

# IFLR

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW REVIEW



## Middle East Finance Forum 2008

Al Marooj Rotana, Dubai, October 28th 2008

Benefits of attending include:

- Gain practical ideas on post-Aaoifi sukuk
- Discover how best to approach Saudi Arabian deals
- Hear the concerns of Dubai's top corporate counsel
- Learn how best to structure equity offerings in the region
- Assess the trends in regional finance centres

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The financial potential of the Middle East, and the growth of the capital markets across the region, is obvious for all to see. Yet deals are rarely simple. Those issued on local markets have few precedents, and the conflict between the law of international centres and the onshore economy creates many headaches. As if that wasn't enough, Islamic finance itself is often controversial, something highlighted by Aaoifi's comments earlier in the year.

So companies, banks and their lawyers need up-to-date information on how deals are being done. The Middle East Finance Forum does that, bringing together some of the leading practitioners to discuss structures and evolving regulation. It also crystallises the debate on many issues, creating consensus by putting the top speakers together in debate.

The IFLR Forums, which now take place in London, Hong Kong, New York and Dubai, are the leading venues for discussion in the legal industry. With panels and an audience almost entirely of lawyers, the IFLR Forum differentiates itself from any other event by its dedication to the legal industry and its high-level debate. The forums help practitioners do their job by sharing experiences, something enhanced by the seniority of speakers and attendees as well as the mix of banks, firms and companies represented. IFLR is excited about bringing this model to such an exciting legal environment as the Middle East.

## Who should attend this conference?

**This conference is a must for private practice lawyers, in-house counsel within investment banks and those with an interest in Islamic Finance.**

## Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

Increase your organisation's profile to key industry professionals. Position yourself in front of potential clients to showcase your services. To learn more about sponsorship and exhibition opportunities email [vtaylor@iflr.com](mailto:vtaylor@iflr.com) or call +44 (0)20 7779 8614.

## Forthcoming event from IFLR



## IFLR Middle East Awards

The third annual IFLR Middle East Awards will take place at the Burj al Arab on Wednesday October 29th, 2008. For further information on booking a table at the awards, please call +44 (0)20 7779 8142 [kfonyonga@iflr.com](mailto:kfonyonga@iflr.com).

# Middle East Finance Forum 2008

Tuesday October 28th, 2008

## 9:00am Chairman's opening remarks

Qudeer Latif, partner, Clifford Chance  
Simon Crompton, editor, IFLR

## 9:15am Keynote address

## 9:35am International equity exchanges in the Middle East

- Can any of the stock exchanges become fully fledged international listing venues? Is there enough liquidity? Is regulation strong enough?
- How will they interact with local exchanges, e.g. DIFX and DFM

### Speakers:

- Ashar Qureshi, *partner, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton* (Chair)
- Hussam Hourani, *partner and head of banking, Al Tamimi*

## 10:35am Coffee break

## 11:00am How sukuk are changing

- The emerging structures. Have new deals been affected by Aaoifi comments? Is there a move to greater standardisation?
- Which of the Islamic structures is likely to grow fastest?

### Speakers:

- Debashis Dey, *partner, Clifford Chance* (Chair)

## 12:00pm Capital raising in the Middle East: the corporate counsel panel

- In-house lawyers at the region's top companies discuss their biggest issues with capital raising and local finance markets, including new deals in local currencies
- What training do in-house lawyers in the region need?

### Speakers:

- Justin Connor, *director, legal and regulatory affairs, DCCA* (Chair)
- Adam Malouf, *head of legal and compliance, AREIT*

## 1:00pm Lunch break

## 2:00pm The emerging trends in Saudi Arabia

- Is Saudi Arabia still an equity story, infrastructure or something else?
- How do local law issues determine what products can be issued?

## 3:00pm Coffee break

## 3:30pm Bringing Islamic finance to the world

- How successful has the institution of scholars on banks' Islamic boards been?
- How is Islamic finance perceived outside the Gulf?
- Are regional approaches to Islamic finance harmonising?

### Speakers:

- Oliver Agha, *partner, DLA Piper* (Chair)
- Hussam Hourani, *partner and head of banking & finance, Al Tamimi & Company*

## 4:30pm The battle of regional finance centres

- How do the DIFC, QFC and Bahrain differentiate themselves?
- Which will dominate which type of business?
- How do they see themselves in comparison to London, New York etc?

### Speakers:

- Simon Crompton, *editor, IFLR* (Chair)
- Mark Beer, *registrar, DIFC Courts*
- Speaker from *Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority*

## 5.30 Close of conference



Book today call +44 20 7779 8999 or Email: [registrations@iflr.com](mailto:registrations@iflr.com)  
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## Hotel

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T: +971 (0)4 321 1111  
F: +971 (0)4 321 5555  
[almurooj.hotel@rotana.com](mailto:almurooj.hotel@rotana.com)

Al Murooj Rotana raises the bar for sophistication, luxury and indulgence in Dubai. With a glamorous look and tropical ambience, the luxury Dubai hotel, stands out as an oasis of chic. Al Murooj Rotana Dubai is prominently situated off Sheikh Zayed Road and adjacent to Dubai International Financial City.

**TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION:** Delegates are responsible for the arrangement and payment of their own travel and accommodation.

## Al Marooj Rotana, Dubai



I would like to register for IFLR's  
**MIDDLE EAST FINANCE FORUM 2008**

October 28 2008, Al Murooj Rotana, Dubai

**1|Register (Please tick one box):**

- Private practice delegate registration fee:** £595 / \$1195  
 **In house delegate registration fee:** £495 / \$995

**2|Your details for registration (Please print):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please photocopy this form for additional delegates.

- I cannot attend but please add me to your mailing list for future events.

**3|Method of payment**

Payment must be received before the conference date to guarantee your place. Please tick box to select payment method.

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- Bank transfer quoting invoice number**

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**To Register**

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**Mail:** Catherine Hall  
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London EC4V 5EX, UK

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you cannot attend you must cancel your registration in writing before September 26th 2008 to receive a refund less a 10% administration charge. We cannot accept verbal cancellations. Cancellations received after September 26th 2008 are liable for the full conference fee. You may send a substitute to attend in your place at no extra charge, however we must know by October 27th 2008 via email to [chall@iflr.com](mailto:chall@iflr.com) or [vtaylor@iflr.com](mailto:vtaylor@iflr.com)

If you make your booking via the telephone or online you are automatically adhering to our terms and conditions.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** The registration fee includes participation in the conference, lunches, cocktail reception and documentation material, which will be distributed at the beginning of the event. All bookings are binding on receipt of the booking form.