



Newsletter June 2024

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VOICES



Interview with Paweł Widawski, President of Future Finance Poland

Paweł Widawski, underscores [Future Finance Poland's](#) objectives to enhance the competitiveness and global presence of Poland's financial sector through WAIFC membership, while addressing national challenges of integrating the financial center with economic strategies and global challenges of adopting innovative financial trends.

Recently, you have joined the WAIFC. What are your objectives for joining this international organization?

Since the inception of the Future Finance Poland (FFP) initiative, our primary goal has been to enhance the competitiveness of the Polish financial sector and foster greater connectivity and cooperation with financial centers globally. Additionally, we aim to raise awareness about the significance of the Polish financial center within the global economy. Poland's transformation over the past 30 years is a remarkable success story; we are now the 6th largest economy in the European Union and a leader in Central and Eastern Europe. The financial sector must mirror Poland's growing economic and geopolitical stature. Transitioning from an emerging market, we have evolved into a mature and diversified economy with valuable transformational experiences to share.

Joining the World Alliance of International Financial Centers is a natural progression in the development of our financial center. This membership allows us to engage directly with leading global financial players, facilitating the achievement of our objectives while sharing our unique experiences.

Poland boasts significant investment, development, and innovation potential, underpinned by rich human resources. Our aim is for Poland to be seen as a reliable partner for other financial centers, contributing our experiences and collaborating on joint initiatives. Through our cooperation with WAIFC, we can

leverage the best international practices, knowledge, and experiences to strengthen our financial center.

The best solutions emerge from cooperation and dialogue. Being part of WAIFC enables us to actively share experiences, knowledge, and perspectives, and collaborate on driving innovation across borders. We are particularly excited about the opportunity to develop solutions addressing common challenges and promoting sustainable development. Future Finance Poland is dedicated to supporting WAIFC's mission of fostering a resilient and inclusive global financial ecosystem.

What are the main challenges of Future Finance Poland in the coming years?

Future Finance Poland faces both national and global challenges. Nationally, a major challenge is building awareness among public sector decision-makers about the importance of the financial center for economic, social, and geopolitical development. It's crucial that the development of the Polish financial center is integrated into the state's economic strategy.

At the national level, our goal is to increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the financial sector. We are addressing this through various task forces focused on areas such as digital payments, financial crime/AML, Data & AI, open finance, digital assets, and the capital market. Additionally, we have established a Regulatory Competitiveness Group to further these efforts.

Globally, we must stay ahead of evolving financial trends and technologies, ensuring that our financial sector can compete on an international scale. This includes adopting best practices from other financial centers and integrating innovative solutions to enhance our financial ecosystem. Our ongoing efforts aim to position Poland as a leading, innovative, and cooperative player in the global financial landscape.

Another challenge is to support the expansion of Polish financial sector companies abroad. It is also a complex process, but worth the commitment. We believe that our presence at WAIFC will be very helpful in this regard.

NEWS

WAIFC EXPERT WORKSHOP SERIES



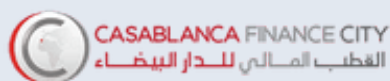
WAIFC Expert Workshop Series

WAIFC has launched a new initiative, the Expert Workshops, to share best practices among its members.

These workshops, featuring topics selected for their relevance and led by industry experts, are held both online and at members' premises. The next session, "Data Flows with Trust," will include speakers such as [Stephen Booth](#) from [TheCityUK](#) and [Lori Baker](#) from [DIFC](#). Don't miss this chance to gain valuable insights and network with leaders in the field.

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NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Casablanca Finance City Hosts Event on Business Opportunities in Africa

On June 11, [Casablanca Finance City Authority](#), in collaboration with the [German-African Business Association](#) and [DIHK](#), hosted an event titled 'Exploring Business Opportunities in Africa with Casablanca Finance City'.

The event showcased the benefits of the Casablanca Finance City platform for German companies expanding into Africa. Our member thanks all participants for making the event a success.

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Financial Services Development Council and Asia Pacific Loan Market Association Discuss Loan Market Trends

The [Financial Services Development Council](#) hosted a productive session with the [Asia Pacific Loan Market Association](#), discussing recent developments and trends in the loan market.

The session emphasized the loan market's significant impact on banking and finance, the challenges it faces, and the role of digitization in improving efficiency and facilitating transition finance. A commitment to ongoing dialogue, thought leadership, and creating a competitive, beneficial environment for stakeholders was reaffirmed. This

collaboration aims to shape the future of Hong Kong.

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Busan Finance Center Hosts Keynote and Strategic Meetings with WAIFC's Jochen Biedermann

On May 29, the [Busan Finance Center](#) welcomed [WAIFC's](#) esteemed Managing Director, Dr. [Jochen Biedermann](#), at the Busan International Finance Center.

Dr. Biedermann delivered an inspiring keynote at the [Web 3.0 Forum](#). The following day, representatives from the Busan Finance Center, WAIFC, and [Busan Metropolitan City](#) convened to discuss the development of Busan as a financial hub and potential collaborations in digital finance. Additionally, there was an expression of interest in hosting the 2026 WAIFC Annual General Meeting in Busan. The visit was highly appreciated, and future engagements with our Managing Director are anticipated.

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Future
Finance
Poland

Inaugural meeting of the Open Finance specialization

The inaugural meeting of the Open Finance specialization under the [Future Finance Poland](#) initiative took place on May 20 at the NYX Hotel Warsaw.

The event addressed seven key issues for open finance, including API management and security, fostering an engaging discussion on sector challenges. Future Finance Poland, our most recent member, plays a crucial role in facilitating knowledge sharing and collaboration among financial market representatives, including public sector, banking, fintech, and technology companies. The next meeting is scheduled for June.

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مركز قطر للمال
Qatar Financial Centre

QFC and Aljazeera Media Institute Sign MOU for Media Cooperation

The [Qatar Financial Centre Authority](#) (QFCA) has signed an MoU with [Al Jazeera Media](#)

[Institute](#) to provide specialized training for QFC executives and employees.

The partnership aims to enhance QFC staff's media engagement and management skills. [Yousuf Abdulla Fakhroo](#) of QFC highlighted the MoU's role in supporting professional growth, while [Eman Al-Amri](#) of Al Jazeera Media Institute emphasized their commitment to developing media competencies. The agreement also includes collaboration on content production, advertising, and media consultations.

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AIFC invites investors from the UAE to Kazakhstan

On May 28, the [Astana International Financial Centre](#) (AIFC) hosted the "[AIFC Connect: UAE 2024](#)" event in Dubai, inviting over 130 representatives from more than 100 companies to explore investment opportunities in Kazakhstan.

The event featured panel discussions on the capital market's development and changes in financial services in Central Asia. Notable speakers included officials from [S&P Global Ratings](#), [Astana International Exchange](#), and [KazMunayGas](#). AIFC Governor [Renat Bekturov](#) highlighted the center's role in major infrastructure projects and financial sector cooperation. Currently, 33 UAE companies are registered with the AIFC.

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Winners Announced for Jersey Finance's 2024 Rising Stars Awards

Our member, [Jersey Finance](#), announced the winners of the [2024 Rising Stars Awards](#) on May 24 at the Royal Jersey Showground.

The awards celebrate young talent in Jersey's financial services industry, recognizing future leaders aged 16-30. Over 200 young professionals were nominated, with 42 shortlisted by judges and winners chosen by public vote. CEO [Joe Moynihan](#) highlighted the importance of supporting young talent for a resilient future workforce.

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Mauritius-Dubai Investment and Business Forum Promotes Strategic Collaboration

In partnership with [Dubai Chambers](#), our member, the [Economic Development Board Mauritius](#), hosted the Mauritius-Dubai Investment and Business Forum on May 14 at the Waldorf Astoria Dubai.

C-level executives from various industries attended, and approximately forty operators from Mauritius participated. Chairman [Hemraj Ramnial](#) emphasized the UAE's significant role in Mauritius' trade and aimed to enhance collaboration and attract investments. The forum also sought to facilitate Dubai-based businesses in conducting operations in Africa through Mauritius.

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Green Finance Growth Stagnates Post-2021: Luxembourg for Finance Report

In 2021, green finance experienced a critical 70% growth, marking a pivotal year for the sector. However, subsequent years showed minimal expansion, particularly in corporate finance. This slowdown coincided with factors such as rising interest rates, increased inflation, and a backlash against green initiatives.

[Luxembourg for Finance](#) invites you to download their report, produced in collaboration with [New Financial LLP](#), to delve deeper into these trends. Discover insights

and analysis on the evolving landscape of green finance.

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DIFC and Cisco Networking Academy Collaborate to Launch Talent Development Programme and Drive Inclusive Education

The [Dubai International Financial Centre \(DIFC\) Academy](#) and [Cisco Networking Academy](#) have partnered to offer courses aimed at boosting digital skills in the financial services sector.

This collaboration provides the DIFC community access to training in networking, cybersecurity, IoT, cloud technology, programming, and automation. The initiative supports career advancement and reinforces Dubai's status as a global financial hub. Since its inception, the Cisco Networking Academy has trained over 105,000 learners in the UAE, emphasizing inclusivity and high-quality education.

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

EVENTS

WAIFC EXPERT WORKSHOP: DATA FLOWS WITH TRUST

June 24, 2024
11.00-12.00 (BST)



Abdulrahim Osman
WAIFC, Head of
Communications &
Senior Project Manager



Lori Baker
DIFC, Vice President
Data Protection &
Regulatory Compliance



Stephen Booth
TheCityUK, International
Strategy Manager



Lisa Springate
Jersey Finance, Head of
Legal and Technical



Samantha Gardner,
Operational Compliance &
Policy Lead, Office of the
Jersey Information
Commissioner



WAIFC Expert Workshop: Data Flows with Trust

The WAIFC Expert Workshops share best practices among members and experts through online and on-site events. The next workshop, "Data Flows with Trust", features top industry speakers and takes place on June 24. Open to observers and financial centers, this series ranges from webinars to multi-day sessions. The [first workshop](#), on AI in digital marketing, took place earlier this month.

June 24, 2024. Online event

► [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

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[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

Conference

📅 26 November 2024

🕒 09:00 - 15:00 BST

[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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 FinanceMalta

SAVE THE DATE >>>

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

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

► [More information](#)



[Future Sustainability Forum 2024](#)

Join the [2nd 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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DOWNLOADS

Publications

- [Report on Women in Finance - Compendium of Good Practice](#)
- [Report on Art - An Integral Ingredient for Financial Centers](#)
- [Whitepaper on Enhancing Supply Chain Finance for the Promotion of the Green Transformation](#)
- [Report on How Leading Financial Centers Advance Financial Inclusion and Literacy](#)
- [Report on Supporting Ecosystem for Sustained Recovery and Growth of SMEs](#)
- [Whitepaper on the Future of Financial Centers](#)

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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Managing Director:
Dr. Jochen Biedermann



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