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trade finance event returns

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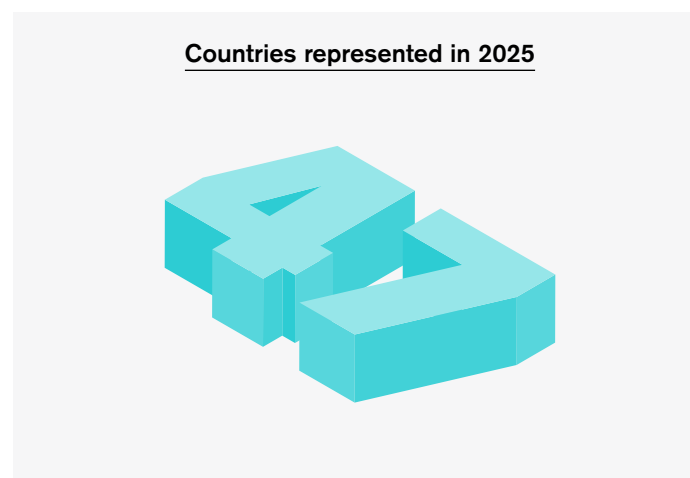
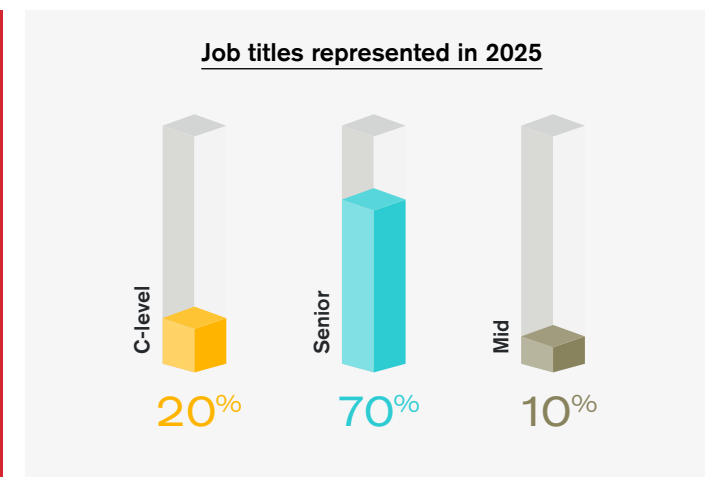
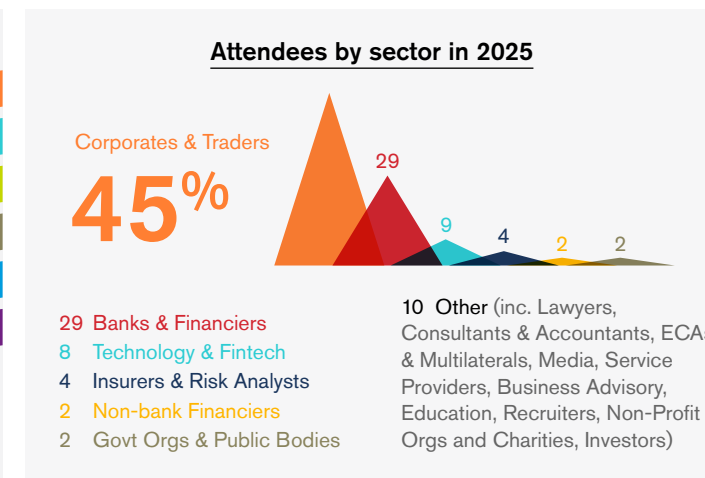
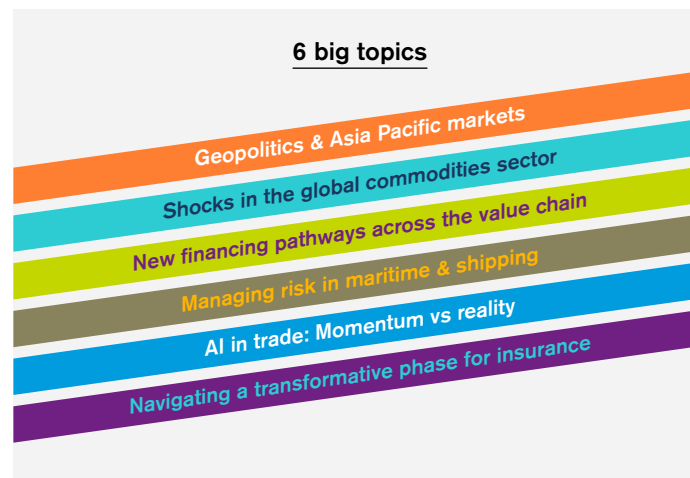
#GTRAsia

Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Singapore
September 8-9, 2026

www.gtreview.com/gtrasia

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Following a record-breaking 2025 event which welcomed over 1,500 delegates, GTR Asia will return to Singapore on September 8-9, 2026, once again serving as the premier gathering for the Asia Pacific trade community. The event will bring together senior decision-makers from all corners of the trade and supply chain finance, commodity finance, fintech and treasury community.

Building on its reputation for market-leading content and unrivalled networking, the 2026 agenda will feature over 100 speakers sharing valuable insights into the forces reshaping global trade through a host of engaging formats designed to maximise participation and dialogue. Attendees will also gain access to detailed analysis and forward-looking perspectives designed to support decision-making in a fast-changing global market.

Backed by the region's foremost financial institutions and developed in close partnership with Singapore's key government agencies and trade bodies, GTR Asia 2026 promises an unparalleled experience – delivering thought leadership, practical insights, and meaningful connections for the trade and trade finance community.

**Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre
(Cassia Ballroom, Level 3), Singapore**

September 8-9, 2026

Day One: Tuesday 8 September **Morning Plenary & Stream A**Select either **Stream A**, **Stream B** or **Stream C**

09.00-09.10

Chair's opening remarks**Michelle Martin**, Journalist & Broadcaster

09.10-09.55

How is geopolitics shaping Asia Pacific markets?

Geopolitical volatility and rapid policy shifts continue to shape trade markets, with Asian economies remaining very much at the centre of the ongoing US-China technology competition and tariffs, further complicated by the Iran War. This keynote session will consider the extent to which the actions of the Trump 2.0 administration are fundamentally restructuring global trade, with Asia in particular experiencing significant disruption. Points for consideration will include:

- The impact on manufacturers: Considering the extent to which regional manufacturing hubs such as Vietnam and Cambodia are impacted by reciprocal tariffs
- Techno-nationalism: Highlighting the increasing weaponization of supply chains, export controls, and investment restrictions, particularly in semiconductors and AI
- "An unreliable partner": Examining how Asian trade economies are increasingly seeking to reduce their dependence on the US due to the unpredictable tariff landscape
- Retaliation and non-tariff barriers: Assessing the increasing rise in non-tariff barriers such as additional licensing controls and export requirements and their potentially destabilising impact
- Avoiding the binary choice: Understanding the options available to middle countries when it comes to having to choose sides between China and the US

Alex Capri, Senior Lecturer, National University of Singapore (NUS)

"An excellent conference for structured and trade finance professionals."

G Bhavsar, Adityaa

09.55-10.40

The cost of uncertainty: Shocks in the global commodities sector

The 2026 conflict in Iran brought with it severe economic shocks of a level not seen for decades, bringing turmoil to financial markets. The closure of the Straits of Hormuz – a chokepoint for 20% of global oil and LNG – created immediate commodity supply deficits, with price rises of up to and above 25% placing significant strain on the commodity finance sector through a combination of spiking operational costs, liquidity restrictions and increased counterparty risk. This session will bring senior decision makers together to consider the potential consequences, with talking points including:

- Assessing the impact of major commodity producers declaring force majeure and the consequences of shutdowns on natural gas supplies, raw material imports and logistics
- Considering the extent to which heightened risk has triggered currency depreciation in energy-importing regions and the subsequent impact on local liquidity conditions
- Examining the extent to which rising energy costs combined with restrictions on fertiliser exports are squeezing farmer margins, increasing the risk of lower yields and increasing food inflation
- What has been the impact on commodity flows of intensifying bank restrictions on credit for Iranian imports resulting from expanded sanctions?
- With maritime insurance premiums surging and some providers cancelling their cover, how significant a role does the insurance sector have to play in the current climate?

Moderator: Michelle Martin, Journalist & Broadcaster
Bharat Gupta, Senior Vice-President & Head of Trade & Structured Finance, Asia & EMEA, Olam Agri
Adrian Ong, Head of Risk Management (Singapore), KZ Trading

Preslav Raykov, Commercial Director & Head of Global Trading, Magic Flame Group

Reiko Mori, Executive Officer, Deputy Head of Asia Pacific Division, SMBC

10.40-11.25 **Networking break**

Stream A

Chair: Michelle Martin, Journalist & Broadcaster

11.25-12.10

Unlocking new financing pathways across the value chain

Efforts to unlock new funding sources across the trade and commodity financing space have primarily been driven by the estimated \$2.5 trillion funding gap created by large international banks scaling back. As capital gravitates towards the top-tier, alternative funding sources such as private credit funds, hedge funds and digital asset structures are fast-emerging to boost liquidity provisions for companies of all sizes. This session will evaluate current financing provisions amidst an increasingly volatile geopolitical picture, considering what the future might hold. Points for discussion will include:

- What has been the impact of the geopolitical fallout of 2026 and how dramatically has that affected sourcing markets and financing lines?
- To what extent is the higher-risk lending environment creating opportunities for alternative lending strategies?
- Highlighting some of the new entities filling the financing gaps created by bank constraints, from dedicated funds to specialist fintech-enabled platforms
- How is technology reducing the cost and risk of smaller-ticket trades and unlocking new capital for under-served players in practice?
- Has the market seen greater use of structured commodity trade finance (STF) – relying on the underlying asset as security – for smaller traders in particular?
- Is the trend of larger traders providing prepayment facilities to producers in exchange for offtake agreements only likely to increase?

Moderator: Sanjay Desai, Independent Advisor & Mentor

Eugene Ganchev, Chief Financial Officer, Cathay Petroleum

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

Patrick Tan, Head of Banking, RGE

Amelia Ng, Chief Executive Officer, Olea

12.10-12.55

Learning the right lessons: Managing risk in the maritime and shipping sector

Recent global events have highlighted the fragility of the global shipping sector, with potentially huge consequences for the flow of goods and commodities and operating of maritime vessels. This session will bring various experts together to consider the wider impact of developments and the extent to which it has shaped the movement of global trade. Points for consideration will include:

- Highlighting the fragility of global shipping supply chains, systemic vulnerability and the weaponisation of chokepoints: Do companies need to plan for "permanent fragility"?
- How modern vessel tracking has shifted from a compliance necessity to critical digital infrastructure to enhance security and reduce reliance on manual error-prone processes
- Exploring the correlation between tracking key information and subsequent shipping flows and pricing: How real-time data tracking is now a strategic asset for managing risks
- Disruption as the new standard: Examining how shippers and insurers are increasingly needing to prioritise flexibility, real-time data integration and proactive risk management
- Navigating a "new normal": How futureproofing against a volatile environment involves moving beyond "just-in-time" logistics to "just-in-case" strategies, diversifying suppliers and leveraging technology

Moderator: Taylor Wamberg, Regional Advisory Lead, Lloyd's Register Advisory

Captain Hari Subramaniam, Chief Commercial Officer, Marine, Cargo & Logistics, Howden Group

Jayendu Krishna, Director, Head Maritime Advisors, Drewry

Vanessa Xavier, General Manager, Singapore, Regional Credit Manager, Peninsula

Charles Ike, Vice-President, Maritime Trade, Pole Star

12.55-13.55 **Lunch**

Day One: Tuesday 8 September **Morning Stream B & Stream C**Select either **Stream A**, **Stream B** or **Stream C****Stream B****Chair:** Peter Matza, Council Member, Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)**11.25-12.10****Fulfilling the promise of SCF in SEA**

As global supply chains become ever more complex, businesses in Southeast Asia are seeking to improve liquidity and manage their risks in the face of growing operational costs and regulatory challenges. Though historically seeing slower adoption than in the West, the nature of these challenges in a rapidly evolving landscape point towards strong growth and uptake in supply chain finance (SCF) for companies of all sizes, rather than just for large corporations as has previously been the case. This session will consider the financial strategies, innovations and technologies helping SCF gain traction throughout the region, addressing the following points:

- Enhancing financial agility and operational resilience: Practical insights into navigating the complexities of SCF within an SEA perspective
- Compliance: How can businesses stay ahead of regulatory challenges and ensure programmes are aligned with local laws and industry standards?
- To what extent are practitioners leveraging digital tools to simplify processes, reduce costs and enhance operational efficiency?
- How significant is the potential for SMEs to leverage SCF to secure critical funding in a complex operating environment? Could this prove transformative?
- Sustainable integration: How much of a selling point is the role that SCF can play as a lever for incorporating sustainable practices into supply chains?

Moderator: Peter Matza, Council Member, Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)**Shankar Radhakrishnan**, Head of Trade Product Sales, Asia Pacific, Global Payments Solutions, Bank of America**John Monaghan**, Chief Innovation Officer, Premium Technology**Mitsuhiro Kawamura**, Managing Director, Global Head of Trade Finance, SMBC**Amanda Qian**, Vice-President of Supply Chain, Asia Pacific, Parker Hannifin**12.10-12.55****The role of commodities in the energy transition**

Asia is a critical market for the global energy transition, with a crucial role to play in the production and trading of transition-critical commodities including copper, lithium, nickel and cobalt, and with the Chinese market driving over two thirds of regional investment in renewables, electric vehicles and battery technology. This session will highlight the significance of the finance sector in this, addressing the following:

- Are major importers of fossil fuels such as India, Japan and China scaling up renewable energy adoption? How significant is increased support for renewable energy projects such as solar, wind and battery manufacturing?
- How successful have efforts to transition from traditional lending to sustainability-linked structures designed to incentivise the decarbonisation of supply chains proved in the commodity trade finance sector?
- Have banks lived up to their promises when it comes to integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into financial products and offering better terms to traders who meet verifiable sustainability goals?
- Are new financial solutions and risk mitigation tools required for managing risks in new volatile markets such as lithium sourcing or solar panel manufacturing?
- To what extent is the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) likely to create significant compliance, monitoring and financial challenges for ASEAN exporters?
- The energy transition in Asia is driven by long-term economic strategy, energy security and policy-driven demand for green infrastructure: What can other markets learn from this?

Moderator: Belinda Han, Managing Director, Head of Transaction Banking, Asia Pacific, MUFG**Gopul Shah**, Director, Corporate Treasury & Structured Trade Finance, Golden Agri-Resources**Alexander Peters**, Chief Financial Officer, Torq Commodities**Fabien Lautodé**, Deputy Head of Global Trade & Commodities APAC, Crédit Agricole CIB**Abhishek Srivastav**, Co-Head of Trade Finance & Lending APAC & MEA, Deutsche Bank**12.55-13.55 Lunch****Stream C****11.30-12.30****MDBs in a changing landscape: Response and the road ahead**

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are operating in an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving environment, shaped by geopolitical shifts, economic uncertainty and rising development needs. This session will provide an overview of how MDBs are assessing current challenges, adapting their approaches and positioning themselves strategically to remain effective and impactful going forward, with an hour-long deep dive considering the following points:

- Assessment of the current environment: How do MDBs assess the current operating landscape, and what are the key geopolitical and macroeconomic shifts shaping their institutional work today?
- Critical challenges and risks: What are the most acute institutional constraints and portfolio risks MDBs face in the current economic climate?
- Adapting the toolkit: In what ways have MDBs successfully adapted their operational instruments, cross-sector partnerships or risk management approaches in response to external changes?

- Evaluating practices and innovations: Which recent tactical innovations, deployment mechanisms or funding practices have proven most effective in addressing urgent regional development needs?
- Looking ahead: What core strategic priorities and long-term mandates will guide MDB activities and cross-border deployments over the next few years?
- Strengthening relevance: What is the single most critical structural change MDBs should make to maximise their deployment impact and bolster their systemic relevance going forward?

Moderator: Steven Beck, Director, Trade & Supply Chain, Asian Development Bank (ADB)**Nathalie Louat**, Global Director, Trade & Supply Chain Finance, International Finance Corporation (IFC)**Nana Khurodze**, Associate Director, TFP, EBRD Financial Institutions, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development**12.55-13.55 Lunch****“Informative and great learning sessions.”****S Yip**, Ever Spring & Trading Asia Pacific Pte Ltd

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Day One: Tuesday 8 September **Afternoon Streams**

Stream A

Chair: Michelle Martin, Journalist & Broadcaster

13.55-14.40

Navigating volatility: How are treasurers optimising liquidity and risk management?

Maintaining total visibility over global liquidity has become an increasingly complex mandate for the modern corporate treasurer. Faced with shifting geopolitical risks, macroeconomic volatility and evolving regulatory environments, treasury functions must move beyond traditional reactive models to safeguard business continuity. This session will consider how corporate treasurers are responding to today's core operational challenges, aligning treasury strategy with broader business goals and leveraging modern market infrastructure to unlock efficiency, covering the following:

- Managing liquidity in uncertain times: How are treasury teams adapting cash-forecasting models to mitigate macroeconomic volatility and ensure optimal capital allocation?
- Optimising cross-border efficiency: Practical strategies for reducing reliance on legacy friction points, minimising trapped cash and lowering transactional costs in key global markets
- The strategic treasury partner: Transforming teams from back-office cost centres into proactive, central engines acting as strategic partners for risk management and corporate growth
- Modernising the infrastructure mix: Assessing where technological advancements – from real-time APIs to emerging digital assets – fit into the wider treasury toolkit to drive 24/7 visibility

Moderator: Jem Clark, Executive Vice-President, Group Risk, Maybank**John Stevens**, SVP, Global Head of Financial Institutions & Working Capital, Kyriba

“The recent GTR event in Singapore exceeded my already high expectations due to the terrific content and excellent venue.”

C Weeks, BAFT

14.40-15.25

The future of the modern bank

While the conversation around the future of banking often focuses on technological deployment, leading institutions are finding that navigating cross-border risks, margin pressures and fragmented regulations ultimately hinge on human capital. As transaction banking evolves, institutions face a critical challenge; balancing massive global banking infrastructure with highly localised regional market relevance. This session will explore how leading organisations overcome modern operational strains while reshaping their educational pipelines, workforce structures, and partnership models to keep liquidity flowing. Points for consideration will include:

- Navigating fragmented frameworks: Practical institutional insights into managing cross-border compliance variations across local APAC jurisdictions without stifling vital trade liquidity
- Localising global standards: How can banks empower compliance teams to interpret the varying pace of adoptions of standards such as Basel III and FATF intelligently, rather than relying on rigid automated box-checking?
- Financial inclusion: What shifts in internal credit mindsets and banking culture are needed to ensure high-risk sectors are not locked out of capital by rigid automated algorithms?
- The transaction banking skills gap: Identifying the missing capabilities and soft skills needed in today's workforce to successfully navigate complex regulatory nuances and deepen client relationships
- Redefining professional education: How must financial qualifications and training frameworks evolve to prepare the next generation of bankers for digital-first ecosystems and high-risk environments?

Moderator: Tod Burwell, President & Chief Executive Officer, BAFT**Charley Zhang**, Head of Trade & Working Capital, APAC, J.P. Morgan**Rohinton Madon**, Chief Credit Officer, APAC, Deutsche Bank**Sally Plant**, Relationship Director, The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF)15.25-15.50 **Networking break**Select either **Stream A** or **Stream B**

Stream B

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

13.55-14.05

Transforming the Bill of Lading: A call for global action!

The Bill of Lading has been described as the cornerstone of international trade. Cornerstones are important, but if you mess with them then the whole building can come tumbling down. The UAE Chapters of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) and National Association of Freight & Logistics (NAFL) go live with the “BL Transformation Initiative” on 18 September 2026. With the impact on digital trade and sustainability, promised to be transformative, this ‘soapbox-style’ session will provide an impassioned defence of legal and technical standardisation, a rallying cry for the global maritime industry to abandon paper-based inefficiencies, and a strategic roadmap to scale electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) securely across international supply chains.

Vincent O'Brien, Director, ICC UAE; Associate Director, Institute of International Banking Law & Practice (IIBLP)

14.05-14.50

Can digitisation provide competitive advantage in a high-risk environment?

Trade finance, and commodity finance in particular, still remains a predominantly paper-based sector, with many traders continuing to rely on scanned documents, PDFs and manual data processing even as wider industry digitisation efforts continue to gather pace. So what needs to happen? This session will consider the extent to which, in a higher risk operating environment characterised by geopolitical instability, rapid technological change and cyber-enabled fraud, digitisation can provide a competitive advantage. Points for discussion will include:

- Has sufficient progress been made over the past 12 months? What, if any, have been the notable milestones?
- Does reduced transaction times and lower fraud risk allow traders to take on more complex risks and do deals that wouldn't otherwise be done?
- Are commodity traders engaging directly with digital platforms more as they seek to capitalise on the promise of increased speed, transparency and risk management?

- Examining the extent to which practitioners are prioritising data standardisation and interoperability as a means of automating their trade processes
- What has been the take-up of digital assets such as stablecoins and tokenised deposits? Are we seeing a shift from pilots to live deployments?

Moderator: Shannon Manders, Editorial Director, Global Trade Review (GTR)**Achraf Abourida**, Head of Product Management, Surecomp**Joshua Kroeker**, Chief Executive Officer, Mitigram
Yuan Li, Research & Compliance Analyst, Kpler

14.50-15.35

The hurdle to digitalising trade: Solving interoperability at scale

Despite more than a decade of concerted industry effort to digitalise global supply chains, digital trade continues to face significant hurdles. A tech-led approach has inadvertently created “digital islands,” resulting in fragmented data chains and closed, isolated networks. While legal reform is accelerating, true scalable adoption can only inch forward until the core issue of interoperability is solved. This session will provide a critical breakdown of current industry developments and cross-border solutions, addressing the following:

- Breaking down digital silos: What practical steps must the market take to connect disparate networks and reduce the risk of trapped data?
- The technology mix: How can AI and emerging tech expedite the interoperability journey?
- Governance vs operations: What does a seamless, trusted data-sharing ecosystem look like from a practical and regulatory standpoint?
- Democratising trade: What will it ultimately take for digital trade infrastructure to finally deliver value for underserved SMEs? Is this the key to finally solving the trade finance gap?

Moderator: Pamela Mar, Managing Director, ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI)**Samuel Mathew**, Managing Director, Global Head of Documentary Trade, Standard Chartered Bank**Patrick DeVilbiss**, Director IP, Trade & Supply Chain, CGI15.25-15.50 **Networking break**

Day One: Tuesday 8 September **Afternoon**

Chair: Michelle Martin, Journalist & Broadcaster

15.50-16.30

Beyond the balance sheet: Unlocking working capital through alternative trade finance

As traditional bank lending becomes harder to secure, Asian businesses face a widening working capital gap, with cash increasingly tied up through a combination of excess inventory, delays on receivables and unfulfilled contracts. This session will explore the growing prevalence of non-traditional financing solutions – from inventory solutions to contract monetisation to advanced receivables financing – as critical levers for growth, discussing the shift from traditional borrowing to structured asset-backed solutions to optimise the balance sheet. Points for consideration will include:

- Highlighting the shift to alternative asset-based trade solutions: How has this played out in the Asian market and how does it differ from other regions?
- Thinking outside the box: Identifying the value to be gained in monetising inventory and contracts before traditional receivables arise
- Risk sharing: What role does trade credit insurance have to potentially play as a catalyst for unlocking higher financing capabilities?
- Lessons learned: Sharing real-world case studies from clients who have successfully implemented these solutions and highlighting the key findings

Moderator: Janelene Chen, Partner, Mayer Brown

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

Shalin Shroff, Head of Trade & Working Capital Sales, Asia South, Citi

Shan Aboo, Chief Commercial Officer, APAC, Allianz Trade

Sachin Shanbhag, Head, GTx East Asia, First Abu Dhabi Bank

16.30-17.10

AI in trade: Gaining momentum or staying grounded?

Artificial intelligence (AI) continues to attract interest and gain headlines in all walks of life. Though the use of AI across Asia's trade finance sector continues to build momentum, the strongest value is anticipated to come from modest practical improvements rather than more ambitious aims, with many firms focusing on automating tasks that were previously manual, such as identifying unusual patterns in trading behaviour, reviewing large data sets for anomalies, or reducing the administrative workload that slows down operations. This session will consider the current state of play, seeking to address the following:

- AI in deals: Highlighting the extent to which banks are increasingly turning to AI to simplify and accelerate complex deal-making processes; how AI enables banks to respond quickly to market changes and uncover previously untapped revenue streams
- "Realistic" use cases: Is the primary value of AI at present in improving reliability and reducing inefficiencies rather than in attempting to ape human decision making?

- Showcasing the role that solutions providers have to play in embedding AI capabilities into bank platforms, enabling data-driven insights at scale and improving outcomes and operational efficiency
- To what extent is AI likely to remain "grounded" by strict regulatory compliance, data governance needs and requirement for "human-in-the-loop" oversight? Is this a bad thing?
- Greater awareness of limitations: Who owns the data models and who is accountable for bad outputs? Whose job is it to ensure that the technology is used safely and sensibly and to satisfy the expectations of regulators?

Moderator: Michelle Martin, Journalist & Broadcaster
Carlos Grassl, Director, Platform Solutions, Supply Chain Finance, FIS

Angelia Toh, Head of Trade Finance APAC, BNY

Natalia Feshakova, Chief Technology Officer, TradeDocAI

Amit Maroo, Senior Vice-President & Global Product Head, Intellect Design Arena

17.10

Chair's closing remarks

Followed by evening networking reception

"GTR Asia has refreshed and updated my knowledge about current development in global trade finance."

M Azhari, ICC Indonesia

"The discussion was insightful and provided me with different perspectives. It was worth to pay a visit."

N Thao, ShipsFocus

"GTR is an easy and structured in-road into the Asian trade and commodity world that allows convenient access to the market participants that make a difference."

VH van den Kwanst, BBE – Byblosbank Europe SA

"GTR Asia provides a unique platform to explore the trends shaping trade today, from geopolitics and technology to finance and sustainability. The dialogue it fosters is essential for helping the industry prepare for what lies ahead."

S Erhart, Lidl & Kaufland Asia

"Exceptional professionalism, featuring insightful guest speakers who shared in-depth expertise, and well-curated topics that effectively addressed key challenges and opportunities in the global trade finance landscape."

G Jiang, ABSA

2026 BAFT Asia Forum

September 9 from 14.00 onwards

In collaboration with GTR Asia, delegates can access an exclusive gathering for transaction banking leaders, hosted by BAFT, on the afternoon of Day 2 (September 9).

Registration for the BAFT Asia Forum is separate from GTR Asia. To RSVP to attend, please contact events@baft.org, or visit the [event website](#) for the agenda and registration.

Day Two: Wednesday 9 September **Morning**

09.00-09.05

Chair's morning remarks

Michelle Martin, Journalist & Broadcaster

09.05-09.35

Legal frameworks and risk metrics: Navigating corporate supply chain migration in APAC

As global trade corridors realign, multinational corporations are shifting from high-level "China+ 1" theory into complex operational execution across Southeast Asia. However, building true supply chain resilience requires far more than moving manufacturing assets; it demands absolute legal certainty and predictive market intelligence. This session bridges the gap between macro data and legal reality, bringing together trade counsel and data specialists to provide a practical blueprint for identifying route vulnerabilities, safeguarding cross-border contracts and managing the localised regulatory hurdles that can stall regional expansion. Key themes for consideration will include:

- Data-driven resilience: Utilising granular risk intelligence, maritime metrics and trade data to map macro vulnerabilities and predict operational chokepoints across emerging ASEAN hubs
- Enforcing the contractual framework: How can firms best structure cross-border agreements, manage local joint-venture compliance and mitigate jurisdictional risks in high-growth markets?
- Minimising operational friction: What practical steps should corporate practitioners take to handle localised compliance variances and safeguard physical supply chains from legal defaults or sudden trade policy shifts?

Max Lim, Partner, Penningtons Manches Cooper

Deepa Kumar, Director, Head of APAC Country Risk, S&P Global Market Intelligence

09.35-10.00

Innovating the supply chain: Ensuring strategic stability amidst disruption

This special fireside chat will dive into how supply chain disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz affect finances and liquidity. The conversation will cover essential tactics for handling oil price swings, strengthening supply chain resilience and maintaining financial liquidity. It will also look at ways to identify hidden risks and create strong risk management frameworks, highlighting the importance of creative financial solutions in securing long-term stability in the face of geopolitical challenges. Areas for discussion in this special fireside chat will include:

- The impact on oil prices and wider market volatility
- Financial liquidity and cash flow management
- Currency risks and foreign exchange management
- Supply chain resilience and diversification
- Investment in risk management and contingency planning

Ying Git Chan, Senior Director Finance, NTUC Enterprise Co-Operative Ltd *in conversation with*
Sanjay Desai, Independent Advisor & Mentor

"GTR Asia is one of the most reliable platforms for convening key players in the trade and finance ecosystem around the key challenges and opportunities facing the industry. It's a must."

P Mar, ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI)

10.00-10.40

Does the APAC region offer competitive advantage for trade as an asset class?

As trade finance emerges as a high-demand alternative asset class, institutional investors are increasingly turning to the Asia-Pacific region. This session explores how investors can capitalise on APAC's manufacturing dominance and rapidly digitising trade ecosystems to capture short-dated, low-risk, and non-correlated returns. Key discussion points will include:

- The blueprint for attracting investors: Analysing the core characteristics of trade finance that appeal to institutional mandates, including low market correlation and predictable yield
- The regional perspective: Leveraging APAC's manufacturing dominance, regional trade agreements, and deep economic integration to maximize investment returns.
- Tokenisation as a catalyst: Exploring how Real-World Asset (RWA) tokenization fractionalises multi-million-dollar trade flows to open the market to hedge funds, private credit desks and alternative investors.
- De-risking: Evaluating the critical role of trade credit insurance and portfolio mitigation tools have in protecting institutional capital
- Improved market access: Assessing how fintech solutions and digital platforms are unlocking yield-generating opportunities within the historically underserved SME receivables space

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

Damien Wuersten, CIO & Co-Founder, Liquide Finance

Chris Ash, Chief Executive Officer, CamGlobal Commodities

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

10.40-11.10 **Networking break**

"Another successful year! Year after year, GTR never fails to deliver invaluable insights on the most up to date and relevant issues facing global trade finance today, while also providing an excellent platform for networking. Looking forward to 2026!"

C Tan, Rong Sheng Petrochemical

"Great event as we can network with so many professionals and also hear from experts on a range of topical issues and events impacting the economy and trade."

R Krishnan, Global Credit Data Consortium (GCD)

"If you're a market leader in trade finance, GTR is the conference to attend. No other event matches GTR in its ability to bring together key players in the global trade finance community. It's where leaders exchange insights, stay ahead of trends, and shape the future of trade."

M Toyoda, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

"GTR Asia provides a valuable opportunity to connect with existing clients, peers and make new connections. The speakers offered deep expertise and practical knowledge on a wide range of topics, from digitalisation to navigating geopolitical risks."

M Bullard, Silver Birch

Day Two: Wednesday 9 September **Afternoon**

11.10-11.55

Opportunity through threat: Navigating a transformative phase for the insurance sector

Moving away from the traditional panel structure, this session utilises a fully interactive, scenario-driven format to address the sharpest risks facing the credit and political risk insurance (CPRI) markets today. Guided by dual moderators representing both corporate buyer and legal litigation perspectives, the session will project three concrete, real-world case studies onto the big screen. An expert panel of underwriters and brokers will be put on the spot to stress-test how the product responds in real-time, mapping out the boundaries between insurance coverage, legal wording, and structural security. Points for discussion will include:

- Geopolitical shocks and blockades: Reviewing sudden supply chain disruptions, export controls, and state-enforced restrictions. How quickly can coverage respond, and where are the blind spots when nationalism or conflict freezes fast-moving goods?
- The fraud and due diligence gap: Addressing the multi-million-dollar question the market often avoids—does trade credit cover fraud, and where does the burden of due diligence sit? What structural lessons can be drawn from recent major commodity trade finance failures?
- Private credit and market pressures: With private credit turbocharging receivables financing, how are increasingly complex funding structures creating new vulnerabilities for lenders and insurers alike?
- Aligning expectations: Moving past the abstracts to define the true limits of risk mitigation. When the tide goes out, how can corporates ensure their expectations are fully aligned with the reality of the insurance product?

Co-Moderators: **Suraj Aggarwal**, Chief Financial Officer, Dreyamoer Fertilizers Overseas & **Baldev Bhinder**, Managing Director, BlackStone & Gold
Lee Garvey, Regional Head of Financial Solutions, Asia Pacific, WTW

Alexandre Toussaint, Senior Underwriter, Political Risk & Trade Credit, Africa Specialty Risks

Rachel Wong, Associate Director, Aon

Tim Warren, Head of Structured Credit & Political Risk, RedRay MGA

11.55-12.20

Case study: Managing defaults in long-term sales and purchase contracts

Market shocks – whether driven by geopolitical disruption, shipping constraints or price volatility – can quickly expose the fault lines in long-term commodity contracts. Against the current backdrop of tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, prolonged transit disruptions, rising freight costs and surging insurance premiums are placing acute strain on contract performance. Agreements intended to provide stability may become uneconomic or impossible to perform, triggering a cascade from operational stress to contractual default.

This practical session examines how long-term SPAs break down in reality, focusing on the legal, commercial and strategic playbook when performance is under pressure. Using real-world dispute scenarios, panellists will explore how short-term disruption can escalate into termination, damages claims and arbitration, and how businesses can protect their position. Key themes include:

- From disruption to default: How sustained cost increases and operational constraints – such as chokepoint crises – translate into breach and contract breakdown
- Force majeure and its limits: When disruption justifies suspension, and when parties must rely on termination or breach arguments
- Cost vs impossibility: Why “uneconomic” performance rarely excuses non-performance
- Drafting for resilience: How contract structures (e.g. flexibility, termination triggers) can mitigate or amplify stress
- Managing distressed contracts: Preserving rights, renegotiating terms and preparing for disputes

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

“I’ve been attending GTR Asia for a number of years and seen it grow from strength to strength. It is without doubt the best platform for the trade community in Asia.”

L Garvey, WTW

12.20-13.00

Steering through choppy waters: The importance of building in resilience

The shift in focus towards infra-Asian trade to mitigate the impact of US tariffs has been a common trend for companies as they seek to navigate the uncertainty of the current landscape through strategic diversification, “glocalisation” and accelerated digital adoption. Multinationals operating in the Southeast Asia region are increasingly utilising the region as a hub for their ‘China+1’ strategies, with increased focus on supply chain resilience, ESG compliance and localised manufacturing. This session will highlight the following:

- ‘Glocalisation’: How corporates are diversifying away from a sole reliance on China with many targeting ASEAN markets to boost their resilience
- Exploring how firms are forming new partnerships and investing in digital tools such as AI to improve transparency and visibility of their inventory
- How are companies managing local content requirements, particularly in high-growth sectors such as electric vehicles (EVs), battery production and electronics manufacturing in countries like Indonesia and Vietnam?
- What more can be done to capitalise on trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to reduce trade barriers?
- Examining how many ASEAN countries are actively diversifying FX reserves and initiating regional payment connectivity, settling cross-border transactions in local currencies
- To what extent do high labour costs, regulatory burdens and talent shortages make reshoring difficult for many consumer goods? Is the trend driven more by governments incentivising key sectors?

Moderator: **Michelle Martin**, Journalist & Broadcaster
Namit Kamra, Chief Financial Officer, Indorama Polychem Indonesia

Matt Bullard, Managing Director, Silver Birch

Subomi Olajide, Deputy CEO, Cede

Vijay Shankar, Managing Director, Head of Global Transaction Banking APAC & Middle East, Barclays

13.00

Chair’s closing remarks

Followed by networking lunch

14.00-18.30 BAFT Asia Forum

Formal close of GTR Asia 2026

“An incredibly insightful and informative event. A great opportunity for gaining knowledge on global trade but also invaluable opportunities to connect with industry leaders. Must attend for trade finance professionals!”

S Ahmed, Habib Bank Zurich Hong Kong

“It was a privilege to join such a well-curated event at a time when global trade is undergoing a once-in-a-generation transformation. GTR Asia offered insightful dialogue, valuable connections, and a clear view of where trade and trade finance digitalisation is heading. It continues to be a vital platform for advancing conversations and shaping the future of global commerce.”

B Chen, Global Shipping Business Network (GSBN)

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