



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

450+ Builders from 39 Countries Unite to Build the Future of Agentic AI for the Caribbean and Distributed Markets Globally

Bridgetown, Barbados – August 2026 — Future Caribbean has officially entered the build phase of its inaugural **Future Caribbean Agentic AI Buildathon**, with **450+ builders from 39 countries** now developing production-ready Agentic AI solutions for real-world deployment across the Caribbean and for distributed markets globally.

Applications for the Buildathon opened on **May 26 during IDB Invest Sustainability Week in Barbados**, launching a global initiative to position the Caribbean as the world's leading proving ground for Agentic AI built for distributed markets. Today, builders are transforming ideas into deployable technologies with the support of an international ecosystem of technology partners, advisors, investors, governments, development organizations and private sector leaders.

Future Caribbean is focused on **real-world deployment**. Builders are developing agentic solutions across disaster management, healthcare, financial services, tourism, logistics, food systems, disaster management and climate resilience, energy, the blue economy, real estate, the creative industries and other sectors, supported by technology partners, potential customers, deployment partners, governments, corporations, development finance institutions and investors.

Future Caribbean attracted 264 applications from builders across 39 countries, with the Caribbean itself at the heart of the response. Jamaica led with 41 applications, followed by Barbados (33) and Trinidad and Tobago (25), alongside strong participation from the Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Curaçao and the Cayman Islands. Significant engagement also came from the Caribbean diaspora based in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada, while additional submissions were received from countries including India, France, Nigeria, Kenya, Singapore, Ukraine and the Philippines.

“This is the largest platform of technologists the Caribbean has ever assembled — a digital fabric that spans the world but is Caribbean at its core, more than 800 (including builders, advisors and volunteers) across the region, the diaspora and beyond. Future Caribbean is very much a startup too — we’re building this platform alongside our builders, and we’re just getting started.”

— Lily Dash, Founder, Future Caribbean

Hundreds of Thousands of U.S. Dollars Supporting Builders

Participating builders have access to **hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars** in cash prizes, AI infrastructure, compute, software, accelerator programs, strategic consulting, and technical support through Future Caribbean's global partner ecosystem.

Support includes:

- **US\$50,000 in cash prizes**
- **OWC AI deployment workstations valued at US\$20,000**
- Enterprise Cayman accelerator support
- DMZ Soft Landing Program
- Bookit-sponsored travel for selected founders attending the New York Investor Showcase
- Enterprise AI infrastructure and compute
- Technical mentorship and strategic advisory introductions

Beyond these resources, builders gain access to Future Caribbean's commercialization ecosystem, connecting high-potential teams with potential customers, deployment partners, governments, corporations, development finance institutions, investors, venture capital firms, universities and strategic partners. **While the direct financial support is substantial, the greatest opportunity lies in the potential for long-term commercialization, strategic partnerships, customer adoption and investment.**

AI Infrastructure & Technology Partners

Technology partners include **Highrise AI, Impala, Nebius, Nolnra, MiniMax, Shogo AI, Giotto, Oligarden, OWC** and **Boardy**, providing builders with enterprise-grade compute, frontier AI models, development platforms, technical expertise and deployment infrastructure.

Ecosystem & Deployment Partners

Future Caribbean is supported by a growing coalition of organizations including **IDB Invest, ACTAI Global, ACTAI Advisors, The New York Stock Exchange, EY Caribbean, Enterprise Cayman, OECS Commission, DMZ, Export Barbados, Wingsoft, Ocular AI, PowerTranz, TapIn, Future Barbados, Permacity Foundation, Abed Foundation, CYBORG, Barita, Villabound, Jamaica Technology and Digital Alliance, Tapin** and more.

As part of its commitment to entrepreneurship, **EY Caribbean** will provide **50 hours of strategic consulting** to selected teams, supporting commercialization, scaling, operations and go-to-market strategy.

Select teams will also have the opportunity to present their solutions at the New York Stock Exchange during an investor showcase in Q3 2026, connecting founders with investors, industry leaders, and strategic partners

Global Advisors and Judges

Future Caribbean has assembled a global network of **more than 172 advisors and judges**, with new experts continuing to join the platform. The network includes founders, investors, technologists, researchers, corporate leaders and public sector experts whose experience spans venture capital, global technology companies, development finance institutions, governments, universities and the Caribbean private sector, including individuals with experience from organizations such as **IDB Invest** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

Throughout the Buildathon, participating teams will have direct access to Future Caribbean's global network of advisors, judges and technology partners through a series of technical workshops, strategy sessions and office hours hosted on **TapIn**. Founders will receive guidance on product development, technical architecture, commercialization, fundraising, go-to-market strategy and real-world deployment, with many advisors making themselves available through recurring office hours throughout the program. As new Agentic AI models, tools and capabilities continue to be released at an unprecedented pace, this collaborative digital workspace enables builders to learn, iterate and refine their products alongside experienced founders, engineers, investors and domain experts—creating an environment designed to accelerate both technical excellence and successful deployment.

Backed by the ACTAI Global Community

Future Caribbean is backed by the **ACTAI Global** community—one of the world's leading networks of entrepreneurs, investors, technologists, athletes and changemakers. Through ACTAI Global and ACTAI Advisors, builders gain access to a global network supporting mentorship, strategic partnerships, investment, commercialization and international expansion.

Building the Future of Distributed Markets

As **450+ builders from 39 countries** begin building, Future Caribbean is demonstrating that the Caribbean can become the world's proving ground for Agentic AI designed for distributed markets—creating technologies capable of scaling across regions, industries and economies worldwide.

About Future Caribbean

Future Caribbean is a global platform accelerating the development and deployment of category-defining Agentic AI companies across the Caribbean and distributed markets globally. Through its Buildathon and broader platform, Future Caribbean connects founders with world-class AI infrastructure, advisors, governments, corporations, investors, and commercialization partners to transform breakthrough ideas into real-world deployment.

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