



3rd November 2021

JW Marriott Marquis Dubai, United Arab Emirates

MEA FINANCE AWARDS 2021

The **MEA Finance Awards 2021** recognize financial institutions, technology solutions providers and individuals for their exceptional achievement and inspirational leadership in delivering innovative products and services of the highest value to their retail and business customers.

Across the evolving financial markets in the region, several institutions have successfully carried out their digital transformation, pushing their limitations by identifying and addressing opportunities to reach more consumers with new and better financial products and services.

This demonstration of excellence, service, and leadership deserves recognition.

The MEA Finance Awards 2021 will provide a high-profile platform to celebrate institutions and individuals who have contributed to the advancement of the banking industry in the Middle East and Africa. The 2021 Awards range of categories will honor winning institutions and individuals for their ingenuity and ability to adapt to the demands of our changing and challenging times, and for helping to create a more robust and inclusive financial system in the region.

This year's judges will recognize outstanding banks, financial institutions, and service providers based on their:

- Exceptional products and services
- Digital readiness
- Responsiveness to the changing times
- Innovative leadership

The awarding ceremony will be held on 3rd November 2021 at JW Marriott Marquis.



Join over 150 senior banking, finance and technology executives from MENA

METHODOLOGY

The MEA Finance Awards will recognize the achievements of the region's leading banks, financial institutions and technology providers at the forefront of digital transformation.

The selection of the winners will be based on research, input from industry experts and deliberation of the utility and their technological innovation and solutions.

JUDGING PROCESS

The awards nominations will be judged by a panel of industry experts in collaboration with the MEA Finance editorial team.

1. All nomination entries will be meticulously evaluated and analysed based on relevant market knowledge, industry research and accurate company financial statements. The MEA Finance editorial team will then create a shortlist which will be given to the judging panel.
2. The judging panel is composed of senior executives from professional services firms working with the banking industry. They will review the shortlist and the submitted materials for each category and place a score from 1 to 5 for each category nominee. All scores will be sent back to the editorial team.
3. The MEA Finance editorial team will independently score shortlisted institutions per category. Score values will be from 1 to 5. All scores will be kept confidential and will not be released publicly, nor will they be discussed with any individual applicants.
4. Scores from both the judging panel and the editorial team shall be collected and combined to determine the highest scoring institution in each category which will be declared winner.

KEY DATES

AUGUST 9
OPEN FOR ENTRIES

OCTOBER 5
SUBMISSION DEADLINE

OCTOBER 6 - 20
JUDGING PROCESS

NOVEMBER 3
WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

AWARDS CATEGORIES

LEADERS IN BANKING AND FINANCE

- ◆ Outstanding Leadership Award
- ◆ Banker of the Year
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◆ Best Technology Leadership Award - Vendor
- ◆ Best Technology Executive of the Year for Financial Services

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Best Retail Bank

- ◆ Best Retail Bank – UAE
- ◆ Best Retail Bank – Saudi Arabia
- ◆ Best Retail Bank – Kuwait
- ◆ Best Retail Bank – Bahrain
- ◆ Best Retail Bank – Egypt
- ◆ Best Retail Bank – Africa
- ◆ Best Retail Bank – Other Country

Best Islamic Bank

- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – UAE
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – Saudi Arabia
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – Kuwait
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – Bahrain
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – Egypt
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – Africa
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank – Other Country

Best Commercial Bank

- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – UAE
- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – Saudi Arabia
- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – Kuwait
- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – Bahrain
- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – Egypt
- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – Africa
- ◆ Best Commercial Bank – Other Country

Best Financial Services and Deals of the Year

- ◆ Capital Markets Transaction of the Year
- ◆ Best M&A
- ◆ Best Bond Issue of the Year
- ◆ Best Sukuk Deal of the Year
- ◆ Best Global Bank in the Middle East
- ◆ Best SME Bank
- ◆ Best Islamic Bank for SME's
- ◆ Best Insurance Provider
- ◆ Best Takaful Provider
- ◆ Best Trade Finance Provider
- ◆ Best Cash Management Bank
- ◆ Best Treasury Management Services



AWARDS CATEGORIES

Investment

- ◆ Best Asset Management Firm
- ◆ Best International Real Estate Investment Firm
- ◆ Best REIT Management Firm
- ◆ Best Investment Bank – Conventional
- ◆ Best Investment Bank – Islamic
- ◆ Best Private Equity Firm
- ◆ Best Brokerage Firm/Solutions Provider
- ◆ Best Investment Management Firm

Banking and Wealth Management

- ◆ Best Private Bank in the Middle East
- ◆ Best Overall Wealth Management Service in the Middle East
- ◆ Best Wealth Management Institution for Mass Affluent Clients
- ◆ Best Wealth Management Institution for HNWI's
- ◆ Best Wealth Management Institution for Ultra HNWI's
- ◆ Best Pure Play Private Bank in the Middle East
- ◆ Best Islamic Private Banking Service
- ◆ Best Family Office Service

Financial Advisory & Service Providers

- ◆ Best Management Consultancy Firm
- ◆ Best Investment Consultancy Firm
- ◆ Best Digital Transformation Advisory
- ◆ Best Ratings Agency
- ◆ Best Research and Consultancy Firm
- ◆ Best Law Firm

Sustainable Finance & ESG

- ◆ Best Sustainable Finance Initiative
- ◆ Best Sustainable Lending
- ◆ Best Sustainable Asset Management
- ◆ Best ESG Strategy

TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Best Mobile Banking Service Implementation
- ◆ Best Neo Bank
- ◆ Best Online Banking Service
- ◆ Best Cybersecurity Implementation
- ◆ Best User Experience
- ◆ Best Digital Transformation Implementation
- ◆ Special Achievement in Digital Innovation
- ◆ Best Financial Data Analysis Provider
- ◆ Best Cloud Services Provider
- ◆ Best Payments Solutions Provider
- ◆ Best Cybersecurity Provider
- ◆ Best Comms Infrastructure Provider
- ◆ Best Core Banking Service Provider
- ◆ Best Digital Banking Innovation Provider
- ◆ Best Islamic Digital Banking Provider
- ◆ Best Risk Management Solutions Provider
- ◆ Best Reg Tech Solutions Provider
- ◆ Best Islamic Finance Banking Software Provider
- ◆ Best Islamic Fintech Solutions Provider



PAST WINNERS - MEA FINANCE AWARDS 2020

Financial Services

1. Best Retail Bank (UAE) - **Mashreq Bank**
2. Best Retail Bank (Saudi Arabia) - **Al Rajhi Bank**
3. Best Retail Bank (Bahrain) - **Ahli United Bank Bahrain**
4. Best Retail Bank (Egypt) - **ADIB Egypt**
5. Best Islamic Bank - **ADIB**
6. Best Commercial Bank (UAE) - **Commercial Bank of Dubai**
7. Capital Markets Transaction of the Year - **Odin Investments**
8. Best Global Bank in the Middle East - **Standard Chartered Bank**
9. Best SME Bank - **National Bank of Fujairah**
10. Best Takaful Provider - **Noor Takaful**
11. Best Private Bank - **GFH Financial Group**
12. Best Wealth Management Firm in the Middle East - **BNP Paribas Wealth Management**
13. Best Investment Bank - **NCB Capital**
14. Best Trade Finance Provider - **The Saudi British Bank**
15. Best Transaction Banking - **Standard Chartered Bank**
16. Best Cash Management Technology Provider - **Infosys Finacle**
17. Best CSR Programme – Financial Institutions - **Aafaq Islamic Finance**

Covid-19 Responsiveness Special Awards

18. Best Retail Response to the Covid-19 Crisis - **Ajman Bank**
19. Best Commercial Response to the Covid-19 Crisis - **Mashreq Bank**

Investment Awards

20. Best Private Equity Firm - **Alkhabeer Capital**
21. Best International Real Estate Investment Firm - **Walton International Group Limited**
22. Best Brokerage Solutions Provider - **ADSS**



PAST WINNERS - MEA FINANCE AWARDS 2020

- 23. Best Investment Management Firm (UAE) - **Century Private Wealth**
- 24. Best Investment Management Firm (Saudi Arabia) - **Alkhabeer Capital**
- 25. Best Investment Management Firm (Bahrain) - **GFH Financial Group**

Service Providers to the Banking Sector

- 26. Best Investment Consultancy Firm - **Century Financial Consultancy**
- 27. Best Research & Consultancy Firm - **KPMG**
- 28. Best Digital Transformation Consultancy Firm - **Arqitek**
- 29. Best Ratings Agency - **S&P Global Ratings**

Technology

- 30. Best Mobile Banking Solution (Saudi Arabia) - **Bank Albilad**
- 31. Best Mobile Banking Solution (UAE) - **Mashreq Bank**
- 32. Best Mobile Banking Solution Provider - **Infosys Finacle**
- 33. Best Neo Bank - FAB – **Payit**
- 34. Best Online Banking Service - **Bank Albilad**
- 35. Best Cybersecurity Implementation - **Help AG**
- 36. Best User-Experience - FAB - **Payit**
- 37. Best Digital Transformation Technology Provider - **Maveric Systems**
- 38. Best Digital Transformation (UAE) - **Commercial Bank of Dubai**
- 39. Best Digital Transformation (Saudi Arabia) - **Tayseer Finance**
- 40. Best Digital Transformation (Bahrain) - **Ahli United Bank**
- 41. Best CSR Programme – Financial Technology Provider - **DDCAP Group**
- 42. Best Payment Solutions - **Edenred**
- 43. Best Payment Solutions Provider - **Temenos**
- 44. Best Cybersecurity Provider - **Trend Micro**



PAST WINNERS - MEA FINANCE AWARDS 2020

45. Best Communications Infrastructure Provider - **United MAK Group & IPC**
46. Best Core Banking Service Provider - **Temenos**
47. Best Digital Banking Innovation Provider - **Avaya**
48. Best Islamic Finance Banking Software Provider - **Path Solutions**
49. Best Islamic Fintech Solutions Provider - **DDCAP Group for Ethos Asset Facilitation Platform**
50. Special Achievement in Digital Innovation - **BPC**

Leaders in Banking and Finance

51. Outstanding Leadership Award - **Ebrahim Oboud Baeshen, Office Managing Partner, KPMG Saudi - Jeddah**
52. Banker of the Year - **Hisham Alrayes, Group CEO and Board Member, GFH Financial Group**
53. Best Technology Executive of the Year for Financial Services - **Mohammed Kateeb, Chairman & CEO, Path Solutions**
54. Best Technology Leadership Award - **Ashar Nazim, Founder and CEO, Aion Digital**



AWARDS CEREMONY



CATEGORY SPONSORSHIP

PRE-EVENT EXPOSURE

Editorial

MEA Finance Magazine

- ◆ News story/round up of new sponsors announcing support and participation in awards
- ◆ Logos and name checks in features announcing the shortlist

www.mea-finance.com

- ◆ Article announcing sponsor support and participation in awards
- ◆ Article covering sponsor build up/related activities

Print and Online Advertising

Sponsor logo appears on each print advert once they have committed to supporting the awards. Adverts appear in:

- ◆ MEA Finance Magazine
- ◆ MEA Business Magazine
- ◆ Option of video interview with sponsor senior executive at the event
- ◆ Sponsorship onboarding will be announced on MEA Finance's social media and e-newsletter

Digital Marketing

Sponsor logo appears on each email blast once they have committed to supporting the awards. Digital marketing messages are sent to the following databases:

- ◆ www.mea-finance.com database
- ◆ MEA Finance subscribers list
- ◆ Database of past nominees

Sponsor logo appears on the awards website once they have committed to supporting the awards

Sponsor logo appears on e-invitations sent to guests two weeks prior to the awards with link to sponsor's website

Official awards sponsor logo for their own marketing material/PR

CATEGORY SPONSORSHIP

ON THE DAY EXPOSURE

Branding

- ◆ Sponsor logo appears on onsite collateral in and around the awards ceremony
- ◆ Light boxes and/or banners
- ◆ Menus
- ◆ Looped on presentation screens during dinner
- ◆ On presentation screen during sponsored award

Client Entertainment

- ◆ (10) Ten seats for your team, including three course dinner and beverages for the duration of the evening

Category Presentation

- ◆ Sponsor representative invited to the stage by the MC to present the winner of their sponsored category with their trophy
- ◆ Photos will be taken for sponsor and the category winner on stage

POST-EVENT EXPOSURE

- ◆ Photo gallery on www.mea-finance.com the day after the awards featuring sponsor presenting sponsored award/awards
- ◆ Logos and name check in post-awards feature in MEA Finance Magazine
- ◆ Logo featured in awards video, displayed on the awards website until the following years' event is held
- ◆ Images from the night of sponsor presenting sponsored award for their own PR
- ◆ Logo featured on email shot to www.mea-finance.com select database congratulating winners

TOTAL COST: \$20,000

CATEGORY SPONSORSHIP

SILVER SPONSORSHIP

Silver Sponsors receive all of the benefits available to Category Sponsors plus:

Print Advertising

1 Full Page advertisement in MEA Finance Magazine print and digital edition

Extra Client Entertainment

- ◆ Additional 5 invites to the awards ceremony and gala evening, total of (15) fifteen seats

Enhanced Branding

- ◆ Logo placement ahead of Category Sponsors on print ads, email shots, website and onsite branding

TOTAL COST: \$30,000

GOLD SPONSORSHIP

Gold Sponsors receive all of the benefits available to Category and Silver Sponsors plus:

Print Advertising

Additional of 1 Full Page advertisement in MEA Finance Magazine print and digital edition, total 2 Full Pages

Extra Client Entertainment

- ◆ Additional five invites to the awards ceremony and gala evening, total of (20) twenty seats

Enhanced Branding

- ◆ Logo placement ahead of Category and Silver Sponsors on print ads, email shots, website and onsite branding

TOTAL COST: \$40,000

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

Platinum Sponsors receive all of the benefits available to Category, Silver and Gold Sponsors plus:

Print Advertising

Additional of 1 Full Page advertisement in MEA Finance Magazine print and digital edition, total 3 Full Pages

Extra Client Entertainment

- ◆ Additional five invites to the awards ceremony and gala evening, total of (25) twenty-five seats

Enhanced Branding

- ◆ Logo placement ahead of Category, Silver and Gold Sponsors on print ads, emailshots, website and onsite branding
- ◆ Exclusive logo placement on entrance branding
- ◆ Opportunity to play 30 second television commercial during awards intermission

Thought Leadership

- ◆ Position speaker as a key industry figure (3 minutes maximum, pre-approved speech)
- ◆ Platinum sponsor name check and thanks by the MC in the opening remarks

Profile Opportunity

- ◆ Full interview with chief executive of sponsor in one of the issue MEA Finance Magazine

TOTAL COSTS: \$50,000



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