

The Assembly MENA Program

Day 1

Monday 11/11

12:00PM-5:30PM | **Pre-Conference Registration**

12:00PM-1:00PM | **Workshop Check-in**

1:00PM-4:00PM | **WORKSHOP: Evolution at Pace: EWRA in a Shifting Risk Landscape**

In the past, some organizations perceived risk assessment as a finite process. But today, taking a proactive approach equips financial institutions with a deeper insight into more resilient safeguarding measures which reduce the risk of criminal exploitation and regulatory penalties.

This workshop will help you create a toolkit to build an EWRA using a step-by-step guide. It will also empower you to manage and speak authoritatively about your risk model to both internal teams and regulators.

You will learn how to:

- Perform rapid and robust enterprise-wide risk assessments
- Align AML programs with shifting regulatory expectations and developing threats
- Embed effective risk management throughout the product life cycle

Who should attend:

- Compliance Managers
- Investment Managers
- IT Specialists
- AML Officers
- Regulators
- FIU Team Members
- Industry Consultants

Presenters:

Shilpa Arora, CAMS, Head of Anti-Financial Crime Products and Solutions, **ACAMS**

Hashim Butt, Head of Enterprise-Wide Financial Crime Risk Assessment-Group Compliance, **Dubai Islamic Bank**

Waheed Rathore, Group Chief Compliance Officer, **Dubai Islamic Bank**

Sabine Saade, Senior Product Compliance Manager, **Wise**

The Assembly MENA Program

Day 2

Tuesday 11/12

8:00AM-5:45PM

Registration Desk Open

8:00AM-5:30PM

Exhibit Area open

8:00AM-9:00AM

Networking Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Area

9:00AM-9:10AM

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Justine Walker, Global Head - Sanctions, Compliance and Risk,
ACAMS

9:10AM-9:40AM

Keynote Address with Q&A

Moderator:

Dr. Justine Walker, Global Head - Sanctions, Compliance and Risk,
ACAMS

Presenter:

Ali Faisal Ba'Alawi, Chief, **FIU United Arab Emirates**

9:40AM-10:40AM

Regulatory Roundtable: What's Next in the Regulatory Inbox?

As the place to learn from leading regulators about what is on the regulatory horizon, The Assembly MENA is convening experts in the field to discuss upcoming priorities. Join them as they analyse new threats and how compliance regulations aim to combat them.

Moderator:

Kieran Beer, CAMS, Chief Analyst, Director of Editorial Content, **ACAMS**

Presenters:

Dr. Ayesha Binloutah, Assistant Vice President - Licensing, Supervision and Assurance, **Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (VARA)**

Lawrence Paramasivam, Senior Executive Director, Policy and Legal, FSRA, **Abu Dhabi Global Market**

Shaune Williamson, CAMS-Audit, Associate Director, Anti Money Laundering and Combating Financial Crime, **Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority**

10:40AM-11:10AM

Networking Break in Exhibit Area

The Cat and Mouse Game: Combatting Fraud, Including Cyber-Enabled Fraud

The MENA region is facing an increasingly complex fraud landscape as criminal individuals and organizations operate bolder and ever more sophisticated cross-border fraud networks. Virtual asset exploitation and technological advancements enhance the dangers. This session looks at how to tackle these multifaceted threats.

You will learn how to:

- Recognise how criminal entities leverage fraudulent schemes, including cyber elements, to launder illicit funds in borderless online markets
- Identify fraud typologies prevalent in the region and consider systematic controls to combat fraud, including cyber-enabled fraud
- Maximise information sharing between organisations to enable comprehensive coverage and judicious detection of cyber-related criminal activity

Moderator:

Christos Christou, CAMS, CGSS, CCAS, Chief Compliance Officer, **Lulu Financial Holdings**

Presenters:

Kaoutar Abdallah, CAFCA, Chief Legal Officer, Compliance and Risk, **Telr**

Natella Safar Ali, Executive Director -Registration Authority, **Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM)**

Rob Woods, Director, International Fraud and Identity, **LexisNexis® Risk Solutions**

Cleaning House: How Financial Institutions Can Combat Money Laundering in Real Estate Transactions

As noted in a 2023 report from the Financial Intelligence Unit of the United Arab Emirates, financial institutions need to be part of the solution when addressing money laundering risks from real estate transactions. All over the world, the real estate sector attracts criminal organizations and high-risk individuals looking for a way to access the financial sector and create large capital flows across borders.

You will learn how to:

- Examine the money laundering risks associated with the real estate sector
- Identify prominent typologies and patterns of illicit funds integration into real estate operations
- Evaluate a variety of associated risk indicators to guide financial institutions in suspicious transaction detection
- Explore how actual cases illustrate complex risks requiring robust strategic protocols

Moderator:

Rick McDonell, Former Executive Secretary, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, Executive Director, **ACAMS**

Presenters:

Muhammed Shafi Poyilan, CAMS, Acting Head of AML Supervision, **Ministry of Economy, UAE**

Dr. Reem Mohammed Alshamsi, Director of Research and Strategic Analysis Section, **UAE Financial Intelligence Unit**

Gaining Control: AI to Detect and Combat Suspicious Activity

Artificial intelligence is transforming financial crime risk tracking and detection by financial institutions. With an increasing impact on streamlining compliance processes, AI is providing expansive opportunities – and unique challenges – in financial crime compliance.

You will learn how to:

- Evaluate the AML benefits offered by generative AI
- Establish a line of questioning around the implementation of new technologies and their possible risks
- Determine AI's potential vulnerabilities, such as algorithmic bias or flawed data, and how these could affect your institution

Moderator:

Shilpa Arora, CAMS, Head of Anti-Financial Crime Products and Solutions, **ACAMS**

Presenters:

Gerrit Bekker, Director of Data Science, **Mozn**

Zsombor Brommer, CAMS, Chief Compliance Officer, **United Arab Bank**

Samir Safar-Aly, Financial Regulatory, Compliance and Investigations Counsel – MENA, MENA FinTech and AI Lead, **Baker McKenzie**

MINI WORKSHOP
1:20PM-2:10PM

The STR Solution: Writing Reports That Make a Difference

Compliance professionals around the world often wonder if Suspicious Transaction Reports do any good. Law enforcement investigators respond with an emphatic “yes” – if they are well-crafted. This session will give you the tools to be part of the STR solution. A shorter version of our hands-on, multi-hour instructional sessions, mini workshops pack an interactive learning experience into just 50 minutes. After 15 minutes of guidance from our expert panelists, you will confer with tablemates to complete a group exercise and then share takeaways with the entire group. In addition to gaining insights from our top-notch speakers, participants also benefit from the collective wisdom and experience of other attendees.

Moderator:

Hussam Al-Abed, CAMS, CGSS, CKYCA, Director at FCC Consultants, Financial Crime Prevention, Compliance, **FCC Consultants FZE**

Presenters:

Rania Maouad Merhej, DFSA, FSRA and CBUAE Authorized Senior Manager Compliance Officer/MLRO

Aqeela Rajab, CAMS, Compliance Officer and Deputy MLRO, **Housing Bank for Trade and Finance**

2:10PM-2:40PM

Networking Break in Exhibit Hall

Patterns for Action with Trade Based Money Laundering

The MENA region lies at the heart of international trade with an illustrious history of trading innovation. Yet trade-based money laundering is notoriously difficult to detect and eliminate. This session will explore ways financial institutions can identify risks and address challenges.

You will learn how to:

- Align your strategic framework with regulatory expectations
- Analyse TBML patterns
- Implement and improve TBML controls

Moderator:

George Voloshin, CAMS, CGSS, Global Expert, Anti-Financial Crime,
ACAMS

Presenters:

Shawki Ahwash, CAMS, CGSS, Anti-Financial Crime Consultant -
AML/CFT and Sanctions Expert

Sameena Ali, CGSS, Associate Director, FCC, Sanctions Investigations,
Standard Chartered Bank

Amel Soussi, CAMS, Head of Compliance and MLRO, **Bank ABC Tunisia**

POWER HOUR
2:40PM-3:30PM

Reimagining Financial Crimes Compliance: The Value of Public-Private and Private-Private Partnerships - Presented by First Iraqi Bank

This panel will explore the role of partnerships in combating financial crimes. By fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors and among financial institutions and data and analysis providers, compliance efforts can be enhanced to deter, prevent, detect and respond to illicit activities more effectively. Experts from government and the financial sector will discuss innovative approaches and the benefits of sharing intelligence and integrating technology.

You will learn how to:

- Strengthen financial institution cooperation with law enforcement and regulatory authorities
- Leverage commercially available information to enhance financial crimes compliance
- Contextualize recent regional and international regulatory actions

Moderator:

Alex Zerden, Founder and Principal, **Capitol Peak Strategies**

Presenters:

Special Agent Anthony Cook, CAMS, Regional Attaché, **U.S. Treasury Department IRS-CI Middle East**

Stuart Jones, CEO, **Sigma360**

Ibtissem Lassoued, Partner, Head of Advisory, Co-Head, Regional White Collar Crime & Investigations, **Al Tamimi & Company**

3:30PM-3:45PM

Transition Break in Exhibit Area

3:45PM-4:35PM

Executive Roundtable: Insights from the Top on Overcoming Compliance Challenges

Executives are acutely aware of the substantial annual expenditures on compliance and the high stakes of non-compliance. In this session, top leaders will share their perspectives on compliance from the highest echelons of the organization. Regardless of the economic climate or regulatory landscape, it is their duty to uphold the AML/AFC mission. Gain exclusive insights into their strategies and plans for the coming year.

Moderator:

Shilpa Arora, CAMS, Head of Anti-Financial Crime Products and Solutions, **ACAMS**

Presenters:

Haseeb Ansari, Chief Compliance Officer, **Emirates Islamic**

Collin Lobo, Regional Head of Financial Crime Compliance, **HSBC**

Nagendra Shivaraya, Managing Director, Chief Compliance Officer, UAE, **Standard Chartered Bank**

4:35PM-4:55PM

Special Presentation

Moderator:

Rick McDonnell, Former Executive Secretary, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Executive Director, **ACAMS**

Presenter:

Andrew Naylor, Head of Middle East and Public Policy, **World Gold Council**

4:55PM-5:55PM

Networking Reception

The Assembly MENA Program

Day 3

Wednesday 11/13

8:00AM-4:00PM

Registration Desk Open

8:00AM-4:00PM

Exhibit Area Open

8:15AM-9:15AM

Networking Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Area

9:15AM-9:16AM

Welcome Remarks

Kieran Beer, CAMS, Chief Analyst, Director of Editorial Content, **ACAMS**

9:16AM-9:30AM

Keynote Address

Nicholas McNicholas, Senior Director - Enforcement and Regulatory Affairs, **Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority**

Getting Ahead of the Curve: Sanctions Compliance and Sanctions Evasion Challenges**Getting Ahead of the Curve: Sanctions Compliance and Sanctions Evasion Challenges Part 1****Moderator:**

Dr. Justine Walker, Global Head - Sanctions, Compliance and Risk, **ACAMS**

Presenter:

Futoon Al Jassim, Head of Sanctions Implementation Compliance, **Executive Office for Control & Non-Proliferation**

Getting Ahead of the Curve: Sanctions Compliance and Sanctions Evasion Challenges Part 2

Fast-moving geopolitical developments, including new sanctions imposed on Russia and Iran, have had significant implications for the MENA region in 2024. Amplified global and regional tensions have created ever more complex regulatory scenarios. The resulting operational challenges include complying with multi-jurisdictional sanctions regimes and combatting sanctions evasion. This session looks at how financial institutions can manage the intricacies of sanctions within the region. A main emphasis will be managing secondary sanctions risk, especially with respect to U.S. Executive Order 14114. Panellists will also discuss how to design effective sanctions screening protocols that integrate with your risk-management strategy.

Moderator:

Dr. Justine Walker, Global Head - Sanctions, Compliance and Risk, **ACAMS**

Presenters:

Michael Lyons, Partner, **Clifford Chance LLP**

Sumit Sarkar, Senior Vice President, Group Head of Sanctions Compliance, **Mashreq Bank**

Sarah Tariq, CAMS, Head of Compliance & AFC & DPO, **Deutsche Bank**

Networking Break in Exhibit Area

11:00AM-11:50AM

The ACAMS Great Debate: De-Risking Practices by Banks: Necessary Risk Management or Unjustified Barrier to Financial Inclusion?

Financial institutions consider de-risking practices necessary for regulatory compliance, cost efficiency and reduced reputational risk. They argue that de-risking helps banks prevent financial crime with only limited implications for financial inclusion. Opponents contend that de-risking disproportionately affects marginalized groups, raising ethical concerns about financial inequality.

One topic. Two opposing opinions. Who will get your vote?

Moderator:

Dmitry Artemiev, Chief Compliance Officer, **Commercial Bank of Dubai**

Presenters:

Osama Al Rahma, Head of Business Development, **Emirates Investment Bank**

Waheed Rathore, Group Chief Compliance Officer, **Dubai Islamic Bank**

POWER HOUR
11:00AM-11:50AM**The Sanctions Screening Challenge: An Approach Beyond the Formal Lists - Presented by Polixis**

In this session, we will delve into the intricate and evolving landscape of deep sanctions screening. Traditional sanctions screening often focuses on established lists like OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control); however, the real challenge lies far beyond these formal lists. Collateral, secondary, and sectorial risks

You will learn:

- The methodology of Deep Sanctions Screening based on Synthetic Lists
- Why traditional approaches can struggle with the sheer complexity of modern sanction risks and why modern technology can be used to tackle these challenges
- About the risks on the strengths and weaknesses of AI/AML techniques

Presenter:

Gagik Sargsyan, Founder and CEO, **Polixis**

11:50AM-1:10PM

Networking Lunch

A Confident Partnership? Banking Crypto and VASPs

Cryptocurrency is having its moment in the sun. With a growing international adoption rate, crypto use is becoming more widespread across large swathes of the world. As a result, many financial institutions are looking for ways to securely partner with virtual asset service providers (VASPs) to provide customers with more accessible services.

You will learn how to:

- Identify regulatory expectations in VASP partnerships
- Build clear and consistent frameworks and internal capabilities to enhance cross-jurisdictional operations
- Mitigate risks posed by complex layers of corporate structures or criminal organizations through targeted monitoring and screening techniques

Moderator:

Rick McDonell, Former Executive Secretary, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, Executive Director, **ACAMS**

Presenters:

Hossam M. Abd El-Rahman, CAMS-Audit, CAMS-FCI, Group Chairman & Managing Director, **Allied Compliance Consultants**

Sheetal R Bhardwaj, Head of Virtual Assets Compliance, **Commercial Bank of Dubai**

Muhammad Babar, CAMS, CAFCA, Digital Assets Compliance Lead, **MENA Fintech Association**

Building Momentum: Harnessing Collaborative Opportunities and Celebrating Successes between VASPS, Vendors and UAE Regulators - Presented by Binance

Dubai's VARA has established itself as the world's first virtual asset-only regulator, demonstrating a strong commitment to the region. The collaborative efforts between VASPs and compliance ecosystem partners have been pivotal in Dubai's success as a leading web3 economy. This synergy has driven more participants into the MENA region, fostering a comprehensive regulatory framework that enhances understanding of crypto risks and promotes innovative solutions. Dubai's strategic investments and supportive environment, coupled with public-private partnerships, ensure agile crypto compliance and keep the region at the forefront of technological advancements, celebrating shared successes.

You will learn how to:

- The growth of Dubai's Web3 economy and the comprehensive steps that have been taken to drive growth and adoption of virtual assets in a compliant manner.
- Suggestions on how to address compliance and risk challenges in the space, collaboratively with the regulator and with ecosystem partners.
- What are the next steps are for the future of virtual assets and where we see future growth.

Moderator:

Meera Judge, Regional Head of Regulatory Licensing, Policy, Compliance and Risk, **Binance**

Presenters:

Mark Aruliah, Head of EMEA Policy & Regulatory Affairs, **Elliptic**

Sean McHugh, Senior Regulator and Compliance Officer, **Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority**

2:30PM-3:20PM

Choking the Funding Pipeline: Countering Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing

The issue of terrorist financing is once again in the spotlight, along with the role of financial institutions in combatting it.

In this session, you will learn how to:

- Identify prominent sources of illicit terrorist funding across the region
- Analyse risk patterns in existing systems, such as Harmonized System (HS) codes
- Explore the nature of proliferation financing and its links to organised crime entities, both regional and international

Moderator:

George Voloshin, CAMS, CGSS, Global Expert, Anti-Financial Crime,
ACAMS

Presenters:

Dr. Michelle Frasher, Head of Compliance and Regulatory Strategy,
Silent Eight

Futoon Al Jassim, Head of Sanctions Implementation Compliance,
Executive Office for Control & Non-Proliferation

William G. Rich, Chief Sanctions Officer, Middle East and Africa,
Citibank

3:20PM-3:50PM

Networking Break in Exhibit Area

3:50PM-4:35PM

The Realities of Human Trafficking: How Financial Institutions Can Make a Difference

Human trafficking is a hidden epidemic which takes many forms and results in a lifetime of psychological, emotional and physical damage for its victims. According to the United Nations, 49.6 million people are in modern slavery worldwide and 35% of them are children. This session will provide practical steps that financial institutions can implement to detect this crime, such as recognizing common typologies to help identify associated financial flows. Panellists will also discuss measures that other countries are implementing to combat human trafficking activities.

Moderator:Sarah Tariq, CAMS, Head of Compliance & AFC & DPO, **Deutsche Bank****Presenters:**Nassir Abdulla Al Ameer, Senior Director - Operational Analysis, **UAE Financial Intelligence Unit**Rebecca A Peters, Regional Attaché, **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

4:35PM-4:40PM

Closing RemarksKieran Beer, CAMS, Chief Analyst, Director of Editorial Content, **ACAMS**