



GLOBAL
FINANCE

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entry Deadline: August 17



Stars of China 2026 CALL FOR ENTRIES

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Global Finance's 19th Annual Stars Of China Awards

Global Finance's Stars of China Awards are the preeminent evaluation of financial institutions and other organizations in China by international media.

The Stars of China honor the best banks, fintech companies, investment management firms, asset managers and other enterprises serving China and the world.

They recognize the Chinese financial sector, which has helped the nation's economy navigate recent headwinds, through consumer-friendly mortgage loan adjustments, trade financing tweaks, and by accepting a regulatory relaxing of reserve ratios, all while expanding customer services through AI, mobile apps, and digital solutions.

Winners will be announced in early September and a full report will be published in the November print and digital editions of Global Finance, as well as online at GFMag.com

Does your organization deserve to be a member of this elite class? If so, enter the 2026 Global Finance Stars of China Awards competition, and explain why your institution stands out. The editors of Global Finance will closely review all entries as well as recent performance before selecting this year's Stars of China.

While it is not necessary to enter in order to be recognized, experience has shown an application increases the chance of success. In many cases, providers are able to present information and perspectives not readily available to the editors of Global Finance. There are no entry fees.

Please contact Francesca Lloyd-Hallett at francesca@gfmag.com or Faith Peng/MHI China at faith@mhichina.com with any questions or for additional information about the Stars of China 2026.



**Once again this year,
winners will be honored
at a live awards
ceremony in Beijing in
the Fall.**



Participation and Judging Details

Each entry will be reviewed by the editorial board of Global Finance, and evaluated based on relevant financial and business information, with input from industry experts, leading executives, professional investors and consultants.

Full details on each category follows on pages 5-7. Entries for each category should be no longer than 1000 words.

Key factors that will be considered include:

- Size and scope of deals relevant to the award categories
- Market standing and performance
- Breadth and relevance of products and offerings
- Innovation across digital platforms and internal processes
- Customer service and client support
- Client experience and effective use of technology

Institutions will be judged for performance during the period between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. If any information is confidential and not intended for publication, please ensure it is clearly labeled. Global Finance upholds the highest standards of data security to protect all confidential information.

To improve clarity and comparability, banks should:

- Keep responses concise and evidence-based
- Use tables where helpful for financial and operational data
- Focus on developments within the eligibility period
- Show outcomes, not only strategy or intent

Submission Requirements

Please include the following information to ensure that your submission is processed properly.

- Name of specific entity submitting exactly as it should appear on awards-related announcements
- Award(s) being submitted for. Please be specific and refer to the award category descriptions
- Primary submission contact: name, title, email
- Line of business contact: name, title, email
- Communications/marketing contact: name, title, email

More than ever, Global Finance acknowledges the importance of recognizing institutions that excel in serving the mainland in harmony with China's national goals and objectives.

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2026 AWARD CATEGORIES

Best Corporate Bank	Best Private Bank for Sustainable Investing
Best Consumer Bank	Best Private Bank for Entrepreneurs
Best Bank for Supply Chain Finance <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Best Private Bank for Ultra High Net Worth Individuals
Best AI Strategy in Banking <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Best Wealth Management Provider
Best Panda Bond Arranger <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Best Bank for Sustainable Infrastructure
Best Debt Bank <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Best Bank for Green Bonds
Best Equity Capital Markets Bank <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Best Bank for Corporate Social Responsibility
Investment Banking Deal of the Year <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Most Innovative Bank
Sustainable Finance Deal of the Year <i>(New for 2026)</i>	Innovation in Payments
Most Innovative Asset Manager	Innovation in Fintech
Best Bank for Overseas Branch Services	Best Transaction Bank
Star of Hong Kong	Best SME Services Bank
Best Consumer Lending Bank	Best Asset Manager
Best Bank for M&A	Best Bank for Renminbi Internationalization
Best Bank for Business Transformation	Best Bank for Belt and Road
Best Private Bank	

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CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Best Corporate Bank	Gold-star provider of financing, funds management, transaction support, and trade finance services for China's most successful enterprises whose business interests can be found at home or abroad.
Best Consumer Bank	Leading builder of better lives within China's vast consumer sector by offering a streamlined, accessible, and affordable array of retail products from digital wallets to wealth management, mortgages, personal credit, and auto loans.
Best Bank for Supply Chain Finance (New for 2026)	Preferred partner for internationally and domestically engaged manufacturing and logistics companies in areas such as inventory financing, prepayments, and accounts receivable solutions.
Best AI Strategy in Banking (New for 2026)	The banking industry's best executor of chatbots, marketing functions, and operations based on China's homegrown family of AI tools. An entrant may not reveal proprietary AI processes but rather focus on the positive effects of AI deployment.
Best Panda Bond Arranger (New for 2026)	International institution at the forefront of at least one recent project that raised significant renminbi capital for a foreign customer through China's popular Panda Bond program.
Best Debt Bank (New for 2026)	Leader in debt consolidation with a track record of accomplishments that satisfactorily balance the needs of all parties. An entrant must point to at least one example of successful debt resolution within the past two years.
Best Equity Capital Markets Bank (New for 2026)	Tier-one provider of domestic and foreign institutional investor access to China's equity capital markets through, for example, the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor program.
Investment Banking Deal of the Year (New for 2026)	The institution with an investment banking department executing a blockbuster deal in 2025 or during the first-half of 2026. The deal must showcase exemplary financial support and advisory services for a leveraged buyout, merger, acquisition, restructuring, expansion, or related investment.
Sustainable Finance Deal of the Year (New for 2026)	The lead bank behind any major deal in 2025 or during the first-half of 2026 for which sustainability was a foundational goal. The deal may be a leveraged buyout, merger, acquisition, restructuring, expansion, or any related investment.
Most Innovative Asset Manager	Top provider of services for generating income through new or unconventional portfolio management strategies, which may include cutting-edge technology and business processes. Open to domestic asset managers as well as foreign firms licensed to operate on the mainland and foreign asset management licensed to operate on the mainland.

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CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Best Bank for Overseas Branch Services	The go-to bank for Chinese citizens and companies planted on foreign soil as part of the ongoing effort to globally grow China's commercial and cultural footprint. An entrant must be a domestic bank that maintains bricks-and-mortar branches in at least two countries outside the mainland and Hong Kong.
Star of Hong Kong	Simply put, Hong Kong's best retail bank. The competition is open to Hong Kong-headquartered banks as well as Hong Kong-based subsidiaries of banks with headquarters located outside Hong Kong.
Best Consumer Lending Bank	Innovative provider of mortgage, vehicle, and personal loans with credit performance metrics and goals that closely match China's initiative to support consumer wealth-building. Open to domestic banks, large and small.
Best Bank for M&A	Forward-thinking financial partner for participants in corporate mergers and acquisitions with a proven track record and recent success. An entrant may be at the forefront of any domestic-only or domestic-foreign tie-up with at least one deal that has closed during the past two years.
Best Bank for Business Transformation	A bank overshadowing peers by rolling out a major internal adjustment. An entrant's transformation must affect at least one business area (such as business structure, marketing focus, or operations) and have significant institutional impact.
Best Private Bank	Market-proven provider with the most impactful portfolio of funds management, income growth, and wealth protection products to meet the discriminating demands of private banking clients.
Best Private Bank for Sustainable Investing	Institution that best meets the complex challenges of ESG investing on behalf of private clients by striking the right balance between global sustainability concerns and individual portfolio growth, the best interests of each client. Competition open to domestic banks.
Best Private Bank for Entrepreneurs	Standout bank that sets the highest standard for serving risk-taking, forward-thinking businesses while embracing the saying "empower an entrepreneur, enrich the people."
Best Private Bank for Ultra High Net Worth Individuals	The ultimate resource for preserving and enhancing assets through custom arrangements for onshore family funds, estate planning, special health services, and philanthropic strategies to meet platinum-tier client expectations.

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CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Best Wealth Management Provider	Top provider of tailored funds management and investment services for all types of customer accounts, thus focusing on not only clients in high-income brackets but also middle-income families that increasingly rely on wealth management products.
Best Bank for Sustainable Infrastructure	Best integrator of ESG-focused financing in support of China's continuing infrastructure development push. An entrant must have demonstrated the ability to work with government agencies in meeting tangible goals in areas such as rapid transit, utilities, ports, and rural or urban housing.
Best Bank for Green Bonds	Bond underwriter of choice for environmental and climate-related projects at home and abroad. An entrant is considered according to the number of instruments underwritten, the notional value of bond offers, pricing, distribution, and social impact.
Best Bank for Corporate Social Responsibility	Industry leader well-known for community outreach strategies that actively and responsibly engage in "giving back" to society in order to encourage social stability and grassroots economic development.
Most Innovative Bank	First-class provider of advanced financial services intertwined with the latest, most rapid, most productive applications and processes for customer satisfaction and business growth.
Innovation in Payments	Best financial institution – whether bank or third-party payment firm – for technology-driven solutions to transaction challenges. Entrants may be engaged with clients in domestic retail, overseas trade, consumer, or any other sector with payment processing demands.
Innovation in Fintech	China's leading institution for financial technology platforms and apps serving business and consumer customers. Entries submitted by banks and fintech firms alike are welcome.
Best Transaction Bank	The Chinese commercial sector's most successful bank for the one-stop integration of payment processing, cash management, and trade services.
Best SME Services Bank	Most accomplished supporter of the nation's efforts to strengthen small and mid-sized enterprises whose contributions are at the heart of China's economic development.
Best Asset Manager	Customer-acclaimed funds, equities, and investments manager with a reputation for gold-standard customer service, strong earnings, and professionalism.
Best Bank for Renminbi Internationalization	Top provider of banking support for China's successful effort to expand renminbi acceptance abroad and standardize the currency's use in global business transactions.
Best Bank for Belt and Road	Most prominent and enthusiastic financial provider for Chinese enterprises heeding the nation's call for foreign trade expansion and overseas infrastructure development through the Belt and Road initiative.

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The Power of Global Finance Awards

Global Finance's awards and recognition programs are synonymous with editorial integrity, precision, and independence. Celebrated as a benchmark of excellence in the financial sector, these awards carry a legacy of trust and prestige.

Winning an award and leveraging Global Finance Awards logo and recognition assets offer unparalleled marketing and communication advantages, empowering honorees to stand out, build trust and authority, and amplify their brand.

Logos and recognition assets can be used across a wide range of channels, including:

- Recruitment and retention efforts
- Websites
- Investor relations information
- Conference and event signage
- PR Campaigns/programs
- Internal communications
- Advertising
- Employee motivation programs
- Pitch books
- Branch signage
- Promotional videos
- Annual reports
- Digital and social media channels/campaigns
- Email signatures
- Promotional materials
- Stadium, airport and outdoor signage

