

**For press inquiries, please contact:**

**Holly Fung**

Marketing & Events Executive  
IDC Asia/Pacific  
+852-2905-4225  
[hfung@idc.com](mailto:hfung@idc.com)

**Deborah Stark**

Director of Marketing  
Financial Insights, an IDC Company  
+1-508-935-4318  
[dstark@financial-insights.com](mailto:dstark@financial-insights.com)

**For Immediate Release**

**Financial Insights Asia/Pacific Convenes the Region's Largest  
Financial Technology Congress**

A banking and technology conference that brings together leading players in financial technology and highlights Asia's growing clout as a financial powerhouse

**Singapore and Hong Kong – January 26, 2006** – Leading independent research and advisory firm, Financial Insights, an IDC company, today announces its first annual **FinTech Asia 2006** to be held in Bangkok on March 23rd and 24th. This event, comprising the *Asia Financial Technology Congress* and the *FinTech Showcase 2006*, brings together leading bankers, analysts and technology firms to guide and shape the development of Asia's financial sector.

"Asian banking conferences have tended to focus on retail strategies and specific product issues," says Cyrus Daruwala, Managing Director, Financial Insights Asia/Pacific. "While these are useful, there has been a clear lack of content around issues of relevance to COOs, CIOs and CFOs, who require detailed insights into the bottom-line relevance of technology and operations. The Asia FinTech Congress seeks to fill this market gap."

To be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, this event will combine plenary sessions with interactive panel discussions featuring dynamic speakers. In addition, Financial Insights will be showcasing cutting edge solutions from leading technology firms. As the firm that created the FinTech 100 ranking of global financial technology providers, Financial Insights is especially well placed to highlight leading firms in this area.

**Guidance for 2006**

Financial Insights will be presenting its *Strategic Top 10 Initiatives for Banking and Risk for 2006* in the conference. These comprehensive sessions will be delivered by Financial Insights' regional research heads and supported by the firm's leading analysts around the world. The goal of these sessions is to provide direction for delegates and reveal the tight linkages between technology and business success.

**Regional Endorsements and Partners**

In recognition of the importance of technology and operational issues, eight of leading banking associations, including the Asian Bankers Association, are endorsing the event. Their support will help the dissemination of insights from the conference across Asia. Furthermore, it will help to drive changes across markets and to promote the convergence of regional banking practices. In addition to the banking associations, Financial Insights has secured the partnership of 15 of the world's leading technology firms including IBM, Silverlake SAP and HP. Besides showcasing their solutions, these firms will bring their combined industry experience to the Congress and highlight cutting edge technologies from across the world.

## **The Venue: Thailand**

Over the last few years, Thailand has distinguished itself as one of the region's most dynamic banking markets. Its banking institutions and government have taken bold steps to transform the financial sector and technology investments have played a major role. In several respects, Thailand acts as a model for other, developing banking markets in Asia, and its central location means easy access to the conference for bankers from all across the region.

## **The Agenda**

In addition to various keynotes and panel discussions featuring leading bankers from across the globe, the conference will address a range of topics. Banking, Risk and Compliance will be the primary focus areas, but within these broad categories, tracks will cover "Technology Investments and Optimization" and "Business Planning and Strategy". In acknowledgement of IT's growing importance and the desire of CEOs to better justify their information technology investments, Financial Insights will also look at how to manage IT like a business and embed it more deeply within the organization. Specific sessions will cover diverse topics including core banking, total cost of ownership, change management, channel strategies, performance management and compliance.

A detailed agenda is available online and will be updated frequently as the date approaches. Confirmed speakers include executives from *Barclays Bank*, *DBS*, *State Bank of India*, *Shinsei Bank*, amongst others.

"We are excited to host FinTech Asia 2006," Daruwala adds. "Financial Insights believes this event will become an important force for change in the region for years to come."

Registration fee per delegate is USD995. Press registration is complimentary. For more information, please visit our event website <http://www.financial-insights.com/Fl/events/FTA06/index.html> or contact Annie Wong at Tel: +603-21697541 / Fax: +603-21635098 / Email: [anniewong@financial-insights.com](mailto:anniewong@financial-insights.com)

## **About Financial Insights, an IDC Company**

Financial Insights provides independent research, custom consulting, and detailed multiclient studies on the technology issues and challenges facing the financial services industry. Our global research covers topics of strategic importance to corporate and retail banks, insurance carriers, asset management firms, securities and brokerage firms. Our local practices in Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Canada add an in-depth regional viewpoint. Financial Insights, an IDC company, is headquartered in Framingham, Massachusetts, USA. IDC is a subsidiary of IDG, the world's leading IT media, research, and exposition company. Visit [www.financial-insights.com](http://www.financial-insights.com) for more information.

## **About IDC**

IDC is the premier global provider of market intelligence, advisory services, and events for the information technology and telecommunications industries. IDC helps IT professionals, business executives, and the investment community make fact-based decisions on technology purchases and business strategy. Over 775 IDC analysts in 50 countries provide global, regional, and local expertise on technology and industry opportunities and trends. For more than 40 years, IDC has provided strategic insights to help our clients achieve their key business objectives. IDC is a subsidiary of IDG, the world's leading technology media, research, and events company. You can learn more about IDC by visiting <http://www.idc.com/>.

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