

# Open Banking Operations: Bahrain's Insights

By: Ahmed Albalooshi

Chairman of Digitalization and Cybersecurity Committee

**Bahrain Association of Banks** 

Arab Regional Fintech Working Group
Second Meeting Agenda
23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019



#### About Bahrain Association of Banks



The Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) was established by a Ministerial decree in 1979, and registered under the central bank of Bahrain in 2010.

BAB brings together banking institution of all sizes and charters in kingdom of Bahrain and works towards enhancing Bahrain image as the financial hub of the Middle East.



#### About Me



#### Ahmed Khaled Albalooshi, MBA, CGEIT, CISM & CISA.



Senior Vice President – Head of IT

Al Baraka Banking Group



Chairman of Digital & Cybersecurity Committee

Bahrain Association of Banks



Chairman of Advisory Board

Bahrain FinTech Bay

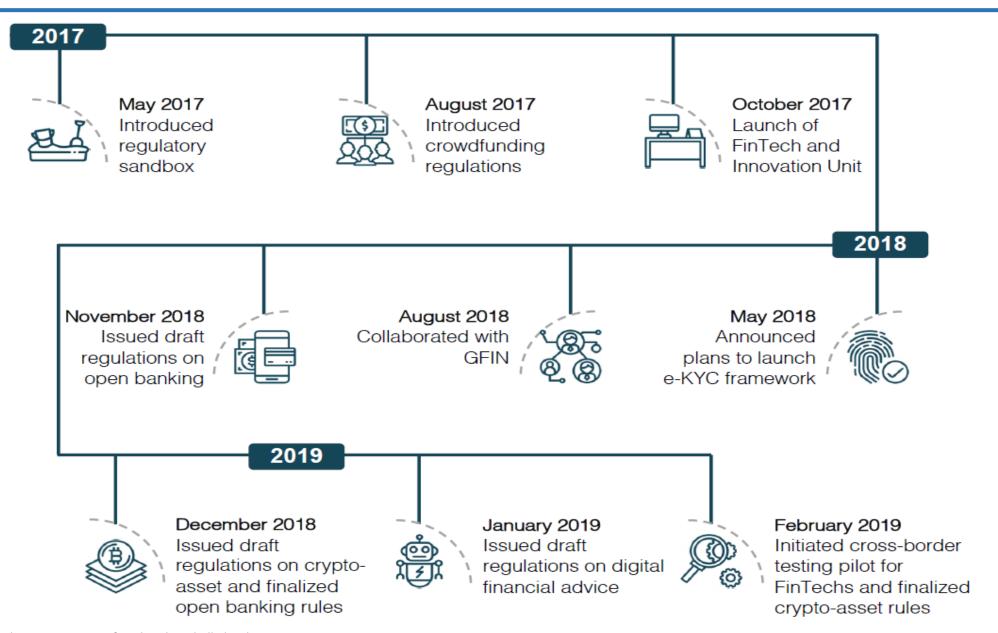


Digital Banking & FinTech Instructor

Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance

# Bahrain's FinTech Ecosystem & Regulations







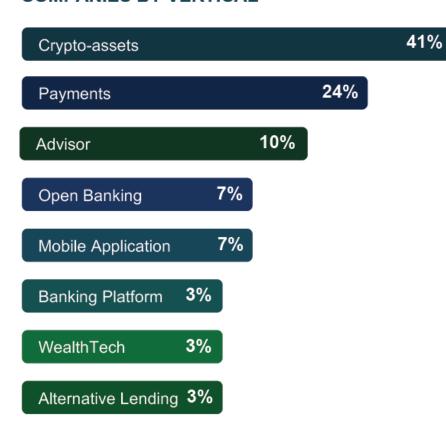
# Bahrain's FinTech Ecosystem & Regulations



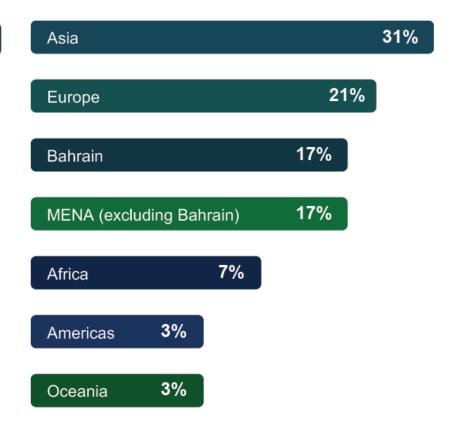


#### **REGULATORY SANDBOX**

#### **COMPANIES BY VERTICAL**



#### **COMPANIES BY REGION/COUNTRY**





# Bahrain's Open Banking





#### **OPEN BANKING**

The CBB issued draft regulations on open banking in Bahrain during November 2018 thus taking the lead in introducing open banking regulations in the MENA region. Within two months, the finalized open banking regulation was published during December 2019. The initiative was a major step toward transforming the financial services industry by enabling greater transparency and inclusivity through open data. The UK conceptualized open banking with the intention of encouraging banks to offer more innovative services and solutions to their consumers. Presently, two open banking modules are included in Bahrain's consultation papers:



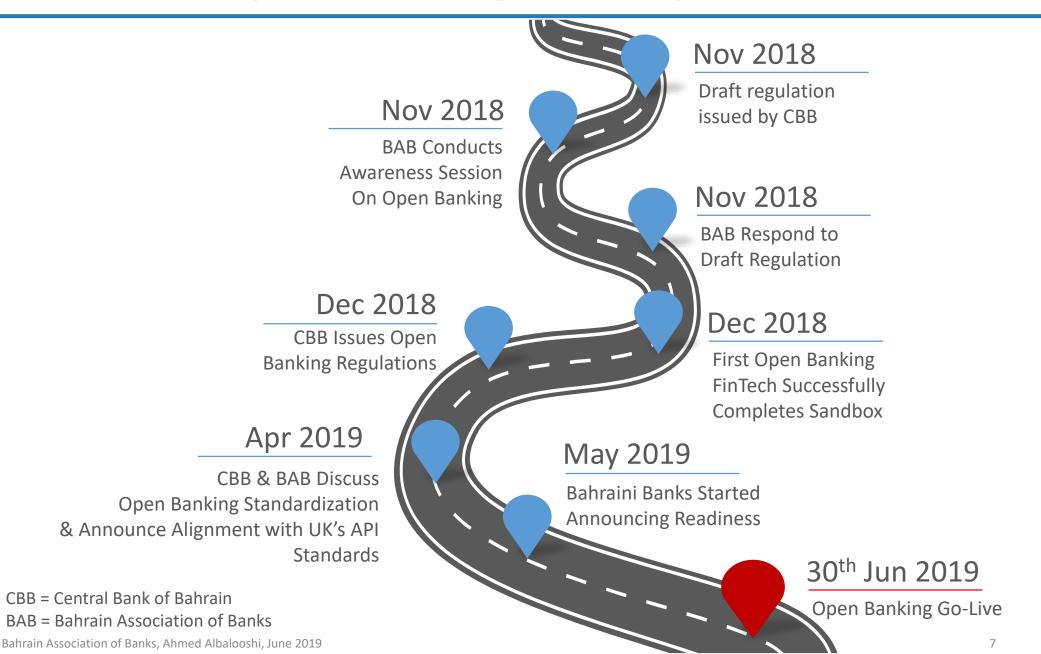
Account Information Service
Providers (AISPs) for accessing
and aggregating account
information



Payment Initiation Service Providers (PISPs) for online payment services

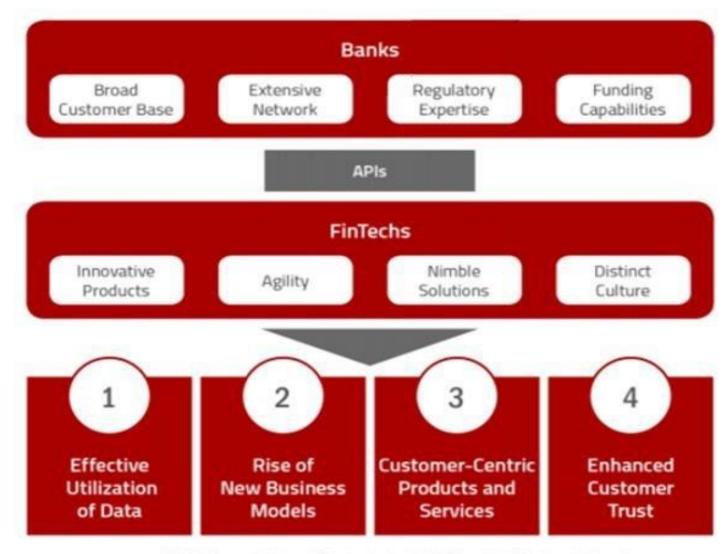
### Bahrain's Open Banking Journey





### Value of Open Banking

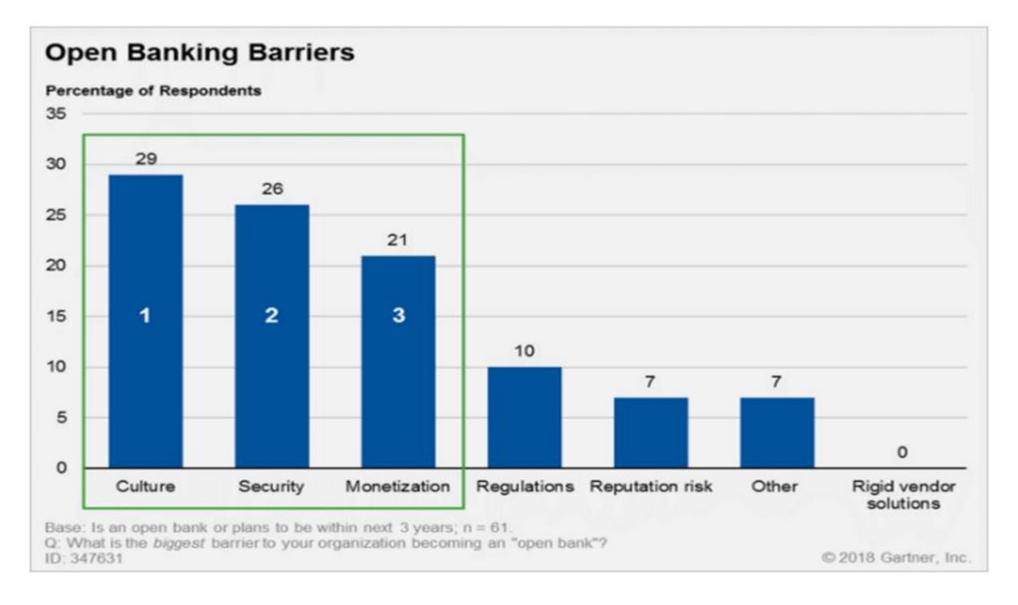




SOURCE: Capgemini Financial Services Analysis 2017 @ June 2017 The Financial Brand

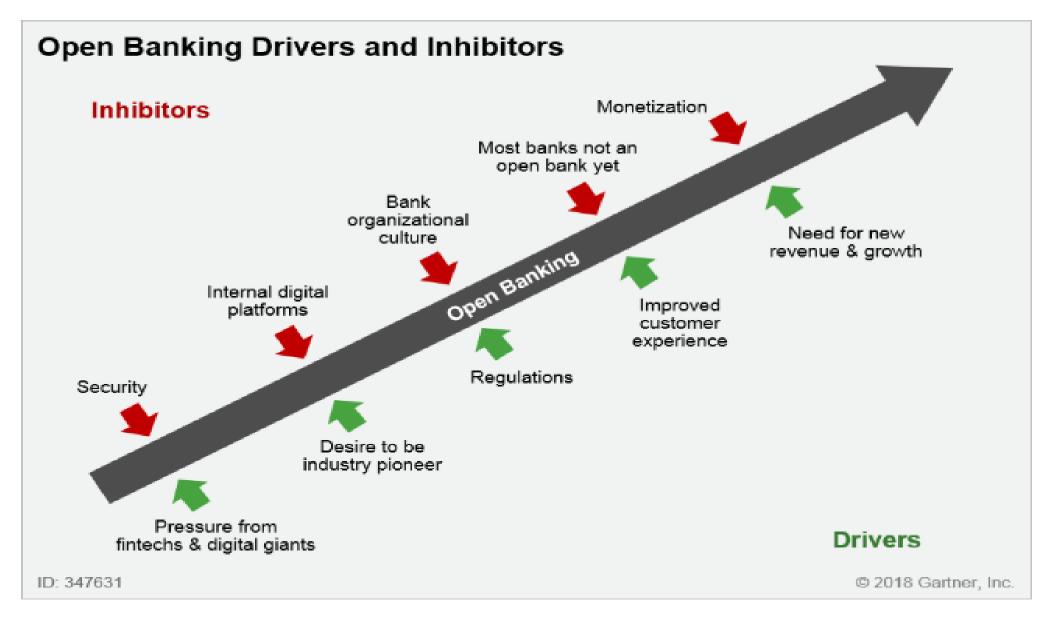
### Open Banking Barriers – Banks Perspective





### Open Banking Barriers – Banks Perspective





### Open Banking Stakeholders Concerns

Operational Issues





#### Customers

- Value to me?
- Is my data protected?
- Can I control my data?



#### Regulator

- Data Protection Law
- Open Banking Regulation
- Licensing for AISPs/PISPs/TPPs
- Operations of Open Banking



#### AISPs/PISPs/TPPs

- Bank's Readiness
- Customers adoption
- API Standards
- Service Level Agreement



#### Banks

- API Standards & Integration
- Data Protection / Consent Management
- Compliance
- Monetization

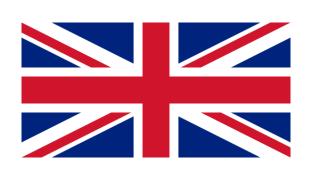
# 1. Developing and Implementing APIs and Security standards requires extensive time and effort.

- 2. It is not a one time project, as type of Third Party Providers increase new APIs are required. APIs are subject to continues improvements.
- 3. There will be also a need for:
  - 1. Enrollment of new AISPs, PISPs and technology providers.
  - 2. Identity Management & Security Profiles
  - 3. Operational Guideline
  - 4. APIs Conformance Testing
  - 5. Security Testing
  - 6. Dispute Resolution

## Open Banking Implementation Entity



Given the amount of work required, separate entities were formed to overlook Open Banking Implementation & Operations:



#### **UK: Open Banking Implementation Entity (OBIE)**

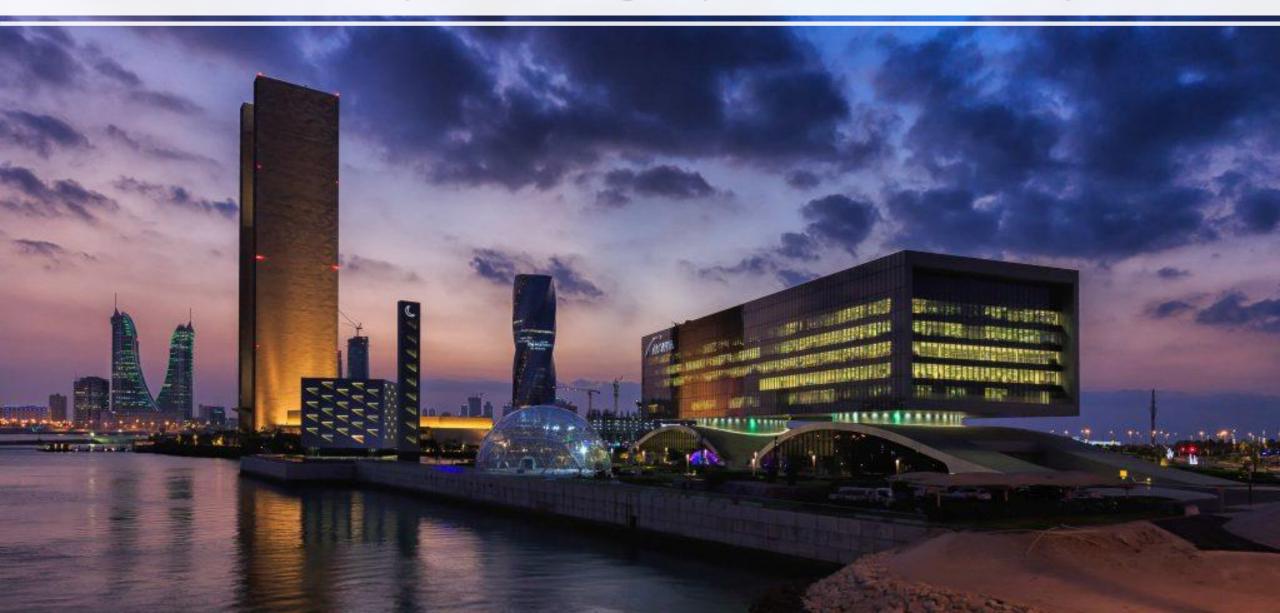
- Created by the UK's Competition and Markets Authority. Funded by the UK's nine largest banks.
- It took 11 months to issue the standard for AISPs.
- More info: <a href="https://www.openbanking.org.uk/about-us/">https://www.openbanking.org.uk/about-us/</a>



#### New Zealand: Payments NZ

- Formed by Industry consensus.
- Funded initially by banks. Ongoing: Banks, AISPs, & PISPs.
- Built on top of UK Open Banking
- More info: https://www.paymentsnz.co.nz/about-us/

## Bahrain's Open Banking Implementation Entity?





### Thank You!

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