

# LEADERS IN PAYMENTS

CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2025

## The New World Payments Takes Shape

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Payments are vital to a financial institution's success. As the leading encounters for financial institutions between the daily lives of their diverse consumer sets, payments carry much of the weight of responsibility for their brand's image, and how they are processed, from start to settlement, is central to the bank/customer relationship. As such,

This year, 2025 will be a landmark year in payments, with the November deadline for the implementation of ISO20022. Our region seems to be largely on track to meet this important obligation, but how does the rest of the world fare, and what might be the effect of laggards in other parts of the world on payments action in the Middle East?

Our region also now leads globally in the realm of instant payments. Why is this? What factors has made our region such a breeding ground for payments advancement and innovation?

With the on/off and up/down of tariffs proclamations shaking up the world of trade and supply chains, how will the functioning of cross-border payments be affected, or change. Could it be that we are shielded by the worst affects of uncertainty in payments by the technology that has developed in recent years and the agility it has provided?

As before, the **2025 MEA Finance, Leaders in Payments Summit** will debate the challenges, review the progress and address the very real opportunities for the financial institutions and payments providers of our region today.



# Overview

Payments development and activity across our region has remained enthusiastically energetic in and is set to remain so for some time to come. Technology and AI, regulators and governments, multilateral cooperation, standardisation and competition, fintechs and non-financial institutions, global circumstances and consumer demand all, individually and collectively keep pushing the rate at which payments are changing and improving.

Payments are becoming more than only agile, intuitive and convenient, but also, as these features become more embedded, they can now have real positive influences for economies and societies as efficiencies aid productivity and foster greater inclusion.

As more generations of clients and diverse consumer groups become increasingly familiar with new payment choices, the beneficial conveniences and more flexible options that now exist promise to bring a period of growth and inclusion that will drive regional economies.

Our region remains largely resilient to the numerous challenges currently facing the world, with many economies coping better with the stresses of quickly shifting circumstances that many of their international counterparts are slowed by. This has relaxed the brakes on the wheels speeding along the payments rails and helped the region take a lead in the development of real-time payments.

Likewise, the region's banking and finance sectors maintain consistently positive performance, helping to boost them purposefully toward their strategic goals.

Once again, the MEA Finance Payments Summit, 2025, will gather regional leaders in Banking and Finance, Technology and Fintechs, Regulators and Multilateral Organisations in a series of lively and highly topical panel debates. The Summit discussions will focus upon the current evolution of payments in the region, the changes technology and AI are bringing bring, their benefits to societies, the challenges to be faced, the trends that are leading them and the shape of the tasks ahead needed to maintain effective, efficient and progressive payments systems

More than 400 regional banking and technology leaders engaged to hear the latest from the entire spectrum of interested professionals including regulators, technology companies, start-ups, fintechs, innovators and other stakeholders from along the value chain.





# What to expect >



**400+**

Regional Banking, Finance, Fintech and Technology Leaders, Standardisation Organisations, Regulators, Financial Trade Associations



**30+**

Thought Leaders, Innovators and Market Makers & Experts



**6**

in-depth and lively sessions on the future and state of Payments in the region



A full day of Peer Interaction and Networking



**1**

Awards Winners Presentation Ceremony

- ▶ More than 400 regional banking, payments and technology leaders with a format attracting the entire spectrum of interested professionals including regulators, technology companies, start-ups, fintechs, central banks, innovators and other stakeholders from the value chains.
- ▶ Solid engagement opportunities for your company with decision makers, to directly detail your company's solutions to today's most pressing payments related issues.
- ▶ Exposure to the regional banking communities with your brand visibility in the networking and exhibition area during breaks and through participation in panel discussions and keynote presentations.
- ▶ Opportunities to be recognised and celebrated as a bank or technology business at the forefront of payments transformation and progress at the MEA Finance Banking Technology Awards

## Be an event partner >

We can offer a wide range of options for sponsors depending on your needs, level of engagement and the branding presence and impact you want to achieve during the event.

## Individual Event Packages >

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

# Who Should Attend >

## C-Suite

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Technology Officer
- Chief Information 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 & Foreign Exchange
- Head of Regulatory Advisory and Assurance
- Head of Transaction Banking
- Head Corporate Relations and Strategic Partnerships
- Head Digital Strategy and Change
- Head of Corporate Communications
- 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

- Head of Compliance
- Head of CRM
- Head of Disclosure and Issuance Department
- Head of Enterprise Architecture
- Head of Enterprise Banking Platforms
- Head of External Communications
- Head of Finance
- Head of Financial Institutions
- Head of Government Relations & PR
- Head of Information Security
- Head of Investment Solutions
- Head of Issuance
- Head of Prepaid Cards
- Head of Regulatory Compliance
- Head of Retail Banking
- Head of Risk Specialist
- Head of Strategic Planning
- Head of Strategy – Technology
- Head of Transaction Banking
- Head Product Manager
- Manager Audit & Compliance
- Manager Operational Risk
- Payments & Contract Manager
- Portfolio Specialist - Insights & Strategy
- 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

- 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



# MEA Finance Conference

MEA Finance Conferences are known for bringing together over 500 regional banking, investment and technology leaders for a day of immersive discussion on the latest developments and most pressing issues being faced across the sectors of the banking industry across our region.

These one-day, exclusive gathering provide intense and fruitful networking opportunities and include audience presentations and panel discussions, with an array of the region's industry-leading experts, innovators and distinguished speakers who meet to discuss the future of banking and innovation in finance.





# 2025 Provisional Agenda >

**Challenging Times** – Thanks to technology and collective will, payments are more fluid, quicker, smarter and diverse, providing greater convenience, fast settlement, wider access and inclusivity. This is largely considered a good thing. But it also means that the challenges faced by the payments sector have also become more diverse. Whether challenges be from mandated deadlines, fraud prevention, financial crime, marketplace competition and the accompanying requirements of regulators or their ability to keep pace with developments, how will the challenges of modern payments be satisfactorily met?

**Teamwork Tested** – Payment Gateways and APIs –different technologies working together to bring satisfactory payments results. How will payment gateways and APIs to develop? As AI plays a greater role, consumers expect more seamless omnichannel payments and hyper-personalised experiences, biometric authentication increases as security enhancement is demanded, crypto currencies become integrated and regulatory compliance gains emphasis, how will the relationship between payment gateways and APIs develop? What effect will these developments have on the already intense competition in the worlds of payment gateways and APIs?

**Dealing with Deadlines** – ISO 20022 comes of age this November when it not only reaches its implementation deadline, but also its 21st year since launch in 2004. In

2020, and with its own 2027 deadline, the G20's Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-Border Payments was mandated, aimed at growing economies and living standards via cheaper, faster, more inclusive and transparent cross border payments. Will they meet their stated aims and ideals? When envisaged, was today's technology and AI factored in, and does it really make any difference when it comes to meeting deadlines when so much of what creates delay is people? Can and will these deadlines be met?

**Cross Border Payments & Remittances** – Away from supranational mandates and deadlines, what more can be done to enhance cross border payments, be them small scale remittances or large corporate payments? How is the vitally important remittances business in the region developing? Technology and AI has a key part in this but can it evolve to accommodate frequently shifting human instigated circumstances? Cross border transactions could account for almost one -third of global ecommerce spending by the late 2020's so will the need for standardisation or unification of APIs increase? Is there a need or space for more multinational payments systems such as Buna and Afaq across the region and Africa?

**Technology and AI** – Future in the Present – Technology and AI are effectively the anatomy of payments – bringing new services, agility, convenience and reducing human error, impeding financial crime, providing data

derived efficiencies and accurate digital transactions. What roles can we expect Agentic AI to play across the payments spectrum? As an example, can Payments as a Service allow banks to more easily and economically modernise their legacy systems? What vulnerabilities might reliance on technology bring and what more can they bring to the payments world that we do not already have?

**Real Time Leaders** – Our region is the quickest developing real-time digital payments markets in the world. Why? What are the factors lying behind this achievement – willing and enterprising technology businesses and financial institutions, a tech-native demographic based demand-side, government initiatives, the wide use of smartphones or the prevalence of e-commerce? What are the possible outcomes for the region of this leadership in adaptation? As a consequence, could our region's leading position come to shape the global payments landscape?



# Sponsorship Benefits >





# Sponsorship Options

| Benefits                            | Platinum | Gold   | Silver | Lunch  | Speakers Lounge | Lanyard | Badge  | Raffle Draw | Exhibitor |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| Exclusive to one company only       | ●        |        |        | ●      | ●               | ●       | ●      | ●           |           |
| Opportunity to provide Welcome Note | ●        |        |        |        |                 |         |        |             |           |
| Access to All Sessions              | ●        | ●      | ●      | ●      | ●               | ●       | ●      | ●           | ●         |
| Standalone Presentation             | ●        | ●      |        |        |                 |         |        |             |           |
| Panel Member in Discussions         | ●        | ●      | ●      | ●      | ●               |         |        |             |           |
| Exhibition Booth Space (2x2 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 | 25,000 | 25,000          | 20,000  | 20,000 | 20,000      | 15,000    |





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