

MEBIS 2026 Is Two Weeks Away as Banking Enters a New AI and Technology Cycle

More than 500 pre-registrations confirmed as banking leaders from across the Middle East prepare to gather in Dubai on 16–17 September for the MEBIS 2026

DUBAI, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, September 2, 2026

/EINPresswire.com/ -- With just two weeks to go until the 17th Middle East Banking Innovation Summit ([MEBIS 2026](#)), banking leaders from across the region are preparing to meet in Dubai at a moment when artificial intelligence, payments, data, cloud infrastructure and digital banking are beginning to converge in ways that could reshape how financial institutions operate.



MEBIS

Taking place on 16–17 September 2026 at Jumeirah Emirates Towers, MEBIS 2026 has already recorded more than 500 pre-registrations, bringing together senior banking executives, technology leaders and industry specialists for two days focused specifically on the transformation of banking.

The timing of this year's summit is particularly significant. AI is rapidly progressing beyond assistants and copilots towards agents capable of completing tasks, coordinating workflows and potentially taking actions across multiple banking systems. At the same time, financial institutions are modernising infrastructure, adapting to real-time and cross-border payments, strengthening cybersecurity and responding to customer expectations for faster and more personalised services.

These developments are increasingly interconnected. AI cannot scale without reliable data and infrastructure, faster payments require equally fast approaches to fraud and risk, while greater automation introduces new questions around governance, security and accountability. This convergence will form the backdrop to MEBIS 2026.

From AI Assistants to AI Agents

One of the most significant shifts facing banking is the transition from AI that assists people towards AI capable of performing increasingly complex activities on their behalf.

The MEBIS discussion “From AI Assistants to AI Agents: Autonomous Banking, Governance and Trust” will examine what this transition could mean for financial institutions. An AI assistant might help an employee analyse information or understand a problem. An AI agent could potentially identify the issue, determine the required steps, interact with several systems and initiate an outcome.

That distinction creates an entirely different set of operational and governance considerations. Banks will increasingly need to determine where AI can act independently, where human approval remains essential and how automated decisions can be monitored, explained and traced.

The conversation is consequently moving beyond what AI can do towards what banks should allow AI to do.

Building the AI-Ready Bank

Becoming AI-ready involves considerably more than deploying new models.

At MEBIS 2026, “Building the AI-Ready Bank” will explore the technology and organisational foundations institutions need if AI is to become a dependable part of banking operations. Legacy architecture, cloud environments, integration, cybersecurity, workforce capability and operating models will all influence how quickly banks can move from experimentation towards meaningful deployment.

The infrastructure challenge will also be examined through “Beyond Legacy, Designing Scalable Data and Cloud Foundations,” focusing on how banks can modernise cloud and data environments while continuing to operate mission-critical systems.

Banks cannot simply replace established infrastructure overnight. Modernisation needs to take place while maintaining resilience, security and continuity, particularly as transaction volumes, data requirements and digital services continue to grow.

Data Moves to the Centre of AI Strategy

The acceleration of AI is exposing another fundamental constraint: sophisticated models cannot indefinitely compensate for fragmented, inaccessible or poorly governed banking data.

“Data, AI & Intelligent Banking: Powering Trusted AI and Better Customer Experiences” will explore the relationship between banks' AI ambitions and the information infrastructure supporting them.

The challenge extends beyond how much data an institution possesses. Banks need to understand where information originated, whether it is accurate, who owns it, who can access it and how it can legitimately be used. Those questions become considerably more important when AI systems influence customer interactions, operational processes or decisions.

As institutions pursue predictive intelligence, personalisation, advanced fraud detection and increasingly autonomous systems, data strategy and AI strategy are becoming inseparable.

Payments Enter Another Transformation Cycle

AI will be a major theme at MEBIS 2026, but it is far from the only area experiencing rapid change.

“Payment Innovation in Banking, Real Time, Cross Border and Wallet Driven Evolution” will examine how instant settlement, new payment rails, digital wallets and changing customer behaviour are reshaping one of banking's most fundamental functions.

Customers increasingly expect money to move immediately, regardless of channel or time of day. Delivering that experience requires payment infrastructure capable of continuous operation, interoperability between systems, regulatory readiness and fraud controls capable of responding at the same speed as transactions.

As payments become faster, banks have less time to identify suspicious activity before funds move, making the relationship between payments innovation, AI, cybersecurity and fraud prevention increasingly important.

Customer Experience Is Being Redefined

Technology investment ultimately needs to translate into experiences customers can see and value.

The MEBIS discussion “Customer Experience in Banking, What Defines Excellence Now” will explore how expectations are evolving as consumers become accustomed to immediate, intuitive and increasingly personalised digital services.

AI and data give banks new capabilities to anticipate customer requirements and personalise interactions, but greater intelligence does not automatically create a better experience. Customers can still encounter friction during onboarding, service requests and other everyday banking journeys.

As more interactions become automated, trust will remain central. The next generation of banking experiences may therefore be judged not simply by how digital they become, but by whether technology can make banking simpler without making it feel less reliable or human.

More Than 20 Banking Sessions Across Two Days

Across more than 20 banking sessions, MEBIS 2026 will explore the interconnected technology priorities facing financial institutions, moving beyond individual innovations towards the wider question of how the modern bank needs to evolve.

Banking leaders and speakers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt and Jordan will bring perspectives from markets at different stages of technology maturity but increasingly confronting many of the same strategic decisions.

How quickly should banks adopt AI? Where should infrastructure be modernised? How should increasingly digital operations be protected? How will payments evolve, and where can technology investment produce meaningful competitive advantage?

Two Weeks Until MEBIS 2026

For 17 editions, MEBIS has followed the evolution of banking technology across the Middle East, from digital and mobile banking through cloud adoption, advanced analytics, cybersecurity, new payment infrastructure and now increasingly intelligent financial services.

Donalie Laude
Expotrade Middle East FZ LLC
+971 4 454 2135

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