

WELCOME REMARKS BY DAVID CONNER
ABS CHAIRMAN / OCBC BANK CEO
“COUNTERING FINANCING OF TERRORISM” SEMINAR
TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2008
SUNTEC CONVENTION CENTRE

Mr Benny Lim, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Sir James Sassoon, President, Financial Action Task Force

Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Council Members, Association of Banks in Singapore

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

- It is a pleasure to be here with you this morning in my capacity as the Chairman of The Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS) and, on behalf of the Association, I extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this “Countering Financing of Terrorism” Seminar.
- First off, allow me to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year of the Rat. Let’s just hope that the rats among us can sort out the excesses of last year, the year of the Pig!
- Most of you are at the forefront in the fight against terrorist financing in your respective organizations, and you will fully appreciate the global nature of the problem that not only threatens our security, but could potentially compromise the stability, transparency, and the efficiency of our financial system. An effective approach towards keeping this problem in check and stemming the flow of funds towards terrorism requires collaboration, not only at the local level, but also cooperation among various international bodies. In this respect, we fully appreciate the Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) efforts in promoting the international framework for Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT).
- This morning, we are very privileged to have with us Sir James Sassoon, President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He will be delivering the keynote address for this

conference and sharing with us the priorities of the UK Presidency, with a particular emphasis on engaging the private sector.

- At the local level, the ABS is fully supportive of the CFT efforts and has been working closely with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) to raise the awareness of AML / CFT issues among banks in Singapore, to strengthen the practices among member banks and to encourage industry co-operation for greater effectiveness. Recent local efforts include:
 1. The implementation of the expanded MAS 626 to incorporate enhanced customer due diligence, a risk-based approach towards establishing new correspondent banking relationships and the inclusion of originator information in wire transfers;
 2. Hosting the Asia Pacific Financial Crime Conference and Exhibition which ABS has been organizing for the last 4 years to promote best practices in financial crime prevention. The ABS works closely with the CAD to update the financial community on AML / CFT developments during this annual seminar, which is attended by more than 300 participants including quite a number of guests from the other countries in the region;
 3. Partnering the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University to set up an ABS Fellowship. Under this program, staff from our member banks are seconded to the School for one year of training with Dr Rohan Gunaratna on developing financial indicators that will improve the detection of terrorist financing activities in the banking and financial systems;
 4. The recent introduction of a Cross Border Currency Reporting Regime in Singapore. Working closely with the MAS and CAD, ABS issued a set of guidelines for banks on their reporting obligations in November last year; and
 5. Endorsing the inauguration of the Consortium of Countering the Financing of Terrorism, Asia Pacific by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). This consortium, supported by key stakeholders from government, academia and the private sector in the Asia Pacific region, aims to advance the

research and study on CFT. ABS is pleased to support the establishment of the Consortium together with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Once again, ABS is honored to be partnering the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in organizing today's Seminar. Through the program for the day, we want to continue to raise the awareness on the importance of CFT and highlight the key roles played by the various stakeholders in the public and private sectors.
- This seminar will help us to understand better the nature and scope of the threat that we are facing in the region and around the world today, and how this threat could affect our policy makers, our security, the financial markets and the very essence of how we do business. This seminar also presents an excellent networking opportunity for us get to know our counterparts better and to learn from each other's experiences in this common effort.
- I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the speakers for taking time off from their busy schedules to share with us their invaluable experiences and insights on the fight against terrorism:-
 - Dr Rohan, who heads the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), will be sharing with us his in-depth knowledge on the global and regional terrorism landscape. An expert on the subject of terrorism, he has written a number of books including "Inside Al-Qaeda", which sheds light on Al-Qaeda's financial infrastructure and how they train combat soldiers and vanguard fighters for guerrilla warfare and terrorist activities.
 - We also have representatives from Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) to share with us the various interesting initiatives undertaken to counter terrorist financing, including the harnessing of technology in financial intelligence and fostering closer networking and the exchange of information between the public and private sectors.
 - We are also grateful to have Mr. Neil Bennett from the UK's New Scotland Yard's National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit here today to share with us the importance of financial investigations and how the financial sector plays a part in combating terrorism.

- And finally, we have our very own ABS Fellow, Mr Gunawan Husin, who will be speaking about the implementation issues and challenges on effective CFT measures.

I am sure it will be very stimulating and fruitful seminar for all of us today.

- Kicking off the seminar morning, Sir James Sassoon, President of the Financial Action Task Force will be delivering the keynote address:
 - Sir James is concurrently the UK Chancellor and the UK Treasury's Representative for Promotion of the City, a part time role which he will continue. He was appointed to this role in December 2005 to champion the interests of the UK's financial and business services firms and markets internationally.
 - From 2002, Sir James served three years as a member of the Treasury Board and Managing Director of the Treasury's Finance and Industry Directorate. The Directorate was responsible for financial services and for industry policy, including productivity, enterprise and growth and public-private partnerships.
 - Prior to joining government, Sir James spent 17 years at UBS Warburg, most recently serving as Vice Chairman, Investment Banking, with responsibility for the firm's global privatisation business.
 - In recognition for his services to the finance industry and to public service, Sir James was awarded a knighthood in the Queen's 2008 New Year Honours list.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do hope you enjoy today's seminar and, without further ado, please join me in welcoming Sir James Sassoon who will deliver the keynote address.