



BUNA NEWSLETTER

**Arab Regional Payments Clearing
and Settlement Organization**

ISSUE NUMBER 10

MARCH 2022



CEO MESSAGE

Dear community and friends,

In my previous message to you, I elaborated on the differences that exist between the role of payment systems and financial market infrastructures (FMI), such as Buna, and the one of the banks in the payment landscape. The comparison aimed at showcasing how the relationship between Buna and its participants is strategically driven by the mutual interest to facilitate cost-efficient, fast and secure access to cross-border payments.

A similar element of collaboration is to be noted when comparing payment systems to financial technology (FINTECH) companies.

In Buna, the processing of payments depends on large-scale automation and technology to secure organized and smoothly functioning operational facilities that are essential to the payment system. Therefore, the aspect of technology is a key asset in Buna's functions and in any modern Financial Market Infrastructure.

Modern and efficient technology is at the heart of the Buna's system, and its services depend on it. Through its technology, Buna facilitates the onboarding process of its participants by digitalizing the workflow and making the onboarding process smooth and quick. Buna's technology is also essential to deliver our main function consisting in guaranteeing the transfer of funds and the execution of payments in a fast and secure way and in adherence to the highest international standards in terms of compliance.

That being said, the role of Financial Market Infrastructures such as Buna is not limited to the operation of technical platforms. It essentially consists in providing a "marketplace" that gathers an ecosystem of financial institutions as participants and execute financial transactions between them based on a set of common rules and procedures. In the modern world, the technology comes as the main enabler to deliver such a function.

CEO MESSAGE

The role of technology providers and Fintech companies in the payment landscape is to digitalize, optimize and create an opportunity to enhance the quality of payment services. While questions arise in certain cases on whether they are or could be competing with banks or with Financial Market Infrastructures, technology providers and Fintech companies have an undisputable role in supporting both financial institutions and market infrastructure to enhance their services and deliver innovative payment solutions.

By their positioning, Financial Market Infrastructures such as Buna create a unique environment that does not only connect the operator of the infrastructure to its participants, but also offer a space for FINTECH companies and technology providers to bring innovation, and support improving processes, increasing efficiency, strengthening control, and providing opportunities for new products and services.

In Buna, we see an important value in continuously seeking innovation and a growing need to cooperate between market infrastructures, financial institutions and technology providers to achieve the common objective of making cross-border payments, faster, more accessible, less costly, and more transparent.

While I stressed last month that the role of Buna as a payment system is to focus on providing efficient payment rails to its participants, I would like to conclude today's message saying that by enlarging the circle to the technology providers and with the dynamic described above in mind, Buna is also providing a large environment for collaboration and innovation, which are not only nice to have, but rather a necessary conditions to achieve our goal to make cross-border payments more efficient.

Mehdi Manaa

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buna and NIPL set the foundation for interoperability between their instant payment services

Mehdi Manaa, CEO of Buna and **Ritesh Shukla**, CEO of NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), signed on the 8th of March 2022 an MoU establishing the foundation for a partnership between Buna and NIPL, to implement payment solutions that lead to interoperability between their instant payment services and allow their participants to exchange cross-border payments in a cost-effective and secure way, instantly, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

The ceremony was held in the AMF headquarter in the presence of **H.E Sunjay Sudhir**, Ambassador of India to the UAE and **H.E Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy**, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund.



From right to left: Ritesh Shukla and Mehdi Manaa; H.E the ambassador Sunjay Sudhir and H.E Dr. Abdulrahman Al Hamidy

Mr. Ritesh Shukla, CEO of NIPL: “ We are focused on bringing about a superior cross-border experience through our cutting-edge real-time payment solution – UPI. Our partnership with AMF and Buna would further boost the growth of cross-border payments through UPI. ”

H.E Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund: “ By establishing a joint modern solution to streamline the flow of funds between their participants, Buna and NIPL are introducing a safe and efficient payment rail that represents a key driver for the growth and expansion of economic ties and opportunities between the Arab region and India, as well as the different international markets across the globe. ”

The news in the press (a snapshot)

“ **Buna and NIPL plan to connect their instant payment solutions** ”

MEAFINANCE

AMF signs MoU with NPCI International Payments Limited to facilitate cross-border payments via Buna and Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

This MoU strengthens Buna's role as a payment gateway that links Arab countries and the global market

Khaleej Times

AMF, India's NPCI ink deal to boost cross-border payments

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buna and JoPACC establish cooperation to connect their instant payment solutions

In a ceremony hosted by the Arab Monetary Fund in the presence of **His Excellency Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy**, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund, **Maha Bahou**, CEO of The Jordan Payments and Clearing Company (JoPACC), a payment system operator owned by the Central Bank of Jordan and all commercial banks in Jordan, and **Mehdi Manaa**, CEO of Buna, signed today an MoU putting in place a framework of cooperation between Buna and JoPACC.

Under the terms of this MoU, Buna and JoPACC target to achieve interoperability between their instant payment services, Buna "IPS" and JoPACC's "CliQ", by providing innovative solutions that allow their participants to send and receive cross-border payments instantly in accordance with the highest compliance standards.



From right to left: Maha Bahou, H.E Dr. Abdulrahman Al Hamidy, Mehdi Manaa

Ms. Maha Bahou, the CEO of The Jordan Payments and Clearing Company (JoPACC) : " We emphasize Jordan's efforts in developing instant digital payment solutions and expanding the scope of offered financial services to include cross-border payments that are characterized by high levels of safety and efficiency and are based on cutting-edge technologies."

H.E Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund: " Buna's partnership with JoPACC will bring additional services and features to the payments industry in Jordan, securing safe and efficient access to cross-border instant payments for individuals and corporates, within the Arab region and beyond."

The news in the press (a snapshot)



Buna and JoPACC plan for interoperability



وكالة أنباء
الإمارات-وام
EMIRATES
NEWS AGENCY-WAM



AMF, JoPACC sign MoU to facilitate instant payments

مباشر
TM

توقيع مذكرة تعاون بين منصة "بني" للمدفوعات العربية و"جوباك" الأردنية

ويساهم الربط بين أنظمة الدفع الفوري لدى "بني" و"جوباك"، في تعزيز دور منصة "بني" للمدفوعات العربية كمركز يربط بين الشركات الوطنية المزودة لخدمات الدفع الفوري، وتأمين المزيد من العمرات الآمنة والفعّالة للمدفوعات والقدرة على تغطية نطاق واسع من الاحتياجات المالية تشمل الحوالات الرقمية والتجارة الإلكترونية.

WORKSHOP OF THE MONTH

Buna conducted its **31st virtual workshop on Thursday, March 17, 2022**, to elaborate on its plans to establish strategic partnerships that will lead to interoperability between Buna and other national and regional payment systems in the Arab region and in other global markets. The workshop also discussed the importance of message standards in supporting interoperability between payment services.

During this workshop, the leaders of NIPL and JoPACC, talked about their collaboration with Buna to connect their instant payment solutions with the Buna instant payment services and offer to their participants safe and efficient payment rails to send and receive payments instantly.

Additionally, Buna's team detailed the role of the "ISO 20022" message standard in supporting interoperability and mitigating the challenges related to the payment flows between financial institutions.

Our guest speakers:

- **Ms. Maha Bahou**, Chief Executive Officer, The Jordan Payments and Clearing Company (JoPACC)
- **Mr. Ritesh Shukla**, Chief Executive Officer, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)



Don't miss the **next workshop on April 14, 2022, at 12:00 pm UAE time**. The workshop will elaborate on the imminent start of the euro operations in Buna with high-level guest speakers representing the European Central Bank (ECB) and Standard Chartered. In addition, the workshop will continue updating on the preparation for the Buna instant payment service with the views of a senior manager from the Central Bank of Egypt.

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