



2<sup>ND</sup> FINTECH WEEK  
16 - 17 FEBRUARY  
DUBAI 2026

# Fintech Week 2026

February 16-17, 2026



**DUBAI**

# Day 01

## Registration & Welcome Coffee

Attendees arrive, register, and network over coffee.

**09:00 AM – 09:30 AM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** The Right People, Right Now:  
Unlocking Top Talent in Competitive Markets.

Sophia Kalsi

**09:30 AM – 10:10 AM**

**Panel Discussion** – Embedded Payments in  
Commerce & B2B: Invisible, Instant &  
Intelligent

Alycia M. Powell, Arsalan  
Ahmed, Suji Gopalakrishnan,  
Shibu Mathew

**10:10 AM – 10:50 AM**

**Panel Discussion** – The Rise of Digital Wallets  
& Super Apps: What's Next?

Amir Tabch, Harsh Daftary,  
Rouf Rafiq, Saad Hazari,  
Sheikh Mohsin Ali

## Coffee Break

**11:10 AM – 11:50 PM**

**Panel Discussion** – Fintech x BigTech:  
Collaboration or Competition in Payments?

Karim Zaitouni, Jonathan  
Cumberlidge, Serkan Turan

**11:50 PM – 12:15 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** – Digital Banking &  
Innovative Payments ~ Helping Those That Need  
It Most

Stewart A. Stockdale

**12:15 PM – 12:40 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** – How to Get  
a VARA License

Harly Zappino

**12:40 PM – 01:05 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** – Client-  
Centric Algorithmic Trading with No-  
Code AI

Ignacio Nicolas Ayago  
Trigo

**01:05 PM - 01:30 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )**-A Next-Generation Solution for Screening Companies Worldwide

Ekaterina Lopareva

## Lunch Break

**02:30 PM - 03:10 PM**

**Panel Discussion** -The Role of Open Banking & Open Finance in Driving Payment Innovation

Tanvir Shah, Imran Kannuti, Amir Tabch,

**03:10 PM - 03:30 PM**

Unlocking Liquidity: How Stablecoins Enable Cross-Border Payment Companies in Emerging Markets to Scale

Mouloukou Sanoh, Nkiru Uwaje

**03:30 PM - 03:50 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )**-The Consolidation Imperative: Why Every Online Business Needs One Financial Partner

Serhii Zakharov

**03:50 PM - 04:30 PM**

**Panel Discussion** -Women in Fintech

Leila Bouzinab, May Brooks Kempler, Amina Tahir, Minali

## Coffee Break

**05:00 PM - 06:00 PM**

**Award Ceremony**

# Day 02

## Registration & Welcome Coffee

Attendees arrive, register, and network over coffee.

**09:00 AM – 09:30 AM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** - Exposing the Real Truth Behind AI and Your Go-to-Market Plans.

Shelli Ryan, Melanie Lennert

**09:30 AM – 10:10 AM**

**Panel Discussion** – Fintech & Banking – Bridging the Divide

James Ashton-Smith, Christelle Metni, Marcus Pequeno, Manpreet Haer, Ankit Lathigara

**10:10 AM – 10:50 AM**

**Panel Discussion** – Tokenization, Digital Identity & Secure Authentication

Chris Smith, Angaj Bhandari, Akshay Dalal

## Coffee Break

**11:20 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Panel Discussion** – AI, Biometrics & Behavioral Security: Rethinking Transaction Safety

Muhammed Arshad Choudhary, Angaj Bhandari, Ilia Samsonov, Harsh Daftary, Dyma Budorin

**12:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** – Connecting Capital: Digitising the World's Largest Asset Class from the Ground Up

Chris Smith

**12:30 PM – 01:00 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )** – The New Shape of Banking

Nicki Bull Bisgaard

**01:00 PM - 01:30 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )-** Building a Global Licensing Strategy for Fintechs/VASPs: Lessons from 10+ Jurisdictions

Nick Guliaev

**02:30 PM - 03:10 PM**

**Panel Discussion -** WealthTech Innovation: Shaping the Future of Investment"

Sahba Hadipour, Ralf Plänkers, Kay French, Louis Roche, F. Josef Obeid

**03:10 PM - 03:30 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )-** Breaking into Azure via Device Code Phishing and Primary Refresh Token (PRT) Theft

Shebin Mathew

**03:30 PM - 03:50 PM**

**Keynote ( Stand Alone )-** Fintech Is Not About Technology. It's About Trust

Karim Zaitouni

**03:50 PM - 04:30 PM**

**Panel Discussion-** Addressing the Challenges of Cross-Border Payments

Max Lighter, Matthias Wachsler, Mohammed Al Alami, Amit Grover, Sailendra Das, Melodi Askelöf

## Coffee Break

**05:00 PM - 06:00 PM**

**Award Ceremony**

# Fintech Week 2026

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**DUBAI**