

Dubai hosts inaugural Legal Week conference for Gulf in-house lawyers

Source: Business Intelligence Middle East, Author: Justin Smith

Posted: 25-06-2008

UAE. More than 70 of the Gulf's top in-house lawyers converged on the Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai today for the region's inaugural Corporate Counsel Forum Middle East, organised by the UK's PPA business magazine of the year Legal Week.

Aimed at the burgeoning in-house legal community in the UAE and from across the Gulf, this one-day conference, themed 'Meeting the Critical Challenges Facing General Counsel', was attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The Forum was sponsored by Denton Wilde Sapte and Norton Rose, endorsed by the Dubai Corporate Counsel Group and chaired by David Brimacombe, head of legal and compliance at Standard Chartered Bank in Dubai.

Keynote speakers at the event included Gerald Lawless, Executive Chairman and Robert Swade, Chief Legal Officer, Jumeirah Group, Gerard Hobby, Chief Legal Officer at Dubai Holding and Hassan Basil Hassan, Senior Legal Counsel at GE Healthcare. A wide range of topics were covered, from the changing role of general counsel, M&A/IPOs, litigation and arbitration, Islamic finance, managing legal costs, structuring legal departments, through to corporate governance and transparency in the Gulf.

The Forum also looked at the future of the legal profession, predicting how the legal in-house market will develop over the coming years and how general counsel must adapt in order to deliver their predictions of growth for 2008 and beyond.

"We are delighted to have launched a Middle East edition of our popular Corporate Counsel Forum Europe event, at the heart of a region experiencing a dramatic rise in the demand for in-house counsel" said John Malpas, Editor-in-Chief of Legal Week.

"Corporate Counsel Forum is the first of a number of initiatives from Legal Week planned for the region in the coming months and the programme has been carefully developed with the needs of the Gulf's general counsel and chief executives in mind", he added.

Note: Legal Week is essential reading for business lawyers, offering clear reporting and hard-hitting analysis of the biggest and most up-to-date news in the legal profession, as well as investigating the issues behind the stories from the UK and around the world. Part of Legal Week, Legal Week Events manages high-profile events, creating unrivalled programmes and networking opportunities while www.legalweek.com provides an online resource with daily news bulletins and an archive of over 27,000 news stories.