

Week of 12 October – 16 October

AI FOR ALL GLOBAL BRIEF

1. GLOBAL SIGNALS — LABOR, GOVERNANCE & SOCIETY

Huawei Nearly Doubles Its Share of China's AI Chip Market as Nvidia's Shipments Fall 44%

New IDC data for the first half of 2026, reported by Reuters, give the clearest measure yet of how far China has moved away from American AI chips. China shipped 2.008 million AI accelerators between January and June. Huawei took 28% of that market, nearly double its share a year earlier, while Nvidia's shipments fell 44% year on year to 678,000 units.

The numbers come a week after US prosecutors charged a California executive with routing \$300 million of Nvidia servers to China through Malaysia and Singapore. Taken together, they show export controls working in two directions at once: slowing China's access to the most advanced American chips, and accelerating the domestic industry built to replace them.

Why it matters: For the rest of the world, a second complete AI chip supply chain changes the choices on offer. Governments, universities and startups in the Global South that cannot get, or afford, American hardware will increasingly be offered Chinese alternatives — and with them, a different set of technical standards and political dependencies.

Source: [Benzinga \(IDC data via Reuters\)](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Nvidia says Gulf demand for AI infrastructure remains strong despite the Iran conflict — “infrastructure is really sticky,” said its government-affairs lead Ruth Berry — while analysts argue the war may push Gulf states to invest more. [\[source\]](#)

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & COMPUTE

Brazil's Presidential Runoff Turns Data Centers Into a Campaign Promise

In the United States, data centers have become politically toxic: a Gallup survey in March found roughly 70% of Americans opposed to one being built near them. In Brazil, both candidates in the October 25 presidential runoff want more of them. President Lula da Silva is pushing the Redata bill, which cuts taxes on data-center equipment and which he presents as a route to investment, jobs and data sovereignty. His challenger, Flávio Bolsonaro, who leads recent polls, supports cutting import taxes on chips and computer equipment.

The projects are already lined up. Rio AI City, a \$65 billion, 1.5-gigawatt campus developed by Elea Data Centers, could break ground this year, and states such as Rio de Janeiro and Ceará

are courting tens of billions more. Brazil's grid operator expects data-center demand to reach 5.7 gigawatts by 2030. "The Brazilian elections just need to pass," said Elea's Alessandro Lombardi.

Why it matters: The runoff will not decide whether Brazil builds AI infrastructure; both candidates want it. It will shape the terms — tax incentives, energy sourcing, local jobs and how much of the value stays in the country — for the communities that will live next to these facilities.

Sources: [Japan Times / Bloomberg](#) | [Energy Connects / Bloomberg](#) | [Al Jazeera](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The US grid shows the other side: PJM, which serves 67 million customers in 13 states, issued a Maximum Generation Alert on October 12, the Department of Energy ordered plants to keep running through October 16, and regulators approved a registry of large power users such as AI data centers. [\[source\]](#)

3. EDUCATION & HUMAN CAPACITY

AI Tutors in African Classrooms Are Showing Real Learning Gains — When They Are Built to Teach, Not to Answer

Early evidence from West Africa suggests well-designed AI tutors can move learning substantially. In Ghana, about 500 students took part in a preliminary evaluation of Rori, a maths chatbot built by Rising Academies, a network working with some 1,400 government schools. Students who used it for an hour a week over eight months gained the equivalent of at least a year of learning compared with a control group, according to researchers from the University of Oxford and J-PAL. Rori runs on WhatsApp, mostly in text so it works on low-end phones; maths experts write the questions, AI interprets the answers, and stuck students get a hint before trying again. A larger trial across five districts is under way.

In Sierra Leone, a study supported by the not-for-profit Fab AI found that after eight weeks of using Google's Gemini in its Guided Learning mode, students progressed in maths as much as they normally would in 1.2 to 1.7 years. More than 90% of their conversations focused on building understanding rather than getting answers. "If you just give students access to a chatbot, it could actually have detrimental effects," warns Fab AI's Mathias Esmann.

Why it matters: For students in under-resourced classrooms, a tutor on a basic phone could mean a year of learning they would otherwise miss. The catch is reach: fewer than a third of Africans have mobile internet and barely half have electricity, the Sierra Leone study supplied devices and staff to keep them charged, and most AI use in African schools is still not guided by any institutional policy.

Source: [African Business](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Togo has launched "Voix du Togo," a three-year campaign in which citizens record, transcribe and translate Ewe, Kabiye and Moba online so AI can help people use health, justice and administrative services in their own language rather than French. [\[source\]](#)

4. CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Character.AI Files for Bankruptcy, and Disney Bids \$20 Million for What Is Left

Character.AI, one of the largest AI companion apps, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Delaware on October 12, citing "significant legal, regulatory and operational headwinds" and the high cost

of running the platform. The company faces lawsuits alleging that its chatbots encouraged self-harm among teenagers, including suits from the attorneys general of Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Disney is the lead bidder, offering \$20 million for a non-exclusive, perpetual license to some of Character.AI's intellectual property, and has hired former staff to provide transition services. The sale is expected to close in late November or early December. In 2025, Disney sent Character.AI a cease-and-desist letter over the unauthorized use of its characters.

Why it matters: The major rights holders are moving from suing AI companies to buying their technology. For creators, that shift matters: the tools that generate characters and conversations may increasingly be owned by the same studios that own the characters — with the safety record of companion apps now part of what they inherit.

Sources: [Washington Post](#) | [CNBC](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- In Nigeria, veteran director Tunde Kelani is making “Opalaba,” a Yoruba-language satirical web series built with AI-assisted animation and post-production — part of a growing and contested Nollywood AI wave that has also drawn audience backlash over AI effects in films on Netflix. [\[source\]](#)

5. REGIONAL LENS — AFRICA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH

India's Sovereign AI Mission Gets a UAE-Gifted Supercomputer

India's push for government-controlled AI computing is being reinforced from abroad. According to unnamed officials cited by the Indian press, an 8-exaflop AI supercomputer — roughly equivalent to 10,000 GPUs — is to be deployed in India under an agreement with the UAE. Built by Abu Dhabi's G42 and Cerebras with India's C-DAC and the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, it would be owned by the Indian government; one official described it as a “UAE government gift.”

The addition comes as the IndiaAI Mission falls behind: officials say about 30,000 GPUs are in place against commitments of 45,000, with some private providers failing to deliver as equipment costs rise. Further capacity under a G42 term sheet is still being negotiated.

Why it matters: For Indian researchers and startups, more subsidized computing is good news whatever its origin. For other Global South governments, India's experience shows what “sovereign” AI often means in practice: national ownership of systems whose chips, engineering and financing come from elsewhere.

Source: [IPA Newspack \(citing The Hindu BusinessLine\)](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The AI tutor trials in Ghana and Sierra Leone and Togo's citizen-built language data, both in this issue's Education section, show the other route to AI capacity: starting with learners and languages rather than hardware. [\[source\]](#)

6. OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Build 2026 in Abuja: Can Africa Finance and Own Shared AI Compute?

Build 2026, hosted by the Nigeria AI Collective under the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, takes place in Abuja on October 21 and 22. Its focus is a question African AI advocates have circled for years: how researchers, startups and public institutions on the continent can get shared access to the computing power that AI development

requires. Its organizers describe it as a forum for discussion, not the launch of a new data center, and no GPU capacity has been committed.

The backdrop is stark. The African Data Centre Association puts the continent's active data-center capacity at about 360 megawatts. Nigeria's National Digital Cloud Policy, published in August, targets \$250 million in private investment in its first year and \$750 million within 24 months — targets, not money already committed.

Why it matters: For African researchers and founders, compute is the bottleneck that decides whether local AI gets built or only used. Forums like this are where the financing and ownership models get argued out before contracts are signed — a chance to be in the room rather than read about the outcome.

Source: [Streamlinefeed](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Save the date: GITEX Africa, the continent's largest technology and AI expo, returns to Marrakech on April 26–28, 2027. [\[source\]](#)

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

Who owns the stack. Every story this week turns on who controls a layer of AI. China now supplies more of its own chips. Brazil's voters will decide on what terms foreign capital builds its data centers. India's "sovereign" supercomputer comes as a gift from the UAE. Disney is buying the technology it once tried to stop. In Abuja, African researchers will ask who can finance shared computing at all. Against that, this week's Education stories offer a different answer: AI tutors in Ghana and Sierra Leone are producing real learning gains on basic phones, and in Togo citizens are building their own language data — the one layer no one can import. The signal to watch is whether ownership of these layers spreads — to countries, communities and creators — or concentrates further.

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