



## Press Release

### **Secretary Spencer Abraham addresses audience at the launch of Amwal – Performance Environment**

*Other internationally prominent figures exchanged their views on the fund and the global Environment*

#### **Doha, 5 December 2007:**

Amwal, Qatar's leading investment banking and asset management firm announced the launch of the distribution of Performance Environment in the GCC. The announcement took place during a press conference held recently at the Diplomatic Club with the presence of several notable figures from the global business and political scenes and members of the media.

Speaking at the event were Mr. Spencer Abraham, former US Secretary of Energy and Chairman of Areva US, Mr. Nicolas Rochon, Partner and Mr. Philippe Weller, Head of International Business Development of Financière de Champlain the Fund Manager of Performance Environment, and Dr. Laurent Lavigne du Cadet, CEO of Amwal.

Addressing the attendees, Dr. Lavigne du Cadet welcomed the distinguished guests and said: "The launch of this fund in Qatar is the result of the convergence of several main trends. There is currently a strong acknowledgment, within the GCC, that initiatives have to be further encouraged to fight against climate change, not only globally, but also regionally and locally (...) Investors are realizing that climate change is not only a political or social issue, it is a business challenge as well. Investments are progressively taking into account the consequences of global warming in term of cost but also in term of opportunities "

Dr. Lavigne du Cadet added: "Amwal has the willingness to propose a financial product to give the opportunity to the private sector to invest in the environment. Amwal has selected among all environmental fund the award winning fund Performance Environment managed by Financiere de Champlain for its performance and its investment strategy"

Secretary Spencer Abraham highlighted some key figures demonstrating how serious the issue should be considered: "International Energy Agency predicts a 53% increase in the energy consumption until 2030 which will leads to a 55% increase of global carbo-dioxide emission." Secretary Spencer Abraham encourages initiatives to further develop clean energies which are becoming very profitable. "We are capable of developing and perfecting new technologies so we bestow a healthy planet on future generations"

In order to give the audience some examples of performing investments in the environmental sector, Nicolas Rochon describes in detail the investment process of the fund and the diversification within three sub-sectors, (renewable energies, water treatment and waste management) which provide investors with strong returns (+150% since inception in August 2004) with a much lower volatility than major indices. He concludes with a general



view: "Environment will impact all sectors within the next decade which provide the fund with a yet un-tapped growth potential and Performance Environment should therefore continue to outperform the global equity market".

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### **About Amwal**

Founded in Qatar in 1998, Amwal was the first investment company to be granted a full onshore license by Qatar Central Bank and has since become Qatar's leading investment banking and asset management firm. Since its inception Amwal has been a pioneer in the Qatari market through several innovative initiatives such as the launch of the first investment portfolio and the first mutual fund investing in the Doha Securities Market, as well as the underwriting of the first non-Qatari Initial Public Offering in the country.

As a result of Amwal's rapid growth and landmark transactions, it was named in June 2006, the Leading Investment Firm in Qatar by Iktissad Wa Amal Group, the leading publishing group in the region.

The Firm boasts a strong shareholder base that includes some of the most respected financial institutions and business groups in the region including: Shuaa Capital from the UAE, Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Bank, Qatar Navigation & Prominent high net worth Qatari individuals .

Amwal has one of the largest and most talented investment banking and asset management teams in Qatar, employing a growing number of investment professionals drawn from a global pool of talent. Together, the teams have leveraged their outstanding international experience and skills to secure several high-profile mandates and to ensure the successful execution of some of the most prestigious landmark transactions in the region.

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