



**AFCM**  
ARAB FEDERATION OF  
CAPITAL MARKETS

Hosted by

بورصة البحرين  
BAHRAIN BOURSE



# THE MARKET<sub>2.0</sub>

20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

Sheraton Bahrain Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain



# About

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**AFCM**  
ARAB FEDERATION OF  
CAPITAL MARKETS

The Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM) is the Arab industry group for 18 exchanges and 7 Clearing houses, and a multiple of affiliate members (financial institutions and brokerage firms) from all around the Arab region. AFCM was established in June 1978 under the recommendation of the Arab Central Banks Conference, held under the auspices of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The headquarter of the Arab Federation of Capital Markets is located in Beirut, Lebanon.

بورصة البحرين  
BAHRAIN BOURSE



Bahrain Bourse Company B S C C is a self-regulated multi-asset marketplace. Bahrain Bourse aims to offer to its investors, issuers, and intermediaries a comprehensive suite of exchange-related facilities including offering listing, trading, settlement, and depositary services for various financial instruments.

# About The Conference

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**THE  
MARKET<sub>2.0</sub>**

The “Market 2.0” Conference, hosted by Bahrain Bourse and the Arab Federation of Capital Markets, set to be held on 20th November 2025 in the heart of Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. With over 300 of the world’s foremost trade leaders and experts target attendees, this year’s “Market 2.0” aims to extend and expand the conversation on leveraging technology to transform global equity trading. Targeting Stock Exchange leaders, market infrastructure specialists, and capital markets technologists, The Market 2.0 Conference offers a focused platform to explore the future of exchange technologies.

With a mission to explore how infrastructure technologies are impacting and shifting the norms of international equity trading, the impact on sustainability and fostering inclusivity, this year’s conference will bring together innovators, policymakers and key global leaders into one platform. The “Market 2.0” conference this year continues with an updated and far more comprehensive agenda, with plenary sessions involving key experts of the industry, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities aimed to offer actionable insights to all attendees. From the rise of retail trading to the cloud vs. on-premise debate, and the growing need for seamless third-party integration, the event tackles the most pressing tech challenges shaping capital markets.

Market 2.0 is about defining the markets we aim to build — and the technology that will power them.



# 2025 VENUE - Sheraton Bahrain Hotel

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## Last year' event: TradingTech Summit

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**25+**  
**Speakers**

**200+**  
**Attendees**

**6+**  
**Sponsors**

**5+**  
**Panels**





**Shaikh Khalifa Al Khalifa**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bahrain Bourse

On behalf of Bahrain Bourse, I extend a warm welcome to the delegates of the upcoming “The Markets 2.0” conference focused on "Disruptive Digital Transformation in Capital Markets." We are thrilled to host this pivotal gathering of experts and innovators, as we delve into the dynamic landscape of our industry's evolution.

The themes we will explore include cloud vs. on-prem infrastructure, the evolution towards AI-driven trading algorithms, real-time trading analytics, to the exciting potential of peer-to-peer trading and AI-driven surveillance for early risk detection – are at the very heart of shaping the future of capital markets.

Bahrain Bourse is committed to fostering innovation and embracing technological advancements that enhance market efficiency and resilience. We believe this conference will provide invaluable insights and stimulate meaningful discussions, driving us towards a more robust and technologically advanced capital market ecosystem.

We are excited to witness the collaborative spirit and the exchange of ideas that will undoubtedly emerge over the coming days.





**Rami El Dokany**  
Secretary General  
Arab Federation of Capital Markets

We are thrilled to announce “The Market 2.0”, a groundbreaking trading technology event, coming to Bahrain, in collaboration with Bahrain Bourse, on November 20, 2025!

The trading world is evolving rapidly, and staying ahead of these changes is crucial. “The Market 2.0” will provide you with the knowledge, tools, and connections needed to thrive in the next phase of market innovation. Whether you’re a trader, tech enthusiast, or industry professional, this event is your gateway to the future of trading.

This exclusive one-day event will bring industry leaders and tech innovators from across the globe to explore the future of trading technologies and market dynamics, with the latest trends in AI, blockchain, algorithmic trading, and more that are revolutionizing global markets. The Market 2.0 promises insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and a deep dive into the innovations reshaping our regional markets.

Mark your calendars for November 20, 2025, and join us for this must-attend event in the heart of Bahrain to explore the future of trading together.

# SPEAKERS

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**HE Khalid Humaidan**  
Governor  
Central Bank of Bahrain



**Yusef Al Yusef**  
Chairman  
Bahrain Bourse



**Shaikh Khalifa Al Khalifa**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bahrain Bourse



**Mohammed Al-Rumaih**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Saudi Exchange



**Abdulla Alnuaimi**  
Group Chief Executive Officer  
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange  
Group



**Haitham Al Salmi**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Muscat Stock Exchange



**Islam Azzam**  
Executive Chairman  
The Egyptian Exchange



**Yazeed AlDomaiji**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Wamid



**Yasmeen Al Sharaf**  
Director - Strategy & Financial  
Sector Development  
Central Bank of Bahrain

# SPEAKERS

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**Steven Chou**  
Chairman  
Sahm Capital



**Naseer Akhtar**  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
InfoTech Group



**Ahmad Hammouda**  
Co-Founder  
& Chief Executive Officer  
Thndr



**Ganesh Anantharaman**  
Managing Director & Group Chief  
Executive Officer  
NuSummit Technologies



**Sherif Salem**  
Partner & Head of Public Markets  
Lunate



**Steven Griffiths**  
Chief Executive Officer & Founder  
Absolute Collateral



**Saker Asllan**  
Chief Operations Officer  
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange



**Suzy Al Zeerah**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Bahrain FinTech Bay



**Mohamed Al Rayes**  
General Manager - Treasury  
& Investment  
Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait



# SPEAKERS

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**Gerald Blondel**  
Managing Director  
**Horizon Trading Solutions**



**Hussain Toorani**  
Assistant General Manager –  
Head of Treasury  
**Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait**



**David Mellor**  
Head of Global Market  
Technology Sales  
**MEMX**



**Mohamed Omar**  
Chief Technology &  
Information Officer  
**Misr for Central Clearing,  
Depository and Registry**



**Dina Dede**  
AI Principal Manager  
**Microsoft**



**Louis Hems**  
Commercial Director  
**Dubai Gold & Commodities  
Exchange**



**Indika Ranamuggedara**  
Head of Market Infrastructure  
Commercial Development  
**London Stock Exchange Group**



**Munira Tulefat**  
Head of Treasury Transformation  
and Strategy  
**Group KFH**



**Patrick Cooke**  
Head of Middle East & Africa  
**Euromoney**



09:00 - 10:00

Registration and Sponsor Networking

10:00 - 10:15

Opening &amp; Welcome Remarks

10:15 - 10:45

Panel 1: From Vision to Reality: Reshaping the Future of Bahrain's Capital Markets

- What are the Central Bank of Bahrain's key strategic priorities for enhancing the depth, liquidity and global competitiveness of Bahrain's capital markets over the next three to five years – and how do disruptive technologies factor into this vision?
- How is the Central Bank working with Bahrain Bourse and other stakeholders to attract more international institutional investors – particularly in the context of global market classification benchmarks and rising competition from regional exchanges?
- As tokenization and digital securities gain momentum globally, how does the Central Bank of Bahrain envision their role in shaping the future of capital formation – and what regulatory or infrastructure developments could support their integration into Bahrain's capital markets?
- How does the Central Bank of Bahrain envision leveraging its new stablecoin regulatory framework to attract further licensees, while ensuring market integrity and investor confidence?
- With the rise of AI-powered trading, P2P platforms and real-time data ecosystems, how is the Central Bank balancing innovation with the need for robust governance, investor protection and systemic resilience in Bahrain's capital markets?

10:45 - 11:30

Panel 2: Chief Executives Insights to Changing Technology Landscape

- As a Chief Executive Officer, how do you view the rapidly evolving technology landscape? What strategic decisions have you taken to ensure your organization adapts, stays resilient, and remains competitive in this fast-changing environment?
- Technology infrastructure is undergoing a major shift. With increasing pressure from vendors to migrate systems to the cloud versus owning your own servers, how do you balance the trade-offs between operational efficiency, cost, control, and regulatory compliance?
- The investor experience has become increasingly digital. How has the shift toward online and mobile trading platforms influenced your business model, user engagement strategies, and technology investment priorities?
- Technology investment is no longer optional: it's strategic. Could you share how significant your technology budget is today compared to a few years ago, and what are your main areas of focus or investment?
- Artificial Intelligence is redefining the capital markets landscape. Where do you see the most immediate and impactful AI use cases within your organization, and what is your approach to adoption, governance, and risk management?

- Digital talent gap. Are exchanges facing a shortage of skilled professionals to manage advanced infrastructures and AI integration securely? Beyond systems and tools, what steps are you taking to attract and retain the digital talent needed to lead transformation

11:30 - 12:00

Break and Networking

12:00 - 12:45

Panel 3: The Sandbox Effect: Enabling Innovation in a Controlled Environment

- Discuss how sandboxes allow organizations to experiment, test new ideas, and fail safely without incurring high risks and how regulatory sandboxes in finance and technology sectors enable startups and traditional companies to test innovations within existing regulatory frameworks.
- Discuss how regulatory bodies and organizations balance fostering innovation with the need to maintain consumer protection and industry stability, and how sandboxes provide a space to explore innovative ideas without the fear of failure or large-scale consequences.
- How sandboxes can speed up the process of digital transformation by offering a controlled environment where new digital products or services can be tested before full deployment? Explore best practices for handling data in these environments to avoid privacy violations while fostering innovation.
- Discuss the challenges faced when scaling ideas tested in sandboxes to broader, real-world environments, including technical infrastructure and integration hurdles.
- How large corporations and public institutions can leverage sandboxes to collaborate with startups, providing access to resources and testing environments? How to foster partnerships and share knowledge between corporate players and startups for faster innovation cycles?

12:45 - 13:00

Thndr Presentation: From Privilege to Participation: Reimagining Arab Capital Markets

13:00 - 13:15

ADX Presentation: ADX Product & Services Utilizing AI Technology

13:15 - 14:00

Panel 4: Next-Generation Trading Algorithms: Evolving from Classic Quant Models to AI-driven Approaches

- Exploring advancements in algorithmic trading, the rise of high-frequency trading (HFT), and their impact on liquidity, market stability, and regulatory frameworks.
- Discussion on AI-driven strategies and their effect on market dynamics.
- How traditional quantitative trading models are evolving into more sophisticated AI-driven algorithms?

- The use of deep learning, reinforcement learning, and other advanced techniques to enhance algorithmic trading strategies.
- How AI and machine learning are optimizing trading strategies, risk management, and predictive analytics?
- What are the challenges of integrating AI/ML into traditional trading infrastructure?

14:00 - 14:15

Break and Networking

14:15 - 15:00

Panel 5: The Future of Real-Time Trading Analytics: Opportunities for Instant Decision Making

- Exploring the rise of real-time trading analytics and its ability to provide instant insights for traders, investors, and risk managers.
- How real-time analytics and instant data processing are shaping execution and decision-making? How can real-time trading analytics help in identifying emerging market trends or opportunities instantly?
- What are the main challenges in implementing real-time trading analytics across different asset classes? How can firms ensure the accuracy and reliability of data used in real-time analytics?
- Exploring the use of edge computing in high-frequency and low-latency trading to reduce the time it takes to process data at the source.
- How edge computing can enhance trading efficiency and lower latency for critical market data?
- Regulatory Considerations: how to ensure compliance while pushing the limits of speed requires careful balancing to avoid market manipulation or unfair advantages?

15:00 - 15:15

Lunate Presentation: Lunate ETFs – The Boreas Quantum Computing UCITS ETF

15:15 - 15:30

MCDR Presentation: Building Together: Middle East Post-Trade Integration

15:30

Closing, Lunch and Networking

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