07 July 2026

**Dear Sir / Madam**

**Inaugural Silk Road Finance & Technology Forum Tashkent, Uzbekistan | 24–26 August 2026**

On behalf of the *Central Bank of Uzbekistan (CBU)* and the *Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)*, a not-for-profit entity established by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), we are pleased to invite you to participate as a distinguished Guest at the inaugural Silk Road Finance & Technology Forum to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

**Central Asia: A New Financial Corridor.** Central Asia is emerging as a key economic corridor linking Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. With a digital-savvy population of over 80 million, accelerating trade and remittance flows, and a fast-growing digital economy, the region offers a compelling new investment frontier.

**Why Uzbekistan, Why Now?** Since 2017, Uzbekistan's far-reaching economic and digital reforms have delivered visible results, including the founding of innovative companies, backed by global investors. With the Central Bank pairing regulatory resilience and stability with market scale to build one of the region's most dynamic fintech environments, the next phase calls for deeper international collaboration, capital, and connectivity, which this Forum is designed to convene.

**A Central Asian Platform for Alignment and Action.** Hosted at the historic Silk Road crossroads, the Forum is anchored in the theme *Al-Jabr*—"to bring parts together"—signalling a focus on integrating fragmented systems into a coherent, resilient financial ecosystem. The five programme pillars are:

- **Open Banking:** Scaling shared infrastructure and open systems
- **Digital Assets & Stablecoins:** Advancing adoption of CBDCs, stablecoins, and tokenization
- **Cross-Border Payments:** Strengthening remittances and global payment flows
- **Islamic Finance:** Advancing digital finance for 2 billion Muslims around the world
- **Innovation & Investment:** Building the FinTech ecosystem

Participants are kindly invited to register for the Forum using the following link:
https://www.silkroadfinancetechnologyforum.com/registration

With sincere regards,

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| **Timur Ishmetov** | **Sopnendu Mohanty** |
| Governor | Group Chief Executive Officer |
| Central Bank of Uzbekistan | Global Finance & Technology Network |
| The Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan | GFTN |

## Forum Overview

| Monday<br>24 August | Tuesday<br>25 August |
|---|---|

**Forum Stage Dialogues**
Headline Keynotes and Conversations

**Investor Hours**
Curated Space for investor-startup engagement

**Ecosystem Showcase**
Open Platform showcasing industry innovation, Technology Demonstrations, and Marketing Insights

**Insights2040**
Closed-Door Public-Private Roundtables with Regulators, Policymakers and Senior Industry Leaders

| VIP Dinner | Networking Reception |
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**Wednesday**
26 August
(Islamic Civilisation Centre)

Azimuth
Finding True North in the Islamic Digital Economy

- Policy, Rails & Sovereign Trust | The System
- The Founders & Investors Dialogue | The Builders

Keynotes and panels on digital Islamic Finance infrastructure, Shariah governance, and sovereign capital

The Founders Peak • The Hardest Market Panel • The Forge Debate • Changemakers Unscripted

The Founders ROCK

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**Thursday**
onwards
27 August

Optional: Cultural & Heritage Experience at Samarkand

## Programme Pillars

1

### Zarkaynar

*Building the Fintech Ecosystem*

CONTEXT

A Presidential Decree targeting growth from 103 to 200 fintechs by 2030. Without a functioning startup-to-market pipeline and capital stack, momentum stalls.

**Sandbox 2.0 & the startup pipeline**

What is the vision of CBU's regulatory sandbox 2.0 and upcoming Innovation Hub?

**Investments**

How do we create the right recipe in Uzbekistan to attract regional and global investments?

**Bank-fintech partnerships**

How financial institutions can efficiently partner with local and global fintechs to deliver value?

2

### Silk Road Corridor

*Connecting Central Asia to the World*

CONTEXT

High cost of remittances. Islamic finance is underserved. Regional payment interoperability barely exists.

**Reimagining the remittance corridor**

How do diversified rails and licensed non-bank players reduce remittance costs?

**Capital Corridor**

How can Islamic Finance be a unifying factor connecting Uzbekistan to the rest of the region?

**Living Corridor**

How can we bring Uzbekistan and Central Asia's values and culture to the world?

3

### Saroy

*Scaling Digital Finance through Shared Infrastructure*

CONTEXT

Finance runs on shared rails – open banking APIs, digital identity, and payment standards. These need to be efficient utilized to unlock digital finance at scale.

**Open banking & the API economy**

What does Uzbekistan's open finance roadmap mean for banks, fintechs, and consumers?

**Digital identity & inclusion**

How a national eKYC and digital ID infrastructure changes the economics of serving the unbanked population of the region?

**Payments rails + AI governance**

What is the payments roadmap, and how is CBU approaching AI governance for credit, fraud, and SupTech?

4

### Observatory

*The New Digital Asset Frontier*

CONTEXT

CBU and NAPP are in the research phase for digital assets. The opportunity is for the industry and regulators to collaborate.

**Stablecoins and payment rails**

What are the preconditions for moving from research to pilot?

**Wholesale CBDC roadmap**

What is the roadmap for wholesale CBDC?

**RWA tokenization + governance**

Where is the commercial case strongest for tokenised real world assets, and what framework attracts institutional capital?

5

### Madrasah

*Supporting the Next Generation*

CONTEXT

Median age 27.41. Presidential Decree mandates 5,000 trained fintech professionals by 2030. The demographic advantage is only an advantage

**National fintech talent meets capital**

How do government-industry programmes and the CBU Innovation Hub create a 5,000-professional pipeline by 2030?

**Architecting talent pipelines**

How can stakeholders in Central Asia's fintech ecosystem collaborate to build the next generation of fintech leaders?

**Inclusion, gender & access**

How does Uzbekistan reach women entrepreneurs, the unbanked, and what does responsible fintech growth look like?

## Programme Overview

| 24 August 2026 | | |
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| 0900 | Welcome & Opening Performance | |
| 0910 | Guest of Honour Keynote: The National Vision | Al-jabr |
| 0925 | State of Financial Sector Innovation: CBU Governor's Address | Al-Jabr |
| 0940 | Ministerial Plenary: Building the Technology-Enabled Financial Corridor | Silk Road Corridor |
| 1015 | Governors Plenary: Mobilising Sovereign Wealth & Digital Trade Hubs | Silk Road Corridor |
| 1105 | Global Expert Views 1: Global Payments in Motion — Connecting Central Asia to Global Markets | Silk Road Corridor |
| 1145 | Global Expert Views 2: Regulating the New Technology Stack — AI & Tokenisation Spotlight | Observatory |
| 1225 | Global Expert Views 3: Digital Finance Meets Islamic Finance | |
| 1305 | The Tashkent Declaration: Islamic Digital Finance Vision | |
| 1315 | Networking lunch | |

| 25 August 2026 | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0900 | Welcome to Day 2 | |
| 0905 | Guest of Honour Opening | Zarkaynar |
| 0920 | Keynote by Global Finance and Technology Network | Al-Jabr |
| 0935 | Keynote by a Former Asian Economy's Central Banker Governor | Zarkaynar |
| 0950 | Frontier Tech Dialogue 1: Tokenisation & Stablecoins — The Central Asian Choices | Observatory |
| 1030 | Frontier Tech Dialogue 2: Responsible AI — A Balanced Pathway for Central Asia | Saroy |
| 1125 | Global Investors Dialogue — Backing Central Asia's Fintech Rise | Saroy |
| 1200 | Human Capital Dialogue — Growing the Fintech Talent Stack | Madrasah |
| 1240 | Hackathon Winners Announcement | |
| 1255 | Networking Lunch | |

| Insights 2040™ Roundtables, 24 - 25 August 2026 | |
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| The Interoperability Frontier - Aligning National Digital Stacks with Global Financial Corridors | Silk Road Corridor |
| The Autonomy Paradox - Governing Agentic AI in Regulated Financial Markets & Digital Trust Systems | Saroy |
| The Dual-Banking Blueprint - Scaling Sharia-Compliant Windows in Conventional Ecosystems | Zarkaynar |
| New Routes Home - Remittances for Central Asia's Globalising Diaspora | Silk Road Corridor |
| Navigating the Open Finance Ultimatum - Redefining Reciprocity Between Incumbents & Fintechs | Zarkaynar |
| The Skills-First Revolution - Academic Credentials versus Industry-Led Competencies | Madrasah |

| Azimuth: Islamic Finance Day, 26 August 2026, Islamic Civilisation Centre | |
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| 1000 | Setting the Coordinate — Welcome & Context |
| 1010 | Changemakers Unscripted — Fireside Chat with a Global Icon |
| 1045 | Ministerial Keynote |
| 1105 | Azimuth Dialogue 1 — Building the Rails for the Islamic Digital Economy |
| 1145 | Azimuth Dialogue 2 — A $6 Trillion Islamic Finance Corridor? |
| 1225 | Azimuth Fireside — Can You Code Shariah Compliance? |
| 1300 | The Dastarkhan |
| 1400 | The Founders Peak ™ — Book Preview: Between the Garage and the Exit |
| 1445 | The Founders Peak™ Talks — Coordinate |
| 1515 | Founders' Panel — Untapped Central Asian Market |
| 1555 | Founders Panel 2 — Solving the Islamic Fintech Gap |
| 1635 | The Ant Vision — The QR Code That Could Bank a Billion |
| 1715 | Closing Remarks |
| Evening | The Founders Rock ™ & Tour of the Islamic Civilisation Centre |