President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce meets with World Infrastructure Forum organizers

- **MIT, UPM, the World Bank Group, and UT Austin are behind the World Infrastructure Forum, created to address how infrastructure is being transformed by digitalization, AI, and climate change**
- **The new international forum will hold its inaugural summit in Madrid on October 28–29, bringing together more than 350 leaders from over 30 countries to address the future of energy, artificial intelligence, financing, mobility, resilience, and critical infrastructure.**

Madrid, October 16, 2026.– Carmen Marín, Executive Director of the World Infrastructure Forum (WIF), and José Miguel Atienza, Director of the School of Civil Engineering at the the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) and co-founder of the Forum, met with José Luis Bonet, President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, to present the goals and vision of this new international initiative, whose first edition will take place in Madrid on October 28–29, 2026.

The World Infrastructure Forum is a high-level international platform launched jointly by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT, the School of Civil Engineering at UPM, the World Bank Group, and The University of Texas at Austin. Its purpose is to foster reflection and dialogue on the strategic role of infrastructure amid the major economic, technological, and environmental transformations facing the world.

Artificial intelligence, rising energy demand, the digitalization and modernization of power grids, the energy transition, climate change, and infrastructure resilience, all set against an increasingly complex geopolitical backdrop, are redefining investment, planning, and development needs for infrastructure worldwide.

During the meeting, Marín and Atienza shared with Bonet the Forum's vision, its preliminary agenda, the institutions and organizations supporting it, and the leading figures and experts who will take part in this first edition. They also discussed the opportunities the initiative offers to strengthen the participation of the Spanish business sector in international discussions on the future of infrastructure.

WIF aims to become a leading platform that connects academic knowledge, institutions, multilateral organizations, and businesses, and to help identify the challenges and opportunities that will shape infrastructure development in the coming decades.

According to the Forum's founders, AI is creating new demand for electricity, data centers, and connectivity; the energy transition requires transforming power grids and expanding generation and storage capacity; climate change calls for more resilient systems; urbanization is increasing demand for mobility, water, energy, and urban services; and new geopolitical tensions have turned certain infrastructure into strategic assets.

In this new context, the organizers believe it is no longer enough to address energy, digital, transportation, water, and mobility infrastructure separately. Their growing interdependence calls for a systems-level approach that connects disciplines and communities that have traditionally worked in silos.

The World Infrastructure Forum is a nonprofit initiative co-led by Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT, the World Bank Group, UPM, and UT Austin, bringing together decision-makers from academia, business, finance, technology, and the public sector. It will convene more than 350 leaders from over 30 countries to address the future of energy, artificial intelligence, financing, mobility, resilience, and critical infrastructure. Its goal is to connect knowledge, investment, innovation, public policy, and business experience to help improve decisions about the infrastructure of the future.

Media Contact:

press@azulcomunicacion.net