The 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group and Related Meetings
16 October 2026
Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok

The fifth day of the 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, 16 October 2026, at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, featured the Annual Meetings Plenary, where Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, delivered the host country opening address. The day also brought together senior leaders of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, alongside high-level policy discussions at the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) and assessments of global financial tail risks. The key highlights are summarized below:

1. Annual Meetings Plenary

The Annual Meetings Plenary is the premier high-level assembly of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group. For 2026, Carlos Carvallo Spalding, Governor of the Central Bank of Paraguay, served as Chairman of the plenary, while Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF, and Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group, delivered their respective annual addresses before proceeding with the formal agenda and concluding the plenary session.

On this occasion, Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister, delivered the host country opening address at the 2026 Annual Meetings Plenary, attended by Dr. Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Cabinet members, Mr. Vitai Ratanakorn, Governor of the Bank of Thailand (BOT), senior leadership of the IMF and the World Bank Group, and delegates from member nations.

The Prime Minister highlighted Thailand’s historical role in connecting the global economy as a major trading hub since the Ayutthaya period, emphasizing that Thailand's progress has always been rooted in openness and global integration, which remain foundational to the country’s development.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister highlighted Thailand's role as a "Trusted Connector" linking markets, capital, technology, and economic opportunities amid global economic transitions and fragmentation. He emphasized that economic strength does not come from turning inward, but from cooperation grounded in trust. He advocated that foreign investments must translate into upgrading the capabilities of small entrepreneurs, workforce upskilling, and inclusive opportunities for everyday citizens under the overarching theme "Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience." He expressed his aspiration for the meetings to turn dialogue into cooperation, and transform capital into tangible opportunities.

The plenary also charted future directions for both institutions, emphasizing readiness for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) transition—weighing productivity gains and economic opportunities against costs and impacts on labor, businesses, and society—alongside expanding access to finance for development and investment. Concurrently, discussions addressed fiscal deficit consolidation paired with structural reforms to maintain macroeconomic stability and bolster long-term economic growth potential.

The IMF drew upon the royal wisdom of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, reflecting the timeless principle that benefits and success do not occur spontaneously, but must be continuously nurtured, accumulated, and reinforced.

Meanwhile, the World Bank reflected that prosperity is not merely something passed along; rather, it should be likened to a fire that brings warmth to every home within its radius—signifying that global economic development must create and distribute opportunities so that all people and nations share in the benefits, laying the foundation for durable economic strength and sustainable security.

2. IMFC Introductory (International Monetary and Financial Committee Introductory)

The IMF noted that while the global economy has shown resilience against shocks, growth is becoming increasingly fragile and uneven amid risks from geopolitical tensions and volatile energy prices, particularly for net oil-importing nations. While AI investment flows have buoyed economic activity, gains remain largely concentrated among economies positioned directly within AI supply chains. Furthermore, the IMF highlighted three primary risks confronting the global economy: geopolitical conflicts, intensifying climate shocks, and elevated public debt burdens. Global

financial markets, while generally stable, face risks from valuation corrections in risk assets (particularly AI-related equities), rising sovereign bond yields, and cyber threats. Given narrowing policy space, the IMF urged nations to pursue prudent, flexible policies, rebuild fiscal buffers, safeguard price stability, strengthen financial sector resilience against cyber vulnerabilities, and undertake structural reforms to adapt to AI technological disruption and secure energy resilience, thereby supporting more sustainable and inclusive global growth.

In addition, the IMF and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) conducted a joint assessment of tail risks—low-probability, high-impact events confronting the global financial system—through scenario analyses and cross-dimensional response frameworks.

3. Bilateral Meetings

Dr. Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, held bilateral meetings with ministerial delegates and international organization leaders as follows:

3.1 Francis Brooke, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, focusing on deepening cooperation in countering transnational organized crime and financial illicit activities—threats that necessitate coordinated international action. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress of bilateral trade talks, anticipating conclusions by the next ASEAN Summit. Discussions also emphasized encouraging U.S. investment in Thailand, particularly in digital and technology sectors, to deepen economic ties, alongside continuing capacity-building cooperation between Thailand's Ministry of Finance and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

3.2 Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance of India, to advance bilateral economic and financial cooperation. The discussion prioritized expanding access to financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through digital technologies and alternative data for credit scoring, particularly Thailand's ARI Score framework, helping micro-entrepreneurs with limited collateral or credit history access formal financial services. They also exchanged experiences with India on deploying data and AI to optimize credit underwriting.

Both sides further discussed economic collaboration under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and BRICS frameworks, focusing on cross-border digital payments, financial connectivity, financial inclusion, and expanding trade,

investment, and supply chain links between South Asia and ASEAN. Thailand reaffirmed its readiness to serve as a bridge between the two regions to create shared economic opportunities and elevate long-term financial cooperation.

3.3 Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain, to strengthen bilateral economic and financial ties on the upcoming occasion of the 50th anniversary of Thailand–Bahrain diplomatic relations in 2027. Both ministers agreed to advance cooperation in digital payment systems, cross-border financial services, and anti-fraud mechanisms, alongside sharing regulatory best practices to develop secure, resilient financial systems adaptable to technological shifts.

They also aimed to expand cooperation in Islamic Finance through the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) and the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). Furthermore, discussions covered capital markets and investment cooperation to connect private sectors, utilizing Bahrain as a gateway to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market, unlocking trade and investment avenues, and elevating long-term economic ties between Thailand and the Middle East.

3.4 Roland Lescure, Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of the French Republic, to elevate bilateral economic and investment cooperation marking the 170th anniversary of Thai–French diplomatic relations. The talks focused on advancing the Joint Action Plan for the Thailand–France Partnership (2026–2028), promoting high-value investment in clean energy, digital technology, and AI to boost competitiveness and business collaboration. Both sides also discussed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), agreeing that it serves as a catalyst for enterprises to build genuine competitiveness in a green economy.

Additionally, both ministers reviewed Thailand's accession process to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Thailand reiterated its commitment to aligning policies and regulations with international standards, while expanding cooperation and experience-sharing with France to support Thailand's OECD accession and cement a durable economic partnership.

4. Host Government Reception: A Journey to New Horizons

The Royal Thai Government hosted the official Host Government Reception under the theme “A Journey to New Horizons” at One Bangkok Forum. Prime Minister Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul delivered welcoming remarks to leadership and delegates from the IMF, the World Bank Group, and member states. He expressed Thailand's pride in hosting the Annual Meetings for the second time, noting that it offered a meaningful opportunity to share Thai identity, heritage, and way of life through cuisine, music, and daily traditions. He highlighted that street food is not merely cultural heritage, but a vibrant community fabric that creates livelihoods and nourishes the local economy.

The Prime Minister also underscored inclusive growth, citing the co-payment digital scheme implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to support citizens and micro-merchants, as well as advancing this infrastructure with AI to help small vendors manage inventory and navigate business hurdles. This embodies the principle that technological disruption must empower everyday people, strengthen local communities, and build economic resilience. He concluded by inviting all delegates to co-create opportunities and step forward into “New Horizons” for a brighter, shared future.

The day additionally featured rich multi-dimensional side events, including the IMF Managing Director's Fireside Chat with Kevin Warsh, Chairman of the Federal Reserve; Thailand's flagship forum on “Financing a Resilient Green Economy”; panel sessions on “AI and the Global Economy / AI & Cyber Risks”; and the G30 International Banking seminar. Official updates and recordings can be followed via www.am2026thailand.go.th or on Facebook: AM2026 Thailand.