



PRESS RELEASE

Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani addressed attendees of Third Networking Event for Financial Professionals

Sheikha Hanadi said that the development of the financial industry in Qatar depends on our sharing information and experiences

Doha, 11 November 2007 – Amwal, Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) Authority and Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) held their third Networking Event for Financial Professionals on 5 November at the Four Seasons hotel in Doha, attended by H.E Yousef Hussain Kamal, the Economist members and other invited guests and experts from the local, regional and international financial communities. The event coincided with the Gala dinner of The Economist Financial Leaders Forum which took place at the same night.

Geared towards the professionals of the financial sector and those in senior financial positions in the wider business community, the Networking Event for Financial Professionals was addressed by Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani, Founder and Chairperson of Amwal who welcomed the attendees and said: "I am particularly delighted to welcome H.E Yousef Hussain Kamal, the Economist Financial Services Leaders, Forum delegates and representatives of the Economist magazine. This year's event seems particularly timely. There is a growing consensus that benefits from the financial industry can go beyond regional economies and that the industry can contribute to the good of society as a whole."

"The interest generated among industry leaders during these events reflect, I believe, a common goal in the financial community here. What we have seen is a commitment to not only individual success but to the greater good. While no one would deny that competition is a healthy thing, there is something to be said for pulling together, also. The financial industry is thriving in Qatar because of the abundance of quality institutions, and further improvement will depend in part on our sharing insights, information and experiences with each other. It is encouraging to witness the degree to which participants in these events are willing to do this." Sheikha Hanadi added.

Sheikh Faisal Bin Qasim Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatari Businessmen Association added "We are really honored by the participation of H.E Yousef Hussain Kamal and the enthusiasm of all our distinguished guests who have asserted the significance of this event in building a healthy and solid platform for communication. We are very pleased to witness an ever-growing interest in this occasion."

Stuart Pearce, CEO and Director General of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority also said "We are delighted to see that the third round of this Networking event has proved to be as successful as the previous ones. We are truly honored by the presence of H.E Yousef Hussain Kamal and all other attendees who have helped us in our quest to be partners in the growth of Qatar's reputation as the region's financial hub."



The Networking Event for Financial Professionals planned to take place 3 times a year, is by invitation only, and will be customized to meet and fit the needs of the professionals that are expected to participate.

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Notes to Editors

Amwal

Founded in 1998, Amwal is the first investment company to be licensed by the Central Bank of Qatar operating in two lines of business; investment banking and asset management. The firm has launched the first investment portfolio and the first mutual fund investing in the Doha Securities Market and underwrote the first non-Qatari Initial Public Offering in the country. Amwal has one of the largest investment teams in Qatar, employing a growing team of talented professionals. The firm benefits from a strong shareholder base comprising of Shuaa Capital, Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Bank, Qatar Navigation and prominent Qatari individual shareholders

Qatar Financial Centre

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is a financial and business centre established by the Government of Qatar and located in Doha. It has been designed to attract international financial services institutions and major multi-national corporations and to encourage participation in the growing market for financial services in Qatar and elsewhere in the region. The QFC will operate to international standards and provide a first class legal and business infrastructure for those operating within the QFC. The QFC was created by Qatar Law No.(7) and has been open for business since 1 May 2005.

QFC Regulatory Authority

The QFC Regulatory Authority is an independent regulatory body established by Article 8 of the QFC Law. It regulates firms that conduct financial services in or from the QFC. It has a broad range of regulatory powers to authorize, supervise and, when necessary, discipline firms and individuals. The QFC Regulatory Authority regulates firms using principle-based legislation of international standard, modeled closely on that used in London and other major financial centers. The Regulatory Authority is currently receiving applications and granting authorisations.

QFC Authority

The QFC Authority is the commercial, administrative and legislative body responsible for driving the commercial strategy of the QFC and for developing relationships with the global corporate community and other key institutions both within and outside of Qatar.

The QFC Civil and Commercial Court and QFC Regulatory Tribunal

The QFC Civil and Commercial Court and QFC Regulatory Tribunal were launched in February 2007. The President of the Court is Lord Woolf, formerly Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. The Court is modelled on the internationally respected Commercial Court in London. In the event of disputes in matters of law, it will be the final arbiter. The Regulatory Tribunal has been established to hear and decide upon appeals from decisions of the QFC Regulatory Authority and other QFC agencies. Its Chairman is William Blair, QC. Both the President and the Chairman are supported by Judges who have held the highest judicial offices in their own jurisdictions.



Qatari Businessmen Association

Under the auspices and progressive guidance of H.H. the Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) was founded by the ministerial decree no. 14 for the year 2002 as a non-governmental, non-profitable organization. The founding members and all other members of QBA share the same vision of H.H. the Emir in creating a diversified, sustainable and resilient economy. Knowing that the private sector is a main pillar for a robust economy our association serves as a strong catalyst that offers a solid foundation for the economic development of Qatar's private sector and provides a forum for idea exchange. Together, we aim to be a major vehicle, consensus builder and advocate for a thriving economic climate in the State of Qatar.

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