

The world's largest trade

finance event returns

GTR ASIA 2025 SINGAPORE



#GTRAsia

Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre (Hibiscus Ballroom, Level 3), Singapore
September 2-3, 2025

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The world's largest trade finance event returns

GTR Asia will return to Singapore on September 2-3, 2025, once again serving as the premier platform for the trade community in the Asia Pacific region, attracting senior decision-makers from the worlds of trade and supply chain finance, commodity finance, fintech and treasury.

This year's event will feature dynamic formats designed to maximise engagement, with over 100 expert speakers addressing a wide range of topics, from global trade realignment and Asia's role in a multipolar global economy to supply chain strategy and the regional landscape for lending, the need to capitalise on the potential of digitalisation and the importance of collaboration. The programme will also feature analysis of the Asian Development Bank's flagship Trade Finance Gaps, Growth and Jobs Survey 2025.

Enjoying support from the region's leading financial institutions and in close partnership with Singapore's key government agencies and trade bodies, GTR Asia 2025 promises to deliver unparalleled networking opportunities, thought-provoking content and vibrant discussions.

Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre
(Hibiscus Ballroom, Level 3), Singapore

September 2-3, 2025

6 big topics

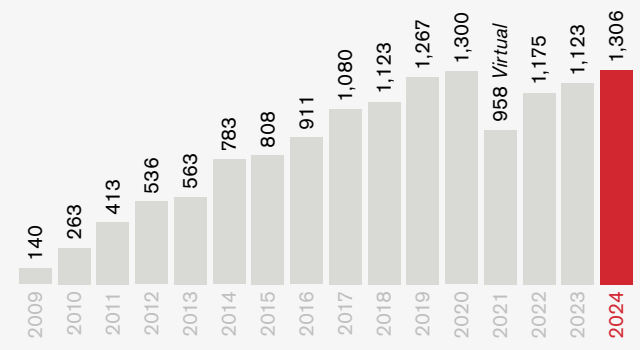
- Global trade realignment: Is globalisation entering a new phase?
- Strategic positioning: Asia's role in a multipolar global economy
- Supply chain strategy: China Plus One or diversification by design?
- Assessing the current regional trade finance landscape
- "The need to go further": Capitalising on the potential of digitalisation
- Can AI reinvigorate the conversation around digital?

Vital statistics in 2024



[Click here to find out more](#)

Attendees by year



Attendees by sector in 2024



Countries represented in 2024



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Day One: Tuesday 2 September Morning

08.00-09.00 Registration and refreshments

09.00-09.05

Chair's opening remarks

Mariko Oi, Presenter, BBC News

09.05-09.35

Global trade realignment: Is globalisation entering a new phase?

After decades of globalisation, the world economy is fragmenting, as governments impose tariffs on each other, slowing down trade and breaking the world into trading blocs. This process of deglobalisation sees politicians look to bring manufacturing jobs back to their 'home' markets, using tariffs as a tool to protect their own industries.

This keynote session will consider the extent to which this can be viewed as a long-term trend, as nations shift from economic policy to economic statecraft, and the likely impact on commodity flows, pricing, and global trade architecture. The session will also assess the extent to which tariffs form part of a wider plan for financial supremacy, with markets potentially being asked to choose between the US and China as trading partners.

Michael Every, Global Strategist, Rabobank

09.35-10.20

Strategic positioning: Asia's role in a multipolar global economy



The fragmentation of world trade and geopolitics has huge consequences for the Asia-Pacific region. How does the Asia Pacific region react and become resilient? Are there consequences for supply chains, payments and trade finance? How should we think today about the multilateral trading system in this geopolitical and geoeconomic framework and what are the consequences for the regions businesses and financial service organisations? During this session, delegates will hear from renowned experts as they provide perspectives and discuss a number of scenarios, from more cooperative moves to increased policy uncertainty in the global economy.

Moderator: Dr Rebecca Harding, Chief Executive, Centre for Economic Security

Neil Shearing, Group Chief Economist, Capital Economics

Shinichiro Yamazaki, Managing Director & Head of Transaction Banking APAC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)

Marc Auboin, Counsellor, World Trade Organisation (WTO)

10.20-11.00 Networking break

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



“Thanks to all the team at GTR. Singapore was a great event for us, well organised, well run, with the opportunity to meet and network with many key executives within the Asia Pacific financing community. It is a must-do event from now on.”

C Bonnett, GE Healthcare

“Exceptional organization and execution. The seamless coordination, engaging speakers, and valuable insights, combined with deep domain knowledge, made for a truly enriching experience.”

P Mohnot, Transglobal Finance

Day One: Tuesday 2 September **Morning Stream A**Select either **Stream A**, **Stream B** or **Stream C**

Stream A

Chair: Mariko Oi, Presenter, BBC News

11.00-11.45

Supply chain strategy: China Plus One or diversification by design?

The imposition of various trade barriers has seen companies increasingly looking to align their supply chains from a security perspective, whether that means China Plus One or moving away from China completely. Manufacturing is increasingly moving outside of China and to markets like India or ASEAN countries such as Vietnam and Thailand, whilst even companies that are already in China are looking to set up bases outside the country to mitigate their risk.

This session will reflect on this trend, considering the material impact of Chinese slowdown on the wider region, from consolidation in key sectors such as steel to potential slowing of investment into certain countries as a result. The conversation will also reflect on some of the potential opportunities brought about by this trend for Chinese companies, including how domestic challenges see companies actively exploring new trade corridors with markets such as India, Africa and the GCC.

Moderator: Sanjay Desai, Independent Advisor & Mentor

Ashutosh Kumar, Managing Director, Head of Global Transaction Banking, Asia Pacific, Mizuho Bank

Maisie Chong, Head of Trade & Working Capital, ASEAN & South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank

Runa Bakshi, Head of South East Asia, Global Trade Solutions, HSBC

Harry Murphy Cruise, Head of Economic Research & Global Trade, Oxford Economics

Great and insightful content on some of the contemporary geopolitical issues!

T.K Hoe, Jardine Cycle & Carriage

11.45-12.30

The Trump effect: Could the trade credit market benefit?

One unexpected beneficiary of protectionist trade policies is the trade credit insurance sector, with demand for the product likely to be boosted as companies grapple with the threat of increased non-payment, according to a recent survey conducted by the Berne Union of more than 80 association members, including private insurers, ECAs and DFIs. Amid the looming threat of tariffs, concerns over retaliation and uncertainty with regards to practical implementation, it is thought that exporters may increasingly turn to credit insurance to mitigate risks to their trade assets.

This session will consider the significance of this development, highlighting increased demand from banks as a driver of future growth and how that may potentially be tempered by a slowdown in new corporate business. The discussion will also consider current transaction trends – for example whether increased defence spending will see more transactions in place of sustainable/ESG deals as the political wind shifts – as well as the claims environment, with the number of claims insurers expect to see likely to rise in the coming period, particularly within 'at risk' sectors such as automotive, construction and commodities.

Moderator: Robert Besseling, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Pangea-Risk

Leo Tyndall, Chief Executive Officer, Tyndall Insurance

Gaurav Khurana, Sales Head of Trade Finance & Lending, India, Deutsche Bank

James Ponsford, Head of Growth & Regional Director, Credit Solutions Asia, Aon

Lee Garvey, Regional Head of Financial Solutions, Asia Pacific, WTW

“Good information hearing with the latest marketing developments.”

B Woon, Freepoint Commodities Singapore

12.30-13.15

“Keep calm and carry on (lending)”: Assessing the current regional trade finance landscape

As uncertainty grows and nerves continue to fray in the face of unprecedented turbulence, this session will assess the health of the wider Asian market, considering the extent to which trade has demonstrated the necessary resilience to look confidently into the future. Points for consideration will include:

- To what extent has the wider macroeconomic context impacted on trade growth? Are companies adopting a 'wait and see' approach in scaling back borrowing activity whilst they wait for more favourable economic conditions?
- With borrowing in local currencies becoming more cost-competitive than the US dollar, has the market seen a shift towards onshore financing? Is this likely to lead to further reductions in cross-border finance?
- What are the key recent regulatory changes that have been seen in the Asian market and what have been their consequences for regional trade?

- Have current economic conditions seen greater demand for 'unfunded trade' (non-financial trade services) from banks and other providers?
- Is there now greater focus on intra-Asian trade and capital flows as a result of global uncertainty elsewhere? How significant have the problems faced in the Chinese market proved?

Moderator: Matthew Moodey, Head of Trade Finance & Lending APAC, Deutsche Bank

Jon Haw Choo, Head of Corporate Sales, South Asia, Global Transaction Banking, Banco Santander

Bharat Gupta, Senior Vice-President & Head of Trade & Structured Finance, Asia & EMEA, Olam Agri

Belinda Han, Managing Director, Head of Transaction Banking, Asia Pacific, MUFG

Janelene Chen, Partner, Mayer Brown

Amelia Ng, Chief Executive Officer, Olea

13.15-14.15 Lunch

“Great event with very insightful discussion across trade, trade finance and technology.”

G Pradervand, Havona Technology

“I always enjoy the Tradetech Showcase as it gives opportunity to newbies. Keep it up GTR!”

A Lyn, Toshiba

Day One: Tuesday 2 September **Morning Stream B**

Select either **Stream A**, **Stream B** or **Stream C**

Stream B

Chair: Peter Matza, Council Member, Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)

11.00-11.45

“The need to go further”: Capitalising on the potential of digitalisation

The conversation around digital appears to have reached something of a crossroads. A recent market survey found that a number of banks plan to increase spending on technology over the next year as part of efforts to accelerate updates to trade finance platforms and incorporate artificial intelligence, with improved operational efficiency and customer experience identified as the main priorities. However, this comes amid concerns that industry won't benefit from any time or money savings through proposed adoption of digital trade laws unless the entire trade documentation process is digitised. So where is the market at present? This discussion will seek to get to the heart of the matter, considering the following:

- Do people still believe in digitalisation? Where should the focus be?
- To what extent is demand for trade finance driven by the corporate client base, particularly larger companies looking to better manage their suppliers?

- How can global trade navigate the challenges posed by the differing rates of digital progress achieved across different markets?
- The regulatory outlook: What are the key changes needing to be addressed?
- What value comes from the new products and services resulting from increased digitisation?

Moderator: George Fong, Managing Director, Head of Trade & Supply Chain Finance, Asia Pacific, Bank of America

Patrik Zekkar, Chief Executive Officer, Enigio

Parsan Chand Mahaveer, Senior Director, Global Logistics, Lenzing Group

Tal Weiser, Chief Revenue Officer, Surecomp

Jia Min, Sales Executive, Komgo

Joshua Kroeker, Chief Product Officer, Mitigram

“It’s a great place to meet likeminded people.”

K Chin, BHP

“Great event with new and interesting views on trade and financing.”

K. K Koon, Corteva

“Speakers, networking, and delegates, all of a top notch. Connections here have lasted a decade plus, truly a testament to GTR’s success and ability to connect leaders in global trade finance.”

A Thakur, Investrade

11.45-12.30

From law to live: Turning legal momentum into digital finance



Updated laws enabling digital trade are on track to cover most of the global economy, yet paper still clogs workflows in everything from manufacturing exports to bulk cargoes and keeps the trade finance gap stubbornly wide. This discussion will consider:

- Is trade finance adapting fast enough to the new legal reality?
- Where – if anywhere – are we seeing a measurable dent in the financing gap?
- What do industry leaders need from their banks (and vice-versa) to convert policy wins into seamless, end-to-end digital transactions?
- By comparing progress across diverse sectors – including manufacturing, agriculture and energy – and hearing a bank and solution provider view from the front line, the panel will unpack what each part of the ecosystem needs from the others and suggest practical next steps for capital providers, corporates and policymakers alike.

Moderator: Pamela Mar, Managing Director, ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI)

Hari Janakiraman, Head of Industry & Innovation, Transaction Banking, ANZ

Mostyn Gregg, Vice-President, Olam Agri

Craig Weeks, Senior Vice-President, Trade, BAFT

Ofer Ein Bar, Vice-President, Financial Institutions, WaveBL

12.30-13.15

Can AI reinvigorate the conversation around digital?

Concerns have been expressed that the opportunity window to capitalise on the momentum of digitisation is fast shrinking, with risk of silos and insufficient engagement from the corporate sector. Many feel that artificial intelligence offers an opportunity to reignite enthusiasm.

This session will consider a range of areas in which the role of AI could be potentially transformative, including potential benefits for tier 2 (and below) institutions when it comes to resources, manpower and transaction volumes, broadening the product offering to better suit the needs of clients, major challenges when it comes to data and analytics and navigating the KYC landscape. The conversation will also consider AI's potential in determining the outcome of the credit approval process, including concerns over reinforcing existing biases.

Moderator: Tedd George, Chief Narrative Officer, Kleos Advisory; Chief of Staff, International Trade & Forfeiting Association (ITFA)

Avanee Gokhale, Global Head of Trade Strategy, Swift

Patrick DeVilbiss, Director IP, Trade & Supply Chain, CGI

Parag Ekbote, Chief Business Officer, Veefin Group

Joon Kim, Managing Director, Global Head of Trade Finance & Cash Management Platform Group, BNY

Lauren Hurcombe, Partner, Global Co-Chair of Technology & Sourcing Group, DLA Piper

13.15-14.15 Lunch

“Great opportunity to understand industry innovations and to network with peers.”

C Chui, Nedbank

Day One: Tuesday 2 September **Morning Stream C**Select either **Stream A**, **Stream B** or **Stream C**

Stream C

Chair: Shannon Manders, Editorial Director, Global Trade Review (GTR)

11.00-11.50

Trade Finance Gap Survey 2025: Interrogating the data


This session will preview highlights from the forthcoming 2025 edition of the Asian Development Bank's flagship Trade Finance Gap Survey, the widely cited analysis of unmet demand for trade financing that has shaped industry and policy discussions for over a decade.

This year's survey continues with familiar questions posed to banks and companies, including those on the state of sustainable trade and supply chains, while adding new analysis on tariff-driven trade tensions, the role of artificial intelligence, and other timely themes. The session will feature a panel discussion covering survey highlights to date, methodology, and potential solutions for narrowing the trade finance gap.

Presented by:

Ankita Pandey, Relationship Manager, Trade & Supply Chain Finance Programme, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Followed by discussion with:

Moderator: Steven Beck, Head of Trade & Supply Chain Finance Programme, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Marc Auboin, Counsellor, World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Nathalie Louat, Director, Trade & Supply Chain Finance, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Nana Khurodze, Associate Director, FI Trade Facilitation Programme, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD)

Natasha Condon, Global Head of Trade Sales, J.P. Morgan

Mashrur Arefin, Chief Executive Officer, The City Bank Bangladesh

11.50-12.35

Better together: How are ECAs and DFIs collaborating?

Current global political and economic uncertainty has seen greater attention turn to the role of export credit agencies (ECAs) and development financial institutions (DFIs) in supporting trade, as well as how institutions can meet challenges collectively, with greater focus on the importance of collaboration. This session will provide the opportunity for representatives from various global institutions to come together and share details of their activities, as well as provide concrete examples of how both ECAs and DFIs are collaborating with commercial banks in the trade finance and infrastructure space. Points for discussion will include:

- Highlighting initiatives including bank-led collaborations across a range of financial products, sharing information and providing reports on market priorities
- How advantageous is collaboration from a regulatory perspective? Does it make it easier to onboard clients onto supply chain finance programmes (for example)?
- Examining the important role technology has to play when it comes to providing 'deep tier' data: What are the accompanying challenges?

- Sustainability, ESG and the green economy: To what extent has the change in global sentiment impacted on the work being done?
- How are the next few years likely to play out when it comes to financial inclusion? Is this still a priority and what are the key action points?

Moderator: Shankar T S, Asia Representative, BAFT
Rashed Al Haroun, Director General, Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhamaan)
Yahya Alharthi, Director General of Strategy & CEO Advisor, Saudi EXIM Bank

Alexandra Lutz, Divisional Head, Competence Center of German Export Finance, Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry & Commerce (SGC)

Miguel Kosasih, Country Manager, Indonesia (Asia Region Division), The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment & Export Credit (ICIEC)

Eleonore Treu, Legal & Director of ICC Austria Trade Finance Week, ICC Austria

12.35-13.15

Stability vs growth vs competitiveness: The changing regulatory landscape

This session will consider the current drivers for change across the regulatory landscape, from the political environment across markets such as the US, UK and EU to the role of government diktats, whether formal changes to regulatory mandates or informal updates to regulation. Points for consideration will include:

- How are the latest regulatory changes being filtered down to banks?
- How will these changes impact on the availability of trade finance, particularly for SMEs?
- What is the potential impact on credit, operational and non-financial risks?
- What does all of this mean from an Asian perspective? Will the market ultimately benefit?

Moderator: Makiko Toyoda, Global Head, GTFP & GSCF, Trade & Supply Chain, Global Trade Finance Program, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Ramadurai Krishnan, Chief Executive Officer, Global Credit Data Consortium (GCD)

Ben Arber, Chief Executive Officer, Complidata

13.15-14.15 Lunch

"GTR conferences are simply a step above, professionally managed with great energy. The events are always a great platform to share experiences, learn from impressive peers, and network with the international trade community. Global trade has direct impact on the lives of everyone in the world and it is great to see an organisation such as GTR take this seriously whilst making it enjoyable for all."

A McKeown, LogChain

Day One: Tuesday 2 September **Afternoon Stream A**

Select either **Stream A** or **Stream B** or **Baft Asia Bank-to-Bank Forum**

Stream A

Chair: Mariko Oi, Presenter, BBC News

14.15-14.55

The current perception of trade risk within treasury

Treasurers no longer simply manage traditional financial risks, instead being required to take a more holistic approach to trade risk management, incorporating geopolitical, market, operational, and technological factors. Recognising the need to adapt risk management strategies to deal with increased uncertainty and volatility, this session, run in partnership with the Association of Corporate Treasurers, will consider how this dynamic is playing out. Points for discussion will include:

- Ensuring awareness of the impact of geopolitical events and managing related market volatility including commodity markets, currency risk and interest rate fluctuations; adopting more risk management tools and strategies in response
- Building resilience in supply chains: Understanding the complexities of global supply chains and the potential for disruption; highlighting the importance of operational risk management



- Leveraging the potential of technology, including AI and machine learning, to automate treasury processes, enhance risk management capabilities, gain better insights into risk profiles and develop more proactive risk management strategies
- "Rubbish in, rubbish out": Highlighting the importance of data quality in understanding current market conditions, from the value of goods to the location of ships, to where tariffs are being applied
- Emphasising the importance of collaboration with other departments – including sales, marketing and operations – to gain a more comprehensive understanding of organisational risk exposure

Moderator: Naresh Aggarwal, Associate Director, Policy & Technical, Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)

Stanley Liu, Director, Corporate Finance, OM Holdings

Charley Zhang, Head of Trade & Working Capital, APAC, J.P. Morgan

François Doll, Executive Director, Global Treasury Advisory Services, Deloitte

14.55-15.20

Bridging TradFi with DeFi: Unlocking new liquidity and reducing costs

At a time when liquidity is scarce and any funding often comes with a prohibitive cost, adaptability is key, particularly in the financing of SMEs. As banks – often constrained by regulation – increasingly redirect their lending activities towards larger corporates, many have suggested that fintechs and alternative lenders can fill the gap, but with many of them often charging 12-20% interest, this often erodes margins for exporters and importers alike.

This session will consider the potential of decentralised finance (DeFi) in meeting this challenge through the digitising of trade receivables and grouping into tokenised pools to unlock capital, an innovation that could provide a critical lifeline for businesses, connecting them with investors across multiple continents in a way traditional finance struggles to match. It will also consider how the DeFi model lowers the cost of capital through the provision of digital assets alongside funding, helping to bridge the gap between borrower costs and investor returns.

Morgan Terigi, Co-Founder, Incomlend *in conversation with Mariko Oi*, Presenter, BBC News

15.20-15.55

Realising value through trade digitisation: From improvement to real impact

With the benefits of trade digitisation, including efficiency, transparency and cost reduction, now well recognised across the industry, focus is shifting towards interoperability as the key enabler of scalability, unlocking the next phase of digital transformation in global trade. As interoperability improves, it not only enhances operational efficiency but also reduces friction, creates new opportunities for value creation, and opens access to previously untapped markets. This session will explore how digitisation is moving beyond process improvement to become a strategic lever for innovation, growth and competitiveness. Through real-world use cases and expert insights, the conversation will examine how digital trade is reshaping traditional business models. Key discussion points include:

- Interoperability – the current landscape and path forward: Examining the present and future state of digital trade interoperability, discussing emerging frameworks such as the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR), and practical strategies for overcoming legal, regulatory and technical barriers
- The role of stablecoins in digital trade: Exploring how stablecoins can support faster, more transparent and efficient trade settlements, considering the significance of the adoption of the 'Genius Act' and the HK Stablecoin ordinance going live, and helping realise the full value of trade digitisation in conjunction with electronic Bill of Lading.
- eBLs and financial innovation: Providing a deep dive into the role of electronic Bills of Lading (eBLs) in unlocking new financing structures, highlighting recent transactions and exploring how digitisation is enabling corporates and financial institutions to rethink what can be financed and where

Moderator: Alex Gray, Head of Trade & Transaction Banking, The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF)

Marina Comninos, Co-Head, ICE Digital Trade
Bertrand Chen, CEO, Global Shipping Business Network (GSBN)

Samuel Mathew, Managing Director, Head of Documentary Trade, Standard Chartered Bank

“Looking forward to next year’s event!”

S Nurbaya Mohamad, TechnipFMC

“Insightful and lot of opportunities to network.”

H. L Hendarta, Mind ID Trading

“GTR modernizing an age-old practice of trade.”

F Lalani, Habib Bank Limited

15.55-16.15 **Networking break**

Day One: Tuesday 2 September **Afternoon Stream B**

Select either **Stream A** or **Stream B** or **Baft Asia Bank-to-Bank Forum**

Stream B

Chair: Peter Matza, Council Member, Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)

14.15-14.30

Transforming the bill of lading under documentary credits

This short and dynamic session will address the ongoing transformation of the bill of lading within documentary credit transactions, highlighting the historical context and drawing parallels with innovations in 'containerization' and the revolutionising of the shipping and logistics sector. It will also emphasise the opportunity to align practices with existing UCP 600 provisions, improving efficiency in global trade and leveraging digital tools to better manage trade documents.

Vincent O'Brien, Director, ICC UAE

14.30-15.15

Making capital work harder

Cash is king at a time of economic stress. Higher funding costs mean that companies are often keen to use their own liquidity before going to a bank, with CFOs closely managing their cash position. This session will highlight some of those current working capital cycles, with talking points including:

- To what extent has there been an increase in demand for receivables finance, especially with limited recourse?
- Is the market seeing growing demand for local currency financing in the face of differing interest rates in different jurisdictions?
- How important is achieving greater synthesis between treasury market products, particularly around cross-currency funding?
- Highlighting the growth in distributor finance for sectors such as automotive, driven by clients expanding business across ASEAN markets

- Achieving best practice in navigating local ecosystems, including currency conversion regulations and nuanced export-import processes
- How can banks overcome the challenge of being able to provide lower cost funding?

Moderator: **Neal Harm**, Secretary General, FCI
Shalin Shroff, Head of Trade & Working Capital Sales, Asia South, Citi

Namit Kamra, Chief Financial Officer, Indorama Polychem Indonesia

Richard Evans, Head of Banking Partnerships, Falcon Group

Rahul Saxena, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Eliant Trade Finance

Mitesh Karia, Head of International Trade & Transaction Banking, India, Crédit Agricole CIB

Matt Bullard, Managing Director, Silver Birch

15.05-15.45

Interactive session: Fraud, financing and risk management

Fraud continues to dominate headlines with various fraudulent schemes and fictitious trades used to access financing and insurance. This session will look at the key vulnerabilities in trade, including financing structures such as invoice financing and its interaction with credit insurance.

Benefitting from an engaging format encouraging maximum audience interaction, the session will also analyse the worrying trend of the increasing distance between the invoice and the investor in trade finance programmes, discussing the way forward for the industry in terms of risk management.

Baldev Bhinder, Managing Director, Blackstone & Gold

15.55-16.15 **Networking break**

“GTR Asia 2024 was a wonderful event, delivering networking and learn about news and experience from the trade finance market.”

P Shrestha, Laxmi Sunrise Bank

“Great event to attend, in any part of the world, that addresses industry specific topics.”

A Tulean, Bank ABC

“GTR Asia is still THE trade conference to go to and NOT to be missed, offering innovation solutions, updates and relevant to global trade activities.”

M. N Bin Abd Jalil, TechnipFMC

“Signature industry event in Singapore for trade finance and credit insurance which brings the whole ecosystem of corporates, banks, insurers, and insurance brokers together.”

A Bursak, WTW

“GTR Asia is a platform for banks, corporates, and the whole ecosystem to come together to share experiences and drive the vision for the next stage of transaction banking.”

S Sulaiman, Finastra

Day One: Tuesday 2 September **Afternoon** BAFT Asia Bank-to-Bank Forum & Plenary

Select either **Stream A** or **B** or BAFT Asia Bank-to-Bank Forum

Plenary

Chair: Mariko Oi, Presenter, BBC News

16.15-17.15

GTR Ventures Tradetech Showcase 2025



No GTR Asia is complete without the opportunity to hear from the latest tradetech innovators! An annual highlight of each year, the GTR Tradetech Showcase enables the most innovative fintech companies from across the world to feature their capabilities and share their collective vision for how their offerings can benefit the trade finance ecosystem.

Once again being run in coordination with GTR Ventures, the leading venture-building and investment platform for trade and supply chain finance, the format for the showcase will allow entrants to present their products and services before being grilled by an expert panel of tradetech leaders, with the winner being announced just before lunch on Day Two.

Participating tradetechs:

Shahid Mahmood, Chief Executive Officer, RecX

Jean-Francois Gebhart, Chief Executive Officer, Trace Technologies

Yun Sil Chu, Director, Jureem

Arnaud Brolly, Founder & CEO, EC-Impact

Judging panel:

Aaron Sarma, General Partner, ScaleUp Malaysia; Co-Founder, Remote Ventures

Steven Rynecki, Senior Vice-President, Business Development, Keystone Group

Léana Traing, Portfolio Success Manager, Founders, Iterative

17.15

Chair's closing remarks

Followed by evening networking reception

In partnership with GTR Asia, BAFT will host its Asia Bank-to-Bank Forum – an exclusive session for delegates to attend to gain insights on trends and challenges in transaction banking, trade, and payments across Asia.

Seats are limited. RSVP: events@baft.org



13.15-14.00 Networking and refreshments

14.00-14.20

Welcome remarks

Craig Weeks, Senior Vice-President, Trade, BAFT

14.20-14.50

Opening fireside chat

Taimur Baig, Chief Economist, DBS

Sopendu Mohanty, Group Chief Executive Officer, Global Finance & Technology Network; Advisor, FinTech Group, Monetary Authority of Singapore

14.50-15.25

Regulatory and policy landscape amid global polycrisis

This session explores how global polycrisis — geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation and technological disruption — are reshaping the financial system. It will examine the evolving roles of capital, compliance and sustainability in a rapidly changing risk landscape. Panellists will also address the rise of alternative forms of value such as stablecoins and CBDCs, and their implications for trust, stability and regulatory coherence. The discussion aims to offer insights on balancing innovation, inclusion and systemic resilience.

Moderator: **Rahul Bhargava**, World Bank Group Consultant, EPAA & Currency Research Ambassador, AI 2030 Board Advisor & Financial Services (AP) Co-Chair

Angela Ang, Head of Policy & Strategic Partnerships APAC, TRM Labs

Friedrich Klinger, Advisor, BIS Innovation Hub – Singapore Centre

Erica Tay, Economist, Maybank

15.25-15.45 Networking break

15.45-16.20

Unpacking the geopolitical shifts: Boosting or undermining the Inter-Asia trade and growth?

Current geopolitical tensions, including US-China tariffs and evolving trade policies, are driving structural shifts in global supply chains and trade flows. This session will explore whether these dynamics are creating headwinds or new momentum for intra-Asia cooperation and trade growth. Speakers will assess how banks and businesses can strategically respond to rising fragmentation, shifting trade corridors and global policy uncertainties. With a focus on Asia's role in the new trade landscape, the discussion will highlight risks, opportunities and strategic positioning for financial institutions.

Moderator: **Kaushik Mukherjee**, Senior Vice-President, Head of Trade, APAC, Wells Fargo

Bhavna Monga, EY-Parthenon Partner, EY Corporate Advisors

Sriram Muthukrishnan, Group Head of Product Management, Global Transaction Services, DBS

Manvendra Upadhyay, Treasurer, APAC, ADM

16.20-16.55

Global payments at a crossroads: Aligning policy, technology and market forces

As the global community works toward the G20 Roadmap for enhancing cross-border payments, this session will assess the progress made and the challenges faced, particularly in emerging markets. Experts will examine how regulatory fragmentation could hinder the efficiency of cross-border payments and explore how modern technologies like APIs, DLT and CBDCs present both promise and risk in addressing these structural frictions. The discussion will also highlight the importance of coordinated policy advocacy and the role industry bodies like BAFT can play in setting global standards and fostering collaboration across the ecosystem.

Moderator: **Sharon Toh**, Head of ASEAN, Swift

Rahul Advani, Global Co-Head of Policy, Ripple

Melvin Low, Head of Global Transaction Banking, OCBC

Michelle Zhao, Global Product Lead, Cross Border Payments, MasterCard

16.55-17.30

Battle of the innovators: Trade vs cash?

If you had to prioritise investment, where should it go? A light-hearted debate on innovation within the trade finance and cash management space. Panellists will discuss how each discipline has transformed and embraced new technologies, past and present, along with opportunities for the future.

Moderator: **Terence Tan**, Chief Operating Officer, Asia Pacific, Global Payments Solutions, Bank of America

Trade corner:

Natasha Condon, Global Head of Trade Sales, J.P. Morgan

Dr Tom James, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, TradeFlow Capital Management

Payments corner:

Greg Kavanaugh, Managing Director, Global Product Head, Global Core Cash Management, Bank of America

Soo Tat Kua, Head of Global Transaction & Payment Services for APAC, Societe Generale

17.30

Closing remarks

Craig Weeks, Senior Vice-President, Trade, BAFT

“Great event; very topical with knowledgeable speakers. See you at GTR Asia next year!”

C Whitehead, Watson Farley & Williams (WFW)

Day Two: Wednesday 3 September

08.00-09.00 Registration and refreshments

09.00-09.10

Chair's opening remarks

Mariko Oi, Presenter, BBC News

09.10-09.40

Climate risk: Modelling for the future

Climate change poses significant risks to global supply chains, potentially leading to disruptions in manufacturing, production, and delivery, with economic losses estimated in the trillions. These disruptions can stem from extreme weather events, rising sea levels and other climate-related impacts, affecting infrastructure, transportation, and resource availability. This session will consider the real-life consequences of the increase in climate change-related risks to the global economy, as governments around the world respond with new financial compliance and disclosure requirements. Talking points will include the steps organisations need to take to measure immediate and long-term risks to their business, as well as the need to comply with new financial reporting standards for disclosing how climate-related risks are likely to impact on investments and operations.

Marcus Cree, Risk Specialist, FIS & **Lucita Jasmin**, Group Sustainability Director, RGE *in conversation with Mariko Oi*, Presenter, BBC News

“Rethinking the process for future advancements by implementing relevance control and policy across operational requirements.”

N Oh, LG Electronics

09.40-10.25

Swimming against the tide: Improving sustainability in trade

The conversation around achieving greater sustainability in trade remains complex, not least with the challenge that comes from imposing a western worldview of 'net zero' onto Asian markets, whilst changes in the global political environment have seen concerns expressed over the risk of 'backsliding' on green commitments. This session will seek to address a range of talking points on this most contentious of issues, including the following:

- How can the transition to net zero be funded? Should those costs be baked into products? Will customers pay for it? Has the market seen changes in other areas of ESG-related financing?
- Corporate governance: Are boards and investors driving companies to report on ESG policies and procedures?
- How are Asian suppliers meeting the challenge of fast-moving regulatory changes in buyer markets such as Europe?
- What role do new technologies have to play in helping companies 'leapfrog' the transition? Where are the prime opportunities to be found?
- Aligning with broader sustainability initiatives by major brands: To what extent are banks and multilaterals collaborating to create financing structures that support entire supplier networks?
- Enabling access to collective financing to bridge the transition capex gap and serve as a model for other industries: Should incentives such as capital relief for ESG financing be provided?

Moderator: David Koh, Managing Director, Co-Head of Transaction Banking APAC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)

Mona Tan, Director, Sustainable Finance, ASEAN, Standard Chartered Bank

Maurits Quarles van Ufford, Credit Specialties Growth Leader, Marsh Asia

John Monaghan, Chief Innovation Officer, Premium Technology

Carolyn Lim, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications, Musim Mas Group

10.25-11.05 Networking break

11.05-11.45

A balancing act: Bridging finance and technology to navigate a fragmented global economy

As global supply chains recalibrate amid geopolitical shifts, rising capital costs and regionalisation trends such as China+1, business leaders face a dual imperative to safeguard liquidity while driving innovation and resilience. This dialogue explores how CFOs and CTOs are rethinking manufacturing footprints, leveraging digital tools to unlock working capital, and aligning enterprise leadership around customer-centricity, all without losing sight of financial discipline. In this high-stakes environment, what does strategic trade and treasury leadership look like?

Stefan Erhart, Chief Financial Officer, Lidl & Kaufland Asia & **Vivek Kumar**, Chief Executive Officer, WWF *in conversation with Sanjay Desai*, Independent Advisor & Mentor

11.45-12.10

Detecting fraud in the bill of lading: An interactive trial

Fraudulent trade documentation has been a scourge of the market in recent years. Whether it's fake bills of lading (BLs) or BLs issued twice for the one cargo, the challenge of knowing what is being financed and by whom has become more acute, with corporates, traders, SMEs, banks, non-bank FIs and fintechs all seeking to improve their fraud detection capabilities.

This interactive session will test delegates' awareness of fraud mitigation through the use of BLs encountered "in the wild", posing a series of questions including:

- Can you detect the fraudulent BL in a list of commodity trade transactions?
- Would you and your team finance this trade based on this BL?
- What makes you decide whether a BL is authentic or not?
- In which case would you request more information and conduct more inquiries?

Jonas Rey, Chief Executive Officer, Athena Intelligence

12.10-12.55

What do traders want from banks and how has this changed?

Commodity traders in the current climate are collectively sitting on a lot of liquidity. In the context of a global market suffering from a high cost of funding, this session will seek to get to the heart of this complex dynamic. Points for discussion will include:

- Is there less of a need for traders to approach banks for trade finance or revolving credit facilities, and greater focus on counterparty risk mitigation structures?
- To what extent has greater interest in specific commodities (rare earths as an example) seen traders seek to specialise in these areas?
- Over three years on from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, how have those corridors changed, particularly in sectors such as agribusiness?
- Waiting to go green: With some industries (such as EVs) still in a state of transit/flux, how has this impacted on demand for certain commodities?
- Are more traders looking beyond traditional trading activities and investing in assets such as oil refineries and terminals, or mining operations? Is this a trend likely to continue?

Moderator: Sumeet Malhotra, Partner, Watson Farley & Williams (WFW)

Suraj Aggarwal, Chief Financial Officer, Dreyamo Fertilizers Overseas

Mukul Agarwal, Group Chief Financial Officer, Agrocorp International

Filipe Gonzaga, Managing Director, Bryce SA
Zhi Chao Chor, Partner, Penningtons Manches Cooper

12.55-13.00

Chair's closing remarks

followed by networking lunch

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