



## Newsletter April 2024

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### VOICES



#### **Interview with [Hortense Mudenge](#), Chief Strategy Officer at Rwanda Finance Limited**

Hortense Mudenge discusses the pivotal role of [WAIFC](#) and emerging financial centers in addressing climate, social finance, and governance issues, highlighted at [COP 28](#). Additionally, Mudenge underscores the significance of the [WAIFC Africa Chapter](#) in driving growth and investment across the continent, leveraging collaborative efforts to promote regional ecosystems and address critical issues.

**You participated as a speaker at our WAIFC roundtable at COP28. What insights would you like to share with the world?**

It is great to see the increased interest and investment that countries are putting towards sustainability. As a member of WAIFC and an emerging financial center, we have a key role to play in addressing concerns related to climate, social finance, and governance. Discussions at COP28 provided a great platform for us to learn and engage with peer centers on these topics, resulting in two main outcomes: the need to establish a clear policy and regulatory framework around climate and sustainable finance, and the exploration of innovative financial instruments to accelerate capital deployment towards green and sustainable projects.

**How can the WAIFC Africa Chapter be a key towards a more sustainable world?**

The [WAIFC Africa Chapter](#) is a concerted effort by financial centers in Africa to drive growth and investment on the continent. Leveraging the broader network of WAIFC, the Chapter will serve as an excellent platform for us to connect and collaborate on flagship initiatives to promote our ecosystems and address key issues and concerns affecting the region.

## OPINIONS



### Opinion of **Thomas Krantz**, WAIFC's Advisor to the Managing Director

[Thomas Krantz](#) underscores the critical need to green supply chain finance amid global trade complexities and climate change.

The focus is on the pivotal role financial institutions play in promoting sustainability and transition finance, urging financial leaders to champion public discourse and drive corporate behavior change for positive societal impact. The emphasis is on the reputational benefits of adopting rigorous ESG practices and the immediate action needed to transition toward a sustainable future.

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## NEWS



### WAIFC welcomes **Future Finance Poland** as newest member from **Central and Eastern Europe**

[Future Finance Poland](#) joins [WAIFC](#), expanding our network to 20 members across five continents. Poland's inclusion highlights its 30-year dedication to financial growth and innovation.

Dr. [Pawel Widawski](#), Chairman of Future Finance Poland, expresses excitement about the collaboration. WAIFC aims to enhance cross-border cooperation and exchange best practices among financial centers. Future Finance Poland, a non-profit initiative, focuses on Polish financial market development.

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### Meeting of the **WAIFC Board of Directors & Extraordinary General Meeting** in Mauritius

WAIFC recently held a pivotal meeting in Mauritius, graciously hosted by the [Economic Development Board of Mauritius](#). The agenda encompassed various focus areas, ranging from advancing women in finance to

promoting green supply chains and integrating art into financial centers.

Noteworthy progress was observed in the [Regulatory Genome Project](#), aimed at driving financial innovation and governance forward. A significant development during the meeting was the appointment of [Olivier Vigna](#) to the WAIFC board, succeeding [Arnaud de Bresson](#). This transition underscores WAIFC's commitment to bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to its leadership. Throughout the gathering, WAIFC reaffirmed its dedication to fostering collaboration and innovation within the global financial realm, emphasizing its ongoing efforts to shape a more dynamic and sustainable future.

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## **WAIFC Delegates Meet with the Bank of Mauritius and Key Financial Players**

[WAIFC](#) delegates engaged in educational visits and discussions with Mauritian financial leaders, showcasing the island's commitment to innovation and rigorous financial standards.

Visits included the [African Leadership University](#) and the [Financial Services Commission](#), highlighting Mauritius' role as an international financial center. Insightful sessions at the [Bank of Mauritius](#) focused on initiatives to combat fraud and money laundering, underscoring the island's dedication to safeguarding its financial sector.

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## **Signature of Memorandum of Understanding of the WAIFC Africa Roundtable**

[WAIFC](#)'s African members signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Mauritius, establishing the WAIFC Africa Roundtable.

This initiative aims to strengthen financial centers in Africa, promote investment opportunities, and enhance regional collaboration. Key objectives include supporting the exchange of best practices, advocating for regulatory coordination, and fostering dialogue with African institutions and policymakers. Signatories include the [Economic Development Board of Mauritius](#), [Casablanca Finance City Authority](#), [EnterpriseNGR](#), and [Rwanda Finance Limited](#). The Africa Roundtable's inaugural meeting, chaired by [Ken Poonoosamy](#), will focus on

boosting competitiveness and facilitating regional trade.

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## WAIFC Africa Chapter Kick-off

The [WAIFC](#) Africa Chapter was launched in Mauritius, bringing together signatory members [EDB Mauritius](#), [Rwanda Finance](#), [Casablanca Finance City](#), and [EnterpriseNGR](#) to kick off strategic discussions.

The meeting highlighted plans to boost visibility through regional events, best practice exchanges, and AI utilization. They're gearing up for a joint event in Tokyo, focusing on AML/CFT practices. EDB Mauritius leads efforts to share best practices via webinars with experts from local financial authorities. The Chapter aims to leverage AI and collaborative initiatives to drive impactful changes across Africa.

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## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



### ADGM and Solana Foundation Forge a Strategic Partnership

Our member, [Abu Dhabi Global Market](#) (ADGM), and the [Solana Foundation](#) have entered a strategic partnership to boost Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) solutions and blockchain innovation.

This collaboration, aligned with ADGM's vision of becoming a tech-driven financial hub, will explore joint initiatives and projects to enhance the blockchain ecosystem in Abu Dhabi. The partnership signifies ADGM's leadership in the blockchain sector and emphasizes the importance of regulation and compliance for sustainable development.

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### Astana International Financial Centre achieves ISDA recognition as a netting-friendly jurisdiction

The [Astana International Financial Centre](#) (AIFC) earned [ISDA](#) recognition as a netting-friendly jurisdiction, allowing for close-out netting of ISDA Master Agreements.

This recognition enhances Kazakhstan's financial market infrastructure, attracting global institutions to conduct derivative transactions within the AIFC. With a robust legal framework and a commitment to international best practices, the AIFC aims to foster a safe, efficient, and competitive financial ecosystem.

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### **Stuttgart Financial: Pioneering Sustainable Finance in Real Estate**

[Stuttgart Financial](#) hosted the Sustainable Finance Roundtable, focusing on transforming the real estate sector sustainably.

Dr. [Philipp Veit](#) highlighted Stuttgart Financial's potential to become a leading center for sustainable finance, presenting strategies to secure Stuttgart's significant role in green finance. The panel, which included various economic actors, provided diverse insights into the subject.

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### **Need for action to reinforce economic security and support net zero – a German-Japanese perspective**

[Frankfurt Main Finance](#) highlights the close partnership between Germany and Japan, emphasizing their shared challenges in global trade and commitments to achieving net zero emissions.

Their three-step approach addresses supply chain risks, emphasizing the importance of vulnerability analysis, strategic measures, and cooperation with like-minded partners. The study underscores the critical role of banks in raising awareness, providing funding, and facilitating trade diversification to effectively tackle supply chain disruptions.

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## Jersey Finance Launches Future Leaders Forum

[Jersey Finance](#) launches the Future Leaders Forum, offering winners of the Rising Stars Awards a platform to discuss industry issues and contribute to enhancing Jersey's competitiveness.

Led by CEO [Joe Moynihan](#), the initiative aims to support young professionals and foster constructive change in the financial sector. Insights from the Forum will be shared with Jersey Finance and the Financial Services Advisory Board, promoting collaboration for a resilient workforce.

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## Busan Finance Symposium: Advancing Global Financial Hub Status

The [Busan Finance Center](#) hosted a symposium to celebrate Busan's 15th anniversary as a maritime and derivative finance hub.

Discussions centered around policies aimed at enhancing Busan's global financial status, such as establishing a financial special zone and a digital asset exchange. President Myongho Rhee emphasized support for Busan's financial hub development through research and international promotion, thanking the [City of London Corporation](#) for their backing.

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## Future Finance Poland Drives Fintech Collaboration with Korea

[Future Finance Poland](#) played a key role in organizing the Poland-Korea Seminar, fostering collaboration between fintech ecosystems.

The event featured the signing of a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between [FinTech Poland](#) and [Korea Fintech Center](#), emphasizing cooperation and exchange in various areas such as regulatory information sharing and joint seminars. The seminar highlighted the potential of both markets, showcasing innovative presentations and setting the stage for future cross-border partnerships to drive fintech innovation and knowledge exchange.

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For additional news articles on WAIFC and its members, please subscribe the [weekly newsletter](#) of our Managing Director.

## EVENTS



### [TheCityUK International Conference 2024](#)

TheCityUK's 2024 International Conference, held in London and online, unites global leaders from finance, politics, and regulation. Join our member to explore key drivers shaping business strategies, reinforcing the UK's position as a premier international financial center.

April 18, 2024. etc.venues St Paul's, London, UK

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Organisers

friends of the earth  
地球之友

HK FINANCIAL SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
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# EARTH FORUM 2024

## TRANSITION FINANCE TOWARDS A NET ZERO ECONOMY

### [Earth Forum 2024](#)

Join us for the [Earth Forum 2024](#), themed "Transition Finance Towards a Net Zero Economy," co-organized by our esteemed member, the [Financial Services Development Council](#), along with [Friends of the Earth](#) (HK) and the [China Sustainable Investment Forum](#). Explore how sustainable finance can pave the path to a net-zero economy aligned with the [Paris Agreement](#) and Sustainable Development Goals. Financial institutions play a crucial role in allocating capital for climate-resilient development and transitioning to a net-zero economy. Learn about transition finance strategies to bridge the gap in

green investments and drive climate-resilient growth. Topics include product innovation, climate disclosure, and transition risk management for financial institutions.

April 22, 2024. 35/F, SPD Bank Tower, 1 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

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A dark blue banner for the Dubai FinTech Summit 2024. On the left is the DIFC logo, a stylized diamond shape with horizontal lines. To its right, the text 'DUBAI FINTECH SUMMIT' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below this, it says 'Organised by DIFC' with the DIFC logo. On the right side, the dates '6 - 7 May 2024' and the location 'Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai' are written in white. Below that is the website 'dubaifintechsummit.com'. At the bottom center, a white box contains the text 'UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF' in black, followed by 'H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum' in white, and 'First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance' in a smaller white font below it.

## Dubai FinTech Summit 2024

Participate in the Dubai FinTech Summit 2024, organized by the [Dubai International Financial Centre](#) in May, following the success of last year's edition. Sponsored by global fintech players, the event offers a platform for industry leaders to connect, forge partnerships, and contribute to global discussions, reinforcing Dubai's role as a FinTech hub.

May 6 and 7, 2024. Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE

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## [Paris Finance Forum 2024](#)

The Paris Finance Forum, an annual event hosted by our member, [Paris Europlace](#), is scheduled for June 11. This day-long gathering will feature conferences and debates centered around the theme 'Finance at the heart of European strategic autonomy.' This event has established itself as a key financial meeting in continental Europe, attracting over 2,000 participants. Attendees include representatives of international investors, businesses, executives from banking, insurance, and asset management, as well as political decision-makers and influential figures in global financial markets.

June 11, 2024. 28 Pl. de la Bourse, 75002 Paris, France

► [More information](#)



## [TheCityUK Annual Conference 2024](#)

[TheCityUK](#)'s Annual Conference 2024 in London will showcase keynote speeches by [Andrew Griffith MP](#), [Tulip Siddiq MP](#), [Sheldon Mills](#), and Bruce Carnegie-Brown. Join our esteemed member for insightful panel sessions focused on driving economic growth and attracting green investment, featuring industry leaders such as [Julia Hoggett](#), [Chris Lay](#), [Chris Hayward](#), and [Sacha Sadan](#).

June 27, 2024. Queen Elizabeth II Centre, London, UK

► [More information](#)



### [Inclusive Fintech Forum 2024](#)

Join us for the [Inclusive Fintech Forum 2024](#), a global platform advancing financial inclusion and FinTech for positive impact. This unique collaboration is hosted by our member, [Rwanda Finance](#), Rwanda's financial hub facilitating international investment and cross-border transactions in Africa. Partnering with [Elevandi](#), a company established by the [Monetary Authority of Singapore](#) and the [National Bank of Rwanda](#), this forum aims to drive innovation and collaboration in inclusive finance and technology for societal good. Explore cutting-edge solutions and initiatives that leverage FinTech to promote financial inclusion and sustainable development.

August 26 to 28, 2024. Kigali, Rwanda

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### [TheCityUK National Conference 2024](#)

[TheCityUK](#)'s National Conference in Birmingham, chaired by CEO [Miles Celic](#), highlights panel sessions on collaboration and innovation, exploring the role of skills in driving growth. With experts like [Lamiece Abdalla](#) and keynotes from Dame Angela Eagle and Bim Afolami, the event showcases financial services as the engine of growth across regions, reflecting [TheCityUK](#)'s commitment to national development.

November 26, 2024. Birmingham, UK

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**SAVE THE DATE** >>>

**17TH FINANCEMALTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
29 NOVEMBER 2024 | HILTON MALTA**

[fmanualconference.org](https://fmanualconference.org)

### 17th Annual Conference of FinanceMalta

[FinanceMalta](#) will host its highly anticipated 17th Annual Conference at the prestigious Hilton Malta in St. Julian's. Kick off the event with an exclusive networking reception at The Casino Maltese in Valletta on November 28th, followed by engaging sessions and an exhibition area at the Hilton Malta's Spinola Suite. Join hundreds of industry professionals and explore sponsorship opportunities to elevate your brand and connect with key stakeholders at this transformative event. Register now to secure your spot and unlock a wealth of opportunities!

November 29, 2024. Hilton Malta, St. Julian's, Malta

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### Future Sustainability Forum 2024

Join the [2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Future Sustainability Forum](#) hosted by our distinguished member, the [Dubai International Financial Centre](#) on December 4th-5th, 2024, at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai. DIFC, a global financial hub, drives sustainability through ESG principles. With top experts and leaders, the forum accelerates climate action and promotes UN Sustainable Development Goals. Don't miss this chance to shape a greener future.

December 4 and 5, 2024. Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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## Publications

- [WAIFC report on How Leading Financial Centers Advance Financial Inclusion and Literacy](#)
- [WAIFC Report on Supporting Ecosystem for Sustained Recovery and Growth of SMEs](#)
- [Whitepaper on the Future of Financial Centers](#)
- [The Impact of COVID-19 on the Future of Banking Regulation](#)
- [WAIFC Report on Regulatory Cooperation](#)
- [SMEs Finance: How regulators can ensure recovery from COVID-19](#)
- [Supporting SMEs with Sustained Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery](#)
- [Innovation and FinTechs in a Post-Pandemic World](#)
- [Sustainable Finance in a Post-Pandemic World](#)
- [How global financial centers can help combat the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [The role of financial centers in driving economic growth](#)

## Institutional

- [WAIFC Presentation](#)
- [WAIFC Presentation in Chinese](#)

The [World Alliance of International Financial Centers \(WAIFC\)](#) is a non-profit association registered in Belgium, representing 30 leading international financial centers on five continents. Its members are government agencies, associations, and similar institutions developing and promoting their financial centers. WAIFC facilitates cooperation between financial centers, exchanging best practices, and communication with the general public.

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