

2025

ABA NEWSLETTER

January Issue



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About ABA

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) began when it took the first step toward forging closer regional links when 217 representatives of 139 banks met in Taipei in May 1981 to establish the Asian Bankers Council (later known as ABA) as one of the Product and Service Councils of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI). The countries represented included Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Thailand.

The Taipei meeting was the largest gathering of bankers with Asian presence to be convened in the region at that time. CACCI sponsored the meeting with the view to exploring banking opportunities in Asia and to enhance the role of bankers in the economic development of the region.

The ABA aims to provide a forum for advancing the cause of the banking and finance industry in the region and promoting regional economic cooperation. Its primary objectives include the following:

- To serve as a venue for an exchange of views and information on banking opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region;
- To facilitate the meeting of bankers in the region in an atmosphere of fellowship and friendship;
- To encourage joint activities that would enhance the role of its members in servicing the financial needs of their respective economies and in promoting regional development; and
- To undertake projects that will encourage trade, industrial, and investment cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

ABA and CTBC Bank Successfully host 40th ABA General Meeting and Conference



More than 380 representatives from central banks, finance companies, the academe, and international organizations from more than 25 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond gathered in Taipei for the 40th ABA General Meeting and Conference held on November 18 and 19, 2024 at the Grand Hyatt Taipei.

Focusing on the theme “Asian Banks: Transitioning Toward a Sustainable Future”, the two-day Conference featured Minister of Economic Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) H.E. Kuo Jyh-Huei and the Chairman of the Financial Supervisory Commission H.E. Dr. Jin-Lung Peng as Speakers during the Opening Ceremony, sharing their valuable perspectives on issues surrounding the Conference theme.



Minister, Economic Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) H.E. Kuo Jyh-Huei



Chairman, Financial Supervisory Commission H.E. Dr. Jin-Lung Peng

In his Welcome Remarks at the Opening Ceremony, ABA Chairman and Vice Chairman of CTBC Financial Holdings Mr. Daniel Wu pointed out that the banking industry is undergoing a shift from traditional to customer-centric and digitally-driven operations, pushed by factors such as changing customer demands, changing operating models, and a digitally-driven market. With the resulting changes in their requirements and expectations, customers are expected to gravitate towards banks that provide the most integrated and intuitive experiences, underscoring the need for banks to ensure a seamless banking

experience for their customer base.

He further noted that another issue that poses a daunting challenge for the banking industry is the impact of climate change. He stressed the need to mobilize both our existing and additional resources – technology development, financial resources, and capacity building – to meet the growing need of the region for sustainable finance.

However, Chairman Wu expressed his belief that ABA, as an international organizational platform, can effectively assist member banks in finding solutions to current challenges, allowing the banking industry to successfully digitally transform and move towards sustainable operations.

Welcome Remarks were also delivered by Dr. Ray B. Dawn, Chairman of the Bankers Association of The Republic of China (BAROC) and of Mega International Commercial Bank.



ABA Chairman and Vice Chairman of CTBC Financial Holdings Mr. Daniel Wu



Chairman, Financial Supervisory Commission H.E. Dr. Jin-Lung Peng

A key feature during Day One of the Conference was the fireside chat between Blackstone Vice Chairman Thomas Nides and ABA Chairman Daniel Wu who shared their personal experiences and observations on the international financial situation. Mr. Nides served as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel from 2021 to 2023. Prior to that, he worked at Morgan Stanley for more than ten years, serving as Chief Operating Officer and Vice Chairman.

During the chat, Mr. Nides pointed out the opportunities and challenges of Asia’s unique economic environment in the post-epidemic era, and provided suggestions for the Asian banking industry to maintain competitiveness and sustainable development in response to economic and geopolitical changes.



Blackstone Vice Chairman Thomas Nides

ABA and CTBC Bank Successfully host 40th ABA General Meeting and Conference

The Opening Ceremony was followed by three Plenary Sessions featuring distinguished speakers who dwelt on topics focusing on technology, sustainability and customer experience.

The agenda for the second day on November 19, 2024 started with the Host Bank Session featuring renown Chief economist Richard Koo from Nomura Research Institute of Japan, who explained the financial situation of the United States, Japan and China.



Chief economist Richard Koo, Nomura Research Institute

Richard Koo's presentation was followed by the CEO Forum session, B2B networking meetings, and subsequently by the 63rd ABA Board of Directors' Meeting presided by Mr. Daniel Wu, ABA Chairman and Vice Chairman, CTBC Financial Holding.

The 40th ABA General Meeting and Conference marked the sixth time that the annual gathering of ABA members was held in Taipei since ABA's establishment in 1981. Government officials from other Asian countries, high-ranking officers from important international financial institutions in Taiwan as well as bank representatives from Austria, Bhutan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam joined the event.

CTBC showcases AI Assistant – Interactive Financial Adviser at the Taipei ABA Conference



During the 40th ABA General Meeting and Conference, the host CTBC Bank showcased its trial AI Assistant – Interactive Financial Adviser for participants to experience.

Service Highlight

Through step-by-step conversations, AI can understand customers' investment habits and generate personalized investment reports based on customer needs, including charts such as asset allocation planning, investment portfolio products, and investment group historical performance. Users can also dynamically adjust preferences for comparison.

Technical Features

It was developed by the CTBC R&D team by integrating expert knowledge systems and cross-knowledge retrieval technology capabilities. Using machine vision and generative AI to integrate asset allocation models, it can effectively provide financial advice just like real people, and can interact, communicate, and act as full-capacity AI assistant that is good at analysis and planning provides a more warm and humanistic financial consulting experience.

Membership

Myanma Tourism Bank Joins the ABA



The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) is pleased to share that Myanma Tourism Bank has joined the association as a Regular Member.

Myanma Tourism Bank (MTB) was established in 2018 with the approval of the Central Bank of Myanmar under the Financial Institutions Law (FI Law). Headquartered on Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, MTB operates 18 branches across Myanmar, ensuring comprehensive access to financial services nationwide.

The bank specializes in providing tailored financial solutions to individuals, SMEs, and businesses, particularly in the tourism sector. By focusing on customer-centric services, MTB strives to address the unique needs of its clients, supported by a dedicated team of banking professionals.

MTB is committed to promoting financial inclusion,



environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development in Myanmar. The Bank plays an active role in fostering community development and supporting green initiatives.

As one of the leading commercial banks in Myanmar, MTB continues to build partnerships and serve as a trusted financial institution for businesses and individuals alike.

Training Programs

ABA and Qorus Co-Organize Reinvent Forum APAC in Bangkok on February 19-20, 2025

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) invites members to join Reinvent Forum APAC in Bangkok on February 19-20, 2025.

Co-organized with Qorus, a Knowledge Partner of ABA, the two-day Forum will gather industry leaders, innovators, and forward-thinkers for two action-packed days exploring the trends transforming the financial services landscape.

It aims to provide the participants the opportunity to dive into insightful sessions on:

- CX Strategies: Redefining customer experiences for lasting impact
- Sustainability: Driving purpose-led growth and sustainable innovation
- Digital Commerce: Unlocking new growth opportunities through innovation
- Embedded Finance: Redefining Customer Experience and Service Delivery

In addition to thought-provoking sessions, attendees can look forward to:

- Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers, experts, and industry leaders from institutions such as AWS, AIA, HSBC, Cathay, Nimble, Lightnet and more.
- Qorus Reinvention Awards – APAC: Celebrate the



best innovations and achievements in the industry.

- Community Meet-Up: Engage with like-minded professionals and build lasting partnerships.

For more details and registration, please visit [Reinvent Forum Bangkok](#) website.

The Forum is free for ABA Members. Interested parties are requested to contact aba@aba.org.tw to claim complementary passes.

Qorus where finance professionals and organizations solve challenges and reinvent themselves. Join the revolution transforming the banking and Insurance industry.

Training Programs

ABA & Fintelekt Co-Organize "Certified AML/CFT Professional Training Programme" on February 20-21, 2025

Fintelekt



The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) is pleased to announce the upcoming Fintelekt Certified

AML/CFT Professional (FCAP) training programme to be held in-person on February 20-21, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

FCAP is a two-day intensive course designed as a comprehensive and practical masterclass for aspiring and practicing AML/CFT professionals to learn and stay updated with the latest tools, techniques and developments in anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing.

The programme is relevant for staff from the AML Compliance, Regulatory Compliance, Financial Crime, Trade Finance, Remittances, Payment Systems, Retail Banking, Wholesale Banking, Digital Banking, Technology, Cyber Security, Audit, Legal, Strategy and Corporate Governance from the banking and financial services industry.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn and gain a better understanding of the following:

- International AML/CFT framework
- AML governance and risk-based approach
- National framework and national risk assessment
- Enterprise risk assessment
- Correspondent banking risks
- Sanctions and screening

- Trade-based money laundering
- Terrorist financing & proliferation financing
- Ultimate beneficial ownership
- Cryptocurrency risks
- Evolving risks in the digital age
- Risks from new payment systems
- Technology developments
- Transaction monitoring
- Quality of reporting
- Expectations of FIUs/LEAs
- Regulatory/ LEA interactions
- Co-ordination within the AML/CFT ecosystem
- Preventive measures

This will be a non-residential training programme (i.e., accommodation costs will have to be borne by the participant). However, Fintelekt worked out a special rate with the venue hotel which participants can avail of. Further details will be made available upon registration.

Regular price: US\$675 per participant

ABA is glad to offer its members 18% Discount on the participation fee. ABA members will pay only US\$550 per participant.

For more information and registration, please reach out to: contact@fintelekt.com.

ABA Members Invited to Join the 3rd Chief Risk Officer Summit in Bangkok May 14-15, 2025

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) invites members to participate in the 3rd Annual Chief Risk Officer Summit to be held on May 14-15, 2025 in the Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit.

Organized by Trueventus (www.trueventus.com), the two-day Summit is aimed at equipping risk professionals with relevant and actionable information since they play a pivotal role in current world industries, with over 75% of global companies reporting that risk management significantly impacts their success, according to PwC. The challenge to maintain operational continuity has also increased further in the finance industry where 86% of organizations have faced cyberattacks.

The Summit will gather business leaders from different industries and world-class companies, including banks and related financial institutions, who will present case studies and share experiences in the latest technology to improve data quality and operations.

The Summit will discuss issues such as:

- Integration of risk management into strategic



planning, decision-making, and major transformations.

- Implementation of strategies to streamline processes and cut unnecessary risks.
- Monitor information across the organization for better risk management.
- Understanding the use of advanced

tools and technologies to gain a comprehensive view of risks.

- Understanding the various risk perspectives and related analyses.
- Mitigating information flow across the organization for better risk management.

The Summit is also another great opportunity for networking among high-level risk management professionals.

For more details about the Summit, download the brochure [HERE](#) or visit <https://www.trueventus.com/chief-risk-officer-bangkok/>

Participating ABA members will benefit from a 10% discount from the listed price shown in the application form included in the brochure.