



#CNVERGE '25

Rethinking Commodity Finance for Growth

A Ghib Thought-Impact Event

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August 6-8, 2025 | City of London



Leaders Bio's



Dean Adansi
Chief Executive Officer

Dean Adansi is the Chief Executive Officer of GHIB and the Convener of the CNVERGE Conference. He assumed the role of CEO with a mandate to lead the Bank's transformation and strategic repositioning. Dean has earned a formidable reputation in the City of London for steering GHIB back to profitability, revitalising its brand, and reclaiming its heritage as a leading Pan-African-focused UK trade bank. Under his leadership, GHIB has undergone a significant transformation, aligning its operations with growth and innovation. With over 30 years of experience in banking, Dean has held senior leadership roles across major financial institutions in the United States, Europe, and Africa. His career spans blue-chip banking houses, where he has consistently driven performance and strategic growth. Dean is a strong advocate for capitalising and scaling trade finance institutions as a catalyst for Africa's economic development. Prior to joining GHIB, he held senior roles at Wells Fargo.



Richard Agbenu
Chief Commercial Officer

Richard Agbenu joined Ghana International Bank's Accra Representative Office in 2004 and has held various positions within Business Development and Credit Risk in both Accra and London. He is currently the Chief Commercial Officer, responsible for the Bank's Wholesale banking business including Corporate Banking and Treasury. Richard is an accomplished corporate banker, with over 25 years' experience in Structured Trade, Corporate and Correspondent Banking across Africa and the UK. He is an Alumnus of the University of Cambridge.



Alex Cole
Chief Financial Officer

Alex Cole is Chief Financial Officer of [Ghana International Bank plc (GHIB)], responsible for the leadership, direction, and management of the Finance and Regulatory Reporting departments. A qualified Chartered Accountant (ACA), Alex brings strong financial expertise and strategic oversight to the Bank's operations. Alex was appointed to his current role in November 2018, having joined GHIB in September 2015. Prior to GHIB, Alex worked in the banking and capital markets sector in London where he served as an auditor at Deloitte. His experience spans financial reporting, regulatory compliance, and strategic financial planning, making him a key contributor to GHIB's continued growth and stability.



Christos Gabrielides

Chief Risk Officer

Christos Gabrielides is Chief Risk Officer of [Ghana International Bank plc (GHIB)] and has been a holder of PRA and FCA approved Senior Manager Roles of middle sized but fast-growing banks for over 15 years. Christos is a highly experienced banking professional with a career in Treasury management and Risk management. His expertise which he has developed throughout his banking career spans across market, credit, operational, compliance, financial, and prudential risk. He is highly skilled in designing and implementing effective Risk Management Frameworks tailored to institutional risk profiles and strategic objectives. Throughout his career, Christos has successfully developed Risk Appetite Statements, Management Information Systems, and governance structures that ensure risk levels remain aligned with business goals. His leadership reflects a strong commitment to regulatory integrity and sound risk culture.



Ophelia Attobrah

Chief Banking Officer

Ophelia Attobrah has served as Chief Banking Officer at Ghana International Bank plc (GHIB) since June 2019. In this role, she oversees Retail and Business Banking, Correspondent Banking & Client Onboarding, and Complaints Management. Her leadership is pivotal in driving business growth and delivering client services aligned with GHIB's strategic goals and regulatory standards. With over 35 years of banking experience across North America, Europe, and Africa, Ophelia brings deep industry expertise and a forward-thinking approach to innovation. Her ability to navigate complex regulatory environments while achieving sustainable business outcomes has made her a key contributor to GHIB's ongoing transformation. Ophelia is currently spearheading the development of a bespoke Retail Banking proposition and scaling up the Business Banking revenue stream, reinforcing GHIB's commitment to evolving its client offerings and expanding its market presence.



Janet Mbu

General Counsel & Company Secretary.

Janet Mbu is General Counsel and Company Secretary at Ghana International Bank plc (GHIB) where she leads the Legal and Company Secretariat team in delivering legal risk management and corporate governance services across the Bank. Janet is a City-trained lawyer with over 20 years of legal and corporate governance experience across the UK and Nigeria. Her expertise spans regulatory compliance, corporate law, and governance, and she plays a key role in ensuring the Bank's legal and governance standards align with international best practices. Janet leads the team to be a critical enabler of the GHIB value proposition, providing a legal steer across African countries, the EU, UK and other jurisdictions in which the Bank operates. Janet has held leadership positions in similar functions in other organisations.



Kwame Sarpong

General Manager for Operations

Kwame Sarpong is General Manager of Operations at [Ghana International Bank plc (GHIB).] Kwame assumed his current role in August 2019 and has been with GHIB for over 20 years, contributing significantly to its growth and transformation. He is responsible for driving operational efficiency, managing change, and ensuring the timely delivery of business objectives. Kwame plays a strategic role in anticipating, developing, and deploying solutions to enhance the Bank's operating processes. His extensive experience in banking operations is complemented by a strong background in process improvement and strategic execution. Prior to joining GHIB, Kwame worked with Ghana Commercial Bank, where he gained foundational experience in banking operations and customer service.



Gillian Heggs

Head of People, Culture and Communications

Gillian Heggs is Head of People, Culture, and Communications at Ghana International Bank plc (GHIB). In this role Gillian leads the process of embedding GHIB's R.I.C.E. values: Respect; Integrity; Collaboration; Excellence, within the Bank's culture. A seasoned Human Resources professional, Gillian brings a wealth of experience and a strong track record of success within the banking sector. She is known for her strategic leadership and deep understanding of HR principles and banking regulations, which she leverages to develop commercially sound and people-centric HR strategies. Prior to joining GHIB, Gillian served as Head of Human Resources at UBA UK, Diamond Bank UK and C.Hoare & Co, where she played a pivotal role in driving organisational change to produce high-performing teams, enhancing employee engagement, and fostering inclusive workplace cultures. Her commitment to excellence and her ability to align HR practices with business goals have made her a respected leader in the industry.



Subuola Abraham

Head of Compliance and MLRO

Subuola Abraham is the Head of Compliance and MLRO for Ghana International Bank (GHIB) and has been with the bank since September 2024. Prior to joining GHIB, Subuola was the Group Chief Compliance Officer for Guaranty Trust Bank from 2014 to 2021 and prior to that, the Group Chief Compliance Officer for United Bank for Africa. In both of these roles, Subuola oversight spanned 19 African countries, London and New York. Subuola started her Compliance journey with Citibank in London then moving on to Pershing Securities and later ABN AMRO where she was the Assistant Director for the EMEA Regions. Subuola is a Barrister-at Law in Nigeria and a Solicitor of England and Wales. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria. Subuola has sat on the boards of various organisations as a Non-Executive Director within the Financial Services, Education and Integrated Services space and is currently on the Global Advisory Board of the International Compliance Association.



Baafour Abankwa

Divisional Head, Corporate and Institutional Banking

Baafour Abankwa serves as Divisional Head, Corporate and Institutional Banking at GHIB. Prior, he served as Head- Client Coverage Africa, leading efforts that led to significant expansions in GHIB's client portfolio outside core markets in Guinea, Nigeria , and East Africa. Baafour is part of the leadership cadre driving GHIB revenue strategy, by reimaging solutions and value delivery models. Baafuor's division is focused on delivering the most compelling transactional banking , trade finance, treasury, advisory and lending solutions to African markets. Baafuor has advanced management studies degrees, including from the Saiid Business School at Oxford and is a respected thought-leader in African trade finance.



Hueggert Annan

Head, Client Coverage Africa and Country Representative Ghana

Hueggert leads the Bank's client coverage across Africa, with the responsibility of originating, sustaining, and deepening key relationships that are central to the Bank's value proposition. A consummate banker with over 20 years of experience in corporate and institutional banking on the continent, she brings deep expertise and strategic insight, particularly in financial institutions and trade finance. Hueggert is at the forefront of the Bank's efforts to scale up and deliver solutions that help bridge Africa's trade finance gap.



Matthew Parris

Head Trade Sales and Financial Institutions

Matthew joined GHIB (formerly Ghana Commercial Bank) in 1982. Over the years, he has held roles in Customer Services, Global Transfers, and Internal Audit, but found his niche in International Trade Finance in 1998. He served as Deputy Head of the Trade Finance team until 2004, when he was promoted to Head of Department—a position he held until 2018. He was then transferred to the Client Coverage team, where he currently oversees Trade Sales and Financial Institutions. Since 2012, Matthew has delivered annual Trade Finance training courses in Ghana for the bank's clients across Africa, focusing on the Financial Institutions and Corporate segments.



Jamel Banda

Head of Treasury and Markets

Jamel Banda is Head of Treasury and Markets at Ghana International Bank PLC, headquartered in the City of London. He has over 15 years of experience across global markets, corporate banking, and risk, with expertise in trading, funding strategy, and institutional relationship management. He also leads the bank's engagement with international financial institutions, supporting cross-border liquidity and market access. His work focuses on connecting capital flows between the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a strong track record supporting governments, central banks, and state-owned enterprises. Known for his strategic insight and cross-border perspective, Jamel plays a central role in shaping the bank's market positioning and institutional engagement. Beyond banking, he is an elected Member of the City of London Corporation, where he serves as a Common Councillor promoting the UK's financial and professional services sector, Chairing one of the City's committees, as well as Chairing an Independent school Board.



Derick Dickson

Relationship Manager

Derick is a seasoned banking professional with over eight years of experience in the financial services industry, specializing in Trade Finance, Project Management, and Corporate & Institutional Banking. Currently serving as a Relationship Manager at Ghana International Bank in London, Derick is responsible for managing and expanding a dynamic portfolio of Financial Institutions across Africa and Europe. With a deep understanding of international banking operations and cross-border relationship management, Derick plays a key role in driving strategic partnerships, enhancing client engagement, and supporting sustainable growth within the African subregion and beyond. Derick's career has been defined by a strong commitment to excellence, innovation in financial solutions, and a deep passion for fostering impactful banking relationships.



Matthew Parris

Head of Debt Underwriting

Proficient credit risk and relationship management professional with 2 decades of international banking and finance experience. Skilled in Project Finance, Structured Trade and Commodity Finance, Sovereign Lending, Financial Institutions, Portfolio and Relationship Management, Treasury, Legal Documentation, Bilateral and Syndicated Loans, Primary and Secondary Risk Participation with good geographical knowledge across multiple African jurisdictions.