

### BAFT Headlines

#### BAFT and ABA Announce Plans for Separation in 2025

BAFT and ABA have announced their mutually agreed-upon plans to separate in the second half of 2025. While BAFT and ABA have worked together successfully since 2002, BAFT's global footprint and overseas opportunities have expanded in recent years, with more than 70% of BAFT member banks currently headquartered outside of the U.S. This necessitated a realignment of strategic priorities so that BAFT can better represent its membership. [Continue Reading.](#)

#### Coming Soon! 2025 Master Trade Loan Agreement (English Version)

The **2025 Master Trade Loan Agreement (2025 MTLA)** is designed as an industry-standard document used for lending between financial institutions to finance or refinance specified trade transactions. The 2025 MTLA will reflect changes based on current market expectations, law, and practice including the demise of LIBOR, and the impact of Brexit—as EU Law no longer applies to the UK. Once the 2025 MTLA is available, it will be shared via email and posted to the BAFT website.

#### New! Education Advisory Committee Launched

To further develop talent in the industry, BAFT recently launched the **Education Advisory Committee (EAC)**—an advisory body that provides strategic direction, identifies industry training gaps (both technical and soft skills), and serves as an education ambassador for BAFT within the industry. The committee has a diverse geographic and membership representation to ensure that the needs of members are equally considered. Congratulations to our co-chairs, **Ibiyemi Okuneye** from Standard Chartered Bank representing Africa, and **Kristine Siebel**, formerly with Societe Generale, representing the Americas.

### Committee and Council Updates

#### Americas Council

Fifth Third Bank hosted a BAFT Networking Forum at its office in Doral, Florida on December 5th. At the event, BAFT announced the rebranding of the North America Council to the Americas Council to reflect a renewed focus on issues important to the Latin American and Caribbean region. Thank you to Fifth Third Bank, Emy Ruiz, the planning committee, and guest speaker Fedra Ware, SWIFT for making this event a success.

#### Structured Trade and Export Finance Committee

The Structured Trade and Export Finance Committee was given a presentation by EXIM Bank on the status of the reauthorization of the institution and new product initiatives. The next meeting of the committee is set for April 28 in Washington DC, coinciding with the start of the EXIM Bank annual conference.

#### Financial Crimes and Compliance Committee

The FCC Committee is excited to announce our two new co-chairs: Joe Ballance, *FCC, Transaction Monitoring - Risk Event Management, Americas* from Standard Chartered Bank; and Faraz Quraishi, *Vice President | Business Line AFC Senior Specialist – Corporate Bank (US) Regulation, Compliance and Anti-Financial Crime* from Deutsche Bank.

#### Women in Transaction Banking (WTB)

The BAFT Women in Transaction Banking Mentorship Program starts this March, and runs until November 30. This is an exciting cross-institution initiative designed to support the professional development of individuals in the transaction banking industry. The second cohort is planned for July, with registration opening in June.

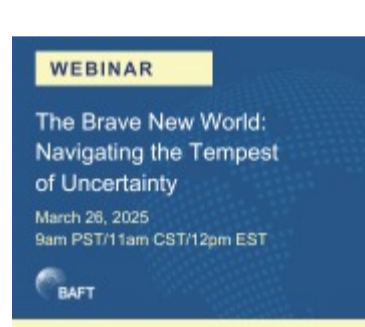
[Learn more](#) about all of the BAFT Leadership Councils and Committees.

### Upcoming Conferences and Events



Be a part of the premier bank-to-bank forum in the European region.

[REGISTER](#)



Webinar on the impact of US tariffs on Trade/USMCA.

[REGISTER](#)



Join 600+ leaders in transaction banking at this flagship event.

[REGISTER](#)



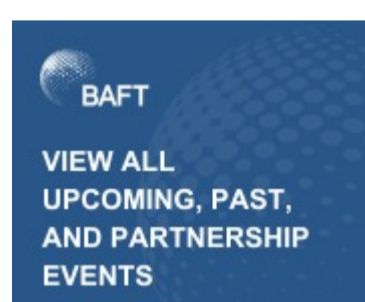
Taught by leading experts in anti-money laundering and financial crime.

[REGISTER](#)



Invite-only event for senior-level professionals in the African region.

[RSVP](#)



Check out all BAFT conferences, forums, workshops, and webinars.

[VIEW ALL](#)

### Education and Training

#### Feedback Requested on Training Gap Survey

The Education Advisory Committee is conducting a training gap survey to better understand the training needs of its members and the industry. The survey will be sent to all BAFT members and non-members at the end of March. Your feedback is very important in helping us design training and educational programs – both technical (hard) and interpersonal (soft) skills.

#### Special Education Program Offer for New Members

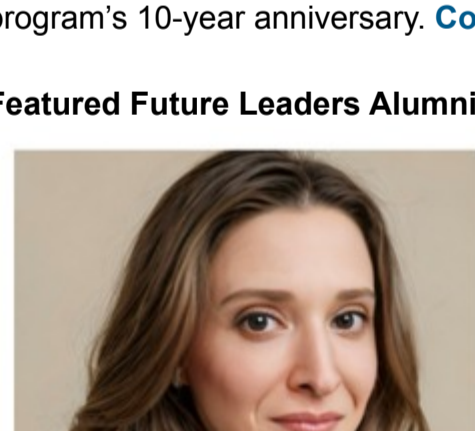
New BAFT Members receive discounted pricing on training certificates and custom training for one year from the date of membership. For more details, contact [info@baft.org](mailto:info@baft.org).

### Celebrating 10 Years of Future Leaders

#### Future Leaders Class of 2025 Announced

The newest Future Leaders Class was announced last January and includes 40 individuals from 17 countries across the Americas, Europe, Asia, MENA, and Africa, representing a variety of disciplines within transaction banking. Now on its 10th year, the program received a record-breaking number of applicants exceeding last year's record. The Class of 2025 will present their projects during the BAFT Global Annual Meeting, which coincides with the program's 10-year anniversary. [Continue Reading.](#)

#### Featured Future Leaders Alumni



#### Inna Gogoua

Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Head of International Financial Institutions group at PNC Bank

"The Future Leaders program is a great start to get involved with BAFT. There is tremendous amount of value that BAFT offers to its members, hence individual contributions whether you are just starting out or an alumni is critical to the continued success and succession for the industry."

### BAFT in the News

#### Race Against Real-Time: The Evolving Landscape of US Payment Systems

The conversation surrounding real-time payment systems is evolving quickly, and nowhere is this more evident than in the dynamic between RTP (Real-Time Payments) and FedNow, two significant players within American payments. To learn more about these and about the payments space in general, Trade Finance Global (TFG) spoke with Deepa Sinha, Vice President of Payments and Financial Crimes at the Banker's Association for Financing and Trade (BAFT). [Continue Reading.](#)

#### All Roads Lead to Saudi: The Digital Transformation Driving Economic Diversification

At the **BAFT MENA Bank to Bank Forum** in Dubai, Michael O'Loughlin, founder of OLOUGHLIN.io Global Business Advisory, delivered a keynote speech titled "All Roads Lead to Saudi", providing a firsthand look at this transformation and explaining why the world is paying attention. [Continue Reading.](#)

### Membership Updates

#### Member Resources

BAFT continues to promote thought leadership and drive forward a broad list of initiatives. Our comment letters, standard documents, guidance documents, and industry definitions are valued by our members around the globe. [View all Member Tools here.](#)

#### We are excited to welcome eight new members to the BAFT Community:

- Africa Finance Corporation
- Alabaraka Turk Katilim Bankasi
- Amazon
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Banque Commerciale du Burundi
- Banque Saudi Fransi
- Marsh
- Swiss Reinsurance Company

For more information on BAFT Membership, please contact [Nancy Monahan](#), Senior Director of Membership for more information.

### Thank You to Our Affinity Sponsors

#### Platinum

Barclays | BNY | StoneX | Swift | Visa

#### Gold

BNP Paribas | CGI | Citi | Deutsche Bank | HSBC | JP Morgan | Standard Chartered | Scotiabank | SMBC | Societe Generale | UBS

#### Silver

Arab Bank | BankCheck | Emirates NBD | First Abu Dhabi Bank | Finastra | ING | Oracle | PrimeRevenue | TradeSun | US Bank

For more information on how to become an [Affinity Sponsor](#), or an [event sponsor](#) for one of BAFT's upcoming events, please contact [Matthew Kaitz](#), Director of Business Development.

