



#CNVERGE '25

# Rethinking Commodity Finance for Growth

A Ghib Thought-Impact Event

## Participant Bio's

August 6-8, 2025 | City of London



# Participant Bio's



**Rima Kalai**

**Executive Director, Asset Distribution, ATF Finance**

Rima Kalai is Executive Director at ATF Finance, leading the firm's asset distribution efforts from London and driving strategic direction through her board seat on ATF Participation, the company's alternative investment impact fund. With two decades of experience in business development and trade finance across the Middle East and the UK, Rima brings deep expertise in African corporate finance—particularly in commercial and structured trade finance, as well as financial institutions—where she has been a key player for the past 15 years. She holds dual Bachelor's degrees in Applied Sciences from McGill University and Finance from the John Molson School of Business, and has completed executive studies in Brand Management and Marketing Strategies at the London Business School. Rima is known for her sharp market insight, cross-regional perspective, and unwavering focus on unlocking investment opportunities across frontier and emerging markets.



**Victor Yaw Asante**

**Managing Director/CEO, FirstBank Ghana LTD**

Mr. Victor Yaw Asante is the Managing Director/CEO of FirstBank Ghana LTD, a subsidiary of Nigeria's oldest Bank, FirstBank. With a career spanning almost three decades in the banking and manufacturing sectors, Mr. Asante is experienced in Corporate and Institutional Banking, Structured Trade Finance, Transaction Banking, Marketing & Sales. He has worked in multi jurisdictions including Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Botswana and London. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing in Ghana, and an honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Ghana. The Chartered Institute of Marketing Ghana (CIMG) recently conferred on him, a Chartered Marketer status. Victor is also a key volunteer and has been awarded in Rotary International, serving as a District Governor in 2022-23.



**Jacqueline B. Williams-N'Tow**

**CEO, International Bank Liberia Ltd**

Jacqueline is an accomplished banking professional with over 22 years of extensive experience, serving in various senior levels in banking. Currently serving as the CEO of International Bank Liberia Ltd, Jacqueline is recognized for her exceptional customer focus and results-driven management style. Her leadership journey has been characterized by a steadfast commitment to excellence and a deep understanding of the complexities of banking operations.



**Chief Dr. Doli-wura Awushi Abdul-Malik Zakaria**

**Managing Director, National Investment Bank**

Chief Dr. Doli-wura Awushi Abdul-Malik Zakaria is a renowned figure in the public sector, celebrated for his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to building capacity within the financial industry. With a career spanning over two decades, Chief Zakaria has consistently demonstrated his ability to lead and manage diverse teams, drive strategic initiatives, and foster a customer-centric culture that prioritizes the needs and aspirations of clients. His visionary approach and dedication to excellence positions him as the ideal candidate for this position. Chief Zakaria's management style is characterized by a strategic focus on innovation and continuous improvement.



**Theodore Daniel Laryea**  
**Head, Credit Risk, GCB Bank Plc.**

Theodore is an accomplished banking professional with over 20 years of experience in credit risk management, structured trade finance, project finance, SME lending, and asset-based financing. Currently the Head of Credit Risk Management at GCB Bank PLC, he has previously served in senior roles including Head of Corporate Credit, Risk and Governance at GCB, Head of Corporate Credit and Business Performance at Fidelity Bank, Head of Credit Appraisal and Evaluation at Universal Merchant Bank and Head of Factoring at Société Générale, Ghana. He is recognized for his strategic leadership, robust financial analysis skills, and commitment to delivering sustainable credit solutions in line with best practice and regulatory standards.



**Melanie Ryan**  
**Partner, London office of Pinsent Masons LLP**

Melanie Ryan is partner in the London office of Pinsent Masons LLP. She has 25 years' experience in commercial litigation and disputes, corporate and regulatory investigations, and related enforcement proceedings. She has particular expertise in advising and representing clients operating in the banking and financial services and energy sectors in high value and complex disputes as well as internal and government investigations, frequently across multiple jurisdictions. Melanie has extensive experience of dealing with regulators including the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Serious Fraud Office in the UK and the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission in the US, as well as regulators and government bodies in various other jurisdictions around the world.



**Adama Ceesay**  
**Senior Compliance Officer, Trust Bank Plc**

Adama Ceesay is a Senior Compliance Officer in the Legal & Compliance Department at Trust Bank Plc, with over 10 years of experience in the banking industry. He is a Certified Compliance Professional specialising in Anti-Money Laundering reporting and compliance risk management.



**Foster Antwi**  
**Senior Relationship Manager, GCB Bank PLC**

Foster is a seasoned financial professional with over 18 years' experience in agribusiness financing, specializing in the cocoa value chain. As the Senior Relationship Manager in charge of the Cocoa Desk at GCB Bank PLC, he leads strategic initiatives to support and finance key stakeholders across the cocoa ecosystem. With deep industry knowledge and a strong network within Ghana's cocoa sector, Foster has played a pivotal role in structuring financial solutions for clients.





**Edward Commey**  
**Executive Head, CIB, Prudential Bank Ltd.**

Edward Commey is the Executive Head, Corporate and Institutional Banking of Prudential Bank Ltd. He wields over two decades of varied experience in Banking and Finance with a proven track record across Credit Risk, Corporate Banking, Investment Banking and Transactional Banking. He previously worked with Societe General, ABSA, Standard Bank and Consolidated Bank Ghana in various capacities but with strong focus on client coverage and business development. Edward is highly committed to innovation, strategic foresight and empowering teams for exceptional results.



**Amine Drissi-Kamilli**  
**Business Development Director, BACB**

Amine Drissi-Kamilli brings over 15 years of banking experience, with a strong focus on Trade Finance across Africa and Emerging Markets. As Business Development Director at BACB, he leads strategic initiatives across BACB wholesale banking business particularly, driving growth and deepening client relationships. Amine began his career at Bank of Africa UK, where he spent six years between the Paris and London offices. During this time, he served various roles, in Trade Finance, Commodity Finance, and Loan Syndication, building a solid foundation in cross-border financing and emerging market transactions.



**Sweetie Mary Nkrumah**  
**Principal Finance Officer, Ghana Grid Company Ltd**

Sweetie is a Principal Finance Officer with the Ghana Grid Company Ltd. She is responsible for treasury operations including banking, liquidity and cash management, investment oversight, streamlining treasury payments, risk mitigation and ensuring regulation compliance. She has over fifteen years' experience with Ghana Grid Company LTD.



**James Collins**  
**Senior Manager, Trade Finance, FCMB Bank (UK) Limited**

James has over 35 years banking experience and has worked in Trade Finance since 1995 where he started in forfaiting documentation with London Forfaiting Company PLC. Prior to joining FCMB Bank (UK) Limited he worked at various institutions including Europe Arab Bank, Bank of Ireland, HSBC and United Bank for Africa UK. He has been a primary relationship Manager for FIs, looking after Russia, Brazil, Türkiye and Nigeria as well as Secondary Market FI relationships globally and managing key Trade Finance exporter/corporate relationships. At FCMB Bank (UK) Limited, James is also actively involved in the syndicated loan market. James has served as a member of the Market Practice Committee of ITFA since 2015.T



### **Bernard Gyebi**

#### **Managing Director, Prudential Bank**

Bernard Gyebi is the Managing Director of Prudential Bank, overseeing its strategic leadership and operational performance. He has over 26 years of banking experience, having worked across all core areas in reputable banks. Prior to joining Prudential Bank, he was the General Manager responsible for Risk Management at Republic Bank (Ghana) Plc, where he also undertook risk management assignments for subsidiaries across the Caribbean. Bernard has held senior leadership roles at Agricultural Development Bank PLC as Executive Head of Credit Risk and Chief Risk & Compliance Officer, and at Stanbic Bank Ghana Limited as Head of Credit. He also held various credit leadership roles at Barclays Ghana (now Absa Bank Ghana), including Senior Credit Analyst in Johannesburg and Head of Corporate Credit.



### **Omar Kanteh**

#### **Relationship Manager, Trust Bank PLC**

Omar Kanteh is a Relationship Manager at Trust Bank PLC for over 14 years. He started his career in 2012 as a Bank Officer and rose through the ranks to become a Senior Manager at Corporate Banking Department. He is responsible for customer credit management and advisory services. Mr. Kanteh is a dedicated staff with a wealth of experience in Corporate Banking where he impacted a lot of business decisions taken by the Bank.



### **Abdou Aziz Darboe**

#### **Risk Management Officer, Trust Bank PLC, Gambia**

Abdou Aziz Darboe works at Trust Bank PLC, Gambia as a Risk Management Officer in the Risk Management Department. Key functions are financial statement analysis, daily credit risk assessment for all type of facilities applicants, collateral administration, and weekly and monthly reporting to Central Bank of The Gambia on Bank's total loan and other facilities portfolios, among others.



### **Jennifer Jonah**

#### **Head Compliance & Regulatory Unit, Rokel Commercial Bank (Sierra Leone) Limited**

A dedicated and astute banker with vast experience in banking spanning over 30 years both at operational and administrative level. She has moved through the ranks holding key departmental and management positions such as Credit Manager, Finance Analyst, Branch Manager, Head of Finance, Head of Treasury, and currently Head of Compliance. As head of Compliance, she has made significant gains by driving compliance culture across the Bank. Holds a Bachelor of Science with Honor's in Financial Services [BSC (Hons) Financial Services] and a Master's in Finance & Accounting [MFA] from the University of Sierra Leone.



**Alkali Bah**

**Deputy Managing Director & Head of Business**

Alkali joined VISTA Bank Gambia Limited in 2018 as Head of Corporate Banking and assumed the role of Head of Business supervising all Sales Departments (Corporate, Commercial and Consumer Banking Units). He also doubled as Acting Deputy Managing Director. He became Deputy Managing Director of the Bank in January, 2019.

Alkali has over 22 years of banking experience holding various positions within Credit Risk, Strategic Committees and Business Development including Corporate and Commercial Banking. Mr. Bah has extensive trainings both within and outside of the Gambia on Credit Analysis, Basic Accounting, Risk Management and Leadership.



**Bernard Boadi**

**Head of Finance, GNPC EXPLORCO**

Bernard is the Head of Finance of GNPC Exploration and Production Limited Company. He is a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor and has a decade of experience in oil and gas industry.



**Antoinette Opokuwaa Baah**

**Senior Reporting Analyst, Omni Group Africa**

Antoinette is Snr. Reporting Analyst at Omni Group Limited. She is responsible for Data collection, developing and maintaining standard and ad hoc reports, presentations, assist in preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements. Her role includes monitoring business performance, improve processes and maintaining data accuracy (integrity). She has been with Omni for 7 years, currently acting as the financial controller where she supervises and monitors all the finance activities, i.e reviewing ledgers and preparing financials.



**Marcelo Mendes**

**Head of Commercial, Tennant Metals, South Africa**

Marcelo has 5+ years experience in the Metals and Mining sector, currently serving as the Head of Commercial at Tennant Metals South Africa, a leading entity in the metals and minerals industry in South Africa specializing in the sourcing and supply of a diverse range of commodities. In his role, Marcelo has been instrumental in implementing and deploying trade finance solutions across various business units within the organization, ensuring the sustainability and growth of the key projects within Tennant Metals.





**Asher Takyiwaa Appiah**  
**Treasury Officer, Omni Group Ltd**

Asher joined The Omni Group in September 2024 and is responsible for the Group Receivables and other bank related works. She has over 5 years of experience as a Treasury Officer and is responsible for managing and maintaining accurate records with customers.



**Lydia Mannah**  
**Deputy Treasury Manager, Omni Group Ltd**

Lydia is the Deputy Treasury Manager for the Omni Group Ltd for the past 10years. Her experience brings wealth and delight to the organization and its shareholders.



**Olukorede Adenowo, (K.O)**  
**Chief Executive Officer, FirstBank UK**

Olukorede Adenowo, (K.O), is the Chief Executive Officer of FirstBank UK. He held the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) Nigeria before taking on his role at FirstBank UK in November 2023. Prior to this, he served as MD/CEO for SCB Gambia, including responsibility for Senegal, as well as DMD/DCEO for SCB Cameroon and Managing Director Corporate, Commercial, and Institutional Banking for SCB Nigeria and West Africa. K.O has also been a Non-Executive Director of SCB Gambia and SCB Sierra Leone, Vice President of the Gambia Bankers Association, and Trustee of the Institute of Bankers of Gambia. With 38 years of post-university experience in Banking, Finance, and Consulting, he was honoured with the 2015 Distinguished Alumni award by Deloitte Nigeria, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria in 2003, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria in 2024.K.O qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1990.



**Olusola Balogun**  
**Manager, African Marketing and Coverage, London Forfaiting Company Ltd**

Olusola Balogun joined LFC in 2023 as the Manager, African Marketing and Coverage. He has 19 years of banking experience, and he is responsible for implementing comprehensive marketing strategies which promote LFCs products and capabilities in African markets.



**Stephen Ahwakyi Abban**

**Chief Executive Officer, Access Bank Gambia Limited**

Stephen Ahwakyi Abban is an accomplished banking executive with over two decades of extensive experience spanning Information Technology and Core Banking. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Ghana, a Master of Science in Information Technology from the University of Scotland, UK, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Business from the Emeritus Institute of Management. He has held several senior leadership roles at several Banks including Amalgamated Bank Ltd, Guaranty Trust Bank Ghana Limited and currently Access Bank. A recognized thought leader in financial inclusion and digital innovation, Stephen has been invited to speak at numerous local and international conferences on topics such as electronic payment systems and emerging Retail banking trends. Mr. Abban's executive acumen is further strengthened by his participation in advanced leadership programs at globally renowned institutions, including Columbia Business School, Harvard Business School, the MIT Management Executive Program, and the Institute of Management. Stephen is currently the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Access Bank (Gambia) Limited. He is also the current vice president of the Bankers Association of Gambia.



**Hajia Maria Adamu-Zibo**

**Managing Director, FEDCO**

Hajia Maria Adamu-Zibo has 24 years of experience in commodities trading with particular focus on cocoa and finance. She has been the Managing Director of Federated Commodities PLC (FEDCO), one of the leading Licensed Cocoa Buying Companies in Ghana, since 2017. She was at the erstwhile Royal Bank for 5 years as Senior Vice-President in charge of Business Development and Investor Relations. Prior to that, she worked with Cocoa Merchants (Gh) LTD for 12 years in various managerial positions, exiting as the DMD Finance and Administration. Hajia Maria currently serves on many boards and notably became a member of the Board of Directors of the prestigious World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) in 2023. She holds an MSc. from The London Institute of Banking & Finance (UK), an MBA from GIMPA, and a bachelor's degree from HEC Montreal (Canada).



**Frank Nimako Akowuah**

**Partner, Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah**

Frank Nimako Akowuah is a Partner at Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah with over a decade of legal experience. He has been involved in many high-profile transactions in the Ghanaian market, spanning banking & finance, debt & equity capital markets, financial services regulatory, mergers & acquisitions, and regulated funds. His banking & finance expertise cuts across the financing landscape, including trade financing, asset financing, project financing and working capital financing. He regularly advises international and domestic clients on their financing transactions and has played a key role in commodities financing deals of clients such as the Ghana International Bank, African Export-Import Bank, and GCB Bank Plc. Frank is ranked by Chambers Global and is recognised as a market leader in banking and project finance by the International Financial Law Review. He is also ranked as a leading individual in capital markets by the Legal 500. Frank is a member of the Ghana Bar Association.





### **Dr. Barnett Quaicoo**

#### **Dep. MD (Marketing), Cocoa Marketing Company (Ghana) Ltd**

Dr. Barnett Quaicoo is the Deputy Managing Director (Marketing) at Cocoa Marketing Company (Ghana) Ltd, where he oversees Ghana's cocoa trading portfolio valued at over US\$4 billion annually. In this role, he leads international and local sales strategy, supervises contract execution, and manages relationships with key buyers, processors, and banking institutions involved in cocoa trade financing. He brings over two decades of experience in commodity trading, market development, and institutional leadership. His previous roles include Head of Ghana Cocoa Marketing Company (UK) Ltd, where he managed overseas operations and contributed to the successful execution of Ghana's syndicated cocoa loan. Earlier in his career, he served as a Senior Researcher with the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), where he led critical studies on crop forecasting, LBC performance, and cocoa sustainability programs. Dr. Quaicoo holds a Doctorate Degree from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, an MBA from Central University, and both MPhil and BEd degrees from the University of Cape Coast. He also serves as Chairman of the Membership Committee at the Federation of Cocoa Commerce (FCC) in London, where he helps shape trade standards and dispute resolution across the global cocoa industry.



### **Aamar Ahmad**

#### **Founder, Sigma Risk**

Aamar is internationally recognized subject matter expert in financial crime prevention holding substantial experience in advising government department, financial regulators, law enforcement bodies, intelligence agencies, financial institutions, and multinational corporations. Aamar is the founder of Sigma Risk; a London based financial crime compliance consulting firm and frequently appears at international conferences as subject matter expert. Aamar has trained several institutions across Europe, Americas, Africa, Middle East, and Asia across various industries.



### **Anthony Wadsworth-Hill**

#### **Co-founder & Deputy CEO, Mercore Group**

Anthony is one of the co-founders at Mercore and holds the executive role of Deputy CEO. Mercore Group has 2 main business lines. As a non-bank/alternative lender, Mercore Capital specialises in the provision of trade and supply chain finance to SMEs and customers transacting in (or with) developing/emerging markets. This financing activity runs alongside Mercore's second business line, which is the provision of anti-financial crime and due diligence services. Through a combination of these business divisions, Mercore is delivering financing solutions to aspiring businesses that find themselves caught within the global trade finance gap. Anthony's main responsibility is to lead the build out of Mercore's trade and supply chain finance capabilities. Delivering a strategy to leverage digital solutions, wherever possible, to provide a service that is faster and less costly, whilst also being more operationally resilient and sustainable. Prior to Mercore, Anthony spent 18 years at Bank ABC in London working in various leadership roles.



### **Natalia Andrew**

#### **Head of Multinationals & Financial Institutions, Zenith Bank (UK)**

Over the last 20 years, Natalia has been working in various leadership positions with a focus on Emerging Markets, and particularly Africa. Since joining Zenith Bank in 2016, Natalia has provided executive-level leadership and strategic direction to corporate Client Coverage and Origination teams, set up Financial Institutions business and was responsible for Correspondent Banking. Previously, 12 years at Standard Chartered Bank, she was a Director in Loan Syndications and headed business finance for the Global Financial Institutions team. Natalia's early career included banking audit at E&Y, where she qualified as an ACCA (now a Fellow). Natalia holds a Ph.D. in banking risk and an MBA with Distinction from Warwick Business School.



### **Kevin Dadzie**

#### **Regional Manager and Head of Country, BP Ghana**

Kevin Dadzie is Regional Manager and Head of Country, bp Ghana. As part of the leadership team for bp Refining Products Trading in Europe & Africa, he plays a key role in advancing bp's strategic priorities for the sub-Saharan African business. He has more than two decades of experience in delivering cross commodity trade solutions in the oil and gas/energy markets in Africa. Before bp, Kevin was Group Executive Director of CH Group a regional conglomerate, where he led the group's expansion in oil and gas, real estate, and telecommunications. During his tenure, he originated and structured new businesses in petroleum products supply, retail, storage offshore exploration assets, waste recycling operations, and off grid energy solutions. Kevin is the chair of YPO Ghana and a member of the YPO Africa regional Board. He previously served on the board of Vivo Energy Ghana Ltd. (a Shell licensee).



### **Winston Bell-Gam**

#### **Partner, HCR Law LLP**

Winston Bell-Gam is a Partner in the Banking & Finance team at HCR Law LLP. He specialises in international trade and commodity finance from a legal perspective. Winston works with lenders, traders and borrowers across the EMEA region who are active within the commodities sector and has worked on a range of funding transactions in Africa, the Middle-East and South-East Asia."



### **Grant Eldred**

#### **Partner, Banking and Finance, Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP**

Grant is a partner in the banking and finance team and heads the financial services sector teams. He specialises in finance law including bilateral and syndicated secured and unsecured lending, trade and commodity finance, supply chain finance and banking regulation and compliance. He also has specific expertise in ship, yacht finance and building contracts as well as structured finance work. Grant has particular expertise in advising the London branches of overseas banks on a broad range of their operational, regulatory and transactional requirements. He has been instrumental in advising these financial institutions on complex trade finance, receivables finance and structured commodities transactions.



### **Sylvia Solomon, ASIP**

#### **Partner/CIO, Dhow Advisory FZCO and Board Director, CFA UK**

Sylvia Solomon, ASIP, has over 30 years of experience in the global investment industry, specialising in equities, trade finance, sustainable investing and ESG integration. She spent 25 years managing a diverse range of funds, including pensions, life funds, endowments, unit trusts, wealth management portfolios, and alternative investment funds. Sylvia has held leadership roles on influential boards and advisory groups such as the CFA Society of the UK and the UN PRI Global Policy Reference Group. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Impactable Investment Group and has recently been appointed to the University of Aberdeen Investment Committee. Sylvia spearheaded the creation of the CFA Institute's Sustainable Investing Certificate and has been instrumental in advancing industry standards, professional education, and responsible investment practices worldwide. A recipient of the CFA Institute's 2022 Inspirational Leader Award for Education, she also contributed to the Alternative Investment Management Association (AIMA) 2023 ESG Handbook.



### **Mariama Bah Demba**

#### **Head of Foreign Operations, Megabank Gambia Ltd**

Mariama Bah is the Head of Foreign Operations at Megabank Gambia Ltd, bringing over 21 years of comprehensive banking experience. Throughout her career, she has held key roles across multiple banking domains, including Credit, Treasury, Finance, Domestic, and Foreign Operations. Prior to joining Megabank, Mariama spent nearly four years at International Commercial Bank (Gambia) Ltd, where she honed her expertise in international banking services. Her deep specialization in banking operations and strategic leadership continues to drive excellence and innovation at Megabank Gambia Ltd.



### **Glenn Joseph Haruna**

#### **Manager, Budget, Volta River Authority**

Glenn is a Chartered Accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana (ICAG), and a seasoned finance professional with over 12 years of progressive experience across diverse industries. Throughout his career, he has held multiple strategic roles in leading organizations, including KPMG Ghana and mPharma Ghana Ltd. He currently serves as Manager, Budget at the Volta River Authority, where he oversees financial planning, budgeting, and resource allocation to support operational efficiency and strategic goals. His expertise spans financial reporting, audit, corporate finance, and budgeting, underpinned by a strong commitment to excellence, integrity, and impact-driven leadership.



### **Stephen Assan Monney**

#### **Manager, Area Finance (TGSBU), Volta River Authority**

Stephen is the Finance Manager for Thermal Generation Department, a Strategic Business Unit (TGSBU), of the Volta River Authority (A State-owned Power Generation Institution). He joined the Volta River Authority in August 2000. He held various supervisory positions until his appointment as the Finance Manager for TGSBU in May 2021. He holds a first degree in Commerce and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana. His role includes providing financial services to the thermal power plants operations.





**Malik Ali Abu Daabu**  
**Principal Finance Officer, Ghana Grid Company Limited**

Mr. Daabu is a Chartered Accountant and holds a post Chartered Diploma in Forensic Audit with two-decades of experience in Finance and Accounting practice. He is currently the Head of the Tax Unit of the Ghana Grid Company Limited. He is responsible for Tax planning, compliance and risk management. He is a leader in providing tax guidance to senior management to ensure compliance with tax laws and regulations. Prior to his tax role, he served as the Finance Officer of Ghana Grid Company Limited in the Northern Sector of Ghana. He has extensive experience in managing Accounts payables and receivables.



**Lydia Mannah**  
**Head of Treasury, Omni Group Ltd.**

Lydia Mannah serves as the head of treasury of the Omni Group of Companies, based in Accra, Ghana. She has a professional background in Administration & Finance with over 8 years of experience in leading the treasury management team in the treasury department. She has a bachelor's degree in Administration & an MSc Finance & Investment Candidate. She has a strong experience in thought leadership, risk management, corporate finance & debt management strategies in managing multi-million-dollar projects and delivering results throughout her career.



**Ousman M Jobarteh**  
**Managing Director, Gambia Ports Authority**

Mr Ousman M Jobarteh was employed by the Gambia Ports Authority (GPA) as Traffic Officer in 1991 and rose through the ranks to the position of Traffic Manager, Director of Operations, Deputy Managing Director and was appointed Managing Director in August 2018. An alumnus of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (undergraduate 1990) and University of Wales College of Cardiff (post graduate 1992), Mr Jobarteh is bilingual in English and French and has also benefitted from numerous academic and professional training, both in The Gambia and abroad. Occupying the position of Managing Director of GPA, Mr Jobarteh brings extensive experience in maritime operations and port management to his role. Under his leadership, the GPA has embarked on significant modernization initiatives to enhance operational efficiency and capacity improvement. The portfolio he manages under the GPA includes the Port of Banjul, Gambia Ferry Services, Banjul Shipyard Company and Banjul Fisheries Jetty.



**Abigail Akosua Acheabea Addai**  
**Manager, Area Finance (TGSBU), Volta River Authority**

Abigail Akosua Acheabea Addai is an accomplished finance professional and currently Credit Risk Manager at Fueltrade Limited. She has over a decade of experience in credit risk management, trade finance, and compliance. Abigail is skilled in assessing customer creditworthiness, enforcing credit policies, and managing trade finance facilities to optimize working capital and mitigate financial risk. Her leadership has driven improvements in credit control, payment performance, and financial operations. She holds an MBA in Finance, a Chartered Accountant (ICAG) and a certified Financial Modelling and Valuation Analyst (FMVA).



### **William Opare Awuku**

#### **General Manager- Treasury, Electricity Company of Ghana Limited**

William Opare Awuku has over 20 years of expertise in Treasury Management, with extensive knowledge of International Trade Finance and Accounts Payable Management. He has served in various roles within the Finance Directorate of the Electricity Company of Ghana Limited for over two decades. William is a Fellow of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), United Kingdom. He holds an MSc in Finance and Strategy from Manchester Metropolitan University, Greater Manchester, United Kingdom, and a BSc in Administration (Banking & Finance) from the University of Ghana, Legon.



### **Gifty Maabena Kobeh Bondzie**

#### **Head of Treasury Sales, Treasury, First Atlantic Bank Ghana**

Gifty is an ACI-certified Treasury Professional and Chartered Accountant with over 16 years of experience in commercial and investment banking. She currently heads the Treasury Sales team at First Atlantic Bank (Ghana), driving business growth through wholesale deposit mobilization, client relationship management, and the delivery of treasury solutions aligned with the bank's strategic and regulatory objectives. With a strong background in finance and investment management, she previously served as Head of Financial Institutions at the bank and held roles in various investment firms, managing portfolios and pension schemes for both institutional and retail clients.



### **Eunice Abuowa Otoo**

#### **Compliance Manager, FirstBank Ghana Limited**

Eunice Otoo serves as a Compliance Manager at FirstBank Ghana Limited, a subsidiary of the FirstBank of Nigeria Group. She is an accomplished compliance professional with over 15 years of progressive experience in the financial services industry, encompassing auditing, banking operations, credit risk management, and regulatory compliance. Eunice holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Risk Management and Finance, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Commerce with a specialization in Accounting. She is also a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS), underscoring her expertise in regulatory and financial crime compliance.



### **Duarte Pedreira**

#### **Global Head of Trade and Working Capital Finance, Crown Agents Bank**

Duarte Pedreira is an experienced banker, who has worked in senior roles in London, Johannesburg and Luanda. Having been exposed to most areas of institutional banking, including operations, coverage, origination, structuring, syndications, distribution, advisory and insurance underwriting, Duarte has developed strong relations with a multitude of clients (corporates, financial institutions, governments, multilaterals) with a focus in emerging markets. He is currently the Global Head of Trade and Working Capital Finance at Crown Agents Bank and also a board member of ITFA, the global trade finance industry body. Additionally, he chairs the newly established Trade Finance Conference of Parties (TF COP), the widest coalition ever assembled in the trade and export finance industry, put together to eliminate the trade finance gap. Duarte's ultimate passion is development through education, especially through the enablement of Early Years Education facilities catering for children who don't have access to learning before official mandatory education begins (normally 6 years of age and above). Working with Shelterthem, a Rwandan grassroots NGO he created the "Power of Choice Early Childhood Development Centre" which currently hosts over 100 children aged between 3 months and 7 years old.



## **Daniel Asiedu**

### **Managing Director, OmniBSIC Bank**

Daniel Asiedu is a distinguished banker and Chartered Accountant with over 30 years of experience in auditing, banking, financial management, and investment. He holds an Executive MBA in Finance, an MA in Economic Policy Management, and an MSc in Development Finance from the University of Ghana, as well as a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Ibadan. His leadership journey spans top roles in Ghana's banking sector, including transformative tenures as Managing Director of both ADB and Zenith Bank Ghana. Currently serving as the Managing Director of OmniBSIC Bank, he has steered the bank to profitability and industry recognition, earning awards such as Bank of the Year and Fastest Growing Corporate Bank in 2023. He has also been personally honored with accolades like Banking CEO of the Year (2024) and Personality of the Year (2023). In addition to his corporate achievements, Daniel is an honorary fellow of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management Ghana and the Chartered Institute of Human Resource Management Ghana. A seasoned executive with global exposure, he has participated in leadership programs at renowned institutions including Stanford, MIT, Harvard, Wharton, and INSEAD. He also serves on the boards of several reputable organizations in Ghana.



## **Theodore Asare-Bediako**

### **Group Head Treasury & Strategic Relationships, OmniBSIC Bank**

Theodore Asare-Bediako is a seasoned Financial Markets leader with over 17 years in the Ghanaian banking industry. He is an Executive Management member of OmniBSIC Bank Ghana LTD with proven acumen in developing strategies that drive resilience, adaptability, innovation and growth. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and Sociology from the University of Ghana and a Masters Degree in Business and Administration, Finance option from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Business School. He is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Ghana and a member of the Association of Financial Markets Ghana (ACI). He also holds a dealing membership certificate from the Ghana Stock Exchange. Theodore has completed several extensive leadership development courses in high-ranking institutions locally and internationally that includes London School of Economics and Political Science and London Business School.



## **Farihan Alhassan**

### **Managing Director, GCB Bank**

Farihan Alhassan is a seasoned financial specialist with 20 years of banking experience. He most recently led the Business & Commercial Clients Unit at Stanbic Bank Ghana, driving strategic growth and performance. He began his career with a notable milestone—becoming the youngest regional manager at Barclays Bank (now Absa)—and later served as Head of Retail and Distribution, known for his people-focused and results-driven leadership. At Stanbic, Farihan earned recognition for his strategic vision and customer-first approach. His appointment at GCB Bank is seen as a move to strengthen the Bank's leadership and market position. He brings deep expertise in retail and business banking, with a strong track record in business development, operational management, credit and risk oversight, and team empowerment. Respected for his dynamic leadership, Farihan is committed to shaping Ghana's banking sector and supporting business growth nationwide.



## **Samuel Gyimah Amoako**

### **Head of Finance, ARB Apex Bank**

Samuel Gyimah Amoako is the Head of Finance at ARB Apex Bank, having gone through the ranks after joining the Bank as an Internal Auditor/Inspector. He held the positions of Head, Finance & Strategy Unit and Internal Control Department before assuming his current role. He previously worked with Guaranty Trust Bank Ghana as Deputy Unit Head of Financial Control and First Atlantic Bank as Relationship Manager and Internal Audit Assistant Manager. He initially had auditing experience with Eddie Nikoi Accounting Consultancy as an Audit Officer. Samuel is a multifaceted professional with over 20 years of cumulative experience in Auditing, Accounting and Financial Reporting, Banking, Taxation and Financial Management.





### **Andrew Skipper** **CEO, Polymetis Professional Solutions**

Andrew is the founder and CEO of Polymetis Professional Solutions ([polymetis.co.uk](http://polymetis.co.uk)) a consultancy which advises businesses in a range of sectors by bringing experienced and connected networks together and delivering solutions effectively and in collaboration. Andrew is a commercial lawyer of more than 35 years standing having been on the global Management Committee and the head of corporate globally for Hogan Lovells and subsequently Head of their Africa Practice. Andrew is currently Interim Director of the Royal African Society and on various boards in the business and cultural space with a focus on Africa, including recently as Co-chair of the UK Government's Africa Investors Group, being on the Advisory Board of the SA Chamber of Commerce and the legal group of the UK Nigeria EDF. Andrew is also committed to the arts, is on the advisory board to 1-54 and was vice chair of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in USA. Andrew received the MBE in the Platinum Jubilee hours list for services to UK trade especially in Africa.



### **Derrick Anim** **Head of Sub-Saharan Africa Financial Markets Sales, Commerzbank AG**

Derrick Anim is a Director in Commerzbank's Capital Markets Division, where he leads FX, Money Market, and Commodity Derivatives Sales for financial institutions across Sub-Saharan Africa. Since joining the bank as an intern in 2015, Derrick has steadily risen through the ranks over the past decade, a journey that reflects his commitment to excellence and continuous growth.



### **Paul Bleboo** **Head of Gold Management Office, Bank of Ghana**

Paul Bleboo is the head of Gold Management Office of the Bank of Ghana with over 17 years of banking and investment experience. Paul guided the domestic gold purchase project from its inception to a successful launch, demonstrating exceptional project management, strategic planning, and leadership skills. Prior to joining the Bank of Ghana in February 2016, Paul worked with Financial Times UK, HSBC UK, Société Générale Ghana and Barclays Ghana now ABSA. He holds a degree in Economics and a Master's in Investment Analysis from the University of Stirling, UK.



### **Stuart McNeill** **Partner, Pinsent Masons**

Stuart is a Partner in Pinsent Masons' Financial Services Litigation team in London. He is a highly experienced commercial litigator and has acted for Lehman Brothers International (Europe) Limited (In Administration) in "repo" and bond disputes and for the Portuguese "bridge bank" Novo Banco in its successful jurisdiction challenge to the \$850 million claim by Goldman Sachs and a group of pension/hedge funds - the first case to consider the scope of the 2014 Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive. He acted for corporate defendants in Privatbank's US\$1.9bn claim against two oligarchs on which judgment was published last week and is one of two partners leading the Danish Tax Authorities mammoth £1.6bn cum-ex fraud case, described by the Judge as "the most complex" case to be heard in the Commercial Court.



### **Yasmin Sarpong - Abban**

#### **Senior Associate, ATF Finance Ltd**

Yasmin Sarpong - Abban is a Senior Associate at ATF Finance, with over 10 years of experience in the loan syndication market, focusing on African financial institutions. Since joining ATF in 2015, she has worked extensively across the firm's bilateral and syndicated loan portfolios. In her current role, Yasmin is responsible for onboarding new clients, conducting comprehensive compliance checks on financial institutions and trade finance assets, and overseeing F.I. relationships with banks in Ghana. She collaborates closely with the origination and asset distribution teams to support portfolio growth and ensure full regulatory compliance, playing a vital role in helping the company achieve its strategic and risk management objectives. Yasmin holds a Bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's degree in Law and Business from the University of Law.



### **Rocco Falconer**

#### **CEO, Demeter Holdings**

Rocco runs Demeter Holdings, with a primary focus on trade in agricultural commodities in and out of West Africa. In Ghana, Demeter is a pre-eminent agricultural inputs supplier, as well as lead investor in Ghana's largest AI services company, Aya Data Ltd. Demeter is headquartered in London and also has offices in Ivory Coast, Togo, and Sierra Leone. CEO since 2014, Rocco has lead Demeter through its growth from a small player in the Ghanaian market, to a regional champion and investment house. He is also on the board of Aya Data, Oko Environmental, and Frafra Baskets Ltd. Prior to his role at Demeter Holdings, Rocco was an officer in the British Army, and graduated from Cambridge University with a Double First.



### **Joseph Gyakyek Jackson**

#### **Chief Executive Officer, Dalex Finance**

Joseph Gyakyek Jackson is Chief Executive Officer of Dalex Finance, Ghana's premier digital finance institution. With over three decades of leadership in finance and technology across Africa, he has been at the forefront of transforming traditional banking into mobile-driven, inclusive financial solutions. At Dalex, he champions strategies that broaden access to savings and credit for underserved communities while reinforcing operational excellence and stakeholder value. His pan-African career spans senior executive roles in Ghana and Nigeria, where he led enterprise software rollouts, regulatory policy initiatives, and fintech innovations for both private firms and national institutions. Widely respected for his strategic insight, Joseph has built cross-border partnerships and strengthened governance frameworks that underpin sustainable growth. A recognized thought leader, he continues to advocate for bold, technology-enabled financing solutions that bridge gaps in access, drive market expansion, and support Africa's long-term economic transformation.



### **Cromwell Ernest Bedell II**

#### **General Manager Finance & Information Technology**

Cromwell Bedell is the General Manager for Finance and Information Technology at the International Bank (Liberia) Limited with a career in banking spanning about 20 years. He is responsible for driving the financial performance as well as managing digital projects of the Bank. Prior to assuming the current position, he served in other managerial roles at the Bank including Credit and Risk.



### **Amb. Dr. Walton Ekundayo Gilpin (FPMA, HCIB, COOR) MD & CEO of Rokel Commercial Bank Ltd, Sierra Leone**

Amb. Dr. Walton Ekundayo Gilpin (FPMA, HCIB, COOR) is the Managing Director & CEO of Rokel Commercial Bank (SL) Ltd in Sierra Leone, bringing over 30 years of international banking and finance experience. He has been a Central Banker, Advisor to the Commonwealth Secretariat, focusing on financial initiatives in over 25 countries, and has collaborated with the IMF, European Union, African Development Bank, World Bank on Banking, macroeconomics and public finance management. He is a philanthropist and seasoned banker with several international awards and recognitions.



### **Steve Gray Regional Head for West Africa, UK Export Finance**

Steve is the UK Export Finance (UKEF) Regional Head for West Africa, based in Ghana for the past 13 years. He leads UKEF's origination across 22 countries in West and Central Africa, with over £2bn supported in the region over the last five years. With 30 years' experience across Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, Steve has held senior roles in trading, logistics, construction, infrastructure, and mining. He began his career in the UK construction sector. He has served as Vice Chairman of the UK-Ghana Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the British Chambers of Commerce Economic Advisory Board. He holds an MBA from Heriot-Watt University and completed an executive programme at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School. Steve was awarded an O.B.E. in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to British business in West Africa.



### **Sammy Gyamfi Managing Director, GoldBod**

Sammy Gyamfi, Esq., is a Ghanaian lawyer, policy strategist, and public servant with a multidisciplinary academic and professional background spanning environmental science, law, and economic policy. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He was called to the Bar after earning a Barrister-at-Law certificate from the Ghana School of Law and later obtained a Master of Arts degree in Economic Policy Management from the University of Ghana. His leadership development includes Executive Certificates in Emerging Leaders and Strategic Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School. Mr. Gyamfi began his professional career in the mining sector with Exton Cubic Group Limited, where he developed a keen interest in the governance and economics of natural resources. He rose to national prominence as the National Communications Officer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), where he played a strategic role in shaping the party's communications and policy agenda. In January 2025, he was appointed by President John Dramani Mahama as the Acting Managing Director of the Precious Minerals Marketing Company (PMMC). In that role, he was tasked with laying the groundwork for the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod), a major policy initiative of the NDC's 2024 manifesto aimed at reforming and revitalizing the gold industry. Currently serving as the Managing Director of GoldBod, Mr. Gyamfi leads the implementation of a national vision to ensure the sustainable management and marketing of Ghana's gold resources. His mandate includes formalizing the small-scale mining sector, improving regulatory oversight, and providing strategic support services to the mining industry to maximize its contribution to national development. Sammy Gyamfi brings to his role a rare blend of legal acumen, policy insight, and a strong commitment to institutional reform and economic transformation.





### **Richard Dickman**

#### **Legal Director, Pinsent Masons**

Richard is a Legal Director in Pinsent Masons' Litigation and Regulatory team in London. He is a seasoned litigation and international arbitration lawyer with over 20 years of experience resolving complex, high-stakes commercial disputes. He specialises in energy, international trade and shipping, as well as regulatory, product liability, professional negligence and financial services matters.



### **Keziah Kessi**

#### **Associate, Pinsent Masons**

Keziah is an Associate in Pinsent Masons' Global Investigations team based in London. Keziah advises corporate clients on criminal law, regulatory and compliance issues. She assists clients on the conduct of complex internal investigations and defending enforcement actions from a range of regulatory bodies. Keziah's practice regularly involves dealings with a range of enforcement and regulatory bodies including the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Crime Agency, the Serious Fraud Office and the police. In addition to assisting with internal investigations Keziah assists in the provision of compliance advisory work including the conduct of risk assessments, the implementation of risk-based compliance programmes, stress testing of control measures and the delivery of training.



### **Mark Hogg**

#### **CEO, Mere Plantations Ltd**

Mark Hogg is a successful entrepreneur, with almost 30 years of proven track record in developing start-up business, in multiple sectors. These businesses include sectors within media, television production, Print, Plantations, Forestry and Carbon Credit generation. Many of Mark's enterprises have been located within the developing world and emerging markets. His main focus over the last decade has been the reforestation of over 10,000 acres of U.N. classified fully degraded forest land. Today, as a family business, Mark's businesses have an audited net balance sheet of over £1 billion pounds



### **Miles Hogg**

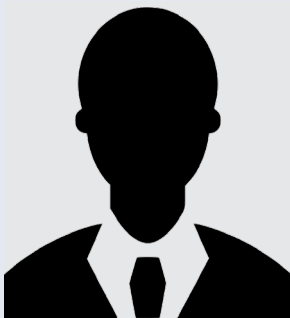
#### **Director of Carbon, Plantation Strategy, Mere Plantations**

Miles Hogg is currently the Director of Carbon, Plantation Strategy for Mere Plantations. He has on-the-ground experience in forestry plantation operations, specialising in timber extraction, satellite monitoring and carbon credit certification. He is responsible for the feedstock input in the pyrolysis process, ensuring a steady and consistent supply of forest biomass, as well as the remote sensing and product traceability operations for Mere Environmental. Miles is also responsible for the carbon credit operations for Mere Environmental, ensuring compliance with stringent environmental requirements and social safeguards.



### **Simon Cook** **Partner, Sullivan & Worcester**

Simon is a Partner at Sullivan & Worcester, an international law firm. He has experience in a wide variety of banking and finance transactions, including structured trade finance, trade finance, commodity finance, insurance-backed finance, project finance, invoice discounting facilities, warehouse finance, supply chain finance, ECA finance and borrowing-base facilities. His work in the structured trade arena covers a range of financings acting for both lenders and borrowers, notably in the oil, telecoms, soft commodities and metals sectors. He has particular experience in Africa and in the Middle East, where he was based for four years. Simon also acts for industry bodies including the International Trade and Forfeiting Association (ITFA) and participates in structured trade finance conferences throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa.



### **Guy Sagar** **Managing Director, Promontory Financial Group**

Guy Sagar, before joining Promontory, worked for more than 30 years at the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority. He held roles covering supervision and corporate and individual authorizations, including extensive experience liaising with overseas regulators at senior level. He also worked in the Bank of England's international division. Most recently at the FSA, he headed the regulatory transactions department for five years, where he regularly chaired the FSA decision-making committee that considers recommendations for formal refusal of corporate and individual applications.



### **Yaw Nsarkoh**

Yaw Nsarkoh is a globally respected business leader with over 30 years of experience across continents and sectors. A former Executive Vice President at Unilever Plc, he is known for his strategic insight, operational excellence, and thought leadership in governance, regulation, sustainability, and organisational development. Recognised for his original perspectives and moral clarity, Nsarkoh influences boardrooms, policy spaces, and academic circles alike. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors and serves on multiple professional boards spanning disciplines such as engineering, literature, marketing, and communications. Renowned for detecting emerging trends early, he helps organisations anticipate and shape the future. With deep expertise in talent strategy, diversity, and high-performance team building, he exemplifies modern leadership strategic, decisive, and empathetic. Nsarkoh is also a strong advocate of intercultural solidarity and societal wellbeing through business.



### **Tola Awosika-Afe** **Chief Compliance Officer and MLRO, FidBank UK**

Tola Awosika-Afe is the Chief Compliance Officer and MLRO at FidBank UK, with over two decades of experience in UK banking compliance and financial crime prevention. She leads the bank's financial crime, and conduct risk frameworks, holding SMF16/17 responsibilities, and has spent the last 10 years in senior compliance roles at Fidelity Bank NG-UK and its predecessor, Union Bank UK. Earlier in her career, Tola held compliance roles at Abbey National, Barclays, Lloyds Banking Group, and Banco Espirito Santo. A non-practising lawyer with an LLM from the London School of Economics, Tola also holds a CISI Diploma in Investment Compliance and INSEAD's Executive Certificate in Emerging Leadership. She is known for her practical approach to financial crime risk, regulatory alignment, and embedding a robust compliance culture in trade-focused banking environments.