IAFEI Weekly Update

Knowledge, Resources, News, and Announcements

Valued All IAFEI Board members, ExCom members & Advisory Committee members:

This is an issue of **IAFEI Weekly Update** for the week of **May 18, 2026**.

My heartfelt thanks go to Conchita (CLM), Piergiorgio (PGV), Oba san, and Nobu (NTA) for their continued support and for consistently recommending various kinds of content to the editorial team.

During our recent 2nd Quarterly ExCom Meeting on May 12, we had productive discussions on a number of important initiatives for IAFEI, including website modernization, future webinar development, AI-related initiatives, and preparations for IAFEI Day 2026. These discussions reaffirmed our shared commitment to strengthening member engagement and enhancing the value that IAFEI provides to our member organizations worldwide.

Please feel free to circulate this Weekly Update within your organization. I am hoping that this Weekly Update may increase the value of IAFEI membership. If you have any suggestions, or recommendations, or would like to participate to provide articles, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continuous support and I would love to hear from you.

Tsutomu Mannari (TMA)
Chairman of IAFEI

(Total 7 pages)

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Upcoming Events (Tentative)

Date	Time	Event
May		**IAFEI Quarterly #61 Issue - Spring 2026**
Jun. 22 (Fri)	**3PM Hanoi** **4PM Beijing/Manila/Taipei,** **5PM Tokyo, 10AM CET**	GLOBAL CFO Round e-Table **Global Finance and Resilient Wealth in an Age of Mobility** - Critical Issues for CFOs **Speakers (to be confirmed)** • **Ben Bell**, STEP Government Affairs Manager (UK) • **Thomas Lee,** AOTCA Honorary Advisor (Hong Kong) • **Catry Ostinelli,** Professor of Strategic Finance (Italy)
Jul. - Aug.		**IAFEI Quarterly #62 Issue - Summer 2026**
Aug. 3 (Mon)	**6PM Hanoi, 7PM Beijing/Manila/Taiwan, 8PM Tokyo, 1PM CET**	**Q3 Ex Com Meeting**
End Aug.		**Technical Committee Webinar**
Mid Oct.		**IAFEI DAY**
Nov. 10 (Tue)	**6PM Hanoi, 7PM Beijing/Manila/Taiwan, 8PM Tokyo, 12 PM CET**	**Q4 Ex Com Meeting + BOD Meeting**
Dec. 10 (Thu)		**IAFEI Quarterly #63 Issue - Winter 2026**

You are welcome to visit our **official website** www.iafei.org

SELECTED CONTENT & EDITORS' PICKS

01 BUSINESSEUROPE | Headlines | May 8, 2026

Europe's Circular Economy: Exchange with Commissioner Roswall

On 5 May, we presented our new paper on the Circular Economy Act and exchanged views with European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, Jessika Roswall, together with our Director General Markus J. Beyrer.

"In a global context shaped by geopolitical instability and increasingly fragile supply chains, it is essential to retain high-value resources within the European economy", Beyrer underlined.

The Circular Economy Act has the potential to be a key driver for scaling circular business models across the EU, but only if it focuses on areas where EU action can deliver real added value. Our recommendations build on extensive workshops in 2025 with industry experts, member federations, the European Commission and EU Member States.

They point to three key priorities: a more harmonised Single Market to reduce fragmentation, stronger demand for secondary raw materials to make circular business models viable, and effective enforcement to ensure fair competition.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue as the Circular Economy Act develops.

Read Our Paper Here >>>

SME Roadshow in Porto: From growth to scale

What will it take to ensure Europe's SMEs can grow, scale and compete globally? This question is at the heart of BusinessEurope's "SME Roadshow", held this week in Porto, Portugal, in partnership with our member federation, the Confederação Empresarial de Portugal (CIP).

There are around 25 million SMEs in the European Union, representing 99% of all companies. "What stands out from our discussions with SMEs is how consistent their concerns are across the European Union, from Finland to Cyprus, from Portugal to Poland", said Ema Paulino, Chair of BusinessEurope's Entrepreneurship and SME Committee.

Bringing together policymakers and entrepreneurs from across Europe, the event focuses on the key priorities for the current mandate of the European institutions." Supporting SMEs means equipping them with the skills they need to grow, adapt and compete, otherwise we risk losing competitiveness and prosperity," Paulino added.

Read the Complete Newsletter in Browser >>>

(↑ Recommended by PGV)

02 BUSINESSEUROPE | Headlines | April 30, 2026
EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement finally becomes a reality

On 1 May, the provisional application of the EU-Mercosur interim Trade Agreement will begin, marking a major step forward for Europe's agenda of competitiveness, resilience, and diversification.

"The provisional application of the interim Trade Agreement will help showcase the value of the EU-Mercosur deal in practice by easing high tariffs, reducing administrative burden, securing access to critical minerals, and supporting the development of more diversified value chains", said our Director General, Markus J. Beyrer.

This milestone opens a new chapter in the relationship between the EU and the Mercosur countries, which have demonstrated their willingness to collaborate and engage in open and rules-based trade with reliable partners at a time of increasing protectionism, geopolitical turmoil, and rising costs.

It is now up to companies to take full advantage of the opportunities created by the agreement, showing the benefits of closer trade and investment ties between the two regions.

Read the Complete Newsletter in Browser >>>

(↑ Recommended by PGV)

03 IMF | Weekend Read (via LinkedIn) | May 8, 2026
The Global Economy at a Turning Point

Global economic growth is facing serious headwinds. Speaking at the Milken Institute, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the world could be on course for the "adverse scenario" outlined in the April World Economic Outlook, with oil prices expected to remain around or above $100 for much of the year.

"A mild impact [of the war in the Middle East], with a minor slowdown of growth, is no longer a valid reference scenario," Georgieva noted. Disruptions in energy markets and supply-chains are increasing inflationary pressures. Fertilizer prices are 30–40 percent higher, which could push global food prices up by 3–6 percent over the next 12 months.

"This is a really serious price impact that we have to be very conscious about," Georgieva said, adding that sustained high energy prices into 2027 could trigger higher inflation expectations, leading to higher interest rates.

The current shock is affecting some countries more than others. Around 80 percent of countries are oil importers, and many—especially in sub-Saharan Africa—lack room in their government budgets or have limited foreign-exchange reserves to cushion the blow.

Georgieva called on policymakers not to "throw gasoline on the fire" by avoiding relief measures that end up boosting demand for oil, which would make it even more difficult to rein in inflationary pressures. (… …)

View in Browser >>>

(↑ Recommended by CLM)

04 IMF | Weekend Read (via LinkedIn) | May 15, 2026
Africa Can Be the Next Growth Story

"It is where the world will acquire its next growth engine." With a young population and an estimated $4 trillion in underused domestic assets, the continent sits on the right side of the world's demographic and growth divide. Now is the time to unlock this potential.

This starts by creating the conditions for private sector-led growth. This requires credible macroeconomic policies, coupled with determined efforts to cut red tape and fight corruption. Closing even half the gap with emerging markets in regulation and governance could raise sub-Saharan Africa's output by up to 20 percent within a decade. Trade integration can add further gains: full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, including cutting tariff and nontariff barriers, could lift income per person by more than 10 percent.

And Africa must deal decisively with the burden of debt. Restructure or reprofile when debt is unsustainable; avoid non-productive borrowing; and shift the balance from debt to equity as much and as quickly as possible. For this, it is paramount to develop deeper, more diversified capital markets.

To match these ambitions, the IMF has sharply increased concessional lending for African members from about $8 billion before the pandemic to $36 billion today. Georgieva said this support, alongside efforts to improve the international debt architecture, aims to help African countries turn their potential into lasting prosperity. (… …)

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(↑ Recommended by CLM)

05 The World Bank Group | Digital & AI (via LinkedIn)| May 2026
Where do you start when preparing a country for the AI era?

It's a question more governments and investors are asking. The World Bank Group's new handbook, Accelerating Artificial Intelligence Investment in Emerging Markets, offers exactly that: a practical roadmap for building an AI ecosystem from the ground up that drives growth and jobs.

For the public sector, it maps out how governments can create an enabling environment covering data governance, digital infrastructure, procurement and institutional capacity so that AI can take root and scale. For the private sector, it identifies where to deploy capital, which problems are ripe for AI-driven solutions, and how to distinguish genuine innovation.

Investing in the AI ecosystems means countries can build local capacity, resilience and the ability to shape the AI economy. For many developing economies, the starting point may be small AI: resource-efficient AI solutions designed around local constraints and opportunities. These systems address immediate needs while helping build local talent, data ecosystems, and investable companies capable of scaling over time.

The World Bank Group is committed to helping countries build the foundations and AI ecosystems that will drive sustainable growth.

URL of the Original Posting >>>

(↑ Recommendation by CLM)

06 World Bank | Blogs / Voices | April 21, 2026
Not Impact measurement. Impact
Lisandro Martin

MDBs Pioneer a New Profession for Results in a Data-Rich World

By the Heads of Outcome Measurement of Multilateral and Bilateral Development Agencies

In development, a quiet shift is underway. Across major development institutions, there is a concerted push to work together, use a common language for results, and tell a clear, consistent story about what aid financing is actually achieving—grounded in evidence, not just reports.

The question is no longer what did we finance? It is what changed, and did we know early enough to improve it?

This shift is happening under mounting pressure. Fiscal space is tighter. In 2025, overseas development assistance fell 23 percent, the largest annual drop ever. Perceptions are hardening—in many donor countries, a significant share of the population believes their governments spend too much on aid. Client countries are being asked to deliver more, faster, and with greater transparency. And multilateral and bilateral development agencies are increasingly judged not by commitments made, but by outcomes achieved.

This is not just a reporting challenge. It is a delivery challenge.

For years, results measurement has focused on explaining performance after the fact, remaining too distant from the decisions that shape delivery. That model no longer fits how the world works today.

Projects operate under volatility, constraint, and constant adjustment. Assumptions change. Risks materialize earlier. Data arrives faster. Technology makes visible what was once hidden. In this environment, results measurement cannot remain retrospective. It must become part of implementation itself—using evidence in real time to steer decisions, manage trade-offs, and improve outcomes as projects evolve.

But the systems and skills required to do this consistently are not yet in place. The gaps are clear. Sixty percent of M&E degree programs are concentrated in North America. Training pathways in developing countries are uneven. And the system is crowded, with more than 1,200 indicators tracked across multilateral institutions. For client countries, the burden is tangible: multiple frameworks, overlapping requirements, and different definitions of what "good" looks like. This fragmentation is also reflected in client perceptions. Only 30 percent of stakeholders surveyed by ODI Global believe MDBs coordinate effectively on how results are measured and assessed. At the same time, demand for coordination is clear. Nearly half of government officials emphasized its importance, compared to just over a third of MDB officials.

This is why we are coming together to launch PIUneer.

(… …)

Read the Complete Article in Browser >>>

(↑ Recommendation by CLM)

07 OECD | Newsletter | May 13, 2026

News on Innovation, Science, Technology and Industry

Blog : Globalisation isn't dead. It's reconfiguring

Claims that globalisation is in retreat have gained traction in recent years. Yet new OECD Trade in Value Added (TiVA) data tell a more nuanced story: global production networks are not breaking down, they are adapting. Our blog explores what is changing in global value chains and what is not.

Read the Blog >>>

Livestream : Quantum computing readiness: From awareness to business value

Join us online on 18 May at 11:30 CEST for our panel at Q-Expo where we will build on the recent OECD report on business readiness for quantum computing.

Watch Here >>>

Webinar : Quantifying industrial strategies

Join us online on 20 May as we present and discuss the latest evidence on industrial policy expenditures across OECD Member countries.

Register Here >>>

Industrial policies in Canada

This paper provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of Canada’s industrial policy landscape, with a focus on policies to support clean technology development, SMEs and young firms.

Read the Paper >>>

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(↑ Recommendation by CLM)