merely financiers of physical infrastructure, but to actively implement digital and AI components in our investments becoming active partners of a thriving AI ecosystem.

Our comprehensive support is focused on three core dimensions of AI development:

Foundational Power: AI is the "electricity" of the new era, yet it is critically dependent on stable and abundant power itself. By investing in clean energy projects, NDB provides the reliable energy guarantee required for energy-intensive AI data centers, thereby laying a solid foundation for the digital economy.

Practical Applications: The true value of technology lies in its end-sided application. The NDB actively supports projects that integrate AI into people's livelihoods, such as intelligent transportation and public health systems. By doing so, we ensure that people in developing countries can truly benefit from the equal social welfare brought by AI.

Policy & Governance: NDB is dedicated to promoting the localized adaptation of AI models and fostering essential digital skills. Our goal is to help member countries build autonomous and controllable AI ecosystems, guaranteeing that BRICS countries and Global South cooperation will not be left behind as we harness technology for inclusive and equitable growth.

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Once again, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Shanghai Municipal Government and the conference organizers for your kind invitation and exceptional hospitality. Thank you all.