

The **Asia Program** facilitates the exchange of ideas on Asian banking and financial developments in support of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's (FRBSF) Financial Institution Supervision & Credit Division's (FISC) supervisory and research efforts related to Asia. In 2018, the Asia Program, under the Country Analysis Unit (CAU), brought together market participants, academics, regulators, and business and community leaders from Asia, the United States, and Europe to discuss current issues in global banking and finance. CAU also contributes to academic and professional forums on banking, capital markets, regulatory issues, and other developments in Asia.

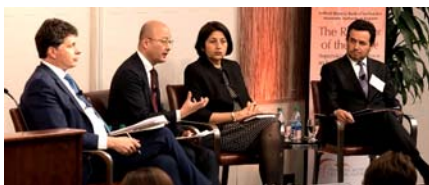
This report highlights Asia Program activities throughout the year. Details on publicly available programs and publications can be found at: <https://www.frbsf.org/banking/asia-program/>.

## 2018 SYMPOSIUM ON ASIAN BANKING AND FINANCE



Mark Gould, First Vice President, FRBSF and Ravi Menon, Managing Director, MAS

On June 25 and 26, 2018, the FRBSF and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) jointly held the eleventh Symposium on Asian Banking and Finance, entitled **"The Regulator of the Future: Supervision and Regulation in an Evolving Financial Sector"** in San Francisco. The Symposium explored supervision and regulation issues in an increasingly interconnected global financial system; the implications of emerging risks and an evolving financial services industry; and the remaining work needed to address unintended consequences of post-crisis reforms. Discussions also focused on the progressive development of fintech in the financial sector, and how regulators and supervisors could work with the industry to shape that evolution.



Panel on Connected Supervision: Adam Farkas, Executive Director, European Banking Authority; Hirofumi Aihara, General Manager, Digital Transformation, MUFG; Anju Patwardhan, Managing Director, CreditEase; Andres Portilla, Managing Director, Regulatory Affairs, Institute of International Finance



Tracy A. Basinger, Executive Vice President and Director, Financial Institution Supervision & Credit Division, FRBSF



Panel on Supervisory Capabilities & Regulatory Tools of the Future: Li Wenhong, Director-General, Banking Innovation Supervision Department, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission; David Hardoon, Chief Data Officer, MAS; Beth Knickerbocker, Chief Innovation Officer, OCC; John Schindler, Associate Director, Financial Stability, Board of Governors; Jeff Bandman, Founder & Principal, Bandman Advisors.

The Symposium series continues to provide an important platform for stakeholders to exchange perspectives and foster a collaborative dialogue on global regulatory and financial developments with a focus on Asia. It brings together central bank governors, heads of financial institution supervision, notable academics, heads of major global financial institutions, and other industry leaders.

This year, the Symposium, entitled **"Banking for the Common Good,"** will be held in Singapore from June 3-4, 2019.

## ASIAN REGULATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

---

The **Asian Regulator Training Program** was held for the second time as a biennial event from October 12-26, 2018. Serving the global regulatory community, the program is a two-week intensive and interactive training by FISC staff on FRBSF's banking supervision practices for senior level examiners from Asian regulatory agencies.

Class participants came from banking regulatory agencies in eight Asian economies, including China Banking Regulatory and Insurance Commission, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Korea Financial Supervisory Service, Monetary Authority of Macau, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, MAS, and Taiwan Financial Supervisory Commission.



## PACIFIC EXCHANGES PODCAST

---

**Pacific Exchanges** is the CAU's podcast station that features interviews between CAU analysts and experts from around the globe on developing financial trends in the Asia Pacific region. A new podcast series in 2018 was *Rethinking Asia*, which explores noteworthy and unusual trends in Asian finance and economics. Continuing series included: *Fintech Developments in Asia* and *The Asia Financial Crisis Series*. Podcasts in 2018 include:

- **Asian Financial Crisis Series Wrap-up** with Sean Creehan and Nicholas Borst, CAU.
- **Japan's Complicated Role as a Global Safe Haven** with Jesper Koll, WisdomTree.
- **Asia's Diverging Demographic Destinies** with Manoj Pradhan, Talking Heads Macro.
- **China's Rising Consumer Class** with Andy Rothman, Matthews Asia.
- **Asia Can't Get Enough Infrastructure** with Matthew Goodman, Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- **How Increasingly Digital Life can Boost Small Business Access to Finance in Asia** with Sean Creehan, CAU.
- **Understanding the Uses of Machine Learning and AI in Finance** with David Hardoon, Monetary Authority of Singapore.
- **Bringing New Technologies to Financial Authorities** with Simone di Castri, RegTech for Regulators Accelerator.
- **Womenomics: The Importance of Female Workforce Participation in Japan** with Kathy Matsui, Goldman Sachs Japan.
- **Evolving Trends in Trade and Growth in Southeast Asia** with Frederic Neumann, HSBC.
- **China's Economy: Debt, Financial Risks, and Structural Challenges** with Yukon Huang, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Podcast episodes can be found in app stores and at: <https://www.frbsf.org/banking/asia-program/pacific-exchange-blog/>

## ASIA FOCUS

---

CAU provides periodic written analyses of current economic and financial sector developments in the Asia-Pacific region in our *Asia Focus* publications. This year's report was *How Digital Innovation Can Increase Small Business Access to Finance in Asia*.

The *Asia Focus* is available online at: <https://www.frbsf.org/banking/publications/asia-focus/>.

## PACIFIC EXCHANGE BLOG

---

The *Pacific Exchange* blog provides timely analysis of the most important trends in the Asia Pacific region. Our posts this year include:

- China's Household Credit Boom
- Regulating Initial Coin Offerings and Cryptocurrency Exchanges across Asia
- Asian Banks Search for Yield Overseas
- India's Digital Payments: Growing Consumer Trust, but Merchants Needed
- China Bond Market: Slower Growth but Better Product and Investor Mix
- Asia's Aging Workforce May Boost Its Markets
- Why Are Foreigners Holding More Onshore Chinese Securities?
- Asia Prepares for New Bail-in Bonds
- Testing Time for Emerging Market Resilience
- China Tightens Bad Loan Recognition Rules
- Can Asia's Fintech Giants Reduce Remittance Costs?
- Asia's Emerging Virtual Banks
- Asia's Open Banking Push
- Views into Asia's Foreign Indebtedness

The *Pacific Exchange Blog* is online at: <https://www.frbsf.org/banking/asia-program/pacific-exchange-blog/>.

## ASIA FINANCIAL FORUMS

---

The **Asia Financial Forum** series is part of the bank's outreach to the broader business and banking community. These luncheon talks are held with a wide range of partners.

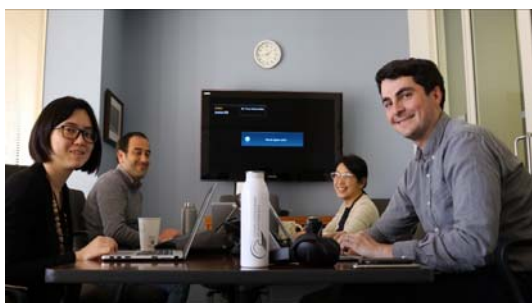
In "**Xi's China and the US – Looking Further Ahead**," held in Los Angeles, co-hosted with the Asia Society, Southern California, Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economic and Cindy Li, CAU Manager, explored China's and Asia's outlook in the face of domestic challenges and an uncertain international climate.

In "**The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Off to a Fast Start: A Talk with President Jin Liqun**," co-hosted with the Asia Society, Northern California and Japan Society of Northern California, President Jin shared his experiences in launching the AIIB, its lending activities to date, and the challenges faced in filling the infrastructure financing gap.

For upcoming events, please visit: <https://www.frbsf.org/banking/asia-program/events/>.

## SOMETHING NEW—LIVE Q&A & OTHER EVENTS

---



CAU continually seeks new ways to engage with the public. In September, the CAU team went live for an hour-long online Quora Q&A session. It covered a wide range of topics from Asian finance and economics to working for the FRBSF and travel. The session is available at: <https://www.quora.com/session/Federal-Reserve-Bank-of-San-Francisco/2>

CAU members also spoke at a range of events on their subject matter expertise. Notable keynote speeches include:

- Offsite Monitoring and the Use of Technology to the Support Supervisory Process, Walter Yao, Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance Conference, September 2018.
- How Digital Innovation Can Help SME Finance in Asia, Sean Creehan, Asian Development Bank Institute, October 2018.

## STAY TUNED FOR MORE ASIA PROGRAM OFFERINGS AT:

<https://www.frbsf.org/banking/asia-program/>