

MEAFINANCE



Banking Technology

Summit & Awards 2025

8th May 2025

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Banking and Finance Technology: The Evolution Continues

The most impactful banking and finance technology forum featuring leading-edge debates and enlightening insights brought to you directly from the foremost leaders, innovators and ecosystem builders from across our region

Overview

Technology has helped create a new world of banking and finance that brings convenience, agility and accessibility, unimaginable only a few years ago

The banking services that we enjoy today are taken for granted, as they should be because it means they are working, and working well too. The reason they are working well is because of the fruitful and creative partnerships between technology businesses, banks and fintechs. However, it nevertheless behoves us to dwell on the genuinely profound achievements of those that have supplied us with such convenience, agility and accessibility.

We live in turbulent times, both politically and environmental. Yet, with this cloudy backdrop, the development of banking and financial technology continues, and it can reliably be shown that its innovations are easing some of the problems faced by many in their daily lives by enabling much wider financial inclusivity.

Technology will continue to play a leading role in the development and growth of banking and financial services. But what changes are yet to be wrought, and how will the sector, which has already seen so much rapid change over the past few years, further evolve?

MEA Finance Banking Technology Summit & Awards 2025 will again proudly gather regional leaders in Banking, Finance, Technology and Fintech to apply their unique knowledge and foresight in a series of lively and highly topical panel debates. The Summit discussions will focus upon the changes technology will bring, the trends that are leading them and the shape of the tasks ahead that will create the banks and financial services of the future.

Following the summit, we will present our 2025 Annual Banking Technology Awards, recognising the commendable achievements of banks and technology businesses for their delivery of smarter banking solutions and for their ability to drive real growth in an increasingly competitive regional market.

Up to 500 regional banking and technology leaders with a format that drew the entire spectrum of interested and engaged professionals including regulators, technology companies, start-ups, fintechs, innovators and other stakeholders from the value chains.



What to expect



500+

Regional Banking,
Finance, Fintech
and Technology
Leaders



35+

Thought Leaders
and Market
Experts



7

in-depth and
lively sessions on
technology in Banking
and Finance



6

Hours of Peer
Interaction
and
Networking



1

Awards
Winners
Presentation
Ceremony

- Up to 700 regional banking and technology leaders and an event format attracting the entire spectrum of interested professionals including regulators, technology companies, start-ups, fintechs, innovators and other stakeholders from the value chains
- Solid networking and engagement opportunities for your company with key decision makers to directly tell them about your company's solutions to today's most pressing industry issues
- Exposure to the regional banking fraternity with your brand visibility in the exhibition area during networking breaks and via participation in panel discussions and keynote presentations
- Opportunity to be recognised and acknowledged by the market as a bank, a technology business or fintech company at the forefront of digital transformation and AI at the MEA Finance Banking Technology Awards.

Be an event partner

We can offer a wide range of options for sponsors depending on their needs, level of engagement and branding you want to have the event.

Individual Event Packages

In addition to our existing packages, we can sit with you to develop a bespoke sponsorship package to provide high exposure and engagement before, during and after the event.

Who Should Attend

C-Suite

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Technology Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Chairman
- Chief Audit Executive
- Chief Commercial Officer
- Chief Economist and Head of Research
- Chief of Shared Services Officer
- Chief Risk Officer
- Managing Director
- MD – Head of Treasury, Capital Markets & FI

Department & Section Heads

- Partner – Financial Services
- Advisor – Investment Management
- Commercial Advisor
- Executive Director
- Head of Client Relations
- Head of Payments, Remittances & FX
- Head of Regulatory Advisory and Assurance
- Head of Transactional Banking
- Head Corporate Relations and Strategic Partnerships
- Head Digital Strategy and Change
- Head of E-Banking
- Head of Market Risk
- Head of AML & Sanctions
- Head of Bancassurance
- Head of CAD, Remedial & Collection
- Head of Central Operations
- Head of Change Management
- Head of Client Experience

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- Head of Disclosure and Issuance Department
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- Head of Enterprise Banking Platforms
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- Head of Finance
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- Head of Government Relations & PR
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- Head of Strategic Planning
- Head of Strategy – Technology
- Head of Transaction Banking
- Head Product Manager
- Manager Audit & Compliance
- Manager Operational Risk
- Payments & Contract Manager
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- Project Manager
- Regional Compliance Manager
- Regional Manager – Compliance & Risk Retention & Vigilance Manager
- Senior CRM Project Lead
- Senior CX Manager
- Senior Manager – Digital Transformation
- Senior Manager Treasury
- Information Security, Senior Strategic Advisor
- Senior Trade Officer, Strategy & PMO

- Assistant Vice President – Global Customer Relations
- Associate VP – Strategic Engagements
- AVP Agile Delivery – Retail Banking
- AVP Credit Risk and Portfolio Manager
- FS Strategy Manager
- SVP & Head of Compliance – Personal Banking Group
- SVP & Regional Head – Corporate & Commercial Banking
- Vice President, Compliance
- VP Risk and Change Management
- VP Wealth and Asset Management
- VP – Strategic Initiatives & Bancassurance

Conference

The **MEA Finance Banking Technology Summit** in 2024 brought together over 700 regional banking and technology leaders for a day of immersive and productive discussion on the latest developments, emergent trends and the most pressing issues facing the banking industry in the Middle East and Africa.

The one-day, highly exclusive gathering included 3 presentations and a range of panel discussions, featuring over 35 industry-leading experts and distinguished speakers who came to discuss the future of banking innovation and what it will mean for our region.



Panel 1: OPEN BANKING, SUPER APPS, HYPER-PERSONALISATION: Is technology making customers more demanding?

Conference



Panel 2: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: The writing is on the wall - likely put there by Generative AI?



Panel 5: CORPORATE BANKING & TECHNOLOGY



Panel 3: TECHNOLOGY AND PAYMENTS: Meeting the many and growing requirements of the market



Panel 6: PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRESS: How technology is forging new commercial relationships for banks?



Panel 4: THE SHAPE OF THE CLOUD IN BANKING AND FINANCE: Is the sky the limit for the cloud?



Panel 7: What of the Future - How will the next decade start for those working in the banking sector?

2025 Provisional Agenda

8:00 – 9:00	Registration and Networking
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome Note
9:15 – 9:30	Keynote Address
9:30 – 10:15	Panel 1
	<p>Beyond the edge – Can banks build lasting leads over competition in today’s technology environment?</p> <p>If asked, would bankers say their bank is only as good as others, or even not as good? In our technology-driven environment can a bank really get an edge over others, either wholly or in selected parts of their business spectrum? How can technology providers really ensure that they can offer market advantages to their banking clients? If so, what might provide that edge – smarter technology, service creativity, better product offerings? How do different banks define or measure the edge they want and can technology always deliver? What are the leading factors in banking technology today that might provide a bank with a clear lead in the market?</p>
10:15 – 10:25	Presentation
10:30 – 11:15	Panel 2
	<p>Artificial Intelligence – Where it is taking regional banking?</p> <p>“Hype” and “Buzz word” are often deployed in conversations about AI. So, now that another year has passed since discussing AI in Banking at this summit, what have been the results of the use of AI in banking across our region during this time? Has its adoption lived up to the promises made for it, and</p>

	<p>what further does it have to offer banks, financial institutions, their clients and consumers? Nobody doubts that it is here, in use and in an ongoing development era, so where can we expect it to take the sector and everyone that interacts with financial services?</p>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 11:55	Presentation
12:00 – 12:45	Panel 3
	<p>Technology and Payments – Pioneering ahead or settling comfortably?</p> <p>Payments have been and are an obviously important focus for technology businesses, fintechs and financial institutions, exemplified by the approaching November, ISO 20022 adoption deadline. What comes next for technology in payments, remittances and cross-border payments, and with such dedication to it from banks and technology vendors, how much more innovation and development room is there for regional payments? Will payments technology and methods hit peak evolution in the coming years, moving into more maintenance-centric or regulatory adherence roles, or could we still be amazed by as yet unimagined payments methods, requiring the skills and minds of technology companies?</p>
12:45 – 1:30	Panel 4
	<p>Developing Banking Technology – What is emerging and how is it getting to the markets?</p> <p>As banking continues its ongoing and significant technology driven transformations, excepting AI and ML, what are fastest developing technologies currently reshaping the sector in the region? Do they include, for</p>

2025 Provisional Agenda

	example, hyper-automation, composable applications, low-code development, biometric authentication – and so on. What are the latest innovations and what effects do regulators and governments and partnerships between banks and fintechs have in the development and implementation of banking technology?
1:30 – 2:30	Lunch
2:30 – 3:15	Panel 5
	Regulation, Compliance and Technology – Staying ahead of the curve
	Banks and financial institutions across our region have been, and still are experiencing growth across all industry sectors, with an accompanying development of regulations and obligations to remain secure for their clients and customers. How does technology help banks and financial institutions across our region stay up to speed and compliant with the increasingly more sophisticated regulatory requirements? How is Ai contributing to these ever more stringent needs and how are technology companies keeping pace with, and getting ahead of the bad-actors that also deploy sophisticated technology? How currently well equipped are banks and technology providers in implementing effective cybersecurity?
3:15 – 4:00	Panel 6
	Open Banking in the Middle East – How much more growth can we expect?
	Open banking is experiencing a growth wave in our region that is expected to increase in magnitude into the 2030's. To a large extent, this is inevitable as the market evolves but what are the main drivers of this growth – increasing consumer demand, government
	initiatives, developing regulatory frameworks ? If the potential for better and faster instant payments and financial inclusivity that open banking promises is real, will it positively affect underbanked communities and contribute to national or regional economies. If so, then how will banks and their partners meet the increasing need and demands for open banking.
4:00 – 4:30	Coffee Break
4:30 – 4:40	Presentation
4:45 – 5:30	Panel 7
	What of the Future – Halfway to halfway, what happens in Q2 of the 21st Century?
	In this, the final session of the day, the panel will mull over the debates and conclusions of the preceding debates, then speculate how the application and routine use of banking technology, and the growing ubiquity of AI will take shape as we move into the second quarter of the twenty-first century. What will technology be doing to change banking and financial services, how might clients and consumers relate to their banks and what might its effects be on the sector across the region in ten, twenty or twenty-five years from now?
5:35 Closing	Remarks
6:00 – 7:00	Awards Registration
7:00 – 8:00	Awards Ceremony

Previous Speakers included...



Adrien Sicoli
Chief Growth Officer
Dixio



Adam Woolford
Chief Technology Officer
Zand



Alaa Alrousan
Senior Account Director
Swift



Ali Nanji
Regional Director
Backbase



Ali Imran
Chief Operating Officer
Commercial Bank of Dubai



Anand Krishnan
Head of Technology
Emirates Investment Bank



Andrew McCormack
Chief Operating Officer
Al Etihad Payments



Ankur Saxena
Senior Director of Sales (South
Asia, UAE, Oman & CIS)
ACI Worldwide



Anna Zeitlin
Partner
Addleshaw Goddard



Anshu Sharma Raja
Chief Transformation Technology
Operations Officer
Standard Chartered



Arjun Singh
Partner, Global Financial
Services Practice
Arthur D. Little



Arun Mehta
Head of Data Analytics & Artificial
Intelligence
First Abu Dhabi Bank



Bilal Baig
Technical Director
Trend Micro



Bindesh Pandey
Vice President - Digital Financial
Solutions
Comviva Technologies



Bryan Stirewalt
Financial Services Regulatory
Leader
Ernst & Young



Cem Soydemir
Head of Payments GTM, MEA &
India Sub-continent
Swift



Christoph Koster
Chief Executive Officer
ruya



Dongjun DJ Choi
Chief Customer Officer
RAKBANK



Dr. Devid Jegerson
Chief Operating Officer
Invest Bank



Ellis Wang
Board of The Executive &
Advisory Team
Sheikh Maktoum Private Office



Finali Fernando
Managing Director, Regional Head
of Products, CCO and Business
Management
HSBC



Jamal Saleh
Director General
UAE Banks Federation



Gabrielle Inzirillo
Head of Ecosystem
Development
ADGM



Gautam Dutta
Global Head of Cash Product
Management & Innovation
First Abu Dhabi Bank

Previous Speakers included...



George Hojeige
Chief Executive Officer
Virtugroup



Giovanni Everduin
Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer
Commercial Bank International



Giulia Finkbeiner-Bertoni
Senior Executive Officer
Sygnum Bank



Gurpreet Saluja
Executive Director, Financial
Institutions
JP Morgan Payments



Glen Fernandes
Managing Director, Global
Client Management
BNY Mellon



Gyan Srivastava
Chief Digital Officer
Mashreq



Harry Gill
Chairman
Pay10



Helmi Abdullah
Chief Wholesale Banking Officer
Invest Bank



Hisham Hammoud
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Aafaq Islamic Finance



Irfan Bhatti
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Banque Saudi Fransi



Jagadeshwaran K
Managing Director - Treasury &
Trade Solutions, MENA
Citi



Jamal Alnassai
Group Chief Operating Officer
& Country Head - UAE
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Jamal Alawadhi
Chief Operations and Customer
Experience Officer
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Mahendra Dhillon
Chief Technology Officer
National Bank of Fujairah



Mahmoud Abu Ebeid
CEO & Co-Founder
GSS Group



Mamoun Al Homssey
Chief Technology Officer
Ajman Bank



Maria Parpou
EVP, Mastercard Gateway
Mastercard



Martin Blechta
Partner
Boston Consulting Group



**Mohamed Salah Abdel Hamid
Abdel Razeq**
Senior Executive Vice President, Group
Head of Technology, Transformation
& Information
Mashreq



Mohammed Wassim Khayata
Chief Executive Officer
Al Maryah Community Bank



Mostafa Zafer
Vice President, IBM Data, AI and
Automation
IBM



Pawel Michalski
Partner
Boston Consulting Group

Previous Speakers included...



Rajesh Nagpal
Director Sales - Cross Sector
GBM



Rajsekhar Kar
Head of Solutions Architects,
Middle East and Africa
Swift



Ramkumar Balasubramaniam
Chief Financial Officer, Middle East
and Africa
Barclays



Reda Oummouy
Chief Operating Officer
Adria Business & Technology



Ronit Ghose
Head of Future of Finance
Citi



Salah Suleiman
Country Manager - UAE
Trend Micro



Sandeep Shrivastava
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Sara Hoteit
Regional Sales Manager
Backbase



Sasi Nair
Head of Technology Service
Delivery
Commercial Bank of Dubai



Saud Al Dhawyani
Chief Platforms Officer
Emirates NBD



Somu Roy
Managing Director for
Outsourced Payment Services
Network International



Srinivasan Sampath
Group Chief Information Officer
First Abu Dhabi Bank



Dr. Tariq Al Hawi
Chief Technology Officer
AI Etihad Payments



Tristan Brandt
EVP - Head of Digital
Transformation & EPMO
RAKBANK



Vibhor Mundhada
Chief Executive Officer, Neopay
Mashreq



Zul Javaid
Chief Executive Officer
Haifin

About the Awards

Conceived and based in our exciting, dynamic and promising region, *MEA Finance* was established with the goal of serving the regional banking and financial services sector. We are committed to providing dedicated news, insightful interviews, the highest-level events and thought leadership from the region's financial service providers and banking technology leaders. MEA Finance is best placed to cover the full range of the banking and financial sectors, from retail to investment banking; wealth management to Islamic finance, and the fast-developing technology that powers the industry today. As part of our integral role in the region's banking sector, we benchmark, recognise and actively encourage excellence within institutions.

MEA Finance Banking Technology Awards 2025 will give due recognition and celebrate the achievements of the region's leading banks, financial institutions and technology providers at the forefront of digital transformation who have worked together to build smarter, more effective and efficient systems for the new age banking customers and clients.

KEY DATES

Open for Entries: **January 1 2025**

Submission Deadline: **April 17 2025**

Judging Process: **April 21 2025**

Awards Ceremony: **May 8 2025**

Celebrate the successes in banking technology with us!

Submission Process

MEA Finance conducts its own research to ensure that our awards categories accurately reflect the current banking landscape and comprehensively recognise the achievements of the industry.

As a result, we have determined award categories that provide regional recognition to exceptional banks, financial institutions and technology providers who are shaping the new digital financial landscape and have made outstanding contributions to the future of the industry. Institutions can nominate themselves in all relevant categories as deemed appropriate, provided the submission is sent in before the deadline, and in the required format.

How to enter?



Step 1: Choose your category.

It is important to review the individual descriptions and criteria before choosing your category.



Step 2: Upload relevant financial performance documents or other relevant information.



Step 3: Confirm submission of your entry.

*Submission deadline:

Judging Process

The awards will feature a rigorous two-step judging process 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 will be 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. The editorial team will hold an official tabulation of the scores to determine the highest scoring institution per category which will be declared winner.

Awards Photos



Award Categories

Financial Institutions

1	Digital Banking Innovation of the Year
2	Best Digital Innovation in Islamic Banking of the Year
3	Best Neobank
4	Best Cybersecurity and Risk Management Implementation
5	Best Core Banking Technology Implementation
6	Best Islamic Banking System Implementation
7	Best Data Management
8	Best Analytics System
9	Best Mobile Banking Services
10	Most Innovative Emerging Technology Implementation
11	Best Cloud Implementation
12	Best Hybrid Cloud Implementation
13	Best Innovation in User Experience
14	Best Innovation in Retail Banking
15	Best Innovation in Corporate Banking and Finance
16	Best Innovation in Investment Banking
17	Best Innovation in Trade Finance
18	Best Regulation Technology Solution
19	Most Innovative Trading Platform
20	Best AML/KYC Solution
21	Best FinTech Solutions Implementation
22	Best Islamic Fintech Solutions Implementation
23	Best AI Technology Implementation
24	Best Open Banking &API Implementation
25	Best Branch Digitisation Implementation
26	Best Corporate Payment Service
27	Best Risk &Compliance Implementation
28	Best Debt Collection System Implementation
29	Best Retail Payment Implementation

30	Best Treasury Management Implementation
31	Technology Leadership Award
32	Financial Services Technology Executive Award
33	Digital Transformation Leader of the Year

Technology Providers

1	Digital Banking Provider of the Year
2	Islamic Digital Banking Provider of the Year
3	Best Cybersecurity Provider
4	Best Core Banking Solutions Provider
5	Best Corporate Banking Solutions Provider
6	Best User Experience Solution Provider
7	Best Data Management Solution Provider
8	Best Risk Management Solutions Provider
9	Best Mobile Banking Services Provider
10	Best Analytics Solution Provider
11	Most Innovative Cloud Services Provider
12	Best Retail Payment Provider
13	Best Collection Solution Provider
14	Best Trading Infrastructure Provider
15	Best AML/KYC Solution Provider
16	Best Testing, Consulting & Managed Services Provider
17	Best Payee Verification Solution Provider
18	Best Open Banking &API Solutions Provider
19	Most Innovative Payment Solutions Provider
20	Best Integrated Payments Systems Provider
21	Best Wealth and Investment Technology Provider
22	Best Corporate Taxation Technology Initiative in the UAE
23	Best Digital Transformation Consultancy Firm
24	Tech CEO of the Year

Sponsorship Benefits



Sponsorship Options

Benefits	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Lunch	Lanyard	Badge	Exhibitor
Exclusive to one company only	●			●	●	●	
Opportunity to provide Welcome Note	●						
Interview of Senior Representative	●	●	●				
Access to All Sessions	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Standalone Presentation	●	●					
Panel Member in Discussions	●	●	●	●			
Exhibition Booth Space (3x2 SQM)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Advert in Event Booklet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Logo on Website with Hyperlink	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Logo on all Marketing Collateral	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Branding on Post Event Report	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cost (USD)	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	15,000

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