



## 39<sup>th</sup> ABA General Meeting and Conference

November 9-10, 2023,  
Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

### PROPOSED PROGRAM

(As of October 25, 2023)

#### November 9, 2023

08:30 -9:00 Registration

09:00 -10:00 Opening Ceremony (*Room Megha-Malhar*)

Welcome Remarks: **Mr. Sunil KC**, President, Nepal Bankers' Association

Special Address: **Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari**, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank

Special Address: **Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat**, Finance Minister, GoN

Keynote Address: **H.E. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'**, Prime Minister, GoN (TBC)

Closing Remarks: **Mr. Eugene S. Acevedo**, Chairman, Asian Bankers Association

10:00 -10:15 *Coffee Break*

10:15 -11:30 Host Bank Session organized by Nepal Bankers' Association (*Room Megha-Malhar*)

*Special session on issues of current interest to member banks*

#### Invited Speakers:

- **Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari**, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank
- **Ms. Pippa Bird**, Development Director, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
- **Mr. Sushil Bhatta**, CEO, Investment Board of Nepal (TBC)
- **Mr. Ramesh Kumar Hamal**, Chairman, Securities Board of Nepal
- **Mr. Sunil KC**, President, Nepal Bankers' Association

#### Moderator:

- **Mr. Sujeev Shakya**, CEO, Beed Management

11:30 -12:00 Press Conference (*Room Malshree*)

11:30 -13:30 Lunch



13:30 -15:00 Special Session on “**Connecting and Exploring Opportunities with ABA**”

(Room Megha-Malhar)

*Brief country presentations by selected ABA member banks on the economy and the financial markets in their respective countries, or on special programs, projects, products or services that have benefited their customer base or the community they serve and may be adapted by member banks from other countries.*

**Suggested Country Presenters:**

- *Hatton National Bank*
- *Bank Pasargad*
- *Bank of Maldives*
- *Vietcombank (TBC)*

15:30 -16:30 ABA Policy Advocacy  
Committee Meeting  
(Room Malshree)  
*Hatton National Bank*  
*Banks Association of Turkiye*  
*Bank of East Asia*  
*Fintelekt Advisory Services*

16:30 -18:00 B2B / Networking Session  
(Room Marva)

14:30-15:30 ABA Advisory Council Meeting  
(Board Room)  
(Open only to members of the  
ABA Advisory Council)

15:30 -16:15 Election Committee Meeting  
(Board Room)  
(Open only to members of the ABA  
Election Committee)

16:45 -18:15 61<sup>st</sup> ABA Board of Directors’  
Meeting (Room Malshree)

18:30 - 20:00 Welcome Cocktails

**November 10, 2023**

**THEME: ASIAN BANKING: ROADMAP FOR RECOVERY AND SUSTAINED GROWTH**

*A combination of well-established forces and recent developments is reshaping banking. The global economy is becoming increasingly digitalized, and some of the emerging technologies have the potential to be truly transformative, even as they pose new challenges. At the same time, fintech innovators have emerged into the scene, equipped with capital and chasing scale ahead of financial returns, while new consumer trends continue to re-shape the evolving role of banks. Industry leaders recognize they need to accelerate change—not only to compete but to find new paths to growth – as they see the importance of developing and improving the resilience of the banking system. The Conference this year aims to provide ABA members the opportunity to discuss and exchange views on how various emerging challenges and trends they are facing today are coming together to influence the future of banking.*



09:00 – 09:30 Registration

9:30 -10:30 Plenary Session 1: **Global Market Trends Shaping the Future of Banking**  
(Room Megha-Malhar)

*This session will examine the macroeconomic trends impacting the banking system and its future development. Invited speakers will share their perspectives on how to leverage on banking disruptors, the need for developing the right talent for the current market environment, the challenges posed by geopolitical risks, the impact of inflation and how rising interest rates are catalyzing product innovation, the renewed focus on branches, the new world of possibilities opened up by metaverse, the growing demand for the right talents in the banking sector, and emerging risks particularly in the wake of bank closures in the West.*

**Invited Speakers:**

- **Dr. Le Xia**, Chief Economist for Asia, BBVA
- **Mr. Abdul Abiad**, Director, Macroeconomics Research Division, Asian Development Bank
- **Mrs. Negin Tootoonchian**, Head, Risk Management Department, Bank Pasargad
- **Mr. Pekka Dare**, President, International Compliance Association (ICA)

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Paul Bosbach**, Executive Director, Head of Trade Finance and Home Markets Desk Asia, Erste Group Bank AG

10:30 – 11:30 Plenary Session 2: **Digital Transformation: Enabling Digital Trust and Adoption of AI**  
(Room Megha-Malhar)

*Digital technologies are driving innovation and change in the banking industry, which is undergoing significant transformation. Mobile banking, artificial intelligence and chatbots, open banking, and cryptocurrency are just a few of the digital banking trends reshaping the industry. As digital banking grows in popularity, cybersecurity will become even more important. To protect customer data and prevent cyberattacks, banks will need to invest in advanced cybersecurity measures. For instance, to identify and prevent fraud, advanced technologies, such as biometric authentication, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, will be used. This session will examine the need for banks to implement digital trust to prevent customer account takeover and credential thefts and how they can gain customer confidence with convenient digital trust solutions and services.*

**Invited Speakers:**



- **Mr. Rajan Narayan**, CEO, Cyberbeat Pte. Ltd.
- **Mr. Dilshan Rodrigo**, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Hatton National Bank
- **Mr. KuoChan Tseng**, COO, Authme
- **Ms. Neda Zendehtel**, Head, Information Security Department, Bank Pasargad

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Mostafa Beheshti Rouy**, Advisor to the CEO and Board Member, Bank Pasargad

11:30 -13:00 Lunch

13:00 -14:00 Plenary Session 3: **ESG Banking Strategy: Integrating Policy, Principle and Profit**

*(Room Megha-Malhar)*

*As the world grapples with environmental and social challenges such as climate change, social inequality, and governance failures, the importance of ESG considerations has never been more apparent. For banks, ESG is becoming an increasingly important aspect of doing business, as it can help manage risks, enhance reputation, meet regulatory requirements, drive innovation and increase access to capital. This session will explore the key trends currently driving ESG, how a forward-looking ESG data and technology road map can help banks get ahead of growing regulatory and consumer demands, how banks that prioritize ESG are likely to be better positioned for long-term success as they can help to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all stakeholders*

**Invited Speakers:**

- **Dr. Sandip Shah**, Chairman and Managing Director, Pashupati Renewables Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah**, Chairman Emeritus, ABA
- **Ms. Amal-Lee Amin**, Managing Director and Head of Climate, Diversity and Advisory, British International Investment
- **Mr. Eshanul Azim**, IFC, South Asia Region (TBC)

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Eugene S. Acevedo**, ABA Chairman and President and CEO, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation

14:00 -15:00 Plenary Session 4: **CEO Forum: Managing in Uncertainty and a Changing Environment**

*(Room Megha-Malhar)*



*The business landscape is becoming more unpredictable than ever due to economic slowdown or disruptions, increasing competition, technological advancements, trade tensions, environmental concerns, political unrest, and social change. Many business leaders agree that it is a tough time to be leading any business right now — including banking. To stand a chance of survival and achieve sustainable profits, they recognize that it is important for companies to prepare for uncertainty. This session will invite CEOs who will share their valuable perspectives on the different kinds of uncertainty a business might face and how to adapt to and overcome the challenges.*

**Invited Speakers:**

- **Mr. John Berry**, CEO and Secretary General, Qorus
- **Mr. Dorji Kadin**, CEO, Bank of Bhutan (TBC)
- **Mr. Sunil KC**, President, Nepal Bankers' Association (TBC)
- **Hon. Peter B. Favila**, Monetary Board Member, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (TBC)
- **Mr. Lorenzo V. Tan**, President and CEO, House of Investments (TBC)

**Moderator**

- **Mr. Daniel Wu**, Member, ABA Advisory Council

15:00 -15:30 39<sup>th</sup> ABA General Meeting Proper (Room Megha-Malhar)

- ABA Chairman's Report
- Report of the Election Committee

15:30 -15:45 Coffee Break

15:30 -15:45 62<sup>nd</sup> ABA Board of Directors' Meeting: Part One (Room Malshree)

- Election of the New ABA Chairman and New ABA Vice Chairman

15:45-16:15 Installation Ceremony (Room Megha-Malhar)

- *Valedictory Address of Outgoing Chairman*
- *Oath-taking of Incoming Chairman and Vice-Chairman*
- *Handover Ceremony*
- *Acceptance Speech of Incoming Chairman*
- *Presentation of Distinguished Service Plaque to Outgoing Chairman and Outgoing Vice Chairman*



16:30 -17:30 B2B / Networking  
Session (*Room Marva*)

16:30 -17:30 *62<sup>nd</sup> ABA Board of Directors'  
Meeting: Part Two (Room  
Malshree)*

18:30 Depart from Soaltee Hotel Lobby for Farewell Dinner

19:00 Farewell Dinner

**November 11**

Optional Tour Program / Departure of Delegates