

The Asian Bankers Association

BACKGROUND

The Asian Bankers Association (ABA) was organized on October 29, 1981 as one of the service councils of the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI). The ABA aims to provide a forum for advancing the cause of the banking and finance industry in the region and promoting regional economic cooperation. ABA's membership currently includes some 100 of the leading banks from 23 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

OBJECTIVES

The ABA was established with the following primary objectives:

- to provide a venue for an exchange of views and information on banking opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region;
- to facilitate the meeting of bankers in the region in an atmosphere of fellowship and friendship;
- to encourage joint activities that would enhance the role of its members in servicing the financial needs of their respective economies and in promoting regional development; and
- to undertake projects that will encourage trade, industrial, and investment cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

ACTIVITIES

ABA holds a general meeting every year – usually September or October. It also conducts, in conjunction with the general meeting, annual seminars to broaden the perspective of members on the situation and opportunities in the region. In addition, workshops are held to enable members to exchange their views on current developments and issues in the banking industry.

Other activities include an information program, which consists of the publication of the *ABA Newsletter* and the *Journal on Banking and Finance*, and a professional development program, which includes exchange programs and training courses on banking and finance and advanced banking management conducted with leading training institutes in the region.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

ABA members enjoy the following benefits and services:

Policy Advocacy

Policy advocacy is a major thrust of ABA program. Members jointly formulate statements on issues and policies that relate to banking and finance in the regional and international arena. The principal objective is to come up with a paper that articulates the position of ABA on these issues and, if deemed appropriate, to submit the paper to the regional or international body tasked with addressing those issues.

Towards this end, the ABA Special Committee on Policy Advocacy has been created to identify issues on banking and finance that may be covered by the Association for policy advocacy. Composed of banking and finance experts as well as members of the ABA Board, this Committee meets from time to time to achieve this objective.

Since its creation, the committee has done considerable work in eight areas – (a) local currency bond market development; (b) the development of domestic credit rating agencies; (c) the Basel II Framework; (d) promoting regional convergence toward IFRS; (e) insolvency law and informal workouts; (f) corporate governance; (g) financial inclusion and microfinance; and (h) credit reporting systems. Through these, the ABA was able to make significant contributions to the work of regional and international policy-making and regulatory bodies.

Information Program

ABA issues the following publications to serve as information link between the officers and members:

- a. *ABA Newsletter* - This monthly publication is effectively utilized as a channel for communications between the officers, the Secretariat and the members and as a medium for exchange of the latest news and information on banking and finance, member-bank activities, member-bank personalities, as well as on services available to members. Members are encouraged to contribute articles regarding activities in their respective banks, as well as on financial developments in their own countries.
- b. *ABA Journal of Banking and Finance* - This semi-annual publication contains enlightening and informative articles, monographs and occasional papers, and speeches on banking and finance, economic development and regional economic cooperation. Contributions of articles are also sought regularly from member banks.

Professional Development Program

The ABA conducts training and professional development programs for its members. Through these training programs, the ABA aims to heighten the level of awareness

among its members about the importance of training and continuing education in making them ready and equipped to cope with the many changes in the market. In particular, it strives to accelerate and conduct more training courses for members in light of the new issues emerging in the banking sector to upgrade the general awareness of bank managers on these issues. Towards this end:

- a. The ABA continuously explores with other training institutes the feasibility of jointly conducting *short-term courses* for ABA members on specific banking and financial topics.
- b. ABA continues to organize *short-term visiting programs* under which member bank executives from developing or emerging economies will visit member banks in more advanced countries for the purpose of studying and undergoing training on specific aspects of the operations and facilities of the more advanced host banks. The idea is to give the visitors the opportunity to (i) enhance and upgrade their technical skills and knowledge in specific areas such as international banking, treasury activities, investment, and foreign exchange in the distinct and peculiar social, economic and business environment of the host country, and (ii) gain first-hand knowledge of the operations, systems and work procedures of the host bank's various line departments.
- c. The ABA requests member banks to provide a list of their scheduled *in-house training programs* and to allocate seats for each of these programs to other ABA members. These information are then be circulated to all members. The major objective is to enable member banks to share knowledge and know-how, and to learn from one another's experience on the various aspects of bank operations.
- d. The ABA, on a selective basis, *endorses conferences, seminars and other training programs* conducted by other events organizers deemed to be beneficial and useful to members and will help in promoting the Association. The decision to endorse or support an event will be based on the following criteria: credibility/reputation of the event organizer; quality of the program; expected benefits to ABA and our members; timing of the event; and maximum two or three events per year. Endorsement will be made by authorizing the organizers to use the ABA logo in the promotional materials and by encouraging participation of members.

Relationship with Other Bankers' Associations

ABA endeavours to strengthen relationship with bankers' associations in other regions and countries in and outside the Asia-Pacific as a way of promoting ABA's name and expanding membership. Cooperation is established through the exchange of guests at conferences and seminars, exchange of publications, participation at each other's training programs, and collaboration in research activities. Officers and representatives of the Secretariat shall also try to arrange visits to the offices of the bankers associations in

countries where ABA meetings are held and take an active approach in establishing networking and alliance.

Relationship with Other Regional Organizations

ABA continues to establish linkage with other regional organizations. In particular, ABA aims to strengthen ties with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum through the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and continue to provide inputs and recommendations to ABAC on regional cooperation as well as on issues of concern to the private sector in general and the banking industry in particular. Closer working relationship is also constantly being developed with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Bank for International Settlements.

Annual Meetings and Conferences

The ABA annual meetings and conferences have been very effective tools for bringing together top Asian bankers and for exchanging information and ideas among the members. The themes of these meetings and seminars have focused on the identification or promotion of the role of banking and finance in regional cooperation or on the improvement of the banking industry in the region. ABA continues this tradition and maintain the quality of their contents by ensuring that they are always relevant and topical. To ensure a substantive discussion of issues, Ministers of Finance or Central Bank Governors, as well as international experts and eminent authorities on financial issues, are invited to attend the annual meetings and seminars.

MEMBERSHIP

There are four categories of ABA members:

Regular Members - Banks or other financial institutions with presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Those who do not have presence in the region but support the aims and objectives of the Association may also become Regular Members subject to certain restrictions on privileges. Annual membership fee is US\$3,000.

Special Members - Bankers' associations and other regional and international organizations whose objectives are similar to those of ABA. Annual membership fee is US\$500.

Associate Members - Organizations and individuals whose activities are related to the financial sector and who support the objectives of ABA. Annual membership fee is US\$400.

Honorary Members - Institutions, firms or individuals on whom the Board of Directors or the ABA general membership has bestowed an honorary title or award.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is the governing body of ABA. It is composed of not more than 25 representatives elected by the regular members in a general meeting

The Board elects from among themselves a Chairman, who serves as the chief executive officer of the Association for a term of two years, and a Vice Chairman, who performs the duties of the Chairman during the latter's absence or temporary disability.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Composed of former chairmen of the Association as well as eminent bankers, the Advisory Council gives advice to the officers and the Board to ensure continuity and stability of the association's policies and activities.

ABA SECRETARIAT

The ABA Secretariat is located in Taipei and may be contacted through the following address and contact numbers:

The ABA Secretariat
14F, No. 1 Songgao Road
Xinyi District, Taipei 11073, Taiwan
Tel: (886 2) 2725-5663/4; Fax: (886 2) 2725-5665
E-mail:aba@aba.org.tw; Website: <http://www.aba.org.tw>

ABA BOARD MEMBERS LIST

Mr. Abdulhazak Alidssa
Chief Executive
Bank Muscat

CHAIRMAN

Ms. Susan S. Chang
Chairman, Bank of Taiwan

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah
Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer
Hatton National Bank Ltd.

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Andrew Leong
Chief Executive Officer Taiwan
ANZ Banking Group Ltd.

Dr. David K. P. Li
Chairman & Chief Executive
The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

Mr. R. G. Subramanian
Chief Executive Officer
State Bank of India, HK Branch

Mr. Anthony Elam
Managing Director
PT Bank Central Asia Tbk.

Mr. Koji Kaihotsu
Managing Director
Global Markets Business Group
Mitsubishi UFJ Trust & Banking

Mr. Richard F. Wacker
Chairman, President & CEO
Korea Exchange Bank

Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar
President & CEO
Malayan Banking Berhad

Mr. Saintsogt Chimid
President and CEO
Chinggis Khaan Bank

Mr. O. Orkhon
First Deputy CEO
Trade and Development Bank

Mr. Lorenzo V. Tan
President
Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Mr. R. Seetharaman
Chief Executive Officer
Doha Bank

Mr. Alexander Dementiev
Deputy Chairman
Bank Uralsib

Mr. Neil Parekh
Managing Director & Joint Head of
Investment Banking Group
DBS Bank Ltd.

Mr. William Hon
Managing Director
Corporate Banking Division, International
Chinatrust Commercial Bank

Mr. Kuang-Si Shiu
President
Mega International Commercial Bank

Mr. Chartsiri Sophonpanich
President
Bangkok Bank Public Co. Ltd.

Mr. Abdullaeva M. Iroda
Deputy Executive Director
Global Banking and Financial Institutions
Group, National Bank of Uzbekistan

Mr. Nguyen Hoa Binh
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam

Mr. Truong Van Phuoc
Chief Executive Director
Vietnam Export Import Commercial Joint Bank

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS (Ex-Officio Members of the Board)

Chairman

Amb. Jeffrey L. S. Koo
Founder, Chairman Emeritus, ABA

Chairman, Chinatrust Financial Holding Co.,
Ltd.

Advisory Council Members

Dr. Amnuay Viravan

Former Chairman, Exec. Board
Bangkok Bank PCL
Chairman, Saha-Union Public Co., Ltd.

Dr. Mochtar Riady

Former Chairman
Lippo Banking Group

Dr. David K. P. Li

Chairman and Chief Executive
The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

Mr. Peter B. Favila

Former President, PNB
Former President, Allied Banking Corp.
Secretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines

YBhg Senator Tan Sri Amirsham A Aziz

Immediate Past President & CEO
Malayan Banking Berhad

Dr. Yung-san Lee

Former Chairman, ICBC (now Mega
International Commercial Bank)
Chairman, Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, Ltd.

Amb. Alfonso T. Yuchengco

Chairman
Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Mr. Dong-Soo Choi

Advisor to the CEO, Shinhan Bank

Mr. Toyoo Gyohten

President, Institute for International Monetary
Affairs (IIMA)
Senior Advisor, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi
UFJ Ltd.

Mr. Gabriel C. Singson

Former Governor, *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
Chairman & President, JG Summit Capital
Markets and Corp.

Mr. Chatri Sophonpanich

Chairman
Bangkok Bank Public Co. Ltd.

Mr. Masayuki Oku

President
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

Mr. McKinney Y. T. Tsai

Chairman
Bank SinoPac

ABA MEMBERSHIP LIST

REGULAR MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA

ANZ Banking Group Ltd.
National Australia Bank Ltd.

HONG KONG

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.
Chong Hing Bank Ltd.
Shanghai Commercial Bank Ltd.
Wing Lung Bank Ltd.

INDIA

Aware Macs Ltd. (People's Bank Movement)
ICICI Bank
State Bank of India, HK Branch

INDONESIA

Bank Central Asia
PT Bank Permata

JAPAN

Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ
Mitsubishi UFJ Trust & Banking Corp.
Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

KOREA

Hana Bank
Industrial Bank of Korea
Kookmin Bank
The Korea Development Bank
Korea Exchange Bank
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation
(Nonghyup Bank)
Shinhan Bank
Woori Bank

MALAYSIA

AmInvestment Bank Bhd.
Malayan Banking Berhad
OSK Investment Bank Berhad

MONGOLIA

Anod Bank
Capital Bank

Chinggis Khaan Bank

Golomt Bank
Khan Bank
National Investment Bank
Savings Bank
Trade and Development Bank
Zoos Bank

OMAN

Bank Muscat

PHILIPPINES

Development Bank of the Philippines
East West Banking Corporation
Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.
Philippine National Bank
Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

QATAR

Doha Bank

RUSSIA

International Industrial Bank
Interstate Bank
Bank Uralsib

SINGAPORE

DBS Bank
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp.
United Overseas Bank Ltd.

SRI LANKA

Hatton National Bank Ltd.

TAIWAN

Bank SinoPac
Bank of Taiwan
Cathay United Bank
Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, Ltd.
China Development Financial Holding Corp.
Chinatrust Commercial Bank
Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd.
Cosmos Bank, Taiwan
The Export-Import Bank of the R.O.C.
The First Commercial Bank
Hua Nan Commercial Bank Ltd.
International Bills Finance Corp.
Land Bank of Taiwan
Mega International Commercial Bank
Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank, Ltd.
Taipei Fubon Bank

Taishin International Bank
Taiwan Business Bank
Taiwan Cooperative Bank
Taiwan Finance Corp.
Yuanta Commercial Bank (*formerly Fuhwa
Commercial Bank*)

THAILAND

Bangkok Bank Public Co. Ltd.
Bank of Ayudhya

UZBEKISTAN

Asaka Bank
Joint-Stock Exchange Bank Trustbank
National Bank of Uzbekistan

VIETNAM

The Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam
Bank for Investment and Development of
Vietnam
Housing Development Commercial Joint Stock
Bank of Ho Chi Minh
Industrial and Commercial Bank of Vietnam
Military Commercial Joint Stock Bank
Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural
Development
Vietnam Export Import Commercial Joint Bank
(Vietnam Eximbank)
Vietnam International Bank (VIB Bank)
Vietnam MariTime Commercial Stock Bank
(MariTime Bank)

NON-ASIAN-BASED BANKS

AUSTRIA

Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen
AG

FRANCE

BNP Paribas, Hong Kong Branch

GERMANY

Deutsche Bank, Hong Kong

ITALY

Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A., HK Branch

PORTUGAL (Macau)

Banco Nacional Ultramarino, S.A.

U. S. A.

Citibank N.A., GCB Asia Pacific
JP Morgan, Hong Kong

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

TAIWAN

Tsar & Tsai Law Firm

U. S. A.

Hawaii National Bank

Vietnam

Deposit Insurance of Vietnam

SPECIAL MEMBER

Mongolia

Mongolian Bankers Association

Turkey

Banks Association of Turkey