



Newsletter December 2021

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VOICES



Interview with Frederic de Laminne, Secretary-General of Belgian Finance Center (BFC)

Frederic Laminne shared **BFC**'s last activity on fostering cooperation between financial centers and also talks about BFC strategy for the following years.

What are the main agreements (MoU) signed by the BFC? And why?

Recently, the BFC has signed 2 MoU with similar organizations active in the promotion of the financial markets in their countries: Casablanca Finance City (**CFC**) and Rwanda Finance (**RF**). All three organizations are **members of the World Alliance of International Financial Centers** (WAIFC).

The **BFC** chose to work more closely with these two associations for several reasons: both are based in Africa, a continent close to Europe and with numerous airline connections with Brussels, both are leading regional financial centers, and both have privileged links with Belgium for historical reasons: a number of Belgian residents have a Moroccan or Rwandese origin.

What is the strategy of the BFC in the next years?

In the coming years, we plan to cooperate on several specific projects. We have been in discussion with Casablanca to organize a conference on green hydrogen given the attraction of this new form of energy in Belgium and the development of solar energy in Morocco.

Concerning Rwanda, the **BFC** is in contact with a crowdfunding platform active on a project allowing Belgian residents to invest in Rwandese SMEs. Recently, in early December, **Peter De Proft**, vice-chairman of the BFC, took part in a panel discussion organized for the Annual Review of Kigali International Financial Center. The theme was "The State of Play of International Financial Centers: Collaboration or Competition?" The participants shared the conclusion of the importance of cooperation. Other initiatives will certainly take place in the future.

OPINIONS



Opinion of Thomas Krantz on the Global City: Introducing a Concept

"Some ancient cities and several very new ones have understood that a certain kind of urban sociology is essential for promoting the financial services of the 2020s. That seems obvious today. But if one considers the far greater number of other cities around the world with rich cultural histories that have not orchestrated what it takes to be a financial center, then one realizes that simply being an urban center is far from being enough to qualify as a global city."

- [Read the full article on our website](#)
- [Download the full paper](#)

NEWS



New report from Kigali International Financial Centre: 'Unlocking expansion opportunities in Africa'

Our member **Kigali International Financial Centre** released a new report titled '**Unlocking expansion opportunities in Africa**'.

This report provides insight into the current and future services needed to enable Pan-African corporate expansion to a larger degree.

Our **board member** and CEO of Kigali International Financial Centre **Nick Barigye** underscored the resilience of Africa.

- [Read the report](#)



AI in Finance: Focus on Russia/CIS

On 08 December 2021, the webinar "**AI in Finance: Focus on Russia/CIS**" as part of Global Webinar Series on Artificial Intelligence, Explainability, and Trustworthiness in Financial Services was successfully held.

The webinar was organized by WAIFC, **WEF**, and **NVIDIA** and arranged with the support of the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Russia and Kazakhstan.

During this webinar, the speakers presented the current trends of further development of AI in Finance in Russia

and Kazakhstan. **Moscow International Financial Centre** and **Astana International Financial Centre** shared their best experience creating infrastructure for further development of financial technologies.

- [Watch the recording](#)
- [More Information](#)

EVENTS



Asian Financial Forum 2022

AFF is Asia's premier platform for global leaders in government, finance, and business to exchange insights, intelligence, and explore business and investment opportunities.

Monday, January 10, and
Tuesday, January 11 from 9:00 to 18:00
HKT. Hong Kong Convention and
Exhibition Center.

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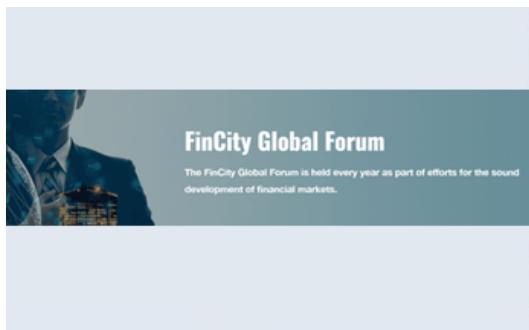
Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum 2022

The finance sector of the UAE is committed to delivering on its climate goals and programs, notably the Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative.

The Forum will focus on action points and practical agendas towards achieving this target.

Wednesday, January 19, from 11:00 to 17:00 GST. Online Event.

► [More information](#)



FinCity Global Forum

FinCity.Tokyo will be holding a global symposium promoting all the aspects of Tokyo as a Global Financial City.

Monday, February 2, from 13:00 to 17:00
JST. Online Event.



SPIEF
ST. PETERSBURG
INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC
FORUM

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2022

The upcoming Forum 2022 will host Egypt in the honorary status of a guest country, while the Petersburg Seasons festival of

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culture and a rich sports programme featuring competitions by both professional and amateur athletes will also take place.

Wednesday, June 15 to June 18, from 09:00 to 18:00 MSK. Expoforum, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

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DOWNLOADS

Publications

- [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](#)
- [Joint declaration on the current pandemic](#)

The [**World Alliance of International Financial Centers \(WAIFC\)**](#) is a non-profit association registered in Belgium, representing 21 leading international financial centers of four 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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