



## Newsletter March 2026

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### VOICES



Mahen Abhimanu Kundasamy, explains how the EDB is driving high-value investments, accelerating digital and green transitions, and positioning Mauritius as a global hub for fintech, renewable energy, and smart manufacturing.

Could you begin by introducing the Economic Development Board (EDB) and its core mission in promoting Mauritius as a competitive, innovative, and sustainable investment destination?

The [Economic Development Board](#) is Mauritius' national investment promotion and facilitation agency. Its mandate is to promote investment, facilitate business set-up, and support the country's broader economic development agenda. More specifically, the EDB is responsible for positioning Mauritius as a competitive and trusted investment and business hub, a competitive export platform, and a leading International Financial Center.

At the core of this mission is the attraction of quality investment that creates high-value employment, drives technology transfer, strengthens export capacity, and contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth.

To deliver on this mandate, the EDB acts as a single interface for investors, working closely with ministries, regulators, and licensing authorities to provide end-to-end facilitation. This integrated approach ensures that Mauritius remains agile and business-friendly, while staying aligned with global shifts such as digital transformation, sustainability, and the emergence of new growth industries.

**With the world shifting towards sustainability and digital transformation, how is EDB supporting new sectors such as renewable energy, fintech, and smart manufacturing?**

The next phase of Mauritius' development is firmly anchored in sustainability, innovation, and digital transformation. The EDB is actively supporting emerging sectors by promoting policy frameworks, attracting strategic investors, and facilitating partnerships that build long-term national capabilities.

In renewable energy, we are encouraging investments that support the energy transition, improve efficiency, and strengthen energy security. In fintech, Mauritius continues to position itself as a credible jurisdiction for digital financial innovation, supported by a robust regulatory framework and a growing pool of technology talent. Smart manufacturing is another key priority, particularly in high-precision engineering, technical textiles, architectural glass, and advanced materials, sectors that are capital-intensive, export-oriented, and technology-driven.

In parallel, the EDB is supporting existing exporters in upgrading their operations through the adoption of lean manufacturing principles, which form the foundation of Industry 4.0. By improving productivity, quality, and resource efficiency, these practices reduce waste and energy consumption while preparing firms for advanced automation and digital integration. Our objective is to build a future-ready economy that is both competitive and sustainable, offering investors a platform where innovation can scale with confidence.

**OPINIONS**

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## Opinion by John Godfrey

Managing Director  
TheCityUK

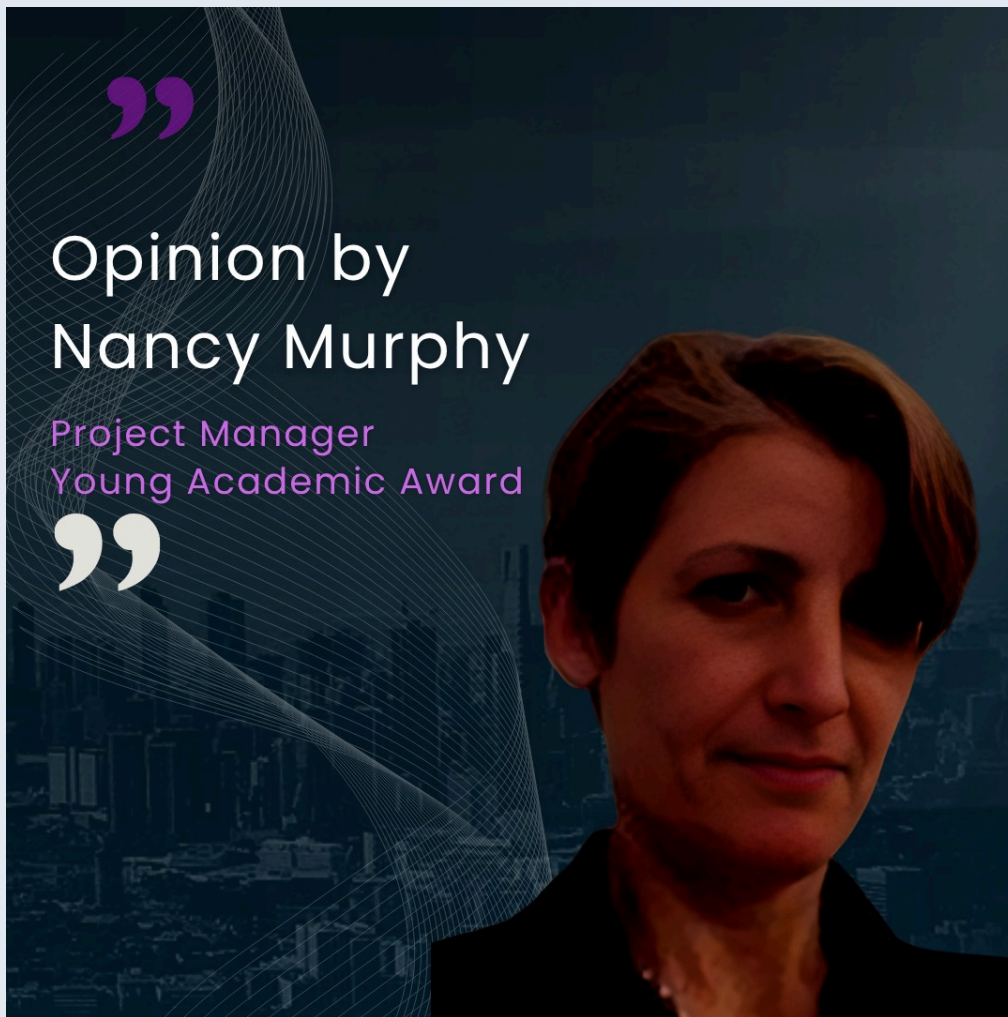


[John Godfrey](#) argues that Jersey and Guernsey are not just peripheral players but essential pillars of the UK’s economic resilience, channeling global capital into critical sectors like infrastructure, housing, and sustainable energy. Together, the islands oversee £1 trillion in assets, facilitate £58 billion in UK-bound investments, and support 951,000 jobs and £62 billion in GDP, while upholding world-class regulatory and governance standards.

Their complementary strengths—Guernsey’s leadership in private equity and infrastructure, Jersey’s role as a £500 billion foreign investment gateway—deepen the UK’s access to international capital and reinforce its financial competitiveness.

Godfrey emphasises that their long-standing collaboration with UK policymakers, professional services, and sustainable finance initiatives strengthens the entire ecosystem, ensuring the UK remains a globally connected, resilient financial hub. As global competition intensifies, this partnership will be even more critical to the UK’s future growth and leadership.

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In [Nancy Murphy's](#) view, the [World Alliance Young Academic Award](#) stands as a vital platform for emerging researchers to transform ideas into actionable financial solutions, emphasizing that the future of finance hinges on both innovation and the people driving it.

The award intentionally connects academia and industry, fostering research that addresses sustainable growth and inclusion—areas where theory and practice often remain disconnected. By offering winners a stage to present to the global financial community, the award ensures rigorous insights inform real-world challenges, while scholars gain exposure to policy and operational realities. Murphy highlights its global reach and merit-based fairness, with submissions judged solely on quality, reinforcing its role as a catalyst for equitable, impactful financial progress.

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**STATEMENTS**

# Niekia Horton

CEO Bahamas Financial  
Services Board



The opportunity to collaborate with fellow international financial centers through the World Alliance creates meaningful pathways for knowledge exchange and coordinated progress.



## NEWS



### **World Alliance Meet Malta's Minister of Finance**

On March 3, Malta's Minister of Finance hosted [World Alliance](#) representatives for a high-level dialogue on the evolving role of financial hubs in a rapidly changing global economy.

The closed-door session focused on regulatory innovation, sustainability, and cross-border cooperation, with Dr. [Jochen Biedermann](#) outlining the Alliance's vision for collaborative, future-ready financial ecosystems.

FinanceMalta's [George Vella](#) and Joseph Zammit Tabona highlighted Malta's leadership in shaping global finance, reinforcing the island's commitment to international partnerships. The meeting underscored the Alliance's mission to build resilient, competitive financial centers through shared best practices.

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## **Bahamas Financial Services Board Joins the World Alliance as New Member**

The [Bahamas Financial Services Board](#) has officially joined the [World Alliance](#), expanding the Alliance's global network of financial hubs. [Niekia Horton](#), CEO of the Board, emphasized the Bahamas' commitment to advancing cooperation in regulatory innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness, calling collective action essential for addressing modern financial challenges.

The Bahamas' membership highlights the Alliance's focus on diversity, cross-border collaboration, and shared strategic growth. As a dynamic financial center, the Bahamas will contribute to knowledge exchange and coordinated progress within the Alliance. This addition reinforces the World Alliance's role as a leading platform for shaping the future of international finance through unified leadership.

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## **The World Alliance Engages with the Central Bank of Malta and Visits the Malta Stock Exchange**

During its March 3 Extraordinary General Meeting and Board Meeting in Malta, the [World Alliance](#) met with Alexander Demarco, Governor of the [Central Bank of Malta](#), who presented the bank's strategic role in monetary stability, financial resilience, and its position within the Eurosystem.

The discussion explored financial innovation, digital transformation, and central banks' evolving responsibilities in a shifting global economy. Alliance members also visited the [Malta Stock Exchange](#), where CEO [Simon Zammit](#) showcased the exchange's role in fostering market growth, transparency, and investor confidence. These engagements underscore the Alliance's commitment to bridging financial centers with policymakers and market leaders for collaborative progress. Malta's active participation reaffirms its status as a forward-thinking, globally connected financial hub.

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### **World Alliance Members Meet MFSA and FIAU to Discuss Financial Regulation, AI and Future Collaboration**

During its Malta meetings, the [World Alliance](#) engaged with the [Malta Financial Services Authority](#) and [Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit](#) to discuss evolving financial regulations, AI integration, and cross-border collaboration.

The dialogue focused on Europe's MiCA framework, Malta's approach to digital asset oversight, and the balance between innovation, stability, and consumer protection. Participants also examined AI's impact on financial markets, governance, and supervision, seeking to align regulatory strategies with technological advancements. Hosted by [FinanceMalta](#), the exchange highlighted opportunities for future cooperation between global financial centers and Maltese authorities. The discussions reinforced the need for adaptive regulation in a rapidly transforming financial landscape.

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## TRIFIC SEZ CEO Brenda Mbathi Highlights Women's Leadership at WCD Forum

At the [Women Corporate Directors](#) (WCD) Forum, [Brenda Mbathi](#), CEO of [TRIFIC SEZ](#), joined a panel emphasizing that courage, credibility, and deliberate action drive leadership advancement.

While women globally hold 23.3% of board seats, 8.4% of chair roles, and 6% of CEO positions, Kenya outperforms with 24% board seats, 21% board chairs, and 32% CEOs/MDs, showcasing its gender-inclusive talent pipeline. Mbathi participated alongside leaders like [Jane Karuku](#) and [Catherine Igathe](#), underscoring Kenya's progress in breaking leadership barriers. TRIFIC SEZ's participation reflected its commitment to fostering diverse, high-impact leadership.

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Frankfurt  
Main  
Finance

## Frankfurt Main Finance Launches 'Experiencing Finance' to Boost Financial Literacy

[Frankfurt Main Finance's](#) [Oliver Behrens](#) introduced the "Experiencing Finance in Frankfurt" (FeiF) initiative to address gaps in financial literacy, especially among youth.

While Germany's adults show solid financial knowledge, deficits persist in long-term planning, risk management, and digital finance, with young people struggling to meet savings goals. FeiF offers lectures and visits, primarily targeting youth but open to all, to build lifelong financial skills like budgeting, investing, and early wealth accumulation. Plans include expanding the program with digital formats and strengthening Frankfurt's role as a hub for sustainable finance, AI, and regulation through research partnerships. The initiative aims to position Frankfurt as a leader in forward-looking financial education.

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## **NIFC Strengthens Africa's Position in Global Finance at the Inclusive FinTech Forum 2026**

At the [Inclusive FinTech Forum 2026](#) in Kigali, [Nairobi International Financial Centre](#) (NIFC) CEO [Daniel Mainda](#) showcased Africa's rising influence in global finance, emphasizing Kenya's robust regulatory frameworks and institutional strength as a gateway for investment.

Mainda stressed the need for continental collaboration, declaring, "We are no longer going to market as Kenya alone, we are going as Africa," to attract larger capital flows. NIFC's efforts focus on enhancing investor confidence, fostering innovation, and deepening cross-border connectivity. The Forum underscored Africa's potential to unify its markets and strengthen its position in the global financial ecosystem. NIFC's leadership reinforces Nairobi's role as a strategic hub for pan-African and international investment.

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## **President of Serbia Visits the Astana International Financial Centre**

During his February 27 visit to Kazakhstan, Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić toured the [Astana International Financial Centre](#) (AIFC), exploring its investment tools, regulatory framework, and over \$20 billion in attracted capital.

AIFC Governor [Renat Bekturov](#) highlighted the Centre's capital market development, English common law-based regulation, and business support infrastructure, including the Expat Centre for foreign professionals. With 58 Serbian companies already operating in Kazakhstan—spanning construction, trade, and tech—bilateral trade hit \$107.7 million in 2025, up 7.6% from 2024. The visit underscored opportunities to deepen investment, trade, and financial collaboration between the two nations. Vučić concluded with a tour of AIFC's Museum of Trust, symbolizing the role of trust in economic growth.

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## FSDC Advances Hong Kong's Capital Market Leadership Through Industry Dialogue

Building on its concept paper, "Hong Kong's Capital Market Leadership: A Super Connector Path," the [Hong Kong Financial Services Development Council](#) (FSDC) engaged with the [Chinese General Chamber of Commerce](#) (CGCC) in a roundtable led by Dr. [Rocky Tung](#).

Discussions focused on deepening market liquidity, strengthening cross-border connectivity, and driving infrastructure innovation to position Hong Kong as a global financial hub. CGCC members provided insights on enhancing resilience, digital transformation, and Hong Kong's role as a bridge between China and global markets. The dialogue underscores FSDC's commitment to shaping a future-ready financial ecosystem.

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## Strengthening Institutional Relations Between Morocco and Ireland

[Casablanca Finance City](#) Authority had the pleasure of welcoming H.E. Ms. Helena Nolan, Ambassador of Ireland to Morocco, who was received by Mr. [Saïd Ibrahimi](#), CEO of Casablanca Finance City Authority, alongside members of the Executive Committee, for an institutional meeting focused on economic relations and avenues for cooperation.

Discussions addressed areas of mutual interest and explored opportunities to further strengthen ties between the Moroccan and Irish business ecosystems.

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

**EVENTS**



## [Invest – The Financial Event for Your Future](#)

On April 17th and 18th, 2026, "Invest – The Financial Event for Your Future" will take place, with the Stuttgart Stock Exchange Group as a co-organizer. For two days, everything will revolve around investments, financial trends, and direct exchange with industry experts.

April 17 to 18, 2026. Messe Stuttgart, Messeplazza 1, 70629 Stuttgart, Germany

► [More information](#)

TheCityUK  
International  
Conference 2026

Conference  
23 April 2026  
09:00 - 13:10 BST

Register now →

## [TheCityUK International Conference 2026](#)

[TheCityUK](#)'s International Conference 2026, sponsored by [Freshfields](#), will bring together senior leaders from across the financial and related professional services industry, policymakers and regulators to focus on how the UK can assert itself as a world-leading, international financial center in a new age of global competition.

April 23, 2026. Convene, 200 Aldersgate, EC1A 4HD, London, UK

► [More information](#)



## **Bahamas Global Wealth Summit**

The Bahamas Wealth Summit is the premier gathering of global finance and policy professionals, organized by the Bahamas Financial Services Board. This event unites experts from across the private wealth field, including legal, tax, compliance, fintech, and regulatory sectors.

May 1 to 2, 2026. Baha Mar Resorts (Baha Mar Room 1), Bahamas

► [More information](#)

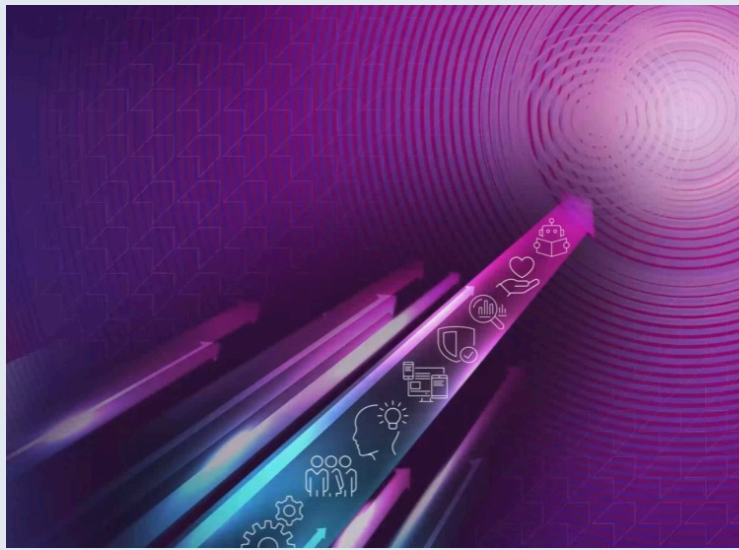


## **Hedge Fund COO Summit Middle East**

With Intelligence, in partnership with the [Dubai International Financial Centre](#), is hosting the Hedge Fund COO Middle East Summit exclusively for hedge fund managers in and around the UAE. The event will offer fund leaders an opportunity to network with peers and gain insights into how others are opening offices, expanding their operations and benefitting from having a base in the Middle East.

May 11 to 12, 2026. DIFC Conference Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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TheCityUK and  
Financial Services  
Skills Commission  
Future Skills  
Conference 2026

Conference

21 May 2026

09:00 - 13:00 BST

Register now



## TheCityUK and Financial Services Skills Commission Future Skills Conference 2026

Organized in partnership with [Financial Services Skills Commission](#), the 2026 Future Skills Conference will bring together industry leaders, policymakers and emerging talent to explore how disruptive technologies are reshaping financial and related professional services, the skills required to harness this change and the actions needed to secure the UK's long-term competitiveness.

May 21, 2026. Convene, 200 Aldersgate Street, EC1A 4HD, London, UK

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## DOWNLOADS

### Publications

- [Report on Strategies for Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Talent](#)
- [Whitepaper on Crafting the Digital Sustainability Reporting Ecosystem](#)
- [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](#)
- [Bridging Continents: Unlocking Asia-Africa Opportunities](#)

### Institutional

- [World Alliance Presentation](#)

The [World Alliance of International Financial Centers \(WAIFC\)](#) is a non-profit association registered in Belgium, representing 27 leading international financial centers. 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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