



THE ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR
THE INSURANCE OF INVESTMENT
AND EXPORT CREDIT



Baku
2026 ANNUAL MEETINGS
مؤتمرات البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

ICIEC'S HIGH LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION

*De-Risking Trade & Investment
for Regional Prosperity.*



June 17, 2026
12:30 - 13:45



Baku Convention Center,
Azerbaijan



20
26

IsDB Group
Private Sector
Forum

Background

ICIEC's session at the Private Sector Forum (PSF) will serve as a high-level platform for dialogue, strategic engagement, and partnership-building to advance regional integration and mobilize private investment in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the broader OIC region.

Azerbaijan is emerging as a strategic economic hub connecting Europe, Asia, and OIC member countries. Its strategic location, expanding connectivity platforms such as the Middle Corridor and Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), and ongoing efforts to strengthen the investment climate offer substantial opportunities for sustainable private-sector-led growth.

While hydrocarbons remain an important pillar of the national economy, the Government of Azerbaijan has prioritized non-oil sectors such as logistics, renewable energy, agriculture, ICT and infrastructure. Large-scale connectivity projects, special economic zones and targeted investment incentives are reinforcing Azerbaijan's role as a regional gateway.

Key initiatives include the establishment of SOCAR Green to advance renewable energy projects with participation from OIC investors such as Masdar and ACWA. Priority Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects include scientific-technological parks, solid and biological waste management, wastewater reuse systems and freight truck parks.

Cross-border investment cooperation is expanding, including the Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan Investment Company (AUIIC) and a joint investment fund between Samruk-Kazyna JSC and the Azerbaijan Investment Holding.

As host of the 2026 IsDB Annual Meetings, Azerbaijan offers a timely opportunity to demonstrate how regional integration and strategic partnerships can drive sustainable prosperity and long-term growth, particularly through attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into newly liberated territories including Karabagh.

Rationale

The event aligns with the Annual Meetings theme: Regional Integration for Sustainable Prosperity, which prioritizes private sector development, economic diversification, trade expansion and sustainable infrastructure.

Regional integration reduces trade and investment barriers, enhances cross-border connectivity, strengthens economic resilience, fosters political stability and expands market access. However, integration alone is insufficient without investment confidence.

Perceived political, regulatory and commercial risks can inhibit private capital mobilization. Through ICIEC's political risk insurance and credit enhancement solutions, the event will demonstrate how risk mitigation transforms integration ambitions into investment-ready sustainable opportunities.

Azerbaijan's transition toward connectivity-driven and climate-aligned growth provides a compelling case for de-risked private-sector engagement and supports host country development priorities.

Objectives of the Knowledge Sharing Event

- Position Azerbaijan as a regional hub for trade, investment, resulting into sustainable growth.
- Promote investment in priority sectors including renewable energy, logistics, infrastructure, ICT and manufacturing.
- Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation among OIC member states and regional partners.
- Address trade barriers and investment risks through structured risk mitigation mechanisms Foster Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) aligned with Azerbaijan's national development strategy.
- Enhance awareness of ICIEC's role not only as a risk mitigator, but as a catalyst in educating investors, commercial banks, and multilateral institutions on how de-risking instruments can unlock financing lines for development projects and foreign direct investments (FDIs).
- Demonstrate to local financial institutions how ICIEC's risk mitigation solutions can support the structuring of financing facilities for banks, enabling them to extend credit to strategic development sectors with reduced exposure.
- Provide Azerbaijani exporters with practical guidance on leveraging risk mitigation policies to expand their exports into new markets, manage payment risks, and scale cross-border trade operations.
- Facilitate dialogue among investors, policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners.
- Expand the pipeline of potential projects eligible for ICIEC and IsDB Group.

Issues to be Addressed

- Why invest in Azerbaijan and what competitive advantages does it offer as a regional integrational hub?
- How does regional integration drive sustainable trade and investment flows?
- Which high value sector stands to benefit most from enhanced connectivity?
- How can mega-project investments generate spillover effects for SMEs and local value chains?
- What institutional or regulatory challenges may hinder integration-driven growth?
- How can ECAs, Financial institutions and investors collaborate to overcome risk barriers?
- What policy measures could further enhance investor confidence?
- How can regional collaboration contribute to climate resilience, economic diversification, and inclusive growth?
- What types of projects and investments are eligible for ICIEC coverage, and how can risk mitigation instruments be structured to support both sovereign-backed and private-sector initiatives? And what are the projects that ICIEC covered?

Expected Outcomes

- Increased visibility of ICIEC's role in strengthening trade and investment cooperation.
- Identification of priority investment opportunities aligned with Azerbaijan's development strategy.
- Strengthened partnerships among investors, FIs, policymakers and development partners.
- Enhanced understanding of how ICIEC's instruments can reduce investment barriers and unlock financing.
- Actionable recommendations to improve cross-border trade and investment flows.
- Expansion of a pipeline of potential projects for ICIEC & IsDB Group entities.

Targeted audience

International Financial institutions, local banks, insurers, Export Credit Agencies, Central Bank representatives, government ministries, SOEs, major exporters and industrial leaders, energy and renewable developers, and private sector investors.

**B2B & B2G
Registration**



Agenda



Opening Remarks (2 min)

Ms. Huda Hafzah

Business Coordination
Specialist, ICIEC



ICIEC's Corporate Video

(6 min)



Keynote Speaker

(5 min)



Mr. Yusif Abdullayev

Executive Director,
Export and Investment Promotion Agency
of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZPROMO)



Panel Discussions (40 min)



Speaker



Dr. Khalid Khalafallah

Chief Executive Officer,
The Islamic Corporation for Insurance of
Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)



Mr. Yuichiro Akita

President of Berne Union.
Berne Union



Mr. Sujithav Sarangi

Executive Director, Development and
Agency Finance Team.
Standard Chartered



Mr. John Lentaigne

Global Head of Structured Credit &
Political Risks,
Specialist Risk Group (SRG)

Moderator



Mr. Elnur Aliyev

Advisor to the Chairman,
KOBIA Azerbaijan.

Master of Ceremony



Ms. Huda Hafzah

Business Coordination
Specialist, ICIEC



Q&A Session

(10 min)



Closing and Recognition

(5 min)

Speakers' Biographies



Dr. Khalid Khalafalla

Chief Executive Officer,
The Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)

Dr. Khalid Khalafalla is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. His appointment as CEO became effective on 16 December 2024, following his interim tenure as Officer-in-Charge that commenced on 19 May 2024. In addition, the Board of Directors of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) appointed him Acting CEO, effective 19 March 2025, underscoring the Group's confidence in his leadership across multiple entities. Dr. Khalafalla joined the IsDB Group in 2005 as a Young Professional and has since held a succession of senior roles. Between 2007 and 2017 he served in ICIEC's underwriting operations—advancing from Senior Underwriter to Lead Underwriter—before being appointed Principal Executive Assistant in the Office of the IsDB President. He also headed the IsDB Group's Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) in an acting capacity. His academic credentials complement this extensive professional background. Dr. Khalafalla earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Bonn, a master's degree in economics from Universiti Putra Malaysia, an MBA from Henley Business School, University of Reading, and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Khartoum.



Mr. Yusif Abdullayev

Executive Director,
Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZPROMO)

Yusif Ikram oglu Abdullayev was born on 5 June 1983 in the city of Aghdam. In 1999, he entered Baku State University and studied for a bachelor's degree in international law. He started his professional career between 2004 and 2007, working in sales, insurance, and logistics. From 2007 to 2015, he directed the export department of Azersun Holding. From December 2015 to 1 June 2018, he served as Vice President of AZPROMO; on 1 June 2018, he was assigned to the position of AZPROMO President, and on 8 October 2021, as part of AZPROMO's reorganization, he was appointed to the position of the Agency's Executive Director.



Mr. Yuichiro Akita

President of Berne Union.
Berne Union

Yuichiro Akita is President of the Berne Union and Senior General Manager for International and Strategic Policy at NEXI. With over 20 years of experience in the export credit and political risk insurance field, he has led major initiatives in structured and trade finance across global infrastructure and industrial sectors. He previously oversaw corporate planning and international relations at NEXI and served as a policy analyst at the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Japan, contributing to overseas infrastructure strategy. Prior to NEXI, he worked in overseas project finance at MUFG. He holds an MBA from the University of Manchester, an MSc in Development Finance from SOAS, University of London, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.



Mr. Sujithav Sarangi

Executive Director, Develop-
ment and Agency Finance
Team,
Standard Chartered

Sujithav Sarangi is an Executive Director in the Development and Agency Finance business at Standard Chartered Bank, London. He has responsibility for origination, structuring, and execution of guaranteed transactions with Multilateral Development Bank and Export Credit Agencies with specific expertise of sub-Saharan Africa. He has 20 years of cross border financing experience with deep working knowledge of guarantee products. Experience includes leading and structuring landmark transactions for clients globally. He also holds an MBA from INSEAD, France.



Mr. John Lentaigne

Global Head of Structured
Credit & Political Risks,
Specialist Risk Group (SRG)

John Lentaigne is Global Head of Credit & Political Risk at Specialist Risk Group (SRG). He has over two decades of experience in the credit and political risk sphere. His career spans both sides of the insurance market — including serving as Co-Head of Political & Credit Risk at Brit Insurance and then as CUO and later Acting CEO of the African Trade Insurance Agency — before moving into broking as Global Head of CPRI at Tysers and then leading the team's move to SRG in 2025.



Ms. Huda Hafzah

Business Coordination
Specialist, ICIEC

Ms. Huda Hafzah is a Business Coordination Specialist in the Business Development Department at ICIEC, where she has been serving since 2016. She plays a key role in coordinating business development initiatives, strategic projects, stakeholder engagement, and cross-functional collaboration across the organization. Huda holds a Master of Business Administration in International Business from European International University. Throughout her career, she has developed extensive experience in business coordination, strategic planning, performance monitoring, corporate reporting, and the management of high-level initiatives and events. In her current role, she supports the execution of business development strategies, facilitates collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, and contributes to enhancing operational efficiency and institutional growth. Her professional interests include business development, international trade and investment, strategic management, and organizational excellence.



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