

3rd Co-operative ICONIC LEADER AWARDS
15th to 17th January 2026

Nomination Categories, Description & Nomination Form

The Third edition of Cooperative Bank **ICONIC Leaders Awards** event is a prestigious ceremony that recognizes and celebrates outstanding leaders who have made significant contributions to various fields such as business, finance, technology, and community development. The event typically honours individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities, innovation, and commitment to excellence in their respective domains.

The awards event often features keynote speeches from prominent figures, panel discussions on relevant topics, and presentations highlighting the achievements of the awardees. It serves as a platform to showcase inspiring success stories, foster networking opportunities, and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Throughout the event, there may be opportunities for attendees to engage with industry experts, thought leaders, and fellow professionals, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. The Co-operative Bank ICONIC Leaders Awards event aims to celebrate the visionaries and trailblazers who have made a positive impact on society and have set new benchmarks for leadership excellence.

Banking Tech Project Awards

- Outstanding Bank & FinTech Collaboration (3 nos.)
- Outstanding Embedded Finance Initiative (3 nos.)
- Top Mobile Initiative for Consumers (3 nos.)
- Top Mobile Initiative for Business (3 nos.)
- Excellence in Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (3 nos.)
- Outstanding use of Cloud (3 nos.)
- Outstanding achievement in RegTech (3 nos.)
- Leading Tech Innovation in Fraud Prevention (3 nos.)
- Outstanding Technological Implementation in Corporate Banking (3 nos.)
- Outstanding Technological Implementation in Retail Banking (3 nos.)

Banking Leadership Awards

- Tech Leadership (CIO, CTO, CISO, CDO, CPO) (3 nos. each)
- Tech Team of the Year (3 nos.)
- Woman in Technology (W.I.T) (3 nos.)
- Business Leadership (Chairman, Vice Chairman, CEO) (3 nos. each)

Banking Awards

- Bank of the Year (2 nos.)
- Innovative Bank of the Year (2 nos.)

Banking Tech Project Awards -

For Banks to participate. Securing a Banking Tech Award is a testament to a bank's successful investment in technology, demonstrating their expertise, dedication, creativity, and ability to execute effectively.

1. Outstanding Technological Implementation in Retail Banking

- This award is presented to bank that has effectively utilized technology within the consumer banking.

- The undertaking must be extensive and show measurable success – delivering tangible improvements and fulfilling the established goals.
- Judges seek a detailed presentation of the project – its purpose, key achievements, obstacles encountered and overcome, results, and the advantages realized.
- A winning submission will be concise, supported by factual evidence and statistics, avoiding jargon. Submissions should be free from press releases, promotional articles, and marketing materials.

2. Outstanding Technological Implementation in Corporate Banking

- This award is presented to bank that has effectively utilized technology within the corporate banking.
- The undertaking must be extensive and show measurable success – delivering tangible improvements and fulfilling the established goals.
- Judges seek a detailed presentation of the project – its purpose, key achievements, obstacles encountered and overcome, results, and the advantages realized.
- A winning submission will be concise, supported by factual evidence and statistics, avoiding jargon. Submissions should be free from press releases, promotional articles, and marketing materials.

3. Top Mobile Initiative for Consumers

- This accolade is given to bank for a retail consumer banking project that is technology-led, with a focus on digital/mobile offerings.
- The digital or mobile banking product or service must be operational and able to show its effectiveness and success in real-world applications, not just theoretically. Therefore, judges are in search of solid evidence and statistics for support.
- The evaluation will consider a thorough overview of the project – its nature, the rationale behind its introduction, the efforts made to develop it, the technology utilized, and the outcomes achieved.
- A winning entry will be concise, backed by factual data and evidence, avoiding vague terms. Submissions should steer clear of press releases, promotional content, and marketing pamphlets.

4. Top Mobile Initiative for Business

- This accolade is given to bank for a business consumer banking project that is technology-led, with a focus on digital/mobile offerings.
- The digital or mobile banking product or service must be operational and able to show its effectiveness and success in real-world applications, not just theoretically. Therefore, judges are in search of solid evidence and statistics for support.
- The evaluation will consider a thorough overview of the project – its nature, the rationale behind its introduction, the efforts made to develop it, the technology utilized, and the outcomes achieved.
- A winning entry will be concise, backed by factual data and evidence, avoiding vague terms. Submissions should steer clear of press releases, promotional content, and marketing pamphlets.

5. Outstanding Embedded Finance Initiative

- This award celebrates pioneering project within the burgeoning field of embedded finance, marking a collaborative venture between banks/financial institutions and entities from other sectors to deliver a smooth, beneficial user experience.
- The project must showcase advantages for all stakeholders involved while providing a practical and effective product or service to consumers.
- It is essential that the initiative is active, with results that are concrete and measurable. Judges will look for evidence of success through innovation, influence, and the ability to scale.
- Entries should provide a detailed description of the project, including its purpose, the effort invested in its development, the technology used, the collaboration process, and the achieved results.
- Winning submissions must be concise, supported by concrete evidence, and free of jargon. Avoid including press releases, promotional articles, or marketing materials.

6. Excellence in Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning

- This recognition is given to bank that centers a project around the innovative use of artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning (ML).
- The project must be active, with clear, measurable outcomes and benefits derived from its implementation.
- Judges seek an in-depth presentation of the project – its essence, the motivation for its launch, the effort required to develop it, the technologies applied, and the final results.
- The spotlight is on the AI/ML technology, highlighting its impact on the organization and its commercial success.
- A winning entry should be concise and factual, supported by evidence rather than filled with technical jargon. Submissions should avoid press releases, promotional pieces, and marketing content.

7. Leading Tech Innovation in Fraud Prevention

- This accolade is presented to bank spearheading a project with a focus on technology designed to prevent fraud.
- The project must be active and demonstrate significant, quantifiable improvements and advantages.
- Judges will evaluate a thorough overview of the initiative, including its purpose, the motivation behind its creation, the efforts involved in its execution, the technologies employed, and the outcomes achieved.
- The emphasis of this project is on fraud prevention solutions and methods, aiming to showcase the technological benefits to the organization and its operations.
- Winning submissions should be concise, evidence-based, and devoid of jargon. Entries should not include press releases, promotional articles, or marketing materials.

8. Outstanding achievement in Regulatory Technology (RegTech)

- This award recognizes bank for a project deeply rooted in regulatory and compliance technologies, such as anti-money laundering (AML), know your customer (KYC), and combating terrorist financing (CFT), among others.
- The initiative must be active, with the improvements and benefits it brings forth being both significant and quantifiable.

- Judges seek a detailed narrative of the project, including its essence, the reasons for its launch, the dedication and work required to develop it, the technology implemented, and the outcomes.
- The focus is on compliance solutions and methodologies, aiming to delve into how this technology has advanced the organization and its business operations.
- A winning entry will be concise and substantiated by evidence, steering clear of technical jargon. Entries should not include press releases, promotional content, or marketing materials.

9. Outstanding use of Cloud

- This award is given to bank that has utilized cloud technologies to drive significant transformation in its operational processes and service delivery.
- The project must be in action, with clear, measurable benefits and improvements.
- Judges are in search of a detailed exploration of the project, including its nature, the rationale behind its inception, the efforts put into its realization, the technology employed, and the outcomes.
- Given the central role of cloud technology in this submission, we aim to comprehend how this technology has positively impacted the organization and its commercial activities.
- A winning submission should be concise, supported by concrete evidence, and free from technical jargon. Submissions should avoid press releases, promotional articles, or marketing materials.

10. Outstanding Bank & FinTech Collaboration

- This is awarded to bank and fintech collaboration that has demonstrated measurable achievements in terms of impact and the ability to scale.
- The partnership must showcase mutual benefits for all entities involved and offer a practical product/service to consumers.
- The collaboration must be active, with quantifiable outcomes.
- Judges are interested in a detailed overview of the collaboration, including its purpose, the efforts to make it a reality, the synergy between the partners, the technology used, and the achievements.
- A winning entry will be concise, backed by solid evidence, and devoid of jargon. Entries should not contain press releases, promotional content, or marketing materials.

Leadership Awards -

For individual or team to participate. This recognition celebrates the displayed skills, leadership, vision, inspiration, and commitment towards enhancing the industry.

1. Woman in Technology (W.I.T)

- This award honors an exceptional woman for her exemplary leadership and motivational work within the banking sector, and her significant contribution to the broader financial services industry.
- Judges are seeking a detailed account of the nominee's activities and achievements that surpass the routine responsibilities of her role.
- The focus is on the nominee's individual efforts and their direct impact on the success of their organization, project, or business - highlighting what they, personally, have accomplished rather than the collective achievements of their company.

- Additionally, judges will consider the nominee's commitment to improving the industry, such as through mentorship programs, charitable work, initiatives for diversity and inclusion, and other contributions.
- A winning nomination will be concise, supported by tangible evidence, and free from generic terms. Submissions should avoid press releases, promotional articles, or marketing flyers.
- This accolade is aimed at recognizing the achievements of one individual, so the nomination should clearly articulate why she stands out and merits this award.

2. Tech Leadership (CIO, CTO, CISO, CDO, IT Heads & IT In charge)

- This award recognizes an individual, regardless of gender, who has played a pivotal role in shaping and implementing the technology strategy within a bank, far exceeding the responsibilities of their designated role.
- The focus is on identifying a leader whose influence extends significantly within the financial services sector, contributing to its overall advancement.
- Judges are seeking detailed stories of the nominee's initiatives and achievements that transcend the normal scope of their job functions.
- The evaluation will emphasize the nominee's own contributions to their organization, project, or business's success - specifically what they have accomplished individually, beyond the collective success of their organization.
- Moreover, the judges are interested in learning about the nominee's efforts to improve the industry, such as involvement in mentorship programs, contributions to charitable activities, and efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion.
- A compelling nomination will be concise, evidence-backed, and devoid of clichés. Entries should not include press releases, promotional pieces, or marketing materials.
- This distinction is aimed at celebrating the achievements of a single individual; hence the nomination should clearly explain why they stand out and are deserving of this honor.

3. Tech Team of the Year

- This accolade celebrates a team within a bank that has distinguished itself through exceptional teamwork, efficiency, and a collaborative ethos, surpassing expectations in accomplishing objectives and contributing value to the project or organization.
- We seek a team exemplifying unity in pursuit of a shared goal, achieving remarkable outcomes.
- The judges anticipate a detailed account of the team's ventures and successes.
- A thorough presentation of the team's identity and its role in driving the success of their organization, project, or business is desired – highlighting their collective actions and contributions, distinct from the broader company achievements.
- Judges are keen to grasp how the team functions and collaborates, detailing their tasks, problem-solving approaches, challenge navigation, and the tangible results of their efforts.
- A compelling nomination should be concise, factual, and supported by evidence, steering clear of generic phrases. Submissions should avoid press releases, promotional content, or marketing documents.
- This recognition is intended for a group; thus, the nomination should focus on their collective merit and the reasons they stand out as deserving of the award.

4. Business Leadership (Chairman, Vice Chairman, CEO)

- This award recognizes an individual, regardless of gender, who has significantly influenced the business strategy and decision-making process within a bank, exceeding the expectations of their role.

- The search is on for a leader who has made a meaningful impact within the financial services sector and contributed to its advancement.
- Judges are interested in a detailed depiction of the nominee's initiatives and achievements beyond their routine responsibilities.
- It's important to showcase the nominee's direct contributions to the success of their organization, project or business, emphasizing their personal efforts rather than the company's overall accomplishments.
- Additionally, judges want insights into the nominee's efforts to improve the industry, such as through mentorship programs, philanthropic activities, and diversity & inclusion efforts.
- A strong nomination will be concise and backed by solid evidence, avoiding vague terminology. Entries should not include press releases, advertising content, or marketing materials.
- This accolade is intended to honor the achievements of an individual, so nominations should clearly articulate why they are deserving of this recognition.

Banking Awards -

For Banks to participate. A significant acknowledgment and support from the industry.

- Bank of the Year (2 nos.)
- Innovative Bank of the Year (2 nos.)

1. Bank of the Year

- This accolade honours bank that stands out for disrupting the market and delivering truly beneficial solutions to its clientele.
- Judges are in search of a comprehensive exploration of the initiative, including its motivation, key project phases, the team involved, the technology used, objectives and obstacles, and the outcomes achieved.
- A winning submission should be concise, supported by concrete evidence and statistics, steering clear of jargon. Submissions should avoid press releases, promotional articles, or marketing materials.

2. Innovative Bank of the Year

- This recognition is designated for bank that excels in leveraging cutting-edge technologies, implementing novel ideas, and transforming processes and customer experiences to shape the future of banking and finance.
- With innovation and visionary thinking being central to this nomination, we aim to grasp what distinguishes the nominated bank and how it advantages its clients.
- Judges are on the lookout for a detailed presentation of the bank's innovations – encompassing their range and functionality, the technologies employed, unique attributes, and relevant applications.
- A compelling nomination should be concise, bolstered by tangible evidence and data, avoiding generic language. Entries should not include press releases, promotional content, or marketing flyers.

