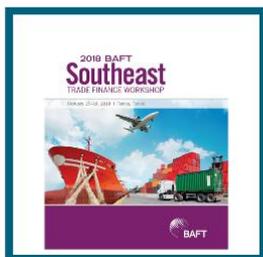




Upcoming Events



[View the Full BAFT Calendar Here](#)



Industry Updates

BAFT Releases the 2018 Future Leaders Program Candidates at the Global Annual Meeting - London

“We launched this program in 2016 to identify and develop the next generation of leadership in transaction banking,” said Tod Burwell, president and CEO of BAFT. “We



have since seen program graduates advance important industry issues both within their own organizations and through BAFT. We look forward to the contributions from the class of 2018.”

[Read More](#)

Participate in the ICC Banking Commission Global Trade Finance Survey

Participate in the ICC Banking Commission annual trade finance survey. [Register here](#) to view the questions, respond on behalf of your bank or invite other colleagues to participate.

Answer the strategic and operational questions by January 30, 2018.

The study covers banks’ traditional trade finance and supply chain finance activity and is comprised of 38 questions in two separate sections, on strategy and operational aspects. [Here is why your bank should participate](#)

BAFTs 2018 Trade Finance Workshops

BAFT Trade Finance Workshops will cover technical and real-life case studies on letters of credit - including standby and commercial LCs - plus the latest on ICC Opinions Update. We balance the program by offering topical trade related sessions affecting you and your business for a well-rounded view on the trade industry today.

As a bonus, each BAFT Trade Finance Workshops offers up to 12.0 Continuing Professional Development (CPDs) units towards CDCS re-certification

Southeast Trade Finance Workshop

February 15 -16, 2018

Tampa, Florida

[Register Now](#)

New York Trade Finance Workshop

July 18 - 19, 2018

New York, New York

[Alert Me When Registration Opens](#)

West Coast Trade Finance Workshop

July 19 - 20, 2018

Los Angeles, CA

[Alert Me When Registration Opens](#)



MENA Bank to Bank Forum | March 7 -8, 2018

While there are many conferences for you to choose from, the [BAFT MENA Bank to Bank Forum](#) is the only correspondent banking conference in the region! Engage in conversations with your fellow bankers, gain insights from industry thought leaders, and network with clients and prospects, representing 70+ institutions from 20+ countries, all in one event!

*Early Bird Discount ends February 1, 2018**

[Register Now](#)

BAFT to host Webinar with ABA President and CEO Rob Nichols on US Regulatory and Tax Reform

ABA President and CEO, Rob Nichols offered a special webinar on the state of regulatory and tax reform in the United States. With a busy 2018 expected on Capitol Hill and at the regulatory agencies, Mr. Nichols will provide an overview of what to expect this year.

[Learn More or to Register for the Webinar](#)

Registration for CDCS April Exam Ends February

The Certified Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS®) is a professional qualification recognized worldwide as a benchmark of competence for international trade practitioners. It enables documentary credit practitioners to demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of the complex issues associated with documentary credit practice.

[Learn More](#)

BAFT's New Payments Qualification, CertPAY

Hosted online, the CertPAY program provides users with a comprehensive understanding of payments, from terminology to the mechanics of moving money across the globe. For individuals working in or aspiring to work in the payments industry, completing CertPAY will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the sector, and provide a formal recognition of professionalism in payments.

Want more information on [CertPAY](#)? Watch Free Informational Webinar! [Watch Here](#)

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Multilateral

Wolfsberg Group Correspondent Banking Due Diligence Questionnaire

BAFT has agreed to support Wolfsberg with the socialization and awareness CBDDQ process, hence, we ask that you share both the revised questionnaire and the implementation guide with the relevant stakeholders in your organization.

This document may be found in our [library of documents](#) under Best Practices and Industry Standards titled "*Wolfsberg Group Due Diligence Questionnaire*".

We hope to continue to provide support for a smooth implementation, which is expected to occur over the next 18-24 months.

Link to Document [here](#)

Global Economic Prospects

The World Bank forecasts global economic growth to edge up to 3.1 percent in 2018 after a much stronger-than-expected 2017, as the recovery in investment, manufacturing, and trade continues. Growth in advanced economies is expected to moderate slightly to 2.2 percent in 2018, as central banks gradually remove their post-crisis accommodation and the upturn in investment growth stabilizes. Growth in emerging market and developing economies as a whole is projected to strengthen to 4.5 percent in 2018, as activity in commodity exporters continues to recover amid firming prices.

[Read More](#)

FATF- Second workshop on the role of judges and prosecutors in tackling money laundering and terrorist financing

Approximately 90 delegates representing 32 delegations, including anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing expert prosecutors, investigative and trial judges participated in the workshop. These practitioners shared their experiences of the challenges they face during the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing offences and the confiscation of proceeds linked with crime or terror. They shared examples of how to overcome these challenges and discussed effective mechanisms and good practices.

[Read More](#)

Basel Committee issues proposed technical amendment to the Net Stable Funding Ratio

The Committee published its first proposed technical amendment, which is related to the [treatment of extraordinary monetary policy operations in the Net Stable Funding Ratio](#). To provide greater flexibility in the treatment of extraordinary central bank liquidity-absorbing monetary policy operations, the technical amendment proposes to allow reduced required stable funding factors for central bank claims with maturity of more than six months.

The [Committee invites comments](#) on the proposed amendment by 5 February 2018. All comments will be published on the website of the Bank for International Settlements unless a respondent specifically requests confidential treatment.

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Europe

As Brexit uncertainty rumbles on, Ireland turns to Asia

Ireland is uniquely exposed to the Brexit situation. It represents the UK's only land border with the EU and is, in trade terms, joined at the hip with the UK. It is the fifth-largest destination for UK exports (5.6%), while for goods and services, the UK is Ireland's largest export market.

Thus, Ireland stands to suffer disproportionately from the potential introduction of barriers to trade and investment.

[Read More from GTR](#)

Invoice financing hits record high amid Brexit fears

The invoice finance and asset-based lending sector is providing more finance to UK businesses than ever before, but experts warn that Brexit could quickly put a brake on the upward curve.

[Read more from GTR](#)

Euro area international trade in goods surplus €26.3 bn

The first estimate for euro area (EA19) exports of goods to the rest of the world in November 2017 was €197.5 billion, an increase of 7.7% compared with November 2016 (€183.5 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €171.2 bn, a rise of 7.3% compared with November 2016 (€159.6 bn). As a result, the euro area recorded a €26.3 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in November 2017, compared with +€23.8 bn in November 2016. Intra-euro area trade rose to €165.5 bn in November 2017, up by 6.9% compared with November 2016. These data are released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

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Africa, Asia, and the Middle East

Islamic finance boosts intra-African trade

A number of financing agreements, totalling over US\$250mn, have been raised in support of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in recent weeks.

The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group, has provided a US\$100mn and a €50mn facility, both of which will be used to support trade transactions involving ITFC member countries that are also Afreximbank participating member countries.

[Read More](#)

African Development Bank launches the 2018 Edition of the African Economic Outlook

The African Development Bank is launching the 2018 edition of its yearly flagship report, the African Economic Outlook (AEO), on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at its headquarters in Abidjan. As a leading African institution, the Bank is the first to provide headline numbers on Africa's macroeconomic performance and outlook.

Rmb fixing is hurting Chinese exports, warns German central banker

A senior German central banker has warned China that its "discreet policy interventions" in the renminbi (Rmb) are not helping the country's exports.

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The Americas

Digital Trade in North America

As internet access and reliance grows, so does the potential for digital cross-border trade. Building on other work from the Department of Commerce's Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), this report, which serves to inform policymakers, business leaders and others, summarizes estimates of U.S. digital trade with Canada and Mexico.

[Read More](#)

U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that the goods and services deficit was \$50.5 billion in November, up \$1.6 billion from \$48.9 billion in October, revised. November exports were \$200.2 billion, \$4.4 billion more than October exports.

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BAFT Unveils New Affinity Sponsor Program for 2018

The BAFT Affinity Sponsor Program rewards BAFT members for their sponsorship participation; both paid and hosted event sponsorships contribute to your Affinity sponsorship participation. There has been an excellent initial response to the Program and we look forward to welcoming new Affinity Sponsors.



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To view additional information of our Affinity Program please click [here](#).



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