



“WIDENING OUR WORLD”: UBI BANCA BRINGS TOGETHER OVER 200 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMISTS AND BANKERS IN MILAN

The International Banking Forum is attended by representatives of around 80 foreign correspondent banks of the UBI Banca Group from 22 different countries around the world

Milan, 14th June 2018 – “Widening Our World” is the title of the eighth edition of the International Banking Forum organised by UBI Banca which takes place today and tomorrow on 14th and 15th June in Milan at the *Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia* (National Museum of Science and Technology).

Over 200 participants are attending the forum. They are the representatives of around 80 foreign correspondent banks of the UBI Banca Group from 22 different countries around the world. Numerous speakers, experts in the field of economics and finance, from Italy and abroad, will be there, in addition to diplomats from various countries.

The proceedings were introduced by Letizia Moratti, Chairwoman of the Management Board of UBI Banca, and will be concluded by Victor Massiah, the Chief Executive Officer of the Group.

The aim of UBI Banca’s eighth International Banking Forum is to take its guests on a virtual “world tour” to offer a vision and up-to-date analysis of different international financial centres that are important in terms of trade with Italy.

“Italy has the largest number of SMEs in Europe and their ability to meet challenges on markets at home and abroad makes a substantial contribution to its GDP. Support for the internationalisation of our economy is essential and it requires a contribution from the banking and financial sector”, said Letizia Moratti, Chairwoman of UBI Banca’s Management Board. “Our bank is present in those areas of the country that are strongest economically speaking and it is always ready to serve firms with growth projects. These are clients that we are supporting today in a period of fierce competition worldwide, by offering them specialist products and tools to understand competitive environments.”

The forum’s programme is divided into six sessions, each dedicated to a different geographical area: North America, South America, ASIA - ASEAN, Middle East and Gulf States, Africa and Europe.

Two speakers, one an economist and the other a banking and financial expert, will lead discussion and analysis in each session to provide participants with in-depth knowledge of the socio-economic and political situation and the outlook as well as the attractiveness and the opportunities and risks of a strictly financial nature connected with the geographical areas in question.

The proceedings during the two days, held behind closed doors, will be moderated by Andrea Boltho, an Emeritus Fellow at Oxford University.

Participants at the 2018 International Banking Forum include: Prof. Enrico Letta, President of the Associazione Italia ASEAN and Dean of Psia-SciencesPo, Paris; the General Consul of the United States of



America in Milan, Mrs. Lee Martinez; the General Consul of Mexico in Milan, Ms. Morales; and the General Consul of India in Milan, Mr. Singh.

UBI Banca's International Banking Forum has been held every two years for some time now, with the launch of the first edition back in 2003, and attendance by both national and international correspondent banks of the UBI Banca Group throughout the world has grown over the years.

UBI Banca has a direct presence with representative offices in the USA (New York), the United Arab Emirates (Dubai), China (Shanghai and Honk Kong), Morocco (Casablanca), Brazil (San Paolo), Russia (Moscow) and India (Mumbai).

The Forum programme will continue on the 19th, 20th and 21st June with three events for local firms in Bergamo, Brescia and Milan respectively. The three forums will give firms attending the chance to meet experts from the bank's foreign representative offices and examine opportunities, difficulties and prospects on markets in the relative geographical areas in question.

Lombardy and its local economy is one of the regions in Italy with very high exports: 27% of Italian exports and 22% of its GDP are generated in Lombardy, an area in which 32% of UBI Banca's branches and 60% of its lending to businesses are concentrated.

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