CEDAR-IBSi EVENTS

Cedar-IBSi
NextGen Banking & Technology Summit

May 24, 2023 Sofitel Manama

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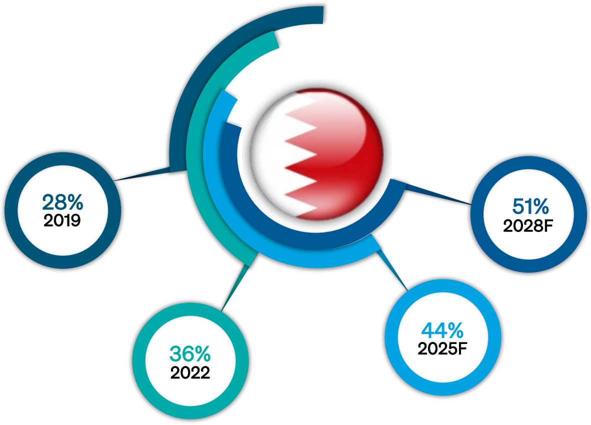
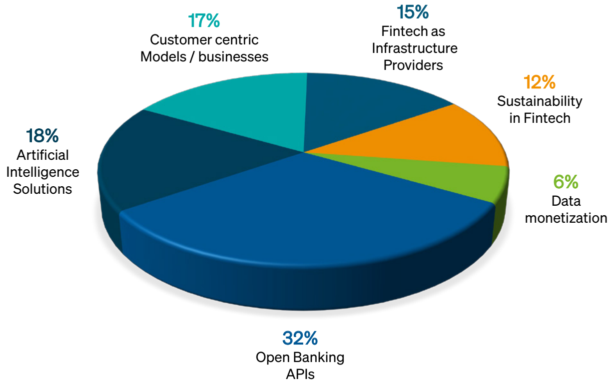
NextGen Banking Technology in Bahrain

Bahrain has been at the forefront of digital banking and FinTech adoption initiatives in the Middle East. A leader in Islamic Finance and technology innovation, the country's banking sector is experiencing a significant transformation as it adopts global best practices and technologies to provide customers with an enhanced banking experience. The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), has been instrumental in driving the digital transformation of the banking sector launching initiatives such as the regulatory sandbox and Open Banking Framework (OBF), which is encouraging FinTech innovation and collaboration.

Online Banking Penetration Forecast in Bahrain (%) | 2019 – 2028F



Emerging Technologies with Highest Growth Potential in Bahrain



Online banking has become increasingly popular in Bahrain due to its convenience, security, and a range of other features. Customers can manage their accounts, pay bills, transfer funds, and access customer support 24/7 from their computers or mobile devices. The penetration of online banking in Bahrain has already seen a healthy growth from 28% in 2019 to 36% in 2022 and is expected to reach 51% by 2028.

Bahrain has actively worked towards developing itself as a hub for Fintech in the Middle East through a combination of a supportive regulatory environment, a growing startup ecosystem, and a strong focus on digital innovation. According to a survey conducted by Bahrain FinTech Bay in association with CBB, FinTech trends with the highest potential for growth in Bahrain include opportunities based on Open Banking APIs (32%), followed by Artificial Intelligence solutions (18%).

Globally, open banking is enabling Fintechs to bring new and improved financial products and services to market, increasing competition and driving innovation. In 2019, the CBB introduced regulations around API connectivity to third-party providers, helping the emergence of open banking platforms in areas such as payment aggregation, personal finance management, and credit scoring.

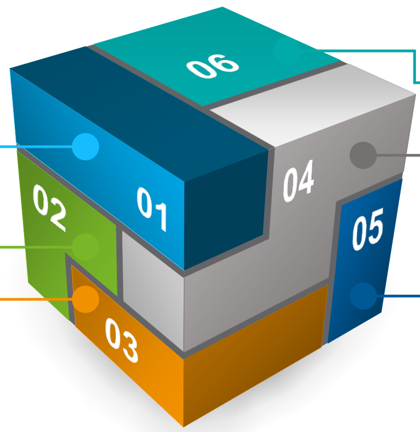
At the same time, banks are utilizing the power of Artificial Intelligence solutions to enhance operational efficiency, improve customer experience, and manage risks. AI-powered chatbots, fraud detection algorithms, and credit risk assessment models are just a few examples of how AI is being used by banks.

Six Focus Areas of NextGen Banking

FINTECH COLLABORATION
Partnership between traditional institutions & new age FinTechs to provide innovative products

OMNI CHANNEL EXPERIENCE
Experience across channel of choice; configurable & scalable product processors

CLOUD COMPUTING
Greater scalability, agility, and cost efficiency along with faster speed-to-market



AI & ML
Intelligent automation used to simplify multiple banking functions

COMPLIANCE
Complying to evolving regulations that provide requisite guardrails for NextGen banking

OPEN BANKING
API based data sharing and third-party integration, improving customer experience

To stay ahead in today's competitive environment, banks need to leverage emerging technologies such as open APIs, intelligent automation, cloud computing, and advanced analytics. These technologies can enable banks to develop agile, scalable, and adaptable systems that meet fast-changing customer needs and expectations.

The Cedar-IBSi NextGen Banking & Technology Summit explores global perspectives from industry leaders on various topics, including NextGen Digital Banking, the role of Neo and Digital-only Banks, AI, leveraging Big Data, and cloud, among others.

AGENDA

08:00 - 09:00 AM	**REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**
09:00 - 09:15 AM	**WELCOME ADDRESS**
09:15 - 09:30 AM	**MARKET OVERVIEW AND TRENDS** Cedar-IBSi
09:30 – 10:15 AM	**PANEL #1 | DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN BAHRAIN'S BANKING LANDSCAPE** Banking across the globe and especially in the GCC is evolving rapidly alongside a wider digital transformation with 80% of consumers preferring digital banking services. Banks are actively pursuing the implementation of NextGen solutions with the aim of improving customer experience, operational efficiency, and revenue growth. How can banks in Bahrain leverage global and regional learnings to accelerate their digital journey?
10:15 - 10:30 AM	**TEA/COFFEE BREAK**
10:30 – 11:15 AM	**PANEL #2 | FOSTERING FINTECH INNOVATION IN THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM** For FinTechs to flourish, it is essential to have a robust ecosystem that encompasses a variety of factors such as regulatory frameworks, availability of funding options, collaboration between FinTech startups and incumbent financial institutions, and access to talent and expertise. What are some of the factors that could be improved to establish a strong ecosystem in Bahrain for FinTech innovation?
11:15 - 12:00 PM	**PANEL #3 | OPPORTUNITIES IN NEXT GENERATION TRANSACTION BANKING** Emerging technologies such as blockchain, AI, and cloud computing enable banks to offer real-time, secure, and cost-effective transaction banking solutions to businesses and consumers. Moreover, with the increasing adoption of digital channels, transaction banking can help banks expand their reach and tap into new markets. How can banks capitalize on the opportunities in next generation transaction banking?
12:00 – 12:45 PM	**PANEL #4 | TRANSFORMING THE BANKING INDUSTRY VIA CLOUD ADOPTION** The use of cloud-based solutions is enabling banks to enhance their scalability, agility, and cost efficiency. Additionally, cloud architecture provides banks with access to on-demand analytical and automation solutions, leading to faster speed-to-market and the ability to respond to rapidly changing customer needs. Supported by a clear and pragmatic regulatory framework, how can banks accelerate their adoption of cloud platforms?
12:45 – 01:00 PM	**CLOSING** Cedar-IBSi
01:00 – 02:00 PM	**LUNCH AND NETWORKING**

SPEAKERS

WELCOME

V. RAMKUMAR
Senior Partner,
Cedar

MARKET OVERVIEW

CHETAN PAREKH
Managing Partner,
FinTech Practice Head,
Cedar

PANEL #1 | DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN BAHRAIN'S BANKING LANDSCAPE

AHMED AL-MAHRI
Head of Business Development & Services, BENEFIT Company

KUNAL VARMA
Head, Consumer, Private and Business Banking, Standard Chartered Bank

NOORA YASEEN ALBALOOSHI
Digital Transformation Expert Trainer, Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance

RAJESH MIRJANKAR
MD & CEO, Kiya.ai

V. RAMKUMAR
Senior Partner,
Cedar
MODERATOR

PANEL #2 | FOSTERING FINTECH INNOVATION IN THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

AHMED ALBALOOSHI
Board Member & CTO, INABLR WealthTech

AHMED SALEH
Business Head,
Bahrain,
Tap Payments

BHASKAR MEHTA
Chief Risk Officer,
GFH Financial

CONRAD FORD
Chief Product and Strategy Officer,
Allica Bank

CHETAN PAREKH
Managing Partner,
FinTech Practice Head
Cedar
MODERATOR

PANEL #3 | OPPORTUNITIES IN NEXT GENERATION TRANSACTION BANKING

BARID NEOGI
SVP, Group Operations,
Emirates NBD

PAUL BAKER
Acting Group Head of Operations,
Bank ABC

V. RAMKUMAR
Senior Partner,
Cedar
MODERATOR

PANEL #4 | TRANSFORMING THE BANKING INDUSTRY VIA CLOUD ADOPTION

RIZWAN SHAIKH MOHAMMED
Director, Expleo Group

SRINIVASAN SAMPATH
Acting Group Chief Technology Officer,
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)

NIKHIL GOKHALE
Head of Research,
IBS intelligence
MODERATOR

CEDAR-IBSi EVENTS

2023 Program Calendar | 7 Summits & 3 Awards

#	Events & Awards	Category	City	2023											
				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	**Cedar-IBSi Golf Event (Private Event)**	Social	Dubai		25th										
2	**Cedar-IBSi Digital Banking Summit**	Summit	Mumbai				12th								
3	**Cedar-IBSi NextGen Banking & Tech Summit**	Summit	Bahrain					24th							
4	**IBSi Annual Sales League Table Awards**	Awards	London						15th						
5	**Cedar-IBSi NextGen Core Banking Summit**	Summit	London						16th						
6	**Cedar-IBSi Emerging Tech & Innovation Summit**	Summit	Kuwait								17th				
7	**IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards**	Awards	Dubai									07th			
8	**Cedar-IBSi Digital Payments & Lending Summit**	Summit	Dubai									08th			
9	**Cedar-IBSi NextGen Banking & Tech Summit**	Summit	Muscat											02nd	
10	**IBSi NeoChallenger Bank Awards**	Awards	Mumbai											23rd	
11	**Cedar-IBSi Digital & Core Banking Summit**	Summit	Mumbai											24th	

About Cedar

Cedar is a Forbes-recognized global consulting, research, and analytics firm with a 35-year track record and clients across multiple industry sectors. Since 1985, our teams have assisted clients in areas of strategy, process innovation, strategic human capital, and business technology, among others, with a strong focus on the Financial Services sector. As a full-suite management consulting firm, Cedar assists clients across these areas in an integrated fashion – from strategy formulation, to execution, and implementation.

About IBS Intelligence

Established in 1991, UK-headquartered IBS Intelligence (IBSi) is the world's only pure-play Financial Technology (traditional and new-age) research, advisory, and media firm, with a global coverage, and a 360° portfolio of intelligence offerings. For over 30 years, IBSi's expert teams have delivered independent, in-depth, actionable insights, with a laser focus on everything Financial Technology, to the global banking, consulting, technology, and institutional investing world. As an Analyst firm, we take pride in covering 400+ FinTech vendors in-depth – the largest by any global research firm in this space. IBSi's iconic annual Sales League Table has been the industry-acknowledged barometer of global Financial Technology vendor performance for 20+ years, covering 100+ leading technology participants from 150+ countries, across 20 system types. Every year.

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