



**AFCM**  
ARAB FEDERATION OF  
CAPITAL MARKETS

بورصة البحرين  
BAHRAIN BOURSE



# THE 2026 MARKET<sub>2.0</sub> KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness

**Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister

December 03, 2026 | Four Seasons Bahrain Bay

# About The Event



## Technology shaping market performance

The Market 2.0 - Bahrain 202 is a high-impact regional conference bringing together senior capital-markets leaders and industry experts for a curated program centered on advancing market development and the region's capital markets.

Hosted in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Conference reflects the region's ongoing market development and provides a platform for constructive exchange among listed companies, exchanges, investors, regulators, and advisory firms.

Designed as a one-day, in-person conference, Market 2.0 offers practical insight into regulatory developments, market trends, and emerging opportunities influencing capital formation and investment activity across the region.

**THE 2026**  
**MARKET<sub>2.0</sub>**  
**KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**



Thursday,  
3 December 2026



Manama, Kingdom  
of Bahrain



Four Seasons Hotel  
Bahrain Bay



One-day,  
in-person

## Shaikh Khalifa Al Khalifa

Chief Executive Officer  
Bahrain Bourse

I am pleased to announce the return of the second edition of “The Market 2.0 – 2026” Conference, hosted by Bahrain Bourse in collaboration with the Arab Federation of Capital Markets, taking place on 3rd December 2026 at the Four Seasons Hotel in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Building on the success of last year’s event, we look forward to welcoming an expanded group of participants - including regional exchanges, brokers, custodians, asset managers, technology providers, policymakers, and industry leaders - for a full day of insightful discussions and networking.

The 2026 edition of The Market 2.0 comes at a crucial time, as regional markets navigate uncertainty while continuing to advance efforts that strengthen market resilience. We anticipate conversations that will not only support today’s stability, but also contribute to shaping well-connected markets and a future-ready financial ecosystem. This year’s agenda will delve into some of the industry’s most pressing themes, including the accelerating role of automation, artificial intelligence, and real-time market infrastructure—key drivers of stability, continuity, and long-term sustainability.

I invite all capital market stakeholders to join us at The Market 2.0 – 2026, as we collectively shape the next chapter of growth and opportunity for our markets.





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## Rami EL Dokany

Secretary General  
Arab Federation of Capital Markets

It is with great pride that we announce the third consecutive edition of the Market 2.0, returning again to the Kingdom of Bahrain, hosted by Bahrain Bourse, on December 3, 2026.

The acceleration of technological change across global capital markets is no longer incremental, it is structural. Exchanges and market infrastructure institutions are rethinking their operating models, governance frameworks, and strategic priorities in response to rapid advancements in automation, artificial intelligence, digital connectivity, and evolving investor behavior.

Within this context, the role of regional collaboration becomes more critical than ever. As Arab markets continue to modernize and deepen, our collective ability to exchange knowledge, align on best practices, and anticipate global shifts will determine how effectively we position our markets for sustainable growth.

The Market 2.0 reflects this shared commitment. It represents our determination to ensure that technology adoption is not reactive, but strategic, aligned with market integrity, resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bahrain as we continue shaping a modern, interconnected, and forward-looking capital markets landscape for our region.

# 2025 IN NUMBERS

500

## Delegates

from across the Middle East and international markets

30

## Speakers

C-suite leaders, regulators, global investors and capital market specialists

5

## Panels

on AI-Driven Trading, Cloud Infrastructure, Tokenized Assets, Regulatory Innovation & Real-Time Analytics

13

## Sponsors

including Listed Companies, Exchanges & Clearing Houses, Members & Service Providers

8

## Exhibitors

including local and regional Financial Institutions, Regulators, exchanges and Service Providers

300K

## Views

on conference coverage across Social Media channels

20

## Interviews

Featuring conference participants on local, regional and international Media outlets



# Agenda

9:00 - 10:00

Registration and Sponsor Networking

10:00 - 10:15

Opening & Welcome Remarks

10:15 - 10:45

**Panel 1:** Trading System Migration: The Hidden Myth Chief Executives Hate to Tackle

**Scope:** This panel challenges the deeply embedded belief that migrating core trading systems is too dangerous to attempt. It examines whether the real threat is not modernization itself, but the cultural and leadership inertia that treats legacy systems as “safer” simply because they are familiar. Rather than focusing on risk avoidance, the discussion explores how forward-looking deployment design, phased architecture strategies, and controlled parallel environments can turn migration into a competitive upgrade, not a destabilizing event.

**Discussion points:**

- Is the real danger migration or postponing it?
- Why do executives equate legacy systems with safety?
- Are firms overestimating disruption and underestimating opportunity cost?
- Does fear of short-term volatility block long-term performance gains?
- Big-bang transitions vs phased rollout — is caution masking indecision?
- Can digital twins and shadow environments make migration strategically safe?
- How do you transform migration from a technology project into a leadership decision?
- When does “stability” quietly become stagnation?

# Agenda

10:45 - 11:30

**Panel 2:** Execution Alpha vs Investment Alpha: Redesigning the Buy-Side Trading Mandate

**Scope:** Execution alpha is generated today by systems, not just trader skill. Performance differences increasingly come from smart routing, real-time analytics, AI models, data infrastructure, and trading architecture. If execution can add or destroy alpha, then the design of the trading stack — OMS/EMS, algorithms, APIs, data and analytics — becomes a strategic technology decision, not just an operational one.

**Discussion points:**

- Should execution desks operate independently from portfolio alpha models?
- Is execution now a strategic intelligence function, not just order routing?
- How should traders coordinate equities, derivatives and FX execution?
- Are closing auctions distorting execution incentives?
- Should Heads of Trading sit closer to CIOs?

11:30 - 12:00

**Break and Networking**

12:00 – 12:45

**Panel 3:** Trading Liquidity in the Real World: Fragmentation, Illiquidity & Adaptive Execution

**Scope:** This panel examines how trading systems must be redesigned to operate effectively in fragmented and low-liquidity environments. It explores how execution algorithms, smart order types, real-time data feeds, and venue design shape liquidity access at both the structural and microstructure level — particularly in regional, emerging, and small-cap markets. The discussion moves beyond theory to address how adaptive execution logic, routing frameworks, and market design decisions directly influence fairness, price stability, and execution performance.

**Discussion points:**

- How do global execution models fail in thin or regional markets?
- Should execution prioritize price stability over speed in small-cap names?
- How do you measure liquidity that never materialized?
- Is fragmentation always harmful — or can it improve competition and pricing?
- Should orders dynamically react to order-book conditions?
- When do complex order types enhance liquidity — and when do they fragment it further?
- Can traders optimize queue position without increasing signaling risk?
- How much automation should sit with the trader versus the algorithm?
- Are smart order types creating structural advantages for certain participants?

# Agenda

12:45 - 13:00

Presentation

13:00 - 13:15

Presentation

13:15 - 14:00

**Panel 4: Data as a Product: The Economics of Market Data Monetization**

**Scope:** This panel examines how data architecture, API distribution models, and cloud infrastructure are transforming market data into a core revenue engine for exchanges. It explores how technology design and monetization strategies are reshaping competition, access models, and the economics of modern market infrastructure.

**Discussion points:**

- Are exchanges becoming data companies rather than trading venues?
- Should APIs replace legacy multicast feeds?
- Is proprietary data monetization distorting competition?
- Who owns derived analytics — the venue, the participant, or the platform provider?
- Is market data revenue overtaking trading fees as the primary business model?
- Should regulators intervene in pricing models?

14:00 - 14:15

Break and Networking

# Agenda

14:15 - 15:00

**Panel 5: Corporate Actions & Market Integrity: The Role of AI in Surveillance and IR Scope**

**Scope:** This panel explores how artificial intelligence is transforming corporate actions processing, market surveillance, and investor relations oversight. It examines how exchanges, regulators, and issuers are deploying AI-driven systems to detect anomalies, monitor disclosure compliance, process complex corporate events, and enhance transparency across the market ecosystem. The discussion connects automation, data analytics, and regulatory technology to the broader goal of market integrity and operational efficiency.

**Discussion points:**

- How can AI improve the detection of abnormal trading around corporate announcements?
- Can machine learning enhance surveillance of insider trading and market manipulation linked to corporate events?
- How are AI tools streamlining corporate actions processing (dividends, splits, mergers, rights issues)?
- Can natural language processing improve disclosure monitoring and investor communications?
- How do exchanges ensure explainability and auditability in AI-driven surveillance systems?
- What are the risks of false positives in automated compliance monitoring?
- Can AI enhance real-time transparency between issuers and investors?
- Should regulators mandate AI-based surveillance standards?
- How does automation reduce operational risk in complex corporate actions workflows?

15:00 - 15:15

Presentation

15:10 - 15:30

Presentation

15:30

Closing, Lunch and Networking

# WHY SPONSOR

**THE 2026  
MARKET<sub>2.0</sub>  
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

## **Your Brand. Our Platform. Measurable Impact.**

Sponsoring **The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026** offers more than visibility. It places your brand at the center of the region's evolving capital markets ecosystem.

## **What You Gain**

- Position your brand at the heart of the regional capital markets dialogue
- Engage directly with senior decision-makers and industry leaders
- Showcase your expertise through speaking, presentations, and exhibition presence
- Gain strong visibility through event marketing, media exposure, and on-site branding

## **Who You'll Meet**

### **Senior. Influential. Regionally Connected.**

- Executives from exchanges, banks, and asset managers
- Institutional investors, analysts, and market strategists
- Regulators and capital market authorities
- Listed companies and corporate leaders
- Fintech, technology, and advisory firms across the region





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For interest in participating or sponsorship, please contact us:

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