

AI Implementation: A Chinese Perspective on the Global Landscape

大道为公 · Africa is Building

From Chinese Experience to African Momentum

LI Pan

Chinese Association of Automation

World Federation of Engineering Organizations · InteBank Consulting

AI at 70: From Dartmouth to Masvingo

From a Scientific Question to a National Transformation Question



1956 · Dartmouth, America

“Can machines simulate human intelligence?”



2026 · Masvingo, Zimbabwe

Can AI help nations transform with dignity?

Global AI Anxiety: in the Same Boat

Displacement · Transition · Invisibility

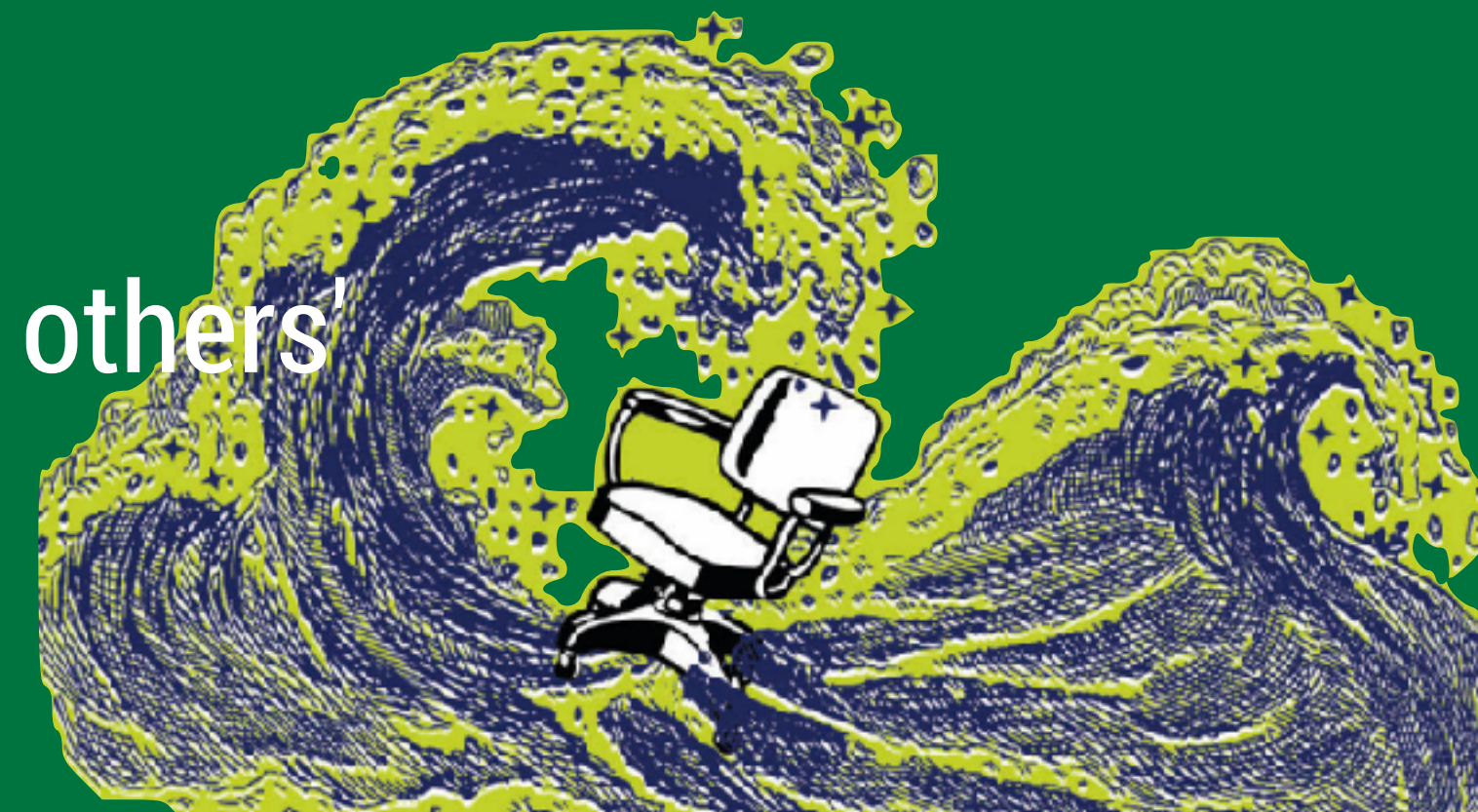
United States: The average worker faces a historic **22%** self-perceived threat of AI replacement over the next 5 years.

Source: The Economist, May 16, 2026

China: Rapid industry boom sits alongside employment pressure for junior coders.

In April 2026, Hangzhou Courts ruled companies cannot arbitrarily fire employees simply citing "AI replacement."

Africa: A more concrete fear — when AI is built by others, its data on others' servers, its rules by others, will Africa be left on the platform again?

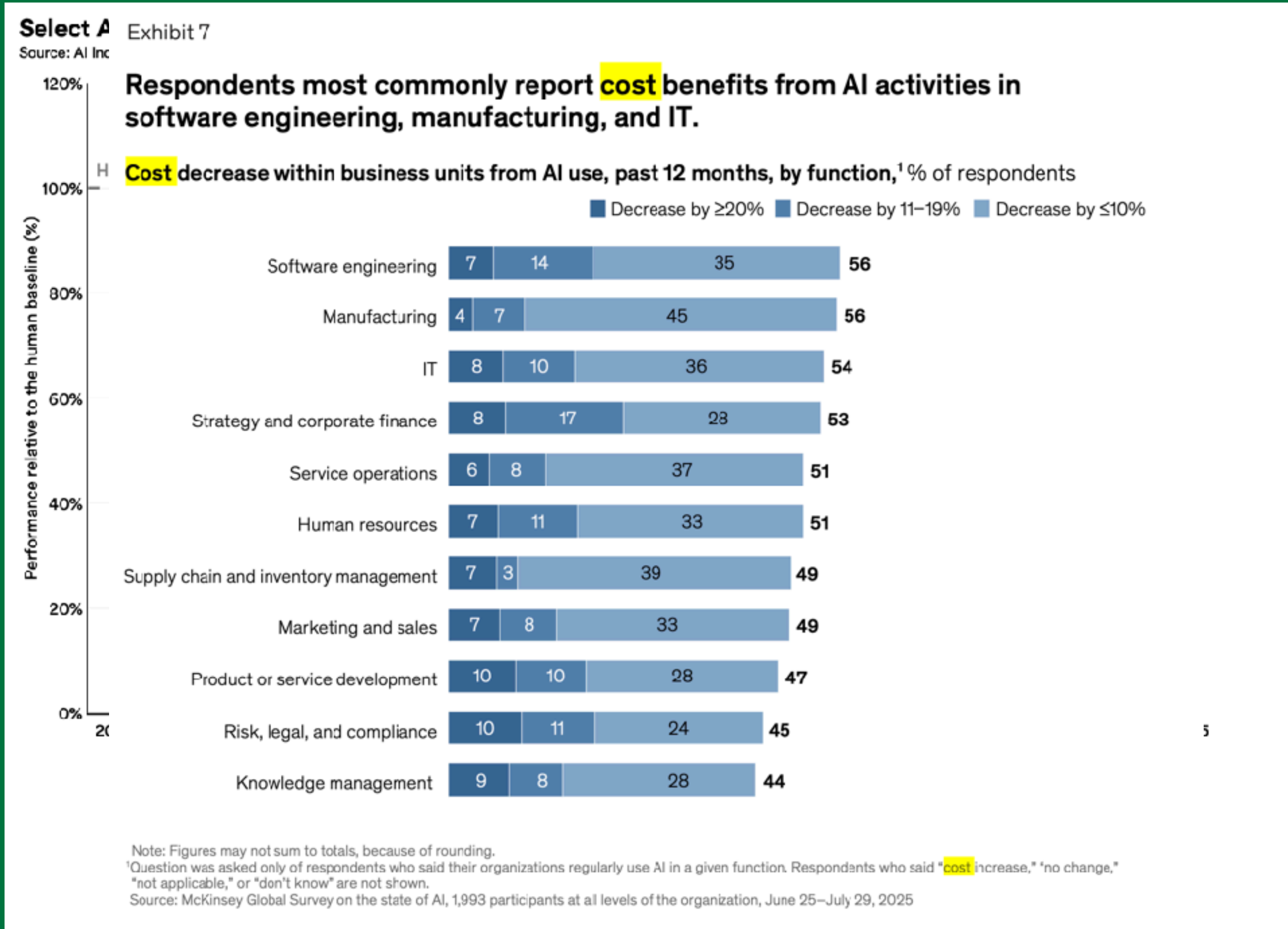


“It is not only the fear that AI may take away what I have.
It is the fear that AI may never notice that I exist.”

AN AFRICAN FRIEND · OPEN LETTER, "THE ANXIETY THEY FEEL, THE OPPORTUNITY WE SEE"

Global AI Status

Capability Up, Cost Down — The Race Shifts To Implementation.



► **Capability is saturating the tests**
Frontier models now top most benchmarks built to challenge them.

► **The cost of using AI is collapsing**
Inference has fallen by orders of magnitude in barely two years.

► **Two poles produce most models**
The United States and China account for the great majority.

SOURCES: STANFORD HAI, AI INDEX 2026;
MCKINSEY QUANTUMBLACK, THE STATE OF AI IN 2025

Global AI Status: Four Signals From 2025–2026

AI Has Arrived. The Challenge Now Is Implementation.

53%

GenAI reached population-scale adoption in three years—faster than the PC and the internet.

88%

Organizations report regular AI use in at least one business function.

2.7%

The U.S.–China top-model performance gap has effectively narrowed to a few percentage points.

23% + 39%

23% scaling + 39% experimenting
Agentic AI is moving from hype to workflow.

What it means for nations

AI is no longer a future technology. It is becoming economic infrastructure. The strategic question is shifting from “can we build the biggest model?” to “can we implement AI at national scale?”

Data · Compute · Algorithms · Talent · Governance · Purpose

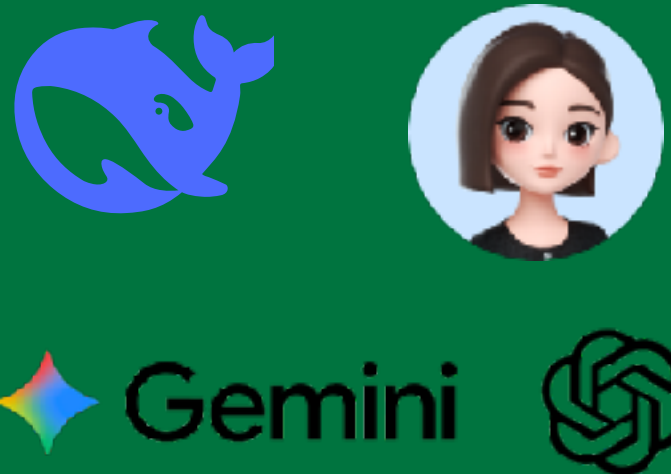
Agentic AI: the New Paradigm in Progress

From answering questions → completing tasks → simulating worlds

01

Software

Coding agents that write, test and ship.



02

Enterprise

Agents running business processes end to end.

03

Super-Apps

One consumer assistant that does everything.

04

Science

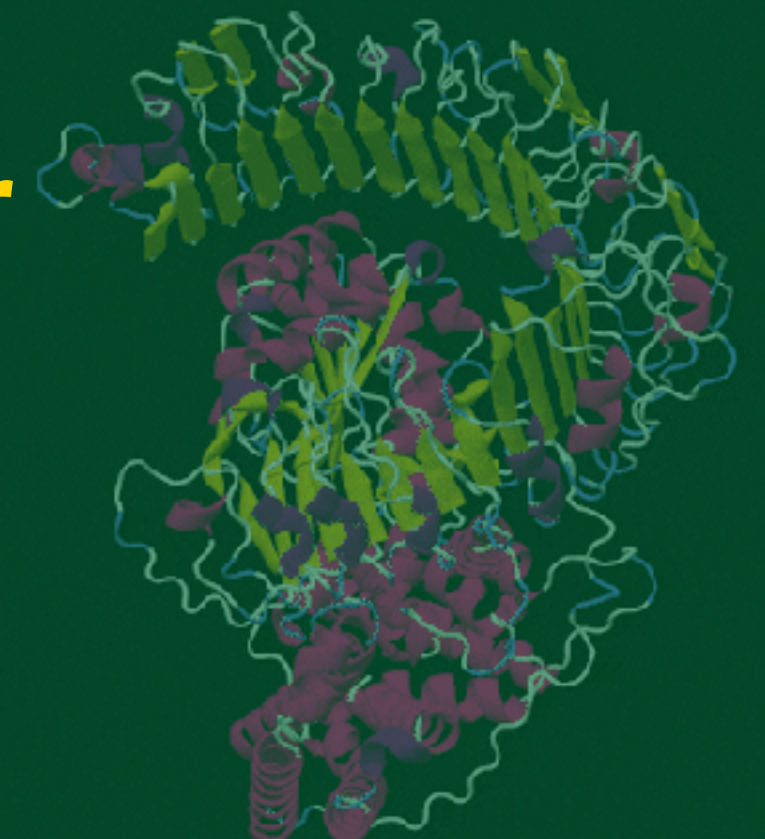
Agents that design and run experiments.

05

Geopolitics

Forecasting & defence — e.g. Palantir deployments.

The next AI wave is not only about smarter models. It is about systems that can act.





Generated By Cosmos

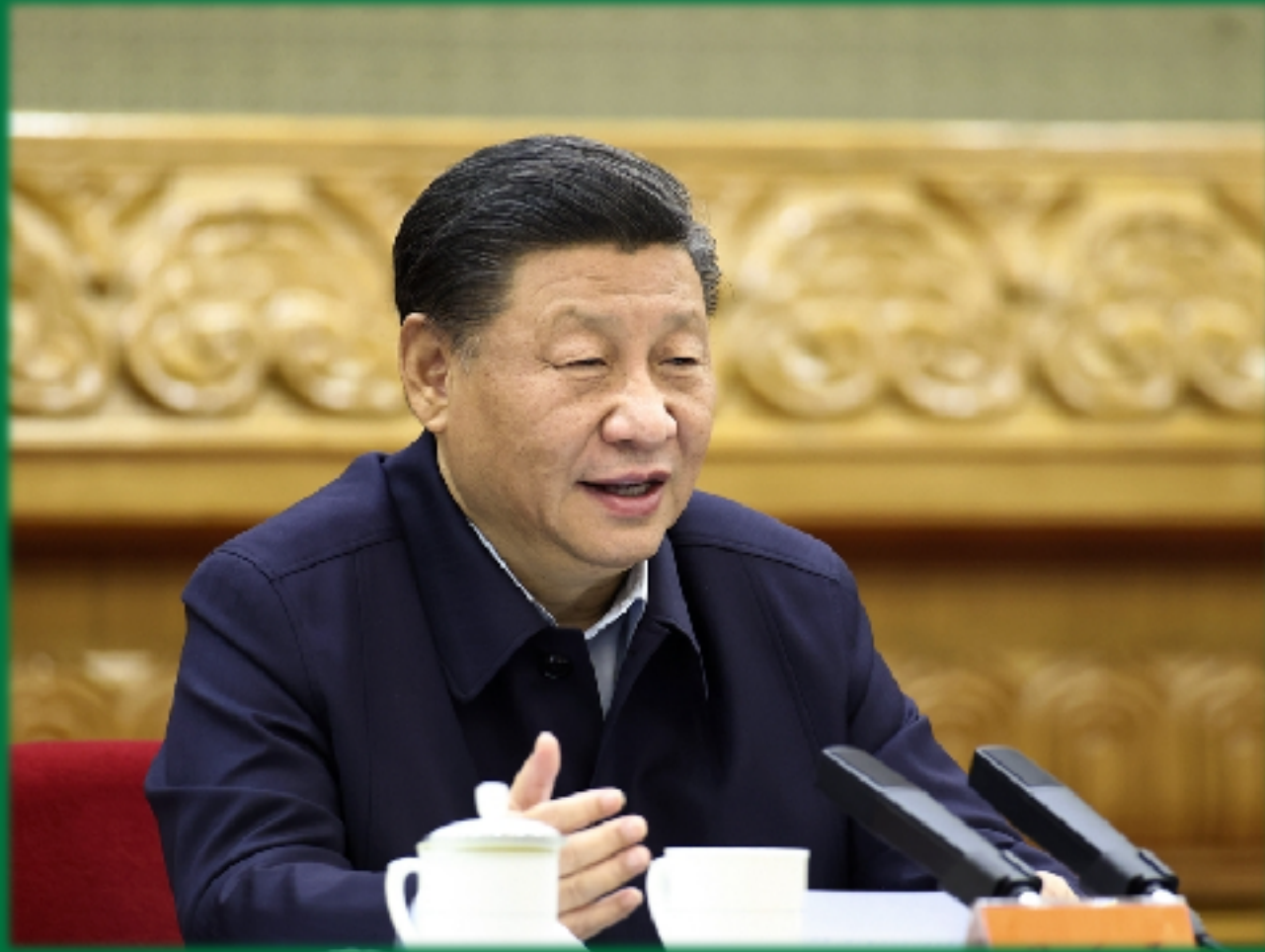
THE NEXT FRONTIER

World Models: if Agents Act, These Understand.

AI that builds an internal picture of how reality behaves — and so can plan, not merely react. Space reserved for animation and video.

China's Implementation Path

From Strategic Technology to Young Innovators: Xi Jinping's AI Narrative



“AI is a key driving force of the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation. Accelerating the development of next-generation AI is a strategic question that determines whether China can seize the opportunities of this new wave.” - 2018

“AI is a strategic technology leading the current wave of technological revolution and industrial transformation, with a powerful “**lead goose**” effect that generates strong spillover and catalytic impact.” - 2017

“AI is a **young cause** — and a cause for the young”



China's AI Governance Architecture

Top-Level Strategy → Industry Deployment → Sectoral Governance



Political Leadership

CCAC sets strategic direction, Chaired by **XI Jinping**



Strategic Planning

NDRC and MOST plan development



Industrial Regulation

MIIT regulates industrial deployment



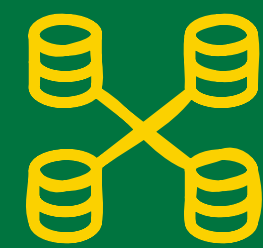
Digital Governance

CAC regulates data and content



Human Capital

MOE develops AI talent



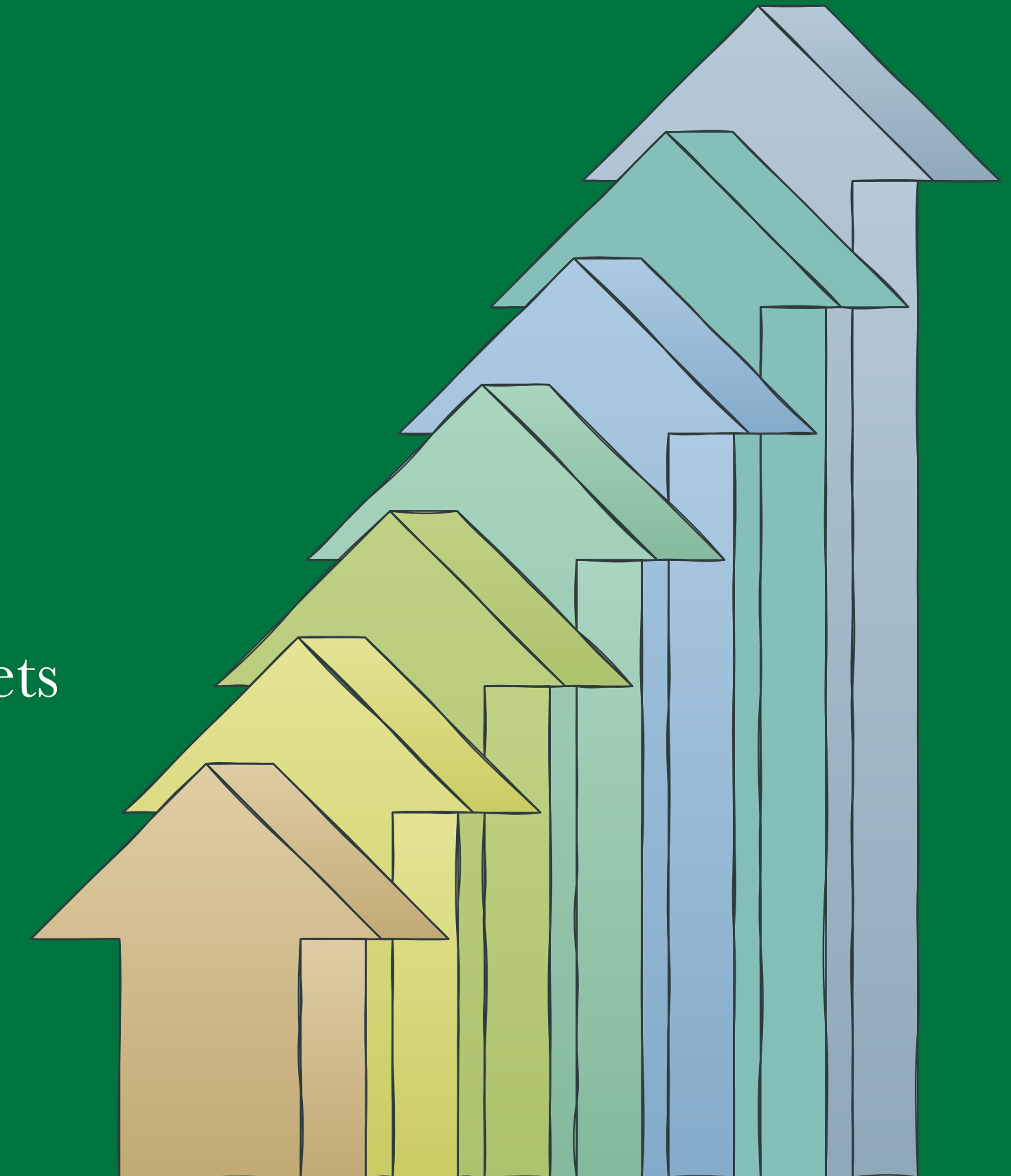
Data Infrastructure

NDA develops data markets



Civil Society

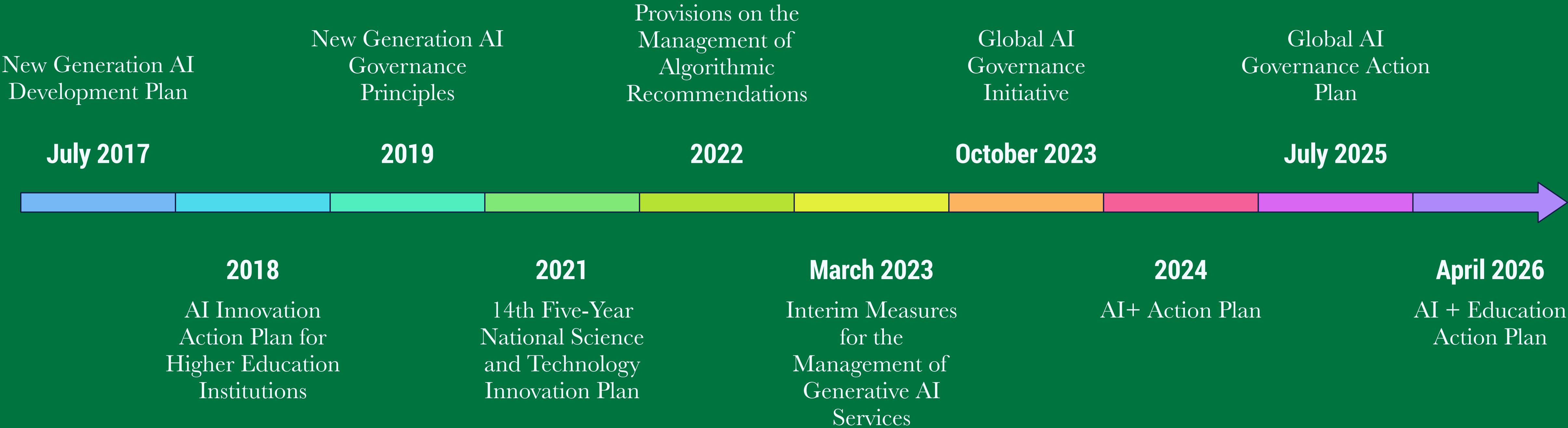
CAST and CAA engage internationally



Implementation Requires Coordination

Policy Path: a Clear Historical Logic

China's AI Policy Evolution: A Decade of Strategic Growth



CHINA'S "AI+" NATIONAL STRATEGY: THE ROADMAP TO 2035

Strategic goals, key implementation sectors, and foundational pillars for integrating AI across economy and society.

STRATEGIC TIMELINE & CORE DOMAINS



2027

Aiming for > 70%
smart terminal adoption; Core industry scale grows rapidly.



2030

Exceeding > 90% AI
penetration; Primary growth engine for the economy.



2035

Full Integration;
Complete transition to an intelligent society.

Models Become Useful Through Scenarios

6 HIGH-IMPACT ACTION AREAS



Science

Focused integration across scientific research and discovery.



Industry

Accelerating AI application in manufacturing and industrial sectors.



Agriculture & Services

Enhancing agricultural productivity and modern service industries.



Consumption

Transforming consumer experiences through personalized AI.



Public Livelihood

Improving quality of life through AI in healthcare, education, and elderly care.



Social Governance

Optimizing social management and public services with intelligent systems.

FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS & GLOBAL SYNERGY



"East-to-West" Computing & Data Supply

Optimizing national computing networks while incentivizing high-quality data sharing and labeling.



Talent & Ecosystem Cultivation

Implementing AI education at all levels and fostering globally influential open-source projects.

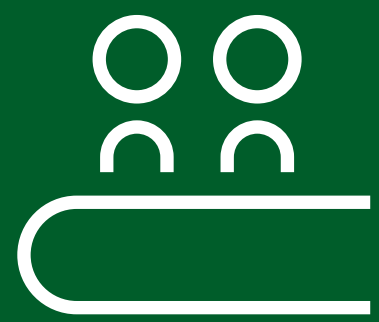


Global Governance & Safety

Promoting AI as a global public good while ensuring safe, controllable, and ethical development.

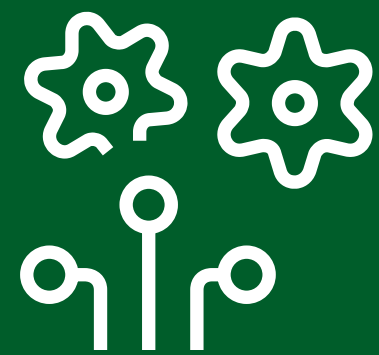
AI + Education Action Plan

Building China's Smart Education System by 2030



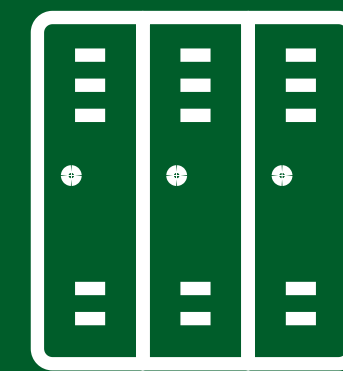
Talent & Literacy

AI education for students, teachers, vocational education, and society.



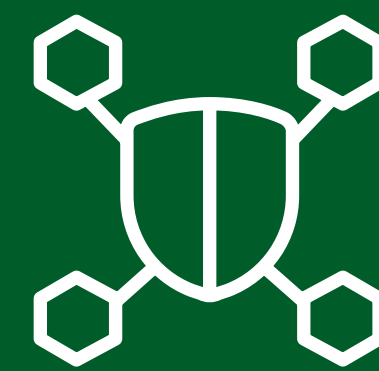
AI-Empowered Education

Learning, teaching, governance, and scientific research.



Digital Infrastructure

Computing power, data, models, platforms, future classrooms.



Innovation & Safety Ecosystem

Research, standards, international cooperation, security safeguards.

Five Ministries → Local Governments → Schools → Pilot Applications

The Hidden Infrastructure

Stem Dividend & The Long Return Of Education

38%

of researchers at top
U.S. AI institutions are
Chinese.

-89%

decline since 2017 in AI
researchers & developers
relocating to the U.S.

5M+

STEM graduates produced
in China every year.

THE TALENT PIPELINE

1980S
Education
Policy



Math &
Engineering
Training



STEAM
Universities



Global AI
Talent

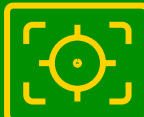


Industrial AI
Capacity

SOURCES: MacroPolo / Paulson Institute, Global AI Talent Tracker 2.0
Stanford HAI, AI Index Report 2026 · CSIS 2025

From Algorithm Breakthrough to Super Apps

China's Industry Practice: Cost Innovation + Application Density

Characteristic	DeepSeek Moment	Super-App Flywheel
 Focus	Algorithm efficiency	Models in daily life
 Key Idea	Advanced reasoning without large budget	Models become powerful with use
 Examples	DeepSeek-R1	Alibaba, Tencent, ByteDance, Huawei/Xiaomi
 Benefit	Lower entry cost of AI	Models become more powerful
 Mechanism	Better algorithms, engineering, open-source	Models → Platforms → Users → Workflows → Feedback → Better AI



DouBao Taobao Hy3 WeChat



Africa Is Building Continental Strategy And National Action



13+

countries already have a national AI strategy in place.

29

more are actively drafting one now.

Adopted in 2024, the AU's Continental AI Strategy puts development first — AI built for African languages, contexts and priorities.

Africa Is Building

The Continent of Opportunity: The AI Era Opens a Window

SOURCE	KEY NUMBER	FINDING	IMPLICATION
McKinsey GI May 2025	\$61B – \$103B annual AI value	40%+ institutions already piloting AI	Early movers capture most gains
African Dev. Bank Dec 2025	Up to \$1 Trillion GDP uplift by 2035	2025–2027 is the 'Ignition Phase'	The window is open now
World Bank	\$100 Billion infrastructure gap	Sub-Saharan Africa needs digital infra	Finance + tech transfer are the only path
Stanford AI Index 2026	South Africa #1 AI skills growth	Developing nations now lead strategy adoption	Africa building sovereign AI capacity
UNCTAD	\$4.8 Trillion global AI by 2033	Cost of waiting is non-linear	Author the future — or receive it

Africa Is Building

Local innovation: Africa is solving African problems

Healthcare logistics

Zipline: medical supplies & vaccines



Language AI

Masakhane / local NLP communities

Education

M-Shule / Eneza: low-bandwidth learning



Healthcare diagnostics

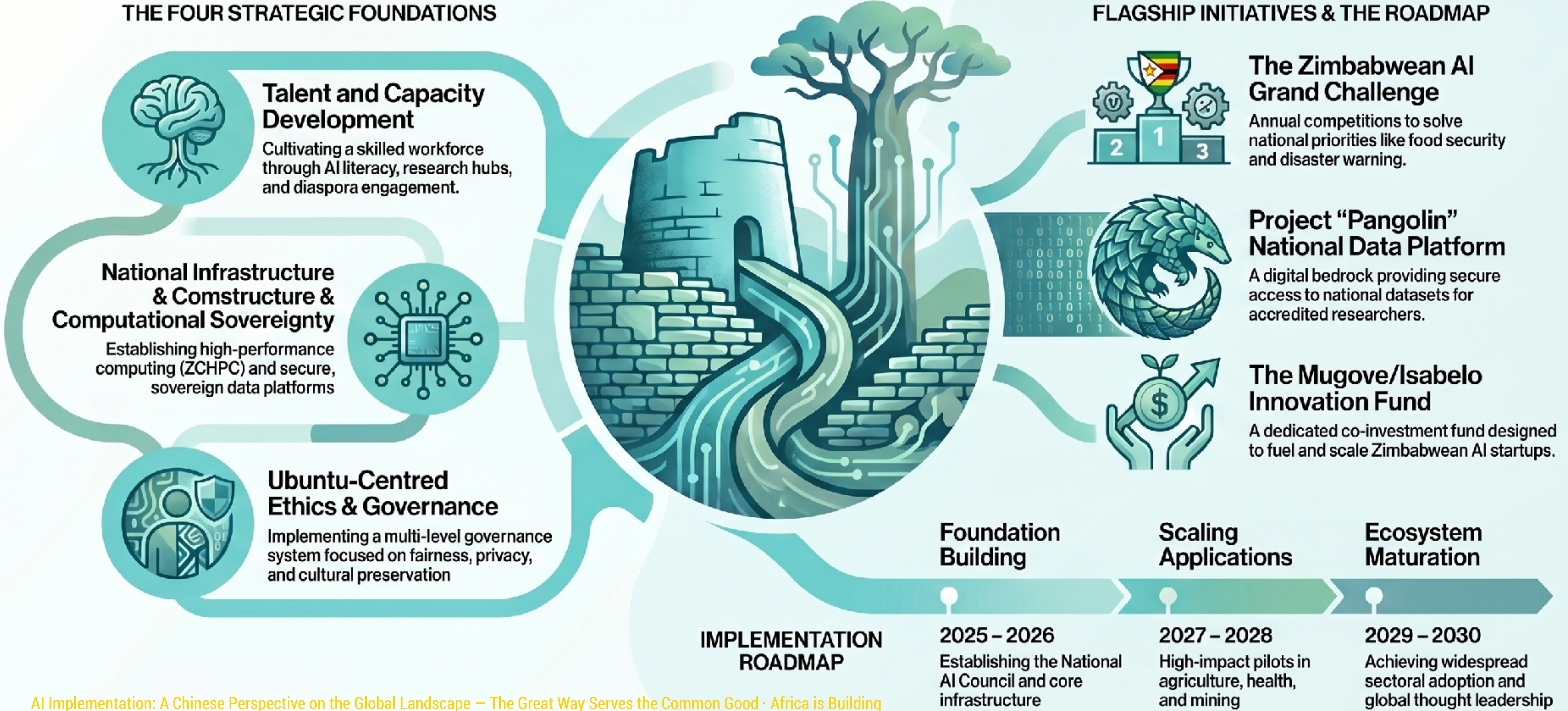
Ubenwa: infant cry analysis



Climate & agriculture

Satellite + AI carbon and crop monitoring

Zimbabwe's AI Mission: Pioneering “AI for Development” (2026–2030)



ZIMBABWE'S NATIONAL AI STRATEGY 2026–2030

NAMES CARRY A WORLDVIEW

Pangolin 穿山甲

NATIONAL AI DATA PLATFORM

A native species — meaning protection, guardianship.

Nzwisiso.ai

NATIONAL AI LITERACY DRIVE

Shona for “understanding.”

Mugove · Isabelo

INNOVATION FUND

Shona & Ndebele for “gift / share.”

Ubuntu

THE VALUE FRAMEWORK

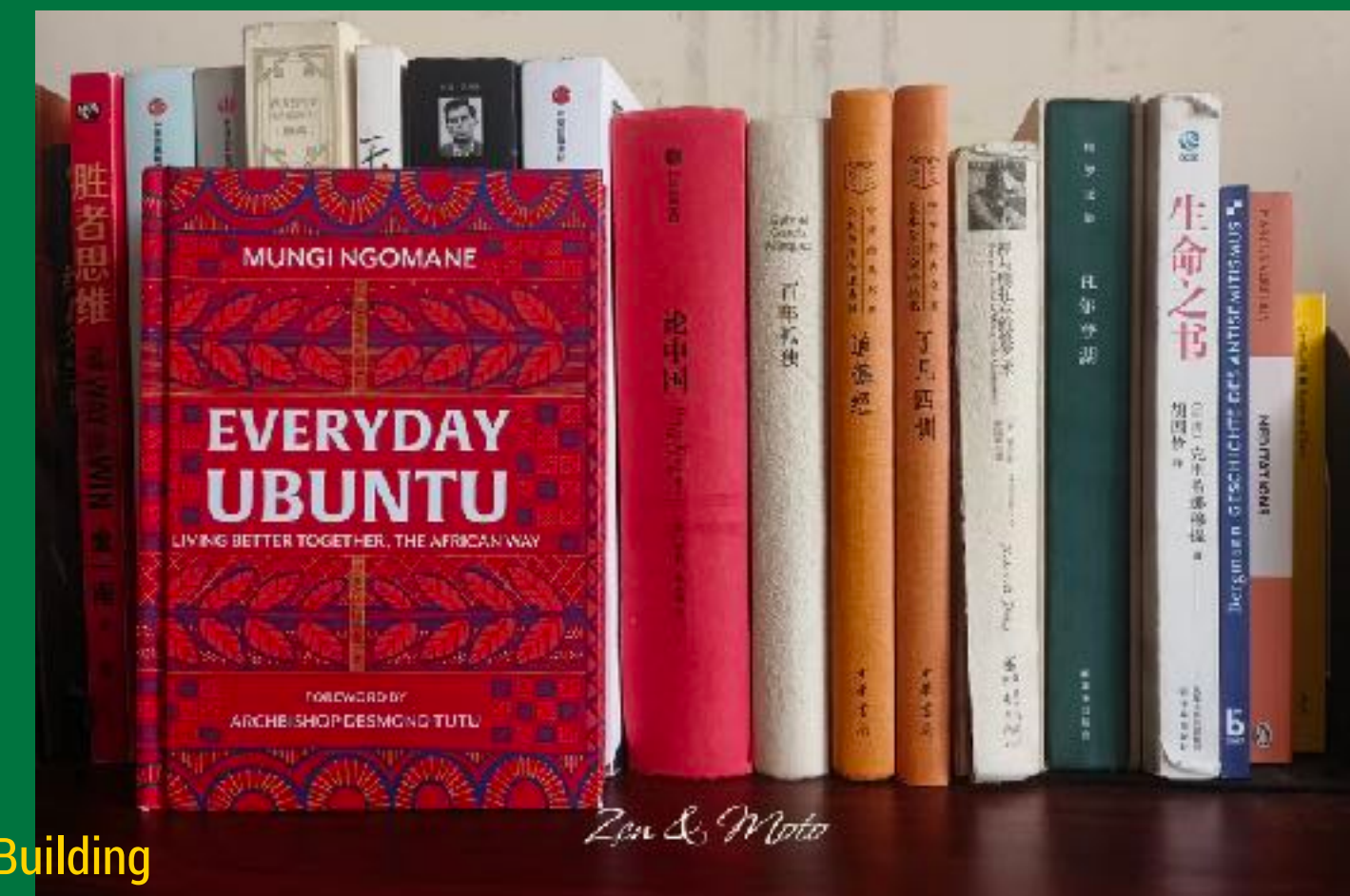
Explicitly invoked — “I am because we are.”



dà dé yuē shēng

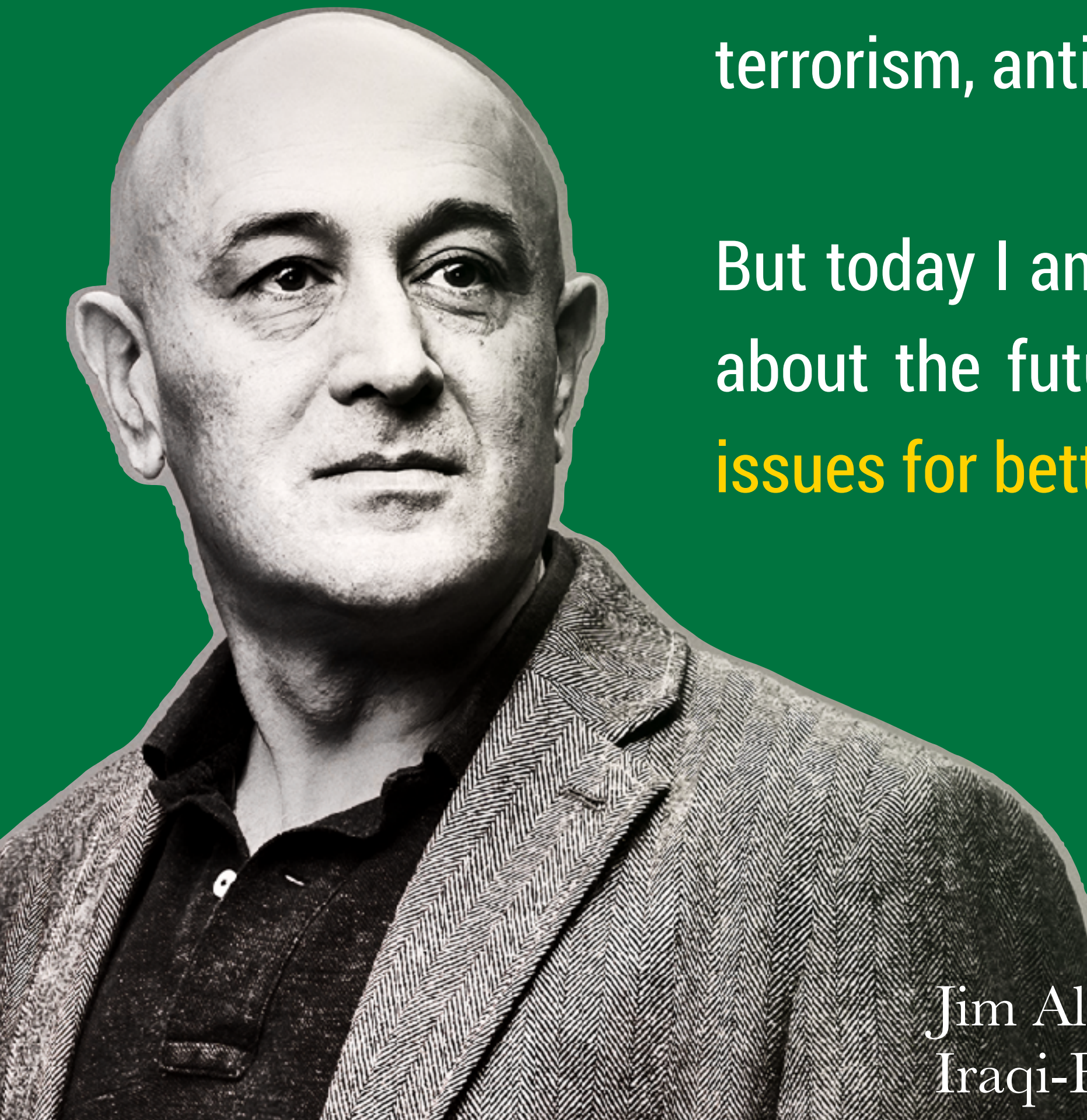
大德曰生

The Great Virtue Is to Give Life



Until maybe a couple of years ago had I been asked what is the most pressing and important conversation we should be having about our future, I might have said climate change or one of the other big challenges facing humanity, such as terrorism, antimicrobial resistance, the threat of pandemics or world poverty.

But today I am certain the most important conversation we should be having is about the future of AI. **It will dominate what happens with all of these other issues for better or for worse.**



Jim Al-Khalili, in 2018
Iraqi-British theoretical physicist, author and broadcaster

Governance and Competitiveness

How the major powers — and Africa — choose to govern AI.

		 EUROPEAN		
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“AI sovereignty is becoming a defining feature of national policy — but capability remains uneven, and open-source development is helping redistribute who gets to take part.”

— Stanford AI Index 2026

INSTRUMENT	Executive action & sectoral rules	AI Act — binding, risk-tiered	standards & targeted regulation	Strategy + national plans
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OPEN SOURCE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WINDOWS FOR A DEVELOPING NATION TO PRODUCE AI, NOT JUST CONSUME IT.

RISK	Market concentration	Slowed adoption	Loss of control	Talent & skills
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Source: The Economist · AU AI Continental Strategy (2024)
EU AI Act · NIST AI RMF · UNESCO Recommendation on AI

How To Measure AI Competitiveness?

Trump's latest AI policy signal + GAO four-pillar framework

U.S. policy signal

June 2026 Executive

GAO Framework: Four Pillars of AI Competitiveness

A practical lens for national AI capacity: what to build, measure, and coordinate

AFRICA'S VOICE MUST BE IN THE ROOM WHILE THE RULES ARE WRITTEN — NOT CONSULTED AFTER.

- **No mandatory licensing**

no governmental licensing, preclearance or permitting for new AI models

Innovation race + security governance

partnerships · law · responsible AI · leadership

Zimbabwe: National AI coordination; active voice in multilateral governance

business environment · investment · commercial activity

Zimbabwe: AI startup ecosystem; attract AI infrastructure investment

Key judgment

AI sovereignty is becoming a defining feature of national policy.

But capabilities remain uneven — and open source is one of the most important windows for developing countries to participate in AI production.

From Chinese Experience To Zimbabwe's Execution Questions

田忌赛马 · Tian Ji's Horse Race

THE LATECOMER WINS BY NOT MATCHING STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

① NOT THE STRONGEST COMPUTE → ALGORITHMIC EFFICIENCY

Export controls cap the chips. DeepSeek answered with efficiency — an open model rivaling the best at a fraction of the training cost.

② NOT RESEARCH DEPTH → APPLICATION SCALE

A unified market of 1.4 billion makes China the world's largest AI testing ground — some 600m agent users.

③ NOT THE STOCK → THE INCREMENT

Leap ahead in electric and intelligent vehicles, rather than chase a century's lead in combustion engines.



From Chinese Experience To Zimbabwe's Execution Questions

THE PRINCIPAL CONTRADICTION · 矛盾论

FIND THE ONE BOTTLENECK.

CONCENTRATE EVERYTHING ON IT.

Many contradictions exist at once, but one is principal — it governs the others.
Grasp it, and the rest give way.

When resources are scarce, the greatest waste is doing everything at once.

EVERY NATION'S IS DIFFERENT

Find your own — do not borrow another's answer.



From Chinese Experience To Zimbabwe's Execution Questions

CONCENTRATE FORCE, BREAK THROUGH · 孙子兵法

The Art of War SUN Tzu: wǒ zhuān wéi yī, dí fēn wéi shí, shì yǐ shí gōng qí yī yě

孙子兵法 · “我专为一，敌分为十，是以十攻其一也”

ATTACK ONE POINT WITH TEN — CHINA'S THREE CONCENTRATIONS.

CHIPS

¥344_{bn+}

the national IC fund's third phase —
aimed at the compute bottleneck.

NATIONAL IC INDUSTRY FUND III

COMPUTE

East → West

“East Data, West Compute” — turning western
energy into national computing infrastructure.

东数西算 NATIONAL PROJECT

EDUCATION

2025 → 30

AI literacy from advisory to essential (2025);
universal by 2030.

AI+EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

From Chinese Experience To Zimbabwe's Execution Questions

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP · 大道为公

dà dào zhī xíng yě, tiān xià wéi gōng

大道之行也, 天下为公

“When the great way prevails, the world is shared by all.” In Oct 2023 the Global AI Governance Initiative cast this ancient idea anew: AI as a global public good.

› A GLOBAL AI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

Proposed in the 2025 Global AI Governance Action Plan.

› OPEN SOURCE AS A “PUBLIC INSTRUMENT” · 公器

DeepSeek, Qwen and others give the principle a technical vessel.

› THE DIVIDING LINE · PARIS 2025

60+ nations signed for inclusive AI; the US and UK declined. “AI for whom?”

Policy Suggestions for Zimbabwe 2.0

From Strategy to Execution

● 01

Asymmetric Start

Open source, local data, focused fields. Don't race where others have a century's lead.

田忌赛马

● 02

Find Your Bottleneck

Is it coordination? Data? Literacy? Fix the one constraint that blocks everything else.

矛盾论

● 03

Concentrate Fire

Two or three grand challenges: climate-smart agriculture, mining productivity, teacher empowerment.

孙子兵法

● 04

AI as Public Good

Scale Nzwisiso.ai. Build Pangolin. Name the future in your own language.

大道为公

● 05

Talent is Infrastructure

STEAM education for the AI era. The pipeline takes twenty years. Start today.

大德曰生

To build Zimbabwe's own implementation flywheel.

THE WORK OF CAA & WFEO

TWO OPEN DOORS, ALREADY BUILT.

CONVENING THE SOUTH

AI FORUM FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH

A standing venue, convened with CAA and WFEO, where countries that share these challenges set their own agenda — together, on their own terms.

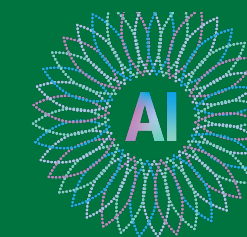
BUILDING THE PIPELINE

AI FOR SCIENCE & ENGINEERING — YOUTH NETWORK

A collaboration network linking young engineers across China, Africa and beyond — because the pipeline is built person by person.



United
Nations

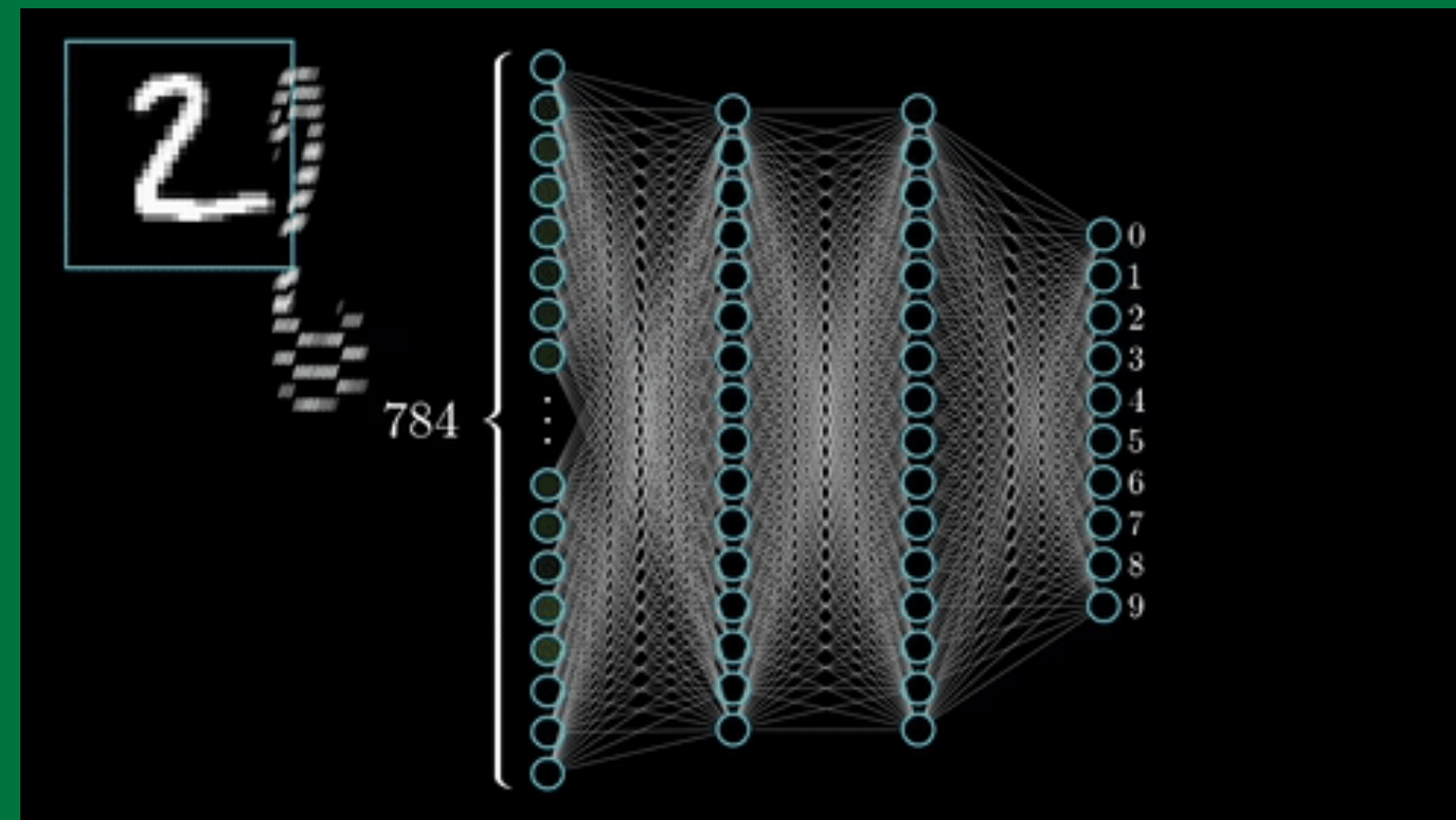
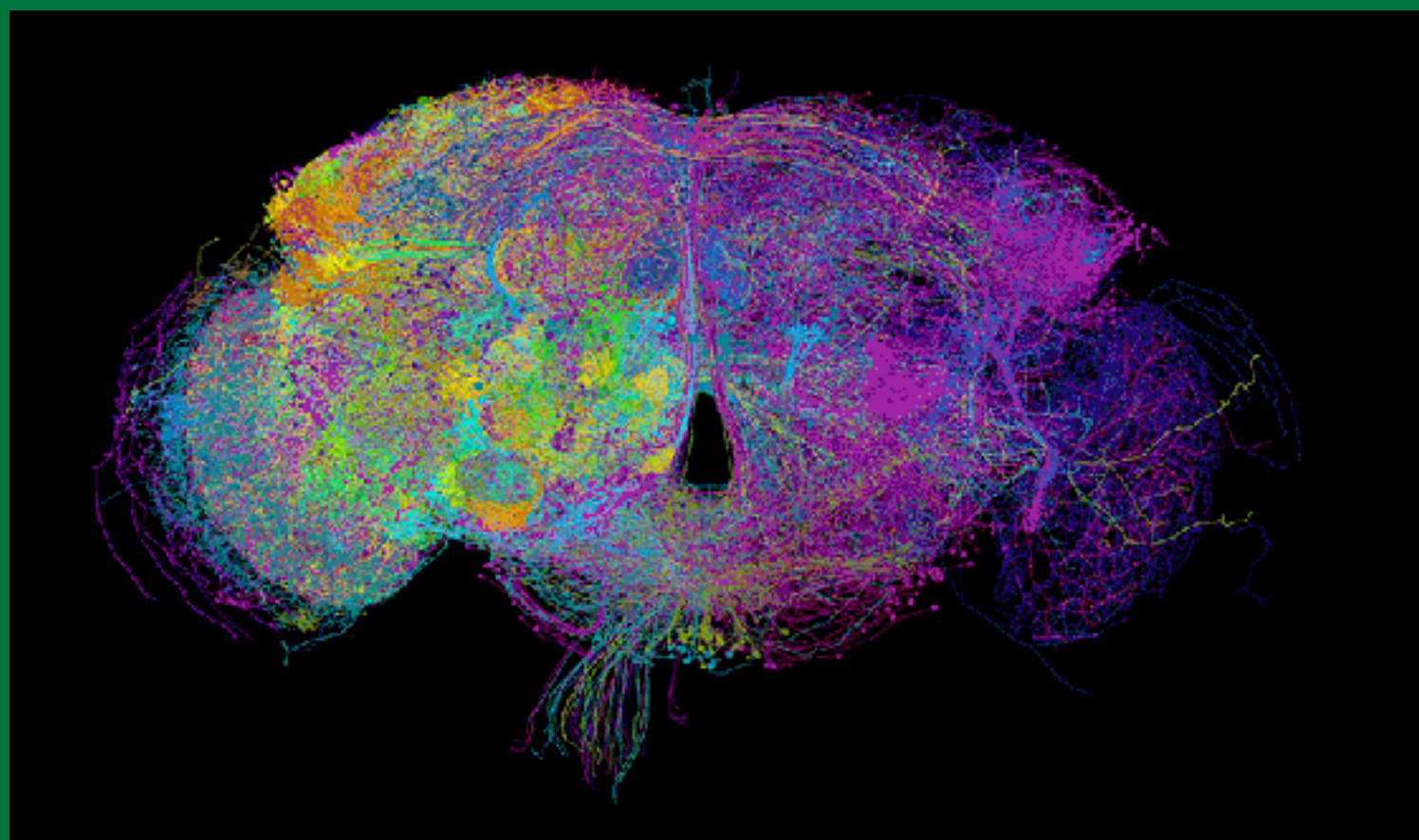
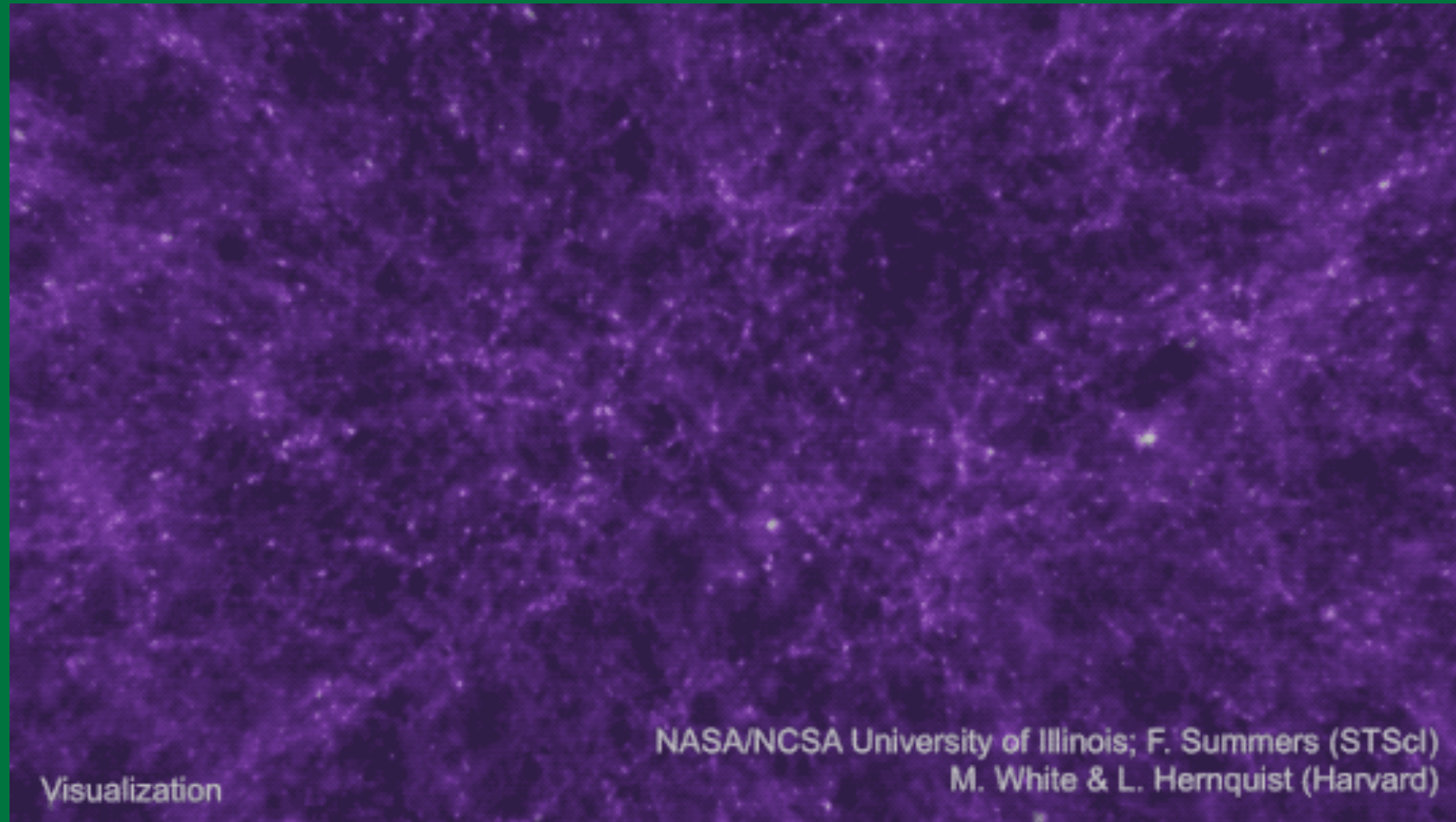


Global Dialogue
on AI Governance

AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub

Personal Reflection: Connectivity

A Basic Unit Beyond Time



Connect To Transcend TRANSCEND TO GOVERN AI

THANK YOU · 谢谢 · TATENDA — LI PAN · MASVINGO, JUNE 2026

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