



Building a Future-Ready Bank

Thursday, October 15, 2026 | Shangri-La, Dubai

EVENT PARTNERS





AGENDA

08:15 - 09.15 AM	Breakfast and Registration
09.15 - 09.30 AM	Welcome Note
09.30 - 09.45 AM	Market Overview and Trends
09.45 - 10.30 AM	Panel 1: Future of Banking A Business Leadership Strategic Perspective Strategy drives technology, or is it now the other way around? Enjoy an interesting conversation with banking business leaders on what's the right answer to this question, and how will a bank strategy evolve for the future. Also, the kind of organization, skills, and culture needed to make it work.
10:30 - 11:15 AM	Panel 2: Future Ready Digital Lending Retail and Corporate Digital transformation is redefining how banks serve retail customers and small and medium enterprises alike. This panel explores the strategies, platforms, and partnerships enabling banks to deliver seamless digital experiences across segments, and the opportunities and challenges in building scalable, customer-centric digital propositions for diverse banking needs.
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Tea/Coffee Break





11.30 - 12.15 PM

Panel 3: AI in Action | Pioneering the Next Wave of Digital Banking

AI is reshaping the financial services industry globally. This panel explores how AI is driving personalized customer experiences, optimizing operations, and enabling real-time decision-making. As the industry embraces data-driven strategies, what are the key opportunities and challenges in adopting AI and analytics at scale across financial institutions?

12.15 - 01.00 PM

Panel 4: AI in Action | Driving Next Gen Payments and Transaction Banking

AI is transforming payments and transaction banking through intelligent automation and real-time processing. This panel explores how banks can modernize payment rails, enhance fraud detection, streamline trade and cash management, and deliver smarter transaction services. What opportunities and challenges must bank address to build resilient, future-ready payment ecosystems?

01.00 - 01.15 PM

Closing Note

01.15 - 02.15 PM

Lunch and Networking

PANELISTS

Panel 1: 09:45 am to 10:30 am

Future of Banking | A Business Leadership Strategic Perspective



V Ramkumar
Senior Partner
Cedar
Moderator



Rashid Al Qubaisi
CEO
Mawarid Finance



Varun Sood
Chief Transformation Officer
Dubai Islamic Bank



Anurag Thakwani
Head of Transformation
Emirates Islamic Bank



Mirel Baila
Acting Chief Operating Officer
AI Masraf



Rajesh Mirjankar
MD & CEO
KiyaAI

Panel 2: 10:30 am to 11:15 am

Future Ready Digital Lending | Retail and Corporate



Nikhil Gokhale
Director - Research & Digital Properties
IBS intelligence
Moderator



Shoaib Rizvi
Group Head of Digital Products, Group IT
Emirates NBD



Kashif Thakkur
Chief Business Officer
Mawarid Finance



Saurabh Lodha
Head of Assets, SME Banking & Payments
WIO Bank



Gagan Sethi
Vice President - Lending Solutions
VeriPark

Panel 3: 11:30 am to 12:15 pm

AI in Action | Pioneering the Next Wave of Digital Banking



Pankul Verma
Partner
Cedar
Moderator



Prashant Kumar
Head of AI and Digital Channels
AI Masraf



Vinod Yadav
Group CIO
Emirates Investment Bank



Srinivasan Sampath
Head - GTTO Business Planning & Intelligence
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)



Ajit Pillai
Head of Engineering
Zand



Dr Joseph George
Chief Technology Officer
Ajman Bank

Panel 4: 12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

AI in Action | Driving Next Gen Payments and Transaction Banking



Chetan Parekh
Managing Partner, MENA FinTech Practice
Cedar
Moderator



Navneet Dave
MD Middle East & Co-Head Group Processing Business
Network International



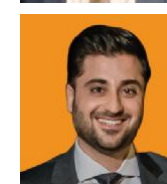
Cem Soydemir
Head of Payments Market Development, MENAT & India
Swift



Hamayoun Khan
Head of Transaction Banking
Commercial Bank of Dubai



Santosh Vaidya
Global Head of Operations Technology & Digital Services
Mashreq



Ali Nanji
Managing Director, GCC
BPC Banking Technologies

ABOUT CEDAR

With a 40-year track record, Cedar is a Forbes-ranked global consulting firm with deep expertise in strategy & driving performance powered by the Balanced Scorecard. Its Financial Services & Financial Technology Practice is a Centre-of-Excellence transforming leading financial institutions & technology companies as the digital and AI revolution accelerates.

ABOUT IBS INTELLIGENCE

Founded in 1991 and headquartered in the UK, Cedar's group firm, IBS Intelligence (IBSi) is the world's only pure-play Financial Technology focused research, advisory, and news analysis firm, with a 30+ year track record and clients globally. We take pride in covering 5,000+ technology vendors globally – the largest by any analyst firm in this space. IBSi's Sales League Table is the industry barometer ranking banking technology suppliers globally for 25+ years.

ABOUT CEDAR-IBSI FINTECH LAB

Founded in 2017, the Cedar-IBSi FinTech Lab has been home to 70+ global technology companies seeking a “soft-landing” opportunity into the European, MENA and Indian markets, making it one of the only such FinTech ecosystems in Asia.

ABOUT CEDAR HILL CAPITAL

Cedar Hill Capital is an early-stage venture capital fund backing founders building AI-first enterprise technology for the Financial Services industry. The Fund's investment thesis is anchored in a deep legacy of Financial Services technology research and management consulting, leveraging the combined expertise of Cedar Consulting, IBS Intelligence, and Cedar-IBSi FinTech Lab – a platform representing over 70 years of global experience in the sector.

We make Strategy, Technology & Capital Work.



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