

Workshop sponsored by the Asian Development Bank on Enterprise-wide ML/TF Risk Assessment for domestic banks.

A training programme on institutional-wide Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (ML/TF) Risk Assessments was conducted to compliance staff of domestic banks in Sri Lanka. The Trade and Supply Chain Finance Programme of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Sri Lanka (FIU) undertook this initiative in January–February 2024.



Dr. Ramandeep Chhina, an ADB sponsored subject expert, conducted the workshop. The workshop comprised two main sessions.

1. Online Workshop for Gap Analysis
2. On-site Workshop and Meetings

At the Center for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya, 19 domestic banks participated in the Gap Analysis Workshops, On-Site Workshops, and Meetings, which were successfully held from January 10–16, 2024, and January 29–February 02, 2024, respectively. The banks which were clustered into three focus groups – small banks, medium banks, and large banks – according to their asset bases participated in the workshop. The sessions were arranged in the form of a focus-group discussion or semi-structured interviews with each group of banks. Each focus group consisted of three or four bank officials who are directly responsible for assessing the ML/TF risk at their respective institutions.

Dr. Chhina, the workshop resource person, is a trained Solicitor in England and Wales and is a specialist in Anti-money Laundering and Combatting Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) since 2005. Over the past decade, she has focused on academia, researching international trade finance and financial crime, particularly fraud, money laundering, and bribery in global trade transactions. She is currently an honorary visiting associate professor at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University. Dr. Chhina holds a Doctorate and Master's degree in Transnational Commercial Law from the University of Oxford. In addition, she is a Certified Financial Crime Specialist (CFCS) and a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS).

A wrap-up session for all attendees of the three focus groups took place at the end of the program with the participation of Dr. Subhani Keerthiratne, Director of FIU, Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe, Additional Director of FIU and Mrs Theja Pathberiya, Deputy Director of FIU in addition to Dr. Chhina. Also, officers from the Bank Supervision Department and the Department of Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, along with the officers of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Sri Lanka, participated in the programme.