

AI AND THE GEOPOLITICS OF INFRASTRUCTURE – CAPITAL, POWER & RESILIENCE

**Speaker: Dr Saurabh Mishra,
CEO, Taiyo.AI**

Artificial intelligence is moving from a supporting tool to a strategic system shaping infrastructure decision making. Dr Saurabh Mishra explored how AI is changing the way projects are planned, financed and delivered, with growing influence over capital allocation, risk assessment and long term system performance.

A central theme was that the industry's biggest challenge is not the technology itself, but visibility and institutional memory. The infrastructure industry generates enormous volumes of data across projects, procurement, policy, permits, finance and risk, yet much of this remains fragmented across organisations, jurisdictions and systems. The result is that organisations repeatedly make complex capital decisions without systematically learning from previous projects.

Rather than arguing Europe should compete head-to-head in foundation models, Dr Mishra suggested Europe's comparative advantage already lies in



the industries it designs, finances and operates. As AI increasingly becomes constrained by power, permitting, engineering capacity and physical infrastructure, Europe's opportunity is to build a cognitive layer on top of its existing leadership in infrastructure, engineering and project finance.

Drawing on examples from hyperscale AI investment, electricity grids and permitting, Dr Mishra argued that the limiting factor for AI is increasingly infrastructure capacity rather than computational demand.

The greatest opportunities lie before construction begins, where project selection, site assessment and procurement decisions determine most long-term cost, risk and resilience.

However, technology alone is not enough. Human expertise, judgement, and institutional knowledge remain essential, particularly in complex projects where context and experience matter. AI can support better decisions, but it needs industry-curated structured data and clear processes to deliver value.

Key Takeaways

- AI is becoming a strategic infrastructure system, not simply another digital tool.
- The next bottleneck is increasingly physical: power, infrastructure capacity and institutional decision-making rather than AI capability alone.
- The greatest opportunity lies before construction begins, when better visibility can materially improve capital allocation, procurement and project outcomes.



“INFRASTRUCTURE DOESN'T HAVE AN AI PROBLEM. IT HAS A MEMORY PROBLEM.”

Dr Saurabh Mishra, Taiyo.AI

- AI can improve origination, due diligence, planning and risk visibility, but only when supported by trusted, structured domain knowledge.
- Human judgement and domain knowledge becomes more valuable—not less—when augmented by trusted data, institutional memory and AI.

Overall insight

The next competitive advantage in infrastructure will not come from AI models alone. It will come from building cognitive infrastructure: combining trusted data, institutional memory, domain expertise, human judgement and AI into better decisions. As AI becomes increasingly constrained by physical infrastructure rather than algorithms alone, organisations that build these capabilities will allocate capital more effectively, improve resilience and strengthen long-term competitiveness.



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Speaker Biography

Dr. Saurabh Mishra is an AI expert, economist and entrepreneur working at the intersection of artificial intelligence, infrastructure systems and global economic policy. He has advised leading international institutions including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) on infrastructure investment, public financial management and economic policy.

He previously served as Director of the Stanford AI Index at the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI), helping to lead one of the world's most widely cited benchmarks on AI development, adoption and economic impact. He has also taught and lectured at institutions including Sciences Po, UC Berkeley, INSEAD and SDA Bocconi.

Dr. Mishra is the Founder and CEO of Taiyo.AI, a domain-specific AI platform focused on infrastructure, construction

and public procurement. His research explores how AI is reshaping infrastructure systems, economic development and global value chains.

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Thank You to our Keynote

Dr Saurabh Mishra
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