



SAFA International Conference 2026

Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting



Saturday, 17 January 2026

Hosted by: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh



CHIEF ADVISER
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

03 Magh 1432
17 January 2026

Message

I am pleased to note that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is set to organize the SAFA International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka.

The unity of our people against years of misrule in July 2024 was forged by those who stood resolute in the face of death. It was through the strength of this historic mass uprising that the interim Government was formed. Since then, our nation has arrived at a most critical juncture in its journey forward.

Upon assuming responsibility in the aftermath of the uprising, rescuing the economy from a deep and prolonged crisis posed an immense challenge. Over the past months, however, we have begun to successfully overcome this adversity. Key economic indicators-including exports, foreign investment, and foreign exchange reserves-have returned to a positive and encouraging trajectory.

Let us work together to build a safe, happy, and prosperous Bangladesh for the next generation, thereby fulfilling the cherished dreams of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation. I firmly believe that the national institute, ICAB, has an important role to play in this endeavor.

I am confident that this conference will contribute meaningfully to advancing these objectives and to furthering our collective aspiration of building a prosperous and developed Bangladesh.

I wish the conference every success.

Professor Muhammad Yunus



ADVISER
Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am pleased to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is organizing the SAFA International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka.

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence is transforming organizational operations and decision-making, while sustainability reporting has become a vital element of corporate accountability and governance. In this evolving landscape, chartered accountants play a crucial role in financial decision-making, governance, risk assessment and public service delivery.

Although AI offers significant opportunities for efficiency and innovation, it also presents ethical and social challenges such as bias, transparency, data privacy and governance risksmaking ethical AI an important sustainability concern. The theme of the conference aptly reflects the need for professionals who can integrate technology, ethics, governance and sustainability reporting.

I am confident that this international conference will enhance the knowledge and preparedness of chartered accountants and contribute meaningfully to our shared goal of building a prosperous and developed Bangladesh.

I wish the Conference every success.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed



ADVISER
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am very happy to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize SAFA International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka in a befitting manner.

National planning increasingly depends on reliable data, transparent reporting and long-term sustainability considerations. Sustainability reporting provides valuable insights into economic, social and environmental impacts, while ethical application of Artificial Intelligence enhances data analytics, forecasting and monitoring capabilities essential for evidence-based planning and policy formulation.

For Bangladesh, achieving sustainable and inclusive development requires alignment between national plans, public investment decisions and sustainability outcomes. High-quality financial and non-financial reporting supports better prioritization of resources, assessment of development risks and monitoring of progress towards national goals and international commitments.

Professional accountants play a vital role in strengthening the information architecture that underpins planning and development processes. Their contribution is essential in ensuring data integrity, consistency and accountability across public and private sector reporting systems.

I appreciate ICAB's continued efforts in promoting professional excellence and capacity building. I am confident that this Conference will provide a valuable platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing and will contribute meaningfully to prepare the next generation professionals to support sustainable development planning.

I wish a great success of the conference.

Wahiduddin Mahmud



ADVISER
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am very happy to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka.

Bangladesh's foreign affairs priorities are guided by the principles of peace, friendship, and cooperation with all, while safeguarding national sovereignty and promoting regional and global stability. We consistently seek and encourage constructive engagement among countries of our region based on mutual respect, international law, and multilateral cooperation that promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise across borders.

SAFA always works in line with the spirit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), ensuring collaboration and development of skill and expertise for the inclusive welfare of the region.

As a responsible neighbor and an active member of the United Nations and other international bodies, Bangladesh advocates a rule-based international order and collective action in addressing global economic challenges. We support active engagement to promote dialogue, confidence-building, and cooperative solutions to shared concerns.

Bangladesh also places greater stress on development-oriented engagement by linking foreign relations with national development goals, technology cooperation, capacity building, and sustainable progress. Through dialogue, partnership, and principled engagement, Bangladesh seeks to contribute positively to regional stability and global prosperity.

I commend ICAB for organizing this important event and for taking a leadership role in fostering collaboration among professional leaders.

I wish a great success of the conference.

(Md. Touhid Hossain)



ADVISER
Ministry of Commerce
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am happy to inform that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize the SAFA International Conference on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka with the theme "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting". I commend ICAB for selecting such a timely and forward-looking theme that reflects the evolving global business and regulatory landscape.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly influencing financially significant decisions across diverse areas, including credit scoring, fraud detection, supply chain optimization, workforce management, and customer analytics. While AI offers enhanced efficiency and predictive capabilities, it also introduces sustainability-related risks such as algorithmic bias, lack of explainability, data privacy concerns, cybersecurity threats, and potential reputational damage. Addressing these challenges requires robust governance frameworks and transparent disclosure practices.

In this context, the next generation profession of chartered accountancy- extends beyond traditional accounting and reporting roles. It demands professionals equipped with ethical judgment, technological literacy and expertise in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)-based sustainability reporting. Such professionals play a vital role as enablers of responsible innovation, ensuring that AI-driven business models remain aligned with the principles of transparency, accountability, and long-term value creation.

I appreciate ICAB's initiative in organizing this important international conference, particularly at a time when the country is undergoing significant reform initiatives following the July mass uprising. I am confident that the conference will contribute meaningfully to professional discourse, policy thinking, and capacity building at both national and regional levels.

I wish the SAFA International Conference every success.

Sk. Bashir Uddin



EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
BIDA, BEZA, MIDA &
CEO, PPPA
Chief Adviser's Office

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize SAFA International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka. The participation of regional and global accounting bodies under the SAFA platform makes this a timely and significant initiative.

Bangladesh today stands at an inflection point. The country possesses one of the most attractive demographic dividends in Asia. With the eighth-largest labor force globally, the country provides both depth and continuity in human capital, serving as a deep talent pool as well as a rapidly expanding consumer market. Nearly half of the population is under the age of 30, including 45.9 million young people aged 15-29, ensuring long-term workforce availability and sustained economic dynamism.

The challenge before us is no longer potential. It is how clearly and credibly we communicate that potential to the global investment community. Our priority now is to showcase the country's strong investment prospects to the global investment community.

In this context, sustainability reporting and the ethical application of Artificial Intelligence are rapidly becoming central to investment decisions. Transparent disclosures, responsible use of technology, and strong governance frameworks enhance trust and support informed investment decisions. These are no longer peripheral considerations. They shape risk assessment, capital allocation, and long-term value creation. Professional accountants sit at the heart of this transition, ensuring the credibility and consistency of financial and non-financial information.

I commend ICAB for taking the initiative to convene this discussion at a time when these issues are moving from theory to practice. I hope that this Conference will contribute meaningfully to strengthening investor confidence and positioning Bangladesh as a competitive investment destination.

I wish the SAFA International Conference every success.

Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun



GOVERNOR
Bangladesh Bank
(Central Bank of Bangladesh)

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize the SAFA International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 2026 in Dhaka.

As the central bank of the country, Bangladesh Bank places strong emphasis on good governance, transparency, and responsible use of technology within the financial sector. Reliable financial reporting and sustainability disclosures enhance market discipline, support prudent risk management, and contribute to informed regulatory oversight. In this context, the role of professional accountants is crucial in upholding reporting quality and strengthening confidence among regulators, investors, and the public. Chartered accountants are key contributors to effective implementation of regulatory requirements and international best practices within banks and financial institutions.

In recent years, sustainability reporting has gained increasing relevance from a supervisory perspective, particularly in assessing climate-related financial risks, asset quality, capital adequacy, and long-term institutional resilience. At the same time, the growing use of Artificial Intelligence in banking operations, credit assessment, and compliance functions present both supervisory opportunities and regulatory challenges. Ensuring that such technologies are deployed ethically, transparently, and within a robust control framework is essential to safeguard financial stability.

From this viewpoint, the quality of financial and sustainability disclosures is critical to effective supervisory assessments, stress testing exercises, and enforcement actions.

I appreciate ICAB's close collaboration with Bangladesh Bank in capacity building and professional development.

I wish the conference a great success.

Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur



CHAIRMAN (Senior Secretary)
Bangladesh Securities and
Exchange Commission (BSEC)

Message

I am delighted to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize SAFA International Conference on "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" on 17 January 27 January 2026 in Dhaka. I extend my sincere appreciation to ICAB for selecting a theme that is highly relevant to the evolving needs of the financial ecosystem.

The financial sector today is being reshaped by two powerful forces-technological transformation driven by Artificial Intelligence and the growing demand for high-quality sustainability and ESG disclosures. Ethical deployment of AI in accounting, auditing, and financial reporting can significantly enhance efficiency, data integrity, fraud detection, and regulatory supervision. However, these benefits must be accompanied by robust ethical frameworks, professional judgment, accountability, and human oversight to safeguard public trust.

At the same time, sustainability reporting has become a critical element of corporate transparency and long-term value creation. Investors, regulators, and other stakeholders increasingly rely on credible, comparable, and assured sustainability information to assess financial performance, climate risks, governance practices, and social impact. In this regard, professional accountants play a central role in strengthening the reliability and assurance of sustainability disclosures, particularly in listed companies.

I am confident that the deliberations of this conference will generate valuable insights and actionable recommendations for shaping the future of the profession in South Asia and beyond. I wish the conference every success and commend ICAB and SAFA for their leadership in addressing issues of critical relevance to the next generation profession.

Khondoker Rashed Maqsood



PRESIDENT
International Federation
of Accountants (SAFA)

Message

On behalf of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), I send my congratulations to the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) on hosting the international conference "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting".

Since becoming IFAC President, I have been fortunate to have several chances to participate in SAFA activities and to see first-hand the deep and fruitful engagement between SAFA member bodies. This collaboration is an indispensable factor in the continued success of South Asia's increasingly interdependent economy.

This International Conference is a great opportunity to tackle complex emerging issues that are relevant to all professional accountancy organizations, including technology and sustainability. I commend SAFA members for seeing the power of your partnership to advance the profession in your respective jurisdictions and to mutually benefit the entire region.

SAFA is an influential part of the global accountancy profession, and ICAB itself has been, and remains, an active voice for the profession in South Asia and around the world. SAFA members and the members of SAFA professional accountancy organizations should be proud of the remarkable progress their organizations have made and the contributions this federation makes on behalf of the profession in the region.

I am pleased to be attending this event in Bangladesh this week and I look forward to engaging with many friends and colleagues during our discussions.

I wish SAFA and ICAB continued success in the years to come.

Jean Bouquot



PRESIDENT
Confederation of Asian and
Pacific Accountants (CAPA)

Message

My warm greetings to the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), and all delegates of the SAFA International Conference 2026.

On behalf of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA), I congratulate SAFA and ICAB on the organization of this important conference and commend you for bringing together the profession at a defining moment in its evolution. The theme, "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting," is both timely and highly relevant, reflecting the rapid transformation shaping our global profession today.

Professional accountants now are operating in an environment marked by accelerating technological change, heightened stakeholder expectations, and a growing demand for high-quality sustainability information and assurance. The conference's technical sessions focusing on ethics and technology, the expanding mandate of the professional accountant, and the quality of sustainability assurance directly addresses to these challenges head-on and underscore the critical role accountants play in upholding trust, transparency, and public interest.

CAPA highly values its close and longstanding partnership with SAFA. Our collaboration enables us to advance shared priorities, elevate our regional voice in global discussions, and support our PAOs development across the region. Through this partnership, we aim to deliver meaningful benefits to our mutual members, strengthen the relevance and resilience of the profession across Asia and the Pacific and, highlight the growing importance and contributions of our region on the global stage.

This conference provides an excellent platform for dialogue, learning, and collaboration. I am confident that the insights and outcomes will help shape a future-ready, ethical, and sustainable profession for the region.

On behalf of all of us at CAPA, I wish the SAFA International Conference 2026 every success and all delegates a productive and enriching experience.

Yong-Sok, Jhun



PRESIDENT
South Asian Federation
of Accountants (SAFA)

Message

It is a great pleasure to convey warm greetings on the occasion of the SAFA International Conference 2026, hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). On behalf of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), I extend my sincere appreciation to ICAB for undertaking this visionary initiative.

The theme of this Conference- "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting"- captures the dual forces defining our era. As technology and sustainability considerations increasingly dictate business decisions, the professional accountant must uphold the highest standards of integrity while embracing rapid innovation. The technical sessions- focusing on the reshaped professional landscape, our evolving role beyond numbers, and the transition from sustainability frameworks to credible assurance- will provide a vital roadmap for this transformation.

ICAB's Strategic Role in Regional Collaboration
As a founding member of both IFAC and SAFA, ICAB plays a pivotal role in achieving our strategic mission. By organizing such high-caliber conferences and facilitating participation from general members across all SAFA bodies via digital platforms, ICAB effectively promotes our objective to "globally connect" through "regional collaboration." These efforts are vital for enhancing public trust through shared knowledge and fostering deep-rooted goodwill among the professionals of South Asia.

A Note of Appreciation
A mega-event of this stature, especially one graced by the physical presence of the President of IFAC, the Presidents and other dignitaries from SAFA member bodies, is a testament to extraordinary coordination. I would like to express my profound thanks to the President of ICAB, the Council Members, and the Chairman and members of the Conference Committee and Sub-committees. My gratitude also extends to ICAB's management team and everyone involved for their untiring efforts and unwavering commitment. Your hard work has ensured that this gathering is not just a meeting, but a landmark professional milestone.

I am confident that the SAFA International Conference 2026 will reinforce our collective pursuit of excellence. I wish the speakers and participants a most productive and inspiring event.

Mohammed Humayun Kabir FCA



CHAIRMAN
Organising Committee
SAFA International Conference 2026

Foreword

It is a distinct honour for me, as Chairman of the Organising Committee, to welcome all delegates, speakers and distinguished guests to the SAFA International Conference 2026, proudly hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). This Conference is the result of months of careful planning and collaboration, driven by a shared commitment to position our profession for the realities of a rapidly changing global environment.

The theme "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting" reflects not only where the world is heading, but also where the profession must lead. Artificial intelligence and sustainability are no longer emerging concepts- they are already reshaping how organisations operate, how information is produced, and how trust is built. In this evolving landscape, professional accountants must combine technological competence with ethical judgement and a deep sense of responsibility to the public interest.

The three technical sessions have been deliberately structured to take participants on a meaningful journey. From understanding how ethics and technology are redefining the professional landscape, to exploring the expanding strategic role of professional accountants, and finally to translating sustainability frameworks into credible and reliable assurance outcomes, the Conference aims to bridge theory with real-world application.

As organisers, our objective is to create a platform that goes beyond formal presentations a forum for dialogue, critical thinking, and cross-border learning. By bringing together leaders from the profession, regulators, academics and international bodies, we hope to inspire new ideas and foster collaboration that will strengthen the profession across South Asia and beyond.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to all members of the Organising Committee, the office bearers of ICAB, and the Council of ICAB for their guidance, support and unwavering commitment in bringing this Conference to fruition. I extend my special thanks to Mr. Mahbub Ahmed Siddique FCA, Chief Operating Officer of ICAB and Secretary of the Organising Committee, whose dedication, leadership and meticulous coordination have been instrumental in the successful planning and execution of this prestigious event.

I am deeply grateful to SAFA, ICAB, our international partners, and all contributors who have made this Conference possible. I sincerely look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a truly engaging and impactful event.

Muhammed Farhad Hussain FCA



PRESIDENT
The Institute of Chartered
Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB)

Address of Welcome

It is indeed a great pleasure for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) to host the SAFA International Conference on the "Next Generation Profession: Converging Ethical AI and Sustainability Reporting." I warmly welcome all distinguished guests, delegates, and participants to this important gathering, which reflects our shared commitment to professional excellence, ethical values, and regional and global collaboration.

We are deeply honored by the presence of our honorable chief guest and special guests. We are also privileged to have the President of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Mr. Jean Bouquot with us, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and professional unity. I gratefully acknowledge the leadership of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) and the heads of its member bodies for their unwavering support and efforts to strengthen regional connectivity. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our guests of honor, keynote speaker, paper presenter, session chairmen, moderators, and panel speakers for their valuable contributions.

The accountancy profession, long recognized as a cornerstone of financial integrity, is undergoing a period of profound transformation. The convergence of ethical artificial intelligence and sustainability reporting is reshaping professional responsibilities and reinforcing the need for transparency, accountability, and public trust. In this evolving environment, it is essential that technological progress is guided by strong ethical principles and a clear commitment to sustainable development. This Conference has been designed to facilitate informed dialogue on the evolving role of professional accountants. Through focused discussions, it will explore how ethics and technology are redefining the professional landscape, how accountants' roles are expanding beyond traditional boundaries, and how sustainability assurance can provide reliable and decision-useful information to stakeholders.

ICAB, in collaboration with SAFA and the global accountancy community remains firmly committed to ethical leadership, continuous professional development, and serving the public interest. By sharing knowledge and experiences, we strengthen our collective capacity to respond to emerging challenges and contribute meaningfully to sustainable growth.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our honorable chief guest, special guests, and guests of honor, to our keynote paper presenter, to the President of IFAC, and to the ICAB Council, management, SAFA colleagues, sponsors, speakers, print and electronic media and the participants for their valuable support in making this Conference possible. I also extend my special appreciation to the chairman, conveners, members, member secretaries of the conference organizing committees and sub committees and also to the SAFA President. It is a matter of great pride for us that this year, the SAFA leadership comes from Bangladesh. I am confident that the deliberations of this Conference will be both insightful and constructive, and will contribute to shaping an ethical and future-ready profession with highest level of professional excellence towards achieving overall sustainable development.

N K A Mobin FCA