

2025

ABA NEWSLETTER

August Issue



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About ABA

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) began when it took the first step toward forging closer regional links when 217 representatives of 139 banks met in Taipei in May 1981 to establish the Asian Bankers Council (later known as ABA) as one of the Product and Service Councils of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI). The countries represented included Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Thailand.

The Taipei meeting was the largest gathering of bankers with Asian presence to be convened in the region at that time. CACCI sponsored the meeting with the view to exploring banking opportunities in Asia and to enhance the role of bankers in the economic development of the region.

The ABA aims to provide a forum for advancing the cause of the banking and finance industry in the region and promoting regional economic cooperation. Its primary objectives include the following:

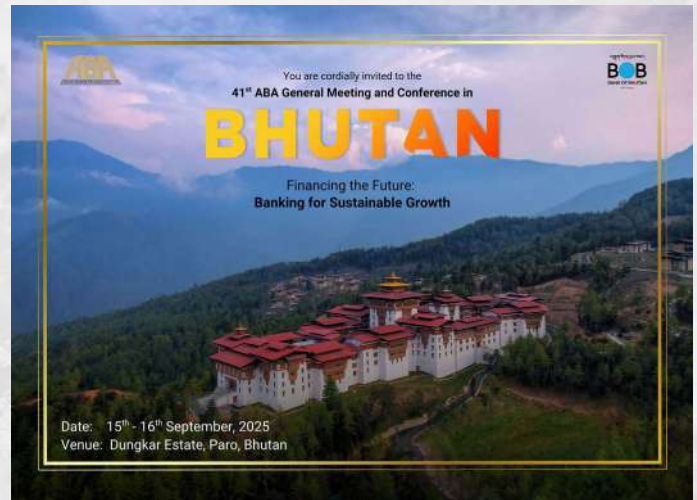
- To serve as a venue for an exchange of views and information on banking opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region;
- To facilitate the meeting of bankers in the region in an atmosphere of fellowship and friendship;
- To encourage joint activities that would enhance the role of its members in servicing the financial needs of their respective economies and in promoting regional development; and
- To undertake projects that will encourage trade, industrial, and investment cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

41st ABA General Meeting and Conference Kingdom of Bhutan, September 15-16, 2025

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) kindly reminds all members and associates to register for the 41st ABA General Meeting and Conference, taking place on September 15-16, 2025, in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

This year's Conference will be held at Dungkar Dzong in Paro, a setting that is truly exceptional. Nestled in the Himalayas, Bhutan offers a rare and serene environment – one that invites both reflection and forward-thinking dialogue. It is a fitting venue for the Conference theme: "Financing the Future: Banking for Sustainable Growth."

The Conference will also spotlight Bhutan's ambitious Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC - <https://gmc.bt/>) — a visionary project that presents exciting business and investment opportunities across sectors including finance, technology, tourism, and infrastructure. Attached is a detailed information and Youtube video on GMC for your reference.



Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC)

The Plenary sessions will focus on:

- **Digital Transformation in Sustainability Banking** - This session highlights how digital transformation is advancing financial inclusion and sustainability in banking. Through digital identity tools and eco-focused innovations, banks can expand access while encouraging responsible, profit-aligned behaviors that support long-term development.
- **Enhancing Customer and Employee Experience Through Technology** - This session explores how technology enhances both customer and employee experiences in banking—through hyper-personalization, omni-channel services, and AI-powered tools that boost staff productivity, training, and decision-making.

- **Innovations in Cross-Border Payments** - This session examines transformative technologies in cross-border payments—such as blockchain, DeFi, CBDCs, and RegTech—and how they are reshaping global transactions. Industry experts will share insights on real-world applications, opportunities, and challenges, especially for banks in emerging markets.
- **Adapting Regulations for a Changing Financial Landscape** - This session explores how evolving regulatory frameworks can support innovation in banking, with a focus on sandboxes, open banking, and cross-border standards. Experts will share global best practices on regulating digital assets, CBDCs, and ESG integration while ensuring financial stability and compliance.

There are three Policy Advocacy papers that will be presented in Bhutan, which will discuss the following topics:

- “Open Banking and Customer Data Privacy Protections”
- “Money Mule Account Issue in Banking”
- “Ethical Banking and Corporate Governance”

Please complete your registration on the Conference website (<https://41aba.bt>). Group registration is available as well; three or more participants from the same institution will qualify.

Please contact aba@aba.org.tw / 41aba@bot.bt for hotel and accommodation book or for any Conference related questions.

We sincerely hope to see you in Bhutan!

ABA invitation to join FT's Banking Summit Asia in HK



The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) is inviting you to join the 2025 Financial Times' Banking Summit Asia being organized by Financial Times on 11 September 2025 in the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong.

With Asian economies experiencing rapid growth, but also a huge shift in global trade dynamics, financial institutions are having to adapt to intensifying geopolitical tensions, financial uncertainty, regulatory divergence, and new technologies. The 2025 Financial Times' Banking Summit Asia will explore and debate the latest challenges and opportunities driving banking forward in the region — from geopolitical change to technology in Asia's most innovative hubs.

- How are financial leaders managing economic fragmentation, capital flows, and changing trade policies across Asia?
- Can traditional financial institutions in India and Japan compete with digital-native players and superapps?
- How will regulatory changes in ASEAN and Hong

Kong shape the future of AI and automation in financial services?

Banking Summit Asia makes its debut in Hong Kong in 2025, bringing together a pan-Asian community of CEOs and CXOs, to explore and debate the latest challenges and opportunities driving banking forward in the region — from geopolitical change to technology in Asia's most innovative hubs. We expect more than 250 participants and over 30 speakers.

Headline speakers include the Deputy Chief Executive of Hong Kong Monetary Authority; Hong Kong CEO and General Counsel for Asia, Barclays; Head of North Asia & CEO of DBS Bank Hong Kong; Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia; CEO Asia Pacific, Societe Generale; CEO and Head of Wholesale Banking APAC, ING, plus many more.

Join us in Hong Kong this September, for a multi-track agenda examining the future of Asia's banking sector.

ABA members can get a 20% discount. Please contact the ABA Secretariat to get the discount code.

For more details about the Agenda and regular registration, please [click here](#).

About Financial Times



Financial Times is a British daily newspaper published in broadsheet and digitally that focuses on business and economic current affairs. Based in London, the paper is owned by a Japanese holding company, Nikkei, with core editorial offices across Britain, the United States, continental Europe and Singapore. FT Live, the events arm of FT, runs 270 events per year to gather financial leaders and policy makers on issues of economic and financial importance.

Training Programs

Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance (TABF)



TABF

TAIWAN ACADEMY OF
BANKING AND FINANCE
台灣金融研習院

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) is pleased to invite you and your colleagues to join us in Taipei on October 21-22, 2025, for the TABF-ABA Short Term Visiting Program: FinTech Innovation & Sustainable Finance—Insights from Taiwan, hosted by the Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance (TABF).

This two-day immersive learning and networking program will explore two key themes:

- Sustainable Finance – ESG integration and Taiwan's transition finance strategies
- FinTech Innovation – use of AI in finance, virtual assets, and fraud prevention

What to Expect

- Engaging expert-led workshops
- Guided site visits to leading financial institutions
- Exclusive VIP access to FinTech Taipei 2025, one of Asia's premier fintech forums

Key Details

- Dates: October 21–22, 2025
- Location: Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance Headquarters, Taipei

Registration

- Fee: Complimentary for ABA members | USD \$250 for non-members
- Deadline: September 12, 2025
- Capacity: Limited seats available. Please complete the registration form to confirm your participation
- Contact: For inquiries and registration, please contact Ms. Liao (ABA Secretariat) at wenju.liao@aba.org.tw