

## **ITFA Emerging Leader Competition Parameters:**

### **Eligible Participants:**

Who qualifies as an Emerging Leader? This category includes:

- Students aspiring to build a career in trade finance.
- Current trade finance professionals with less than 10 years of experience who genuinely identify with the "Emerging" designation.
- Professionals from other industries, regardless of their years of experience, who are new to trade finance and eager to transition into the field.

### **New Topics:**

The updated guide outlines a clearer and more relevant process, providing better insights on expectations, submission formats, and evaluation criteria. We have also introduced new relevant project topics that align with current trends in trade finance:

- Driving Sustainable Trade: The Next Frontier of ESG Compliance
- Empowering Economies: Trade Finance for All
- Mastering Supply Chain Resilience: Overcoming Disruptions
- AI-Powered Risk Management: Revolutionizing Trade Finance
- Digital Trade Docs: Transforming Global Commerce
- Tariffs: Shaping Global Trade Dynamics
- Bridging Borders: Export Finance as a Catalyst for Emerging Market Trade

Deadline for submissions: **9th July 2025**

Shortlist announcement: **21st July 2025**

### **Project topics and advisors:**

- Driving Sustainable Trade: The Next Frontier of ESG Compliance
- Empowering Economies: Trade Finance for All
- Mastering Supply Chain Resilience: Overcoming Disruptions
- AI-Powered Risk Management: Revolutionising Trade Finance
- Digital Trade Docs: Transforming Global Commerce
- Tariffs: Shaping Global Trade Dynamics
- Bridging Borders: Export Finance as a Catalyst for Emerging Market Trade
- Inventory Finance in a changing Trade environment – adapting to global shifts and supply chain disruptions.

\*Please note that while we have suggested the above topics for your consideration, they are intended as guidance only, and candidates are welcome to choose a topic of their own if they prefer.

### **Project format:**

Any medium, at the candidate's choice, ranging from the more traditional (article, paper) to the most innovative (videos, podcasts, social media). We will be providing a project advisor depending on your choice of topic, if needed.

### **Judging Criteria:**

The winning projects will make a significant contribution to the trade finance industry by demonstrating excellence in the following areas:

- Innovation & Originality: Introduces new approaches, concepts, or technologies to enhance trade finance practices.
- Impact & Relevance: Addresses pressing challenges or emerging trends with clear real-world applicability.
- Feasibility & Practicality: Realistic and implementable proposal with a well-defined execution plan.

- Depth of Research & Analysis: Well-researched, supported by data, case studies, or industry insights.
- Clarity & Presentation: Clearly structured, concisely written, and effectively communicated.
- Industry Engagement: Engages with industry discussions, regulatory considerations, or cross-sector collaborations.

### **Competition Stages & Timeline**

Given that the ITFA Annual Conference takes place in Singapore from 3-5 September 2025, the competition will follow these stages:

- Submission Deadline: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – All entries must be submitted by this date.
- Shortlisting & Review: 10<sup>th</sup> July- 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – A panel of industry experts will evaluate submissions and select three finalists.
- Finalist Announcement: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 – The three shortlisted candidates will be notified and provided with mentorship to refine their presentations.
- Final Presentations: 3 September 2025 – Finalists will present their projects at the ITFA Annual Conference in Singapore.
- Winner Announcement: 4 September 2025 – The winner will be officially announced during the gala dinner.

### **Prizes & Recognition**

The three shortlisted candidates will receive a free pass to the ITFA Annual Conference in Singapore (3-5 September 2025), including full participation in conference events, networking sessions, and the Gala Dinner. Thanks to our sponsor **Africa Global Trade Finance**, the winner will also receive flights and accommodation (capped to a maximum amount). Additionally, the winning project will be published by ITFA on their website.

### **Timelines:**

Presentation of the shortlisted projects and announcement of the winner: 3-5 September (during the ITFA Conference in Singapore)

### **How to submit:**

By email to [competition@itfa.org](mailto:competition@itfa.org)

May the best Emerging Trade Financier win!