Trade Finance Conference 2026

CONCEPTUALISE BY

An exclusive one-day industry gathering designed to bring together senior decision-makers from the worlds of commodity trading, trade finance, and global supply chains.

Connecting senior decision-makers from banking, corporate treasury, export finance, insurance, fintech, regulation, and trade infrastructure for a high-level day of dialogue on the future of cross-border commerce.

18 November 2026 | Mövenpick Grand Al Bustan Dubai

Voices Shaping the Future of Trade Finance

Real-World Insights. Transformational Ideas.

> **"Trade finance is the bridge between ambition and execution in global commerce–unlocking liquidity, enabling trust, and keeping trade moving across borders."**

Key insights and presentations from world-class leaders across trade finance, transaction banking, commodity trade, supply chain finance, digital trade, and global commerce.

The **Trade Finance Conference 2026** is a premier platform for leaders shaping the future of trade, finance, payments, liquidity, and cross-border commerce across the UAE and the wider region. This exclusive one-day strategic conference will convene 30+ distinguished speakers and 200 senior delegates, including chief executives, heads of trade finance, transaction banking leaders, corporate treasurers, heads of supply chain finance, export finance specialists, fintech founders, chief product officers, policy leaders, regulators, and senior practitioners from across banking, insurance, fintech, and financial services. Positioned at the intersection of market strategy and practical execution, the event is designed to foster high-level dialogue, meaningful exchange, and industry-facing insight among the stakeholders actively driving transformation across the trade finance ecosystem.

A Platform Built for Industry Transformation

Designed as a one-of-a-kind forum, the conference addresses the strategic, regulatory, operational, and technological priorities reshaping trade finance in the UAE and beyond. The programme is built to surface the most urgent issues facing the market, from export competitiveness and working capital resilience to digital trade infrastructure, interoperability, regulatory modernisation, and liquidity access. By bringing together senior stakeholders from across the value chain, the event creates a platform for informed debate, practical perspective, and forward-looking collaboration

Why Speak at the Trade Finance Conference 2026

- **Showcase Your Thought Leadership** - Position your expertise at the centre of one of the region's most relevant conversations on trade finance transformation, innovation, and market development.
- **Engage Directly with Your Peers** - Join senior leaders, decision-makers, and practitioners in a high-level setting designed for meaningful exchange and strategic dialogue.
- **Share Your Expertise** - Contribute real-world insight, market perspective, and practical experience that can help shape how the industry responds to emerging challenges and opportunities.
- **Reinforce Your Industry Stature** - Strengthen your visibility among influential stakeholders across banking, fintech, insurance, regulation, and trade-related services.

Conference Themes

The programme is designed to address the most pressing priorities shaping trade finance, transaction banking, and cross-border commerce. Themes include trade resilience, export growth, regulatory alignment, digital trade, interoperability, liquidity, working capital, supply chain finance, off-balance sheet solutions, MSME enablement, and the UAE's evolving role as a hub for innovation and international trade connectivity.

Conference Delivery Format

The conference features a dynamic and engaging format designed to maximise impact and encourage high-level exchange across the day:

- **Plenary Sessions -** High-level keynote presentations delivering strategic insight, market context, and future-facing perspectives.
- **Panel Discussions -** Interactive dialogue among industry leaders, enabling diverse viewpoints, practical takeaways, and informed debate on the issues shaping the sector.

This balanced approach ensures a powerful combination of thought leadership and real-world application, making each session relevant, commercially meaningful, and actionable for both speakers and delegates.

Organised by TAB group

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- TGH – World Meets Media
- HREAP – Human Resource Educators Association of the Philippines
- HR Tech Outlook – Technology Solutions That Drive HR Departments
- PHRI™ – Philippine HR Institute
- Wast Asia Watch
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- PaySpace Magazine

Day one | **Wednesday 18 November 2026**

08:00 - 09:00 | Registration, Morning Coffee

09:00 - 09:15 | Welcome Address and Opening Remarks
Opening comments from the host, overview of the day, and introduction to the major themes shaping trade finance in 2026.

09:15 - 09:45 | Opening Keynote: Trade Finance in a Fragmented Global Economy
An executive-level view of the 2026 trade landscape, including geopolitical uncertainty, tariff shifts, regional trade corridors, liquidity pressures, and the implications for banks and corporates.

09:45 - 10:30 | Panel Discussion 1: Ringfencing Trade and Seeking Opportunities: Regional Exports in a Shifting Landscape
In an environment defined by geopolitical tension, policy uncertainty, and financial volatility, the UAE continues to demonstrate resilience as one of the region's most dynamic trade economies. Yet the emergence of new trade flashpoints, tariff risks, and more fragmented supply chains reinforces the need for strategic agility. This opening panel will examine how banks, corporates, and policymakers in the UAE can respond to external disruption, protect trade flows, and position the country to capture new export and supply chain opportunities.

- The prospect of new trade tariffs, their impact on global trade linkages, and where the UAE may be able to capture export and supply chain opportunities.
- How UAE firms can prepare for continued inflationary pressure, currency volatility, and rising trade-related costs.
- An outlook on US-Iran geopolitical tensions and how UAE businesses can navigate volatility in shipment flows, market access, and growing liquidity needs.
- What shifting blocs of trade, economic, and political influence mean for the UAE, and how regional stakeholders can adapt to a changing external environment.
- How the "We the UAE 2031" vision can support national trade and export ambitions through stronger positioning along strategic trade corridors.

10:30 - 11:00 | Coffee Break and Networking

11:00 - 11:45 | Expert Session: Digital Trade, Interoperability, and Straight-Through Processing
A practical discussion on e-documentation, platform connectivity, workflow automation, and how institutions can move from fragmented pilots to scalable digital trade operations.

11:45 - 12:30 | Panel Discussion 2: Keeping Up with the Regulators: Bank Priorities for Delivering Trade Innovation
As the UAE accelerates the evolution of its trade finance ecosystem, regulators and market participants are working in parallel to support new payment models, digital trade processes, and more connected financing infrastructure. From cross-border settlement reform to platform-led supply chain finance, the momentum is clear, but so too are the challenges around interoperability, implementation, and regulatory coordination. This panel will explore how banks and regulators can work together to modernise the system, reduce friction, and create the conditions for sustained innovation.

- Cross-border payments: a stocktake of AED trade settlement schemes and emerging priorities for expanding bank mechanisms, strengthening bilateral arrangements with foreign banks, and widening local-currency coverage for UAE trade.
- A financial institution wish list for regulatory change, innovation enablement, alignment, and compliance harmonisation.
- What is required from regulators and banks to improve digital payment interoperability and create a more streamlined payment ecosystem across the UAE.
- The liquidity landscape for corporates in the UAE, and how UAE banks, the Dubai International Financial Centre, and federal regulators may further develop institution-led electronic supply chain finance platforms.

12:30 - 13:30 | Networking Lunch

13:30 - 14:15 | Panel Discussion 3: Five Years to "We the UAE 2031" Vision
With the national objective of reaching AED 800 billion in non-oil merchandise exports by 2031, the next five years will be decisive for the UAE's exporters, financiers, and policymakers. While services continue to show strong momentum, expanding merchandise trade at scale will require stronger access to finance, greater market connectivity, and more targeted support for MSMEs. This plenary panel will consider the priorities, partnerships, and practical interventions required to strengthen export competitiveness and help deliver on the UAE's long-term trade ambitions.

- Rising cost pressures for UAE exporters and the liquidity solutions lenders can provide to support working capital needs and payment-cycle volatility.
- The role of documentary finance in the UAE and how access barriers can be reduced through simpler creditworthiness requirements and lower compliance costs.
- What the next five years may bring for trade market access, including bilateral agreements, deeper trade corridors, lower trade costs, and higher merchandise volumes.
- How exporters can take advantage of the UAE's shifting competitiveness in regional and global markets.
- Priorities for improving financial literacy among UAE MSMEs, including stronger support on credit access, technical capability, and trade and business skills.

14:15 - 15:00 | Panel Discussion 4: Growing the UAE's Factoring Ecosystem and the Use of Off-Balance Sheet Solutions

Traditional trade finance instruments remain central to the UAE market, but demand is growing for more flexible and accessible working capital solutions, particularly for MSMEs and trade-oriented businesses. As policymakers, banks, and alternative providers continue to expand digital and off-balance sheet financing models, the development of a deeper domestic factoring market has become an increasingly important priority. This panel will examine how the UAE can widen product availability, strengthen market confidence, and build a more inclusive funding landscape for exporters and smaller firms.

- Current limitations in the UAE factoring market and what is needed to accelerate growth, including stronger credit appraisal systems, greater regulatory certainty, and new incentives to support domestic factors.
- Recent developments linked to the Dubai International Financial Centre and the emerging opportunities to widen participation from global factors, foreign banks, and non-bank financiers in the UAE market.
- The role policymakers, banks, and non-bank financiers can play in improving MSME awareness and adoption of invoice finance solutions such as factoring and receivables finance.
- How policy and market initiatives can expand onboarding to digital finance solutions, accelerate payment cycles for MSMEs, and build on the momentum created by platforms such as smart supply chain finance and digital invoice marketplaces.

15:00 - 15:30 | Afternoon Refreshment Break

15:30 - 16:15 | Panel Discussion 5: Trade Disruption and Emerging Solutions for Cashflow and Inventory Optimisation

Although the UAE market remains comparatively resilient, global trade disruption continues to place pressure on liquidity, inventory planning, and payment cycles for producers and exporters. Shipping delays, freight volatility, insurance costs, and shifting supply conditions are all reshaping how firms manage working capital risk. This panel will explore the strategies, tools, and financing approaches that UAE businesses are adopting to strengthen cashflow resilience, improve inventory efficiency, and respond more effectively to an increasingly unpredictable trading environment.

- Trade route disruption and the outlook for managing increased liquidity pressures, including higher freight and vessel rates, insurance costs, borrowing premiums, and volatility in commodity supply and pricing.
- Cashflow priorities and the optimisation of tools such as post-shipment credit, dynamic discounting, and overseas invoice financing to stabilise payment cycles and reduce working capital risk.
- Priorities for stronger inventory management, including diversifying freight and supplier contracts, making greater use of warehouse financing, and localising supply chains where practical to reduce logistical disruption.

16:15 - 17:00 | Panel Discussion 6: Finance Interoperability in the UAE: A Blueprint for Infrastructure Modernisation

The UAE's next phase of trade digitisation will depend not only on innovation, but on the strength and interoperability of the infrastructure that supports banking, payments, and trade execution. As shared utilities, open frameworks, and API-led connectivity gain momentum, collaboration across the ecosystem is becoming essential to reducing fragmentation and enabling scale. This panel will consider how banks, fintechs, regulators, and corporates can work together to modernise infrastructure, improve interoperability, and accelerate the adoption of practical digital trade solutions.

- Strategies for addressing industry fragmentation, including stronger cross-industry partnerships spanning banks, fintechs, corporates, and infrastructure providers, alongside wider product and regulatory standardisation.
- How current national initiatives can help create shared-utility infrastructure in the UAE, including lower-barrier access to data and transaction rails, and better support for investment in emerging technologies such as blockchain.
- With standardised APIs creating new potential for digital letters of credit and interoperable trade transactions, how banks across the UAE can accelerate adoption and simplify multi-bank interactions.
- Domestic and international frameworks for trade document digitisation, and the steps regional banks and trade practitioners can take to move from discussion to practical usage.

17:00 - 17:30 | Panel Discussion 7: Future-Proofing DIFC as a Hub for Global Activity and Liquidity Expansion

As the Dubai International Financial Centre continues to strengthen its position within the global financial landscape, its role in shaping the UAE's next phase of trade finance innovation is becoming even more significant. With expansion under way across digital finance, innovation infrastructure, and capital connectivity, DIFC is well placed to support deeper liquidity, stronger international participation, and the development of next-generation trade finance solutions. This panel will explore how stakeholders can reinforce DIFC's long-term competitiveness, future-proof its growth model, and widen its contribution to the UAE's trade and financing ecosystem.

- What measures DIFC can take to future-proof the hub for innovation development and accelerate participation from both domestic and international trade financiers.
- The importance of flexible regulation in unlocking DIFC's potential for product innovation, including currency trade, cross-border payments, trade credit insurance, and emerging AI-enabled solutions.
- Opportunities to connect global capital with the UAE's digital credit marketplaces and expand liquidity for MSME-focused solutions such as receivables finance, factoring, and supply chain finance.
- How DIFC can overcome barriers to expansion and international competitiveness, including talent development, compatibility with global financial and currency networks, and continued ease-of-business advantages.

17:30 | Closing remarks and end of the event

Across the day, delegates will gain practical insight into the strategic, regulatory, and operational forces shaping trade finance in the UAE and beyond. The programme is designed to support senior-level discussion, partnership building, and actionable thinking on how institutions can strengthen resilience, unlock innovation, and capture growth in a rapidly evolving trade environment.

What is the Trade Finance Conference 2026?

The **Trade Finance Conference 2026** is a senior-level forum designed to bring together the institutions, decision-makers, and market specialists shaping the future of trade across the UAE and the wider Middle East region. Positioned in Dubai — one of the world's leading trade and logistics hubs — the conference will provide a strategic platform for dialogue on the evolving landscape of international trade, trade finance, and supply chain connectivity.

As the UAE continues to strengthen its position as a global gateway for commerce between Asia, Africa, Europe, and the GCC, the conference will explore the key trends driving regional and international trade flows, including digital transformation, regulatory developments, sustainable finance, liquidity management, export growth, and supply chain resilience.

The event will convene senior leaders from banks, financial institutions, corporates, export credit agencies, fintech companies, regulators, logistics providers, insurers, and trade service organisations to exchange practical insights, market intelligence, and forward-looking strategies.

With a programme tailored to the priorities of the UAE's dynamic trade ecosystem, the conference will serve as a focused meeting point for industry collaboration, relationship building, and business development — supporting the nation's vision of becoming a leading global centre for trade, finance, and innovation.

WHY YOU CAN'T MISS Trade Finance Conference 2026

This premier conference places participants at the forefront of trade finance transformation in the UAE and the wider region. Designed for senior decision-makers and market leaders, it offers a unique opportunity to examine the forces reshaping cross-border commerce, from regulation and infrastructure modernisation to liquidity, digital trade, interoperability, and export growth. Participants will gain invaluable insight by learning directly from distinguished practitioners, product leaders, decision-making teams, regulatory authorities, and technology innovators who are actively driving change across the trade and financial ecosystem. More than a conference, it is a high-level platform for gaining practical market intelligence, benchmarking strategies, identifying partnership opportunities, and understanding how institutions can position themselves for resilience, competitiveness, and long-term growth.

Key Focus Areas

- Understanding the strategic forces reshaping trade finance across the UAE, GCC markets, and the wider global trading ecosystem, including geopolitical shifts, evolving trade corridors, and changing supply chain dynamics.
- Exploring regulatory priorities, compliance frameworks, and the ongoing modernisation of trade, payment, and financing infrastructure within the UAE's rapidly evolving financial landscape.
- Examining practical approaches to liquidity management, working capital optimisation, cashflow resilience, and supply chain efficiency in an increasingly competitive and uncertain market environment.
- Assessing how the UAE can further strengthen export competitiveness, expand regional and international trade corridors, and support the growth and financing accessibility of MSMEs and emerging enterprises.
- Identifying the next wave of innovation across digital trade ecosystems, interoperability, blockchain-enabled trade platforms, factoring, supply chain finance, embedded finance, and off-balance sheet financing solutions.
- Evaluating the role of technology, automation, artificial intelligence, and data-driven decision-making in enhancing transparency, reducing risk, and improving operational efficiency across trade finance operations.
- Discussing sustainability, ESG integration, and green trade finance initiatives supporting the UAE's long-term economic diversification and sustainable development objectives.
- Connecting with senior banking leaders, corporates, policymakers, fintech innovators, insurers, export agencies, and market practitioners who are shaping the future of trade and trade finance across the region.

Who Should Attend

This conference is designed for senior professionals, industry leaders, and key decision-makers involved in trade finance, transaction banking, corporate treasury, export development, trade policy, digital finance, logistics, and cross-border commerce. It is particularly relevant for stakeholders driving trade strategy, managing liquidity and working capital priorities, developing trade and payment solutions, navigating regulatory transformation, and building the infrastructure that supports more efficient, secure, and resilient trade flows across the UAE, GCC, and international markets.

The conference will bring together leaders and practitioners from banks, financial institutions, corporates, government entities, fintechs, logistics providers, insurers, and trade ecosystem partners seeking practical insights, strategic collaboration, and new business opportunities within the evolving trade finance landscape.

Key Attendees Include:

- Trade finance, transaction banking, and correspondent banking leaders
- Corporate treasury, finance, and working capital executives
- Exporters, importers, commodity traders, and supply chain decision-makers
- Fintech founders, product specialists, and digital innovation leaders
- Regulators, policymakers, chambers of commerce, and trade development institutions
- Insurers, ECAs, non-bank financiers, and working capital solution providers
- Professionals focused on payments, interoperability, digital trade, and trade infrastructure modernisation
- Supply chain finance, factoring, receivables finance, and open account trade specialists
- Logistics, shipping, customs, and trade facilitation professionals
- Technology providers supporting trade automation, compliance, KYC, AML, and risk management solutions
- Consultants, legal advisors, and advisory firms specialising in trade and cross-border finance operations

Benefits of Attending the Event

- **Gain Strategic Insights** - Learn about the latest forces reshaping trade finance, from geopolitical disruption and export competitiveness to regulatory modernisation, liquidity, and digital transformation.
- **Enhance Decision-Making** - Strengthen your understanding of the policy, market, and operational developments influencing trade strategy, financing priorities, and risk management across the UAE and the wider region.
- **Leverage Innovation & Technology** - Explore how digital trade solutions, interoperability, supply chain finance platforms, API-led infrastructure, and next-generation financing tools are changing the future of cross-border commerce.
- **Engage with Industry Leaders** - Connect with senior decision-makers, regulators, market experts, innovators, and practitioners from across the region and beyond.
- **Practical, Real-World Learning** - Benefit from hands-on insight, market experience, and actionable approaches that can be applied across trade finance, working capital, payments, and trade operations.
- **Expand Your Network** - Build valuable relationships with peers, advisors, institutions, and technology partners shaping the next phase of trade and finance development.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation
TAB Group, as the conference organiser, extends its sincere appreciation to the diverse community of solution providers, media partners, industry stakeholders, end-users, and participants whose expertise, engagement, and collaborative contributions have been instrumental in shaping the Trade Finance Conference 2026 as a high-level platform for dialogue, innovation, and market development across the UAE trade finance ecosystem.

We also extend special recognition to our distinguished speakers and advisory board members, whose deep industry knowledge, strategic guidance, and thought leadership have been fundamental in developing a high-quality, future-focused agenda that reflects the priorities, challenges, and opportunities shaping trade finance, liquidity, digital transformation, and cross-border commerce in the UAE and the wider region.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our valued sponsors and strategic partners for their continued trust, commitment, and support. Their partnership has made it possible to convene this premier platform, bringing together global leaders to exchange ideas, share insights, and drive meaningful progress in trade finance innovation, regulatory alignment, market connectivity, and the advancement of more resilient and efficient trade across the UAE and international corridors.