

Expert View at World Banknote Summit

The organisers of the World Banknote Summit 2020, which takes place 24-26 February in Prague have provided details of the agenda, with speakers from the banknote industry, and from outside, addressing topics that are currently the subject of much debate in the banknote community.

There are also two innovations to the agenda this year in the form of The Printer Forum and the Chatbox. The WBS will kick off with the former, a practical workshop designed for, and with active participation from, state printers. Experts from the print works of Banco de México and Banco de Portugal (Valora) will cover practical topics such as lean manufacturing, traceability issues and the role of new technologies.

The challenges in banknote design and production as well as in forecasting and circulation management will dominate the first two sessions. And unusually for a banknote conference, the retail view on cash will be heard in presentations from Coop and Norges Gruppen, which are among the largest supermarket chains in the Czech Republic and Norway respectively.

A session dedicated to disruptive technologies will look at Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), a topic that is attracting considerable attention from central banks all over the world. Speakers from the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which has published a study on this topic, the Central Bank of Uruguay, which has implemented a 'digital banknote' project, the South African Reserve Bank and various solution providers will share their views and experiences.

An additional immersion session dedicated to CBDCs will examine the subject matter in more detail, offering attendees the opportunity to learn from and discuss issues with the experts in this field.

The final session will address the role of cash in the future payment landscape. Experts from Deutsche Bundesbank, the Bank of England, the University of St Gallen and more will share the findings of their research into this topic.

As previously reported, the World Banknote Summit is introducing a new session format dubbed the 'Chatbox', which is designed for small group discussions and thus enables close interaction between the experts and participants.

The series of Chatboxes will discuss topics such as how to measure cash usage and the cost of cash, how a data analytics project should be implemented, a technical view on intaglio wiping solutions, how to create expert banknote specifications and how to structure and implement a CBDC project.

A broad spectrum of immersion sessions will cover a further range of topics: Norges Bank and De Nederlandsche Bank will discuss how they manage the decline of cash; the Bank of Israel and the Deutsche Bundesbank talk about serial number reading and data analysis of banknotes in circulation; and (as above) the Central Bank of Uruguay and the Bank for International Settlement will discuss CBDCs.

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