



# TRUST TECH NEWSLETTER

October 2025

**Dear Member,**

I'm excited to present you this month's Trust Tech Committee newsletter.

Each month, the committee delivers exclusive updates that are redefining financial security and strengthening customer trust.

**For Scam Watch**, it spotlights the “Fake Bonds, Real Losses” case, where fraudsters impersonated ANZ’s Premier Wealth division across Australia and New Zealand. Victims received flawless emails with authentic branding, executive signatures, and fake bond offers, unknowingly wiring their savings to criminal accounts. The case exposes how scammers are weaponising brand credibility and trust at scale — using polish, urgency, and exclusivity to deceive even savvy investors, while putting financial institutions’ reputations at risk across the ANZ and ASEAN regions.

**For the AFC Community Corner**, the Fincrime Files examines how investment scams are evolving into highly structured financial crime typologies. From fraudsters impersonating bank wealth managers to front companies marketing fake “low-risk” bonds, each scheme channels victim funds through mule accounts, offshore remittances, and layered transfers. Cases involving forged certificates of deposit and fictitious metal trades further reveal how scammers disguise illicit proceeds as legitimate investment flows. Together, these scenarios expose the growing sophistication of cross-border investment fraud — blurring the line between traditional scams, professional laundering, and organised financial crime.

I invite you to be a member of the committee and be part of a community that strives to navigate the complex landscape of anti-money laundering and fraud prevention, empowering all financial institutions in the Philippines to stay ahead of financial crimes.

**Abhishek Chatterjee**  
**Trust Tech Committee Chairperson**  
**Founder & CEO, Tookitaki**

## Member Benefits



**Priority Access to Trust Tech Events**



**Active Participation in AFC Community Dialogues**



**Add Your Voice to our Monthly FinCrime Newsletters**

## Scam Watch



### “Fake Bonds, Real Losses” The ANZ Premier Wealth Scam

In September 2025, Australians and New Zealanders were hit by a wave of sophisticated investment scams, with fraudsters impersonating ANZ’s Premier Wealth division. Victims received emails that looked flawless — complete with professional branding, signatures, and fake bond offers. Instead of securing Kiwi bonds, customers unknowingly wired their savings directly into the hands of criminals.

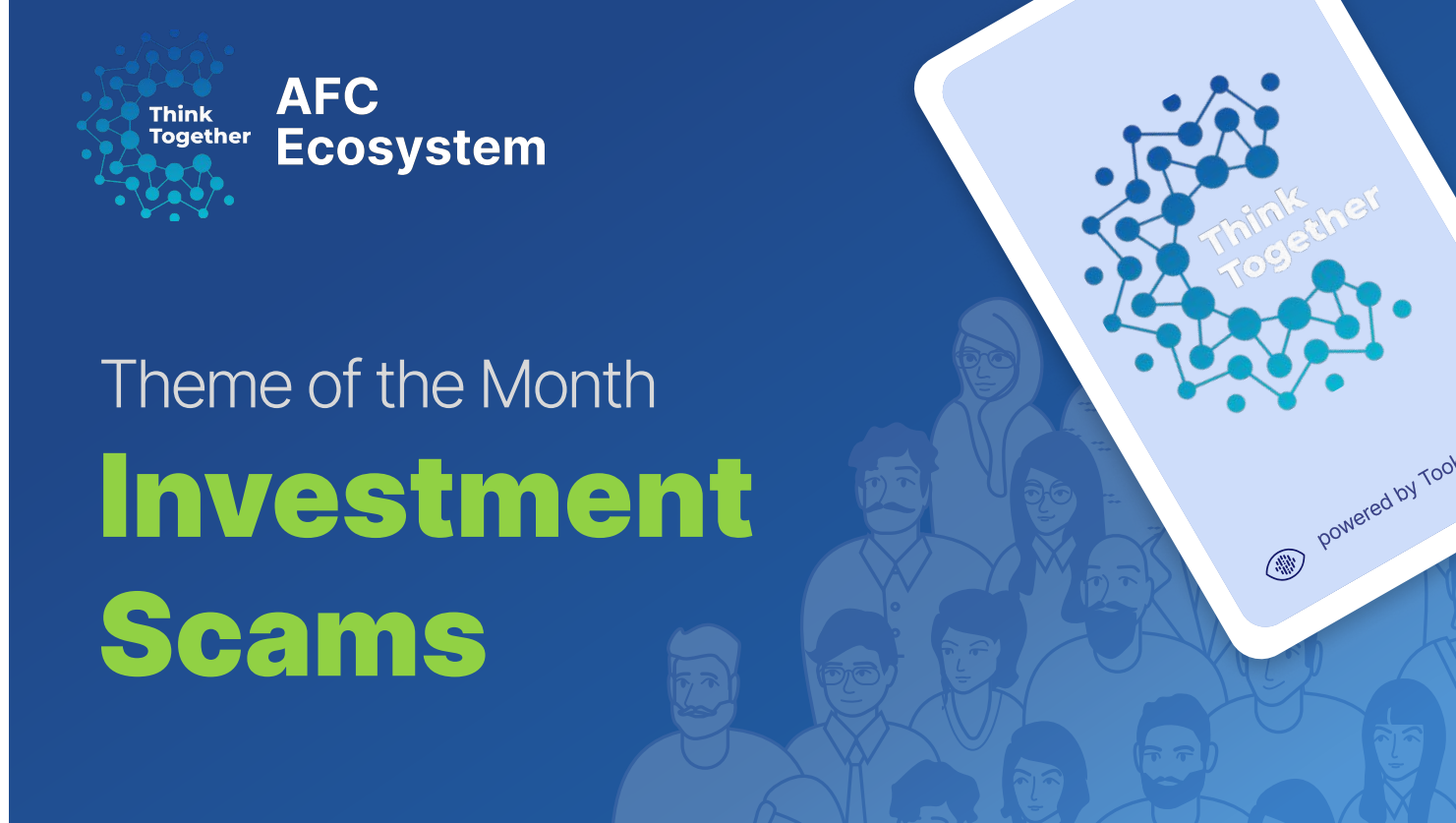
**Why it matters:** This case underscores a growing trend where scammers weaponise trust by impersonating established institutions. Unlike crude phishing attempts, the ANZ scam relied on polished presentation, exclusivity, and urgency to lure victims. It highlights how even financially savvy individuals are vulnerable, and how fraudsters are exploiting brand credibility at scale across ASEAN and ANZ.

**What to watch for:** Transfers described as “bond” or “investment” payments to new beneficiaries, sudden large international transfers inconsistent with a customer’s history, and elderly or affluent clients wiring significant sums under pressure. Institutions should also flag beneficiary companies with no investment licenses, or accounts controlled by individuals lacking financial backgrounds but receiving heavy investment-related flows.



**Access the full blog here:** [Fake Bonds, Real Losses in ANZ](#)

## AFC Community Corner



In this edition of Fincrime Files, the AFC community dives deep into key scenarios covered under **Investment Scams**:

- 1. Impersonation of Wealth Management Staff**  
Fraudsters posed as bank wealth managers to sell fake high-return bonds, funnelling victim funds through mule accounts, offshore remittances, and shell entities.
- 2. Fake Low-Risk Bonds via Corporate Accounts**  
A front company marketed fabricated bonds, funnelling deposits into corporate accounts, layering through domestic transfers, and moving proceeds offshore via structured wires.
- 3. Certificates of Deposit & Private Banking Accounts**  
Fraudulent CDs diverted investor funds into private accounts, layered through correspondent banks, and disguised as legitimate investment flows.
- 4. Fictitious Metal Trading Investment Scam**  
Perpetrators fabricated metal arbitrage trades using shell entities and falsified records, moving investor funds through cross-border accounts and luxury assets to conceal illicit proceeds.



**Access the full edition here:** [FinCrime Files](#)

## Shape the Future of Trust Tech- Join the Committee Now!

Join a dynamic community of compliance leaders, innovators, and policy thinkers working together to build a safer financial ecosystem.

As a member of the Trust Tech Committee, you'll gain access to exclusive events, collaborative discussions, and opportunities to contribute to industry-wide initiatives.



**Click here to join the Trust Tech Committee**

**Let’s build trust in fintech together.**

**If you have any questions,  
please reach out to  
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