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Executive News 2006, Issue No. 20



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Consultancy Ltd.

Editorial

Dear Readers,

As salamu alaikum

This issue covers the probably most busy summer time in the Islamic finance industry.

Also, you will find one news in our own behalf: We advise a new fund company to issue the first GCC Sukuk fund. A fund to combine income with liquidity; essential for a proper asset allocation, which for a Muslim investor, either an individual, Islamic bank or Institution, cannot be achieved with conventional bonds.

BTW: If you are not yet receiving your own copy, just subscribe for free at www.islamicfinance.de

Best regards wa salaams,

*Michael Saleh Gassner
London – Istanbul - Jeddah*

Islamic Finance in Minority Areas

Tayseer Bank France, European Islamic Investment Bank, Lloyds TSB, Scottish Widows, Capitas, Anchor, GFI Group
London, South Africa, Japan

Islamic Banking

DIFX, BSE, Dubai Bank, Unicorn, Albaraka, Shamil, Ithmaar, SICO, Mashreqbank, Morgan Stanley, Ahlibank, BMA, Almasrafy Bank Negara, DFSA, SC, Standard Chartered, Bank Islam, KFH, CIMB, Amlslamic

Fixed Income (Sukuk, Syndication)

DIFC, Oasis, Tabreed, GIB, KNIC, KFH, Albaraka, Kuwait Finance House, Globexbank, Dubai Islamic Bank, Sharjah Islamic Bank, Qatar Islamic Bank, Qatar Real Estate Investment, CMA, BSEC, Merrill Lynch, East Cameron, Aabar, Unicorn, WestLB, Kingdom Installment Company, Bank TuranAlem, YANSAB, Sabic
Japan + China, KFH, PLUS, Nepline, MARC, Monorail, Sukuk bill, PT PLN, Brunei

Wealth Management

Sanad Sukuk fund, Shuaa Capital, Fatwa, Private Equity, Dubai Islamic Bank, DIFC – Trust law, BMA – Trustees, DIFX / FTSE, Dow Jones: BRIC, China Offshore, Pakistan
Prudential, Hong Leon, Fund market, Hwang DBS, Calyon, AmlInvestment, RHB Global Islamic, DB fund administration

Takaful

Prudential, KFH, Albaraka, HSBC, Alfajer, Gambia

Conferences

September: Middle Eastern Investor Forum for Indonesia , Abu Dhabi (19/20) & Jeddah (23/24), contact: dina@batasatazka.com

November, 4-6: Islamic Real Estate Finance, Jeddah,
www.irefme.com

November, 14-16: Structured Products Dubai
www.terrapinn.com/2006/spmena/

November, 13-16: International Islamic Finance Forum, Zurich
www.iiff.net

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Dear Reader,

Tayseer Bank,
France

Gulf News reported on 6 July about the new Islamic bank for France, Tayseer Bank. The Private Placement is organised by FS International Partners SA, Geneva. It shall exist a memorandum of understanding with the French Authorities regarding the terms and conditions. The private placement offers a total of 4 mn shares, representing 80 % of the capital. 2.2 mn shares or 44 % are offered to Islamic financial institutions at 10 Euro per share, in the total amount of 22 mn.

South Africa

Roziana Hamsawi wrote on 13 July in the Business Times about the growing interest of South African banks in Islamic finance as shown by visits of such banks in Malaysia. It is said that AmBank is looking into an Islamic bank branch or service range. This would follow the example of Absa Group.

European Islamic
Investment Banks

European Islamic Investment Bank has appointed Atif Raza as Chief Operating Director, while Jeremy Beswick has been appointed Head of Asset Management. EIIB plans to develop a range of its own Shariah compliant investment funds during the coming year, covering the hedge fund, private equity and real estate asset classes, reported AMEinfo on June, 22.

3rd Annual Islamic
Wealth Management
Event, Geneva

3rd Islamic Wealth Management Event

Seminar & Exhibition

Save the date: 24/25 April 2007
Geneva – Switzerland

www.islamicwealthmanagement.com

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24,25 April

London

London hosted two Islamic finance conferences, one by the Muslim Council of Britain and the other alongside the Islam Expo. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, was cited by various media to intend to make London the gateway for Islamic finance.

The International
Islamic Finance Forum,
Zurich
13-16 November



Scottish Widows

Scottish Widows launches an Islamic Equity Fund for Muslim private investors. The SWIP Islamic Global Equity Fund will be run by Suhail Arain. The firm is a subsidiary of Lloyds TSB Group, reported Reuters on 30 August.

Lloyds TSB, UK

Lloyds TSB launched an Islamic students account, which includes an interest free overdraft offer, reported Myfinance on 23 August.

Anchor Finance,
NY

Anchor Finance Group, LLC, New York has formed its Shariah Board consisting of Yusuf Talal DeLorenzo, Dr Zubair Usmani, Rehan Huda, and Capt. Jamil A. Khan. The company aims to service its region with fund establishment, project financing, real estate financing, venture capital and syndications, for a broad range of industrial and commercial entities, writes the company in a press release dated 1 September.

Capitas

Capitas Group LLC, New York announced to have hired Michael Van Leesten. Capitas is looking to launch its brand ZayanSM Finance late 2006, which shall offer Shariah compliant commercial financing solutions. Capitas Groups defines itself as privately held New York based firm, which specialised in providing Islamic Finance products to the American Muslim Community, released the company on 1 September.

GFI Group

GFI Group INC. opened a new Islamic banking and financing broking desk in London. Steve Mc Millian, the senior managing director, Europe sees Islamic banking, especially the secondary market in Sukuk and other products as attractive. The desk will be headed by Chris Steer released the company on 14 July.

Japan + Islamic Finance

Bahrain Tribune reported on 19 June that Japan is looking closely at Islamic finance to attract Middle Eastern investors to Far East. The government backed Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has assembled a board of advisors comprising four Islamic scholars from Saudi-Arabia, Malaysia and Pakistan. The Japanese Government has also made arrangements to sit on the Malaysian based Islamic Financial Services Board as an observer. Along with JBIC major Japanese banks shall study the industry, the business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun shall have named: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Mizunho Corporate Bank and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFG.

Islamic Finance Pakistan Conference

6-7 December, Karachi



Islamic Banking GCC

Dubai Bank

Dubai Banks conversion plan is approved by the Shariah Board, consisting of Sheikh Taqi Usmani, Sheikh Nizam Yaquby, Dr Mohamed Elgari and Dr Mohammed Daud Bakar, reported Strategiy on 22 August.

Unicorn

Unicorn Investment Bank doubles its capital and achieves a record result in terms of profitability; raising the net profit from USD 5.3 mn to USD 23.8mn. The capital were doubled to USD 233 mn following a fund raising in July 2006., reported Ameinfo on 16 August.

GFH

Gulf Finance House reports as well record profits of USD 117 mn for the first half year, which represents a 87 % increase, reported on 5 August 2006 Ameinfo. The investment bank was rated by S&P with BBB-, outlook stable reported Gulf Daily News on 8 August.

Shamil Banking

Shamil Bank reports an increase in net come of 80.3 % totalling USD 38.23 mn for the first half year. The total assets reached USD 1.61 bn.

Ithmaar

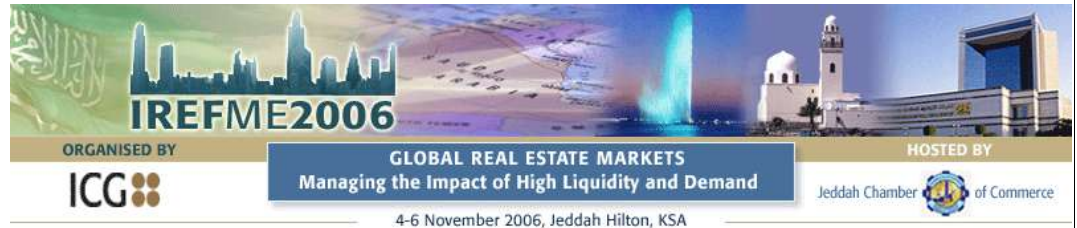
Ithmaar Bank buys 136 mn shares in its sister company Shamil Bank, an USD 410 mn transaction from Dar Al Maal Al Islami Trust (DMI). Ithmaar now owns 60 % of the shares. DMI is acquiring in turn 100 % of Ithmaar's subsidiary Islamic Investment Company of the Gulf (IICG) Bahamas. Ithmaar Bank will also acquire Shamil Banks 25 % shareholding in Meezan Bank, Pakistan, reported Ameinfo on 16 August.

Al Baraka

Securities & Investment Company is mandated by Al Baraka Banking Group to make a market on the shares listed on Bahrain Stock Exchange and Dubai International Financial Exchange, released the company on 3 September.

- Mashreq Bank** Mashreq Bank is launching an Islamic Finance subsidiary, Badr Al Islami, with an initial capital of AED 500 mn. The Shariah Board will consist of Sheikh Abdalla ben Suliman al-Manei, Sheikh Nizam Yaquby and Sheikh Dr Mohamed Elgari, reported Gulf Times on 7 August.
- Morgan Stanley** Morgan Stanley is doubling its 22 person staff in Dubai to service the Islamic finance market, was mentioned in a press release of the DIFC on 6 August.
- Ahlibank** Ahlibank launches Islamic banking services in Qatar under the name Al Hilal Islamic Financial Services, reported The Peninsula on 10 July. The firm will also offer Ijara (Leasing) finance for vehicles and personal finance. The Shariah Board consists of Dr Ali Moheyuldin Quradaghey as Chairman and Dr Fareed Hadi and Dr Abdul Aziz Qassar as members.

Islamic Real Estate Finance 2006



- BMA** The Bahrain Monetary Agency created a Waqf partnering with 8 Islamic banks in Bahrain to finance research, education and training in Islamic finance. The fund of the Waqf will be administered by the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance. The founding members are Unicorn Investment Bank, Bahrain Islamic Bank, Kuwait Finance House (Bahrain), Al Baraka Banking Group, Arcapita Bank, ABC Islamic Bank, Shamil Bank and Gulf Finance House. BMA Banking supervision executive director Khalid Hamad was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees, while Unicorn COO Taher Makkiyah was elected Vice-Chairman.
- Al Masrafy** Al Masrafy bank receives license of the Bahrain Monetary Agency. The bank targets wealthy women in the region, and will be run by women, reported Bobsguide. Gulf Daily News reported on 27 June that the starts with authorised capital of USD 1 bn and a paid up capital of USD 500 mn. The bank targets the female high net worths in the region with their estimated wealth of USD 38 bn. The shareholders of the Masrafy will consist of high net worth individuals, and a number of financial institutions like Qatar Islamic Bank and Kuwait Investment Company.
- DIFX/BSE** DIFX and Bahrain Stock Exchange achieved a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate and suggest companies to list on both exchanges, reported Ameinfo on 30 July

Islamic Banking Asia

- DFSA/SC** The Dubai Financial Services Authority and the Securities Commission, Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to reconcile as far as possible the regulatory approach that each jurisdiction takes in Islamic finance, reported Ameinfo on 15 August.
- Bank Negara** Bank Negara, the Malaysian Central Bank, plans to launch an initiative for the harmonisation of Shariah interpretation. The newly launched Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) appreciates differences in ijihad or reasoning based on analysis and logical inference, so long as they were approved by recognised Shariah advisors, reported The Star Malaysia. The new center allows the usage of foreign currency for banking as well, reported B.K. Sidhu in The Star on 15 August.
- Tax Malaysia** Business Times Malaysia reported on 4 September about the tax reductions offered to Islamic banking and beign extended. It will support the growth and competitiveness of the industry further.

Standard Chartered Bank Islam	Standard Chartered Malaysia and Bank Islam Malaysia entered into an Islamic hedging facility called the Wiqa' Forward Rate Agreement (WFRA), reported Daily Express on 16 August.
KFH	Arif Sharif wrote on 24 August in Gulf News about the Shariah compliant foreign exchange hedging solution of Kuwait Finance House (Malaysia), which is based on Wa'd structuring; the product is called KFH Promissory FX Contract-i. Approval from the Central Bank shall be received. Such products are said to be available for 2 to 3 years, although the market potential shall be big, the current market share is still small. The GCC treasury market is said to be worth between USD 5 bn to USD 75 bn, and the Islamic share gets estimated with 3 %.
CIMB	CIMB plans to set up an Islamic finance business in Thailand in line with its objective to have an Islamic finance operation in all the markets it operates in, reported The Edge Daily on 14 August.
Am Islamic	AmIslamic Bank aims to differentiate itself, wrote B.K. Sidhu in The Star Malaysia on 10 August. The competitive retail market in Malaysia shall be targeted with more Musharaka offers in projects, especially real estate and businesses.
Fixed Income: Sukuk, Syndications - GCC	
DIFC	The DIFC aims to launch a project next year, which encourages for Sukuk listed on the DIFX to be traded via market makers, reported Gulf News on 6 September.
Oasis	Oasis Leasing, Tabreed and Gulf International Bank entered into an Ijara Facility of AED 55 mn to purchase six portable cooling plants, reported Ameinfo on 28 August.
AREF	The Kuwaiti AREF Investment Group mandated jointly ABC Islamic Bank and Standard Chartered Bank to arrange and underwrite a USD 100 mn, 3 year revolving Murahaba financing facility, reported Gulf Daily News on 28 August.
Globex / DIB	Arab News reported on 4 September that Globexbank in Moscow received a USD 20 mn debut Islamic Murabaha facility. The deal was arranged by CCH Europe GmbH a subsidiary of CCH International in UK, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market in London. Kommersan.com on 30 August named Dubai Islamic Bank as counterparty for the transaction.
KNIC	Kuwait's National Industries Company expects a price of 100 basis points over 6 month Libor for its 5 year Sukuk. The Sukuk will have a floating rate payment, and a final maturity of 5 years, amortising 25 % every six months during its last two years, reported Gulf News on 9 September.
QIB	Qatar Islamic Bank considers to issue a Sukuk to finance Lebanese projects, the CEO said. It is aimed to raise about USD 250 to 300 mn, reported Daily Star on 9 September.
Albaraka	Albaraka Banking Group announced to raise USD 200 mn by the end of 2006 and acquire a stake in a financial firm in Saudi Arabia, Emirates Today was cited by Ameinfo on 30 August.
SIB	Sharjah Islamic Bank plans to launch a Sukuk reported Reuters on 23 August. HSBC is the sole book runner and lead manager to be launched in September, subject to market conditions. Khaleej Times cites market sources figuring the Sukuk about USD 200 mn, wrote Gulf News on 24 August. The Sukuk shall be with a floating rate and medium term maturity.
Qatar Real Estate Investment	Qatar Real Estate Investment announces a USD 270 mn Sukuk issue. Mandated Lead Arranger are Qatar National Bank and Qatar National Bank Al Islami with Dubai Islamic Bank, Gulf International Bank and Standard Chartered Bank as the Joint Lead Managers. The bookrunners on the transaction DIB, GIB, SCB and QNB, reported Albawaba on 2 August.

SABIC	<p>Arab News reported on 28 June that Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) floats its SR 1 bn Sukuk. HSBC acted as bookmaker and initial lead arranger for the Islamic tranche. The allocation of the Sukuk to investors was according to Ameinfo on 26 July 49 % of the SR 3 bn was allotted to pension, mutual & other funds, 15 % to Corporates & Institutions, and 36 % to banks in Saudi-Arabia. Gulf Times wrote on 18 July that the Sukuk was priced at 40 basis points above Saudi Interbank Offer Rate. The Sukuk expires in 2026, investors can redeem the bond at face value from Sabic in five years and the Lead Manager is cited to expect only few investors to hold beyond this date.</p>
Tabreed	<p>The Tabreed Sukuk is listed on the London Stock Exchange, based on the new EU directive for prospectus, according to the law firm Allen & Overy, which expects more issues and listings, reported AMEinfo on 26 July. The issue addressed a number of challenges as the EU directive is for debt securities, which the Sukuk is not by nature. The structure involves an Istisna phase for construction and upon delivery a leasing (Ijara) phase. Allen & Overy advised CIMB, Dresdner Bank AG London Branch, and HSBC Bank plc as joint bookrunners and joint lead managers, in connection with the USD 200 mn Trust Certificates due 2011 by Tabreed, through a Cayman Island trust company. Linlaters advised Tabreed and Walkers (Dubai) advised the trust company. The pricing was fixed at 125 basis points over 6-month US Libor, reported Ameinfo on 31 July. The structure was advised by Islamic Finance Consultants.</p> <p>The Tabreed Sukuk was rated as investment grade BBB-/Stable by Standard & Poors reported AMEinfo on 19 June; the Sukuk issue provides negative pledge, cross default clause and a cash waterfall structure linked to distributions, which makes it similar to other senior secured financing resulting in adequate security over Tabreed's assets and is not subordinated to existing Sukuk borrowings.</p>
CMA	<p>Albawaba reported on 22 June that the Saudi Capital Market Authority (CMA) works on a number of new regulations, such as corporate governance but also a regulation to facilitate the issuance of Sukuk, according to Turki Ibrahim Almalik, head of Authorization and Inspection at the CMA.</p>
BSEC	<p>BSEC announced the closing of the US originated East Cameron Sukuk securitising oil and gas. BSEC is the deal structurer and Merrill Lynch the bookrunner. The expected returns are an annual 11.25 % paid on a quarterly basis. The Sukuk was signed by a lot of US conventional investors, reported AMEinfo on 20 June.</p>
Investment Dar	<p>The Unicorn Investment Bank and WestLB London made a roadshow for the USD 150 mn Musharaka Trust Sukuk for Kuwait's The Investment Dar Company. Unicorn and WestLB London are joint lead arrangers, with Unicorn acting as the structuring agent and WestLB's London branch acting as underwriter and book runner. The structure was approved by the Shariah Board of Unicorn Investment Bank.</p>
Aabar	<p>Aabar Sukuk Limited lists USD 460 mn Sukuk on DIFX, reported Ameinfo on 2 July. Deutsche Bank acted as the sole Global Coordinator, sole Bookrunner and Joint Lead Manager of the Sukuk. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank acted as Joint Lead Manager.</p>
KIC	<p>Bahrain Tribune reported on 19 July on the Sukuk of the Kingdom Installment Company (KIC) about USD 18 mn, which will mature 2020 and has proposed profit rate of 6.55 % until month 36 when there will be a purchase undertaking by KIC. Unicorn Investment Bank acted as lead manager, Shariah advisor and joint bookrunner, and Standard Bank as joint bookrunner. The transaction was said to be targeting investors outside the GCC region and placed to 15 % Asian accounts and 85 % European accounts based in London. The transaction is claimed to be the first true sale securitization in the GCC and backed by USD 23 mn of Ijara and Istisna contracts. KIC is a pioneer in housing finance in Saudi-Arabia and received as well a mezzanine credit enhancement from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in form of a stand by Murabaha. The Sukuk carries a credit enhancement from Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development Company in Saudi-Arabia, rated A- by CI, reported Gulf Daily News on 19 July.</p>

Bank Turan Alem	Bank TuranAlem received a USD 200 mn syndicated Mudaraba facility based on Commodity Murabaha Financing Facility, reported Ameinfo on 5 July. Calyon was sole bookrunner and will act as Mudarib in connection with the facility. Ten Mideast banks joined the syndicate. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank joined ADIB and Calyon as top-tier level as a Mandated Lead Arranger. Bank TuranAlem has 24 % market share in corporate lending and 21.1 % market share in demand term retail deposits in Kazakhstan.
YANSAB	Ameinfo reported on 24 June on the USD 5 bn financing for the Sabic subsidiary YANSAB. The Islamic tranche reached the size of USD 850 mn, from which the Islamic Development Bank participated with USD 125 mn. ABN Amro and its 40 % owned affiliate Saudi Hollandi Bank acted as Financial Advisor to YANSAB.
Fixed Income: Sukuk, Syndications – Asia	
Japan Sukuk	Forbes reported on 18 August that the government Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is considering issuing Sukuk in Malaysia to attract Mideastern liquidity. The Financial Times gets cited with an estimated size of USD 300 to 500.
China Sukuk	Kuwait Finance House launches for a Chinese private sector company a first USD 200 mn Sukuk to fund a power plant, reported Ameinfo on 9 September.
Indonesia Sukuk	The finance ministry of Indonesia submits a draft bill to the house of parliament for Sukuk to enable Sovereign Issues, reported Ameinfo on 17 July. The Jakarta Post reported on 25 July that the legal framework will be in place for the first issue in February next year.
KFH(Malaysia)	Kuwait Finance House (Malaysia) signed an Islamic finance facility about USD 230 mn with AirAsia Bhd to finance its aircraft purchases. RHB Sakura Merchant Bankers Bhd is the other mandated partner. Tenure would be 12 years based on leasing. The offer is combined with the Promissory FX contract-I to hedge out currency risk for the transaction, reported Bernama on 15 August.
PLUS	PLUS Expressways Bhd, Malaysia plans to issue RM 6.05 bn zero coupon Sukuk to replace its Bai Bithaman Ajil Islamic debt securities into globally shariah compliant instruments, reported Nick Leong on The Star on 25 August.
Nepline	Nepline Bhd will issue RM 170 mn Sukuk Al Ijarah to finance the purchase for a tanker and for working capital. The Securities Commission approved the issuance on 1 August. The maturity will range from one to 10 years and being issued by the fully owned subsidiary Nepline SPV Sdn Bhd, reported The Edge Daily on 1 August.
MARC	The Malaysian Rating Corporation (MARC) is mulling over plan to have a global harmonised standard of ratings for Islamic papers in order to easier compare the issues, reported Bernama on 14 August.
Monorail	ME Times reported on 8 August that the Monorail Sukuk will be issued once a support letter stating it has the capability to repay the holder has been received by the company. The government is not providing a blanket guarantee for the Monorail project. Lead manager of the Sukuk will be Dubai Islamic Bank.
PT PLN	Indonesian state owned PT PLN has appointed UBS Investment as financial transaction arranger in the issuance of USD 1.6 bn. The Sukuk shall finance to build a coal fired 10,000 MW power plant and contribute 20 % of the necessary finance, reported the news agency Antara.
Brunei	Brunei announced the pricing of its 3 rd short term Sukuk Al Ijarah USD 150 mn with a maturity of 91 days beginning July 13 for a rental rate of 3.35 %, reported Brunei Online. The Sukuk Al Ijarah may become a bi-monthly programme with a total issuance of USD 500 mn.

Wealth Management GCC	
<p>Encore Management: GCC Sukuk Fund</p>	<p>On August 16 the Geneva-based asset manager Encore Management S.A. revealed to Bloomberg's Shanthy Nambiar its plans to launch a sukuk fund for GCC investors. The fund will formally known as the Sanad Investment Co. Ltd., or Sanad Sukuk Fund. For the first time ever the fund provides direct access to sukuk for Islamic banks, trade-finance funds, private banks, as well as directly to individual Muslim investors themselves, according to John Sandwick, Encore's managing director. The fund will invest not more than 25% in Islamic debt substitutes and not less than 75% in sukuk. <i>Editorial note: Michael Gassner is advisor to the new fund management company.</i></p>
<p>Terrapinn's Structured Products World 14-16 November</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>STRUCTURED PRODUCTS WORLD MENA 2006</p> </div> <p>www.terrappinn.com/2006/spmena/</p>
DIFC - Trusts	DIFC introduced a new trust law No 5, which enables the launch of domestic and international Real Estate Investment Trusts, reported Babu Das Augustine, in Khaleejtimes on 14 August.
BMA – Trustees	The Bahrain Monetary Agency announced a new statutory law to govern trustees and trust administration by Royal Decree No 23 of 2006, reported Albawaba on 16 August.
Dow Jones	Dow Jones Islamic Market Indexes launched a series of new Indexes over summer, jointly with JS Group a Pakistan Index, a special index about the emerging markets of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) as well as a China Offshore Index, announced the company in several press releases.
DIFX / FTSE	DIFX launches with FTSE Group two shariah compliant equity indexes, the FTSE DIFX Kuwait 15 Shariah Index and the FTSE DIFX Qatar 10 Shariah Index, reported 7days on 8 August.
Oasis	Oasis Global Funds received upgraded ratings AA from Standard & Poor's Fund Management Ratings, for consistent outperformance of their respective benchmarks. Feeder funds exist in Malaysia and South Africa and additional feeder funds in other regions are expected, reported tradearabia on 20 August.
Shuaa	Shuaa Capital plans to launch the Arab Islamic Gateway Fund, reported Gulf News on 1 September. It shall replicate the performance of their flagship product Arab Gateway Fund.
Fatwa	The Peninsular Qatar discussed on 4 September the impact of fatwa by Islamic scholars on stock listed companies in Qatar. The fatwa do diminish the value of companies significantly if scholars are negative in their fatwa because of conventional loans for example. However, it was criticised that only specialised and qualified scholars shall issue fatwa on stock market issues.
Private Equity	Robert Varley wrote in the Cayman Net News on 19 June about Private Equity in the region. He is partner of the law firm Walkers. In the first half of 2006 31 funds are seeking a total of USD 18.2 bn compared to a total of USD 5.8 bn in the Middle East North Africa Region raised between 1994 and 2005. Funds are getting drawn much faster, about 18 months instead of previously 5 years. Most of the funds it is said do comply in the region with Islamic law. The long time prevalent real estate funds are now joined by more and more infrastructure, healthcare, telecommunications and high technology funds. More funds investing in Pakistan and India are expected.
DIB	Dubai Islamic Bank launched Al Islami Shipping Fund with a target volume of USD 32 mn. The fund's maturity is locked in to 4 years. The estimated profit rate is 8.5 % distributed quarterly. Tufton Oceanic is the Investment Manager of the Al Islamic Shipping Fund., reported Dubai City Guide.

Wealth Management Asia

- Prudential** Prudential makes Malaysia its centre for Islamic fund management, reported Bernama on 30 August. The teams of Prudential Fund Management Bhd and Prudential Assurance Malaysia were merged but is subject to regulatory approval.
- Fund Market** Doreen Leong reported on 15 August on The Edge Daily that Shariah based units grew with a compound annual growth rate of 59 % from 1992 to 2005, the net asset value of RM 8.6 bn (Euro 1.9 bn) accounted only for 8.5 % of the industry's NAV according to the Commission chairman Datuk Zarinah Anwar.
- Hong Leong** Hong Leong Bank Bhd aspires to become the national leader in providing wealth management solutions, reported Doreen Leong in The Edge Daily on 8 August. HLLB offers unit trusts and structured products including third party offers. HLLB entered a strategic relationship with ARB, Amanah Rava Bhd. The latest product is Hong Leong InvestSafe targeting fixed deposit customers with a medium term, capital protected offer and monthly dividend payouts. ARB is a public trustee company owned by the Government. 70 % is invested in fixed income, 20 % in property and 10 % in equities. The fund yields about 5 % to 5.5 %.



9 - 11 December 2006, The Gulf International Convention Centre, Kingdom of Bahrain

www.megaevents.net/wibc/

- Hwang DBS** Hwang DBS Investment introduces an Islamic Cash Fund, targeting at corporate and institutional investors with short term investment goals. The ICashF invests in short term Islamic fixed income securities with a minimum ration of AA3/P (RAM or equivalent), reported Bernama on 23 August.
- Calyon** Calyon plans to offer Islamic deposit services in Singapore, reported Bloomberg on 18 August. Calyon plans to expand the service to Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia after Singapore. In Singapore the bank expects to collect USD 500 mn in 3 to 6 months.
- AmInvestment** Yeow Pooi Ling wrote on The Star Malaysia on 19 August that AmInvestment Group plans to launch four new funds till year end. Two funds are already approved. The partnership fund with Oasis rased so far RM 55 mn.
- RHB Global Islamic** Gan Yen Kuan wrote in The Edge Daily on 11 July about the RHB Global Islamic Portfolio Series (GIPS 1), which invests in Shariah compliant notes issued by Deutsche Bank AG London with capital protection and lock in of highest month-en net asset value. The stocks underlying were 30 US stocks and 20 each in Asia and Europe.
- DB fund administration** Forbes Online reported on 7 June that Deutsche Bank Indonesia branches launches Islamic fund administration services and having secured approval from the National Syariah Board of Malaysia. The opening of this service was in response to the growing Islamic fund business as well as in anticipation of the planned issuance of a sovereign Sukuk in the near future, said Elwin Karyadi, the bank's head of product and client management for domestic custody services.
- AmOasis** Yeow Pooi Ling reports that AmInvestment Group Bhd in Malaysia cooperates with Oasis Group Holding and created the AmOasis Global Islamic Equity Fund as feeder fund for the Oasis Crescent Global Equity Fund, reported The Star Malaysia on 4 September.

Takaful

Prudential	The first out of four takaful licenses in Malaysia is now launched. Prudential plc and Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) started the joint venture Prudential BSN Takaful Berhad targeting the Muslim Malays, released the company on 8 August.
KFH	Kuwait Finance House (Malaysia) teamed up with Syariat Takaful Malaysia Bhd, Takaful Nasional Sdn Bhd and Takaful IHLAS Sdn Bhd to provide a range of Islamic insurance products to offer a full range of takaful products to its clients, reported The Star on 18 August.
Gambia	Gambia discusses a bill to amend the Insurance Act, 2003, wrote Alhagie Jobe on 24 August in The Daily Observer in order to allow takaful. The bill is presented by Dr Aja Isatou Njie Saidy, Vice President and Secretary of State for Women's Affairs to the National Assembly Members for possible ratification.
Albaraka	Al Baraka Banking Group has purchased two takaful covers for the obligations, decisions and business practices of the directors and officers, which may have a direct, or indirect influence of the group's operations, reported Ameinfo on 6 August.
HSBC	HSBC Amanah Takaful is incorporated to complement the range of insurance solutions. The company is capitalised with RM 100 mn. HSBC Insurance holds 49 % of the equity, while Jerneh Asia has 31 % and EPF 20 %, reported The Star Malaysia on 15 July.
Al Fajer	Al Fajer Retakaful Insurance Co. was capitalised with Kuwaiti Dinar 50 mn. (USD 172.9 mn) by Kuwait based Global. Advisor to the new company is HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd. The company targets the reinsurance needs for the 7 in recent years formed takaful operators, which are facing a lack of competition for Islamic reinsurance, reported Michael Bradford in Business Insurance on 11 July.
Conferences	<p>Upcoming Conferences:</p> <p>September: Middle Eastern Investor Forum for Indonesia , Abu Dhabi (19/20) & Jeddah (23/24), contact: dina@batasatazka.com</p> <p>November, 4-6: Islamic Real Estate Finance, Jeddah www.irefme.com</p> <p>November, 14-16: Structured Products, Dubai www.terrapinn.com/2006/spmena/</p> <p>November, 13-16: International Islamic Finance Forum, Zurich www.iiff.net</p> <p>December, 4-6: Islamic Finance Pakistan, Karachi www.islamicfinancepakistan.com</p> <p>December, 14-16: World Islamic Banking Conference, Manama www.megaevents.net/wibc</p> <p>April, 24,-25: 3rd Annual Islamic Wealth Management Event, Geneva www.islamicwealthmanagement.com</p>



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FAX +44 208 209 1079

EMAIL iref2006@icg-events.com

ON LINE www.irefme.com

POST IREFME, 84 Dewsbury Road,
Dollis Hill, London NW10 1EP, United Kingdom

YES, PLEASE REGISTER ME

I wish to attend IREF-ME2006 and would like to register for it. **Print this form, complete it fully and fax to +44 208 209 1079**

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITAL in black ink

Full Name _____

Designation _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Delegate Registration Packages

Please note that in addition to enjoying a **US\$300 discount** on registration fee, eligible VIP Platinum delegates wishing to perform Umrah will enjoy an additional **complimentary 1 night accommodation at Makkah Hilton** (applies only on the 6th November 06 night. As places are limited they will be awarded on first come first serve bases.

PACKAGE DETAILS

PACKAGE	DETAILS	ACCOMM. DATE(S)	FEES	TICK AS APPROPRIATE
1. Silver	Workshop	NA	US\$ 900	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. VIP Silver	Workshop + VIP airport pick-up & drop-off + 1 night stay at the Jeddah Hilton	3 November 06	US\$ 995	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Gold	Conference (2 Days)	NA	US\$ 1795	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. VIP Gold	Conference (2 Days) + VIP airport pick-up & drop-off + 2 nights stay at the Jeddah Hilton	4-5 November 06	US\$ 1995	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Platinum	Workshop+Conference (2 Days)	NA	US\$ 2190	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. VIP Platinum	Workshop+Conference (2 Days) + VIP airport pick-up & drop-off + 3 nights stay at the Jeddah Hilton	3-5 November 06	US\$ 2490	<input type="checkbox"/>

PAYMENT METHOD

Payment is required **BEFORE** the conference date. The conference registration pack will be sent to you once payment has been received. Please send your **payment within 7 days** of the submission of this registration form.

Please select your payment method

By **Certified Cheque / Bank Draft (Ref No. _____)** I have enclosed a cheque.

Cheques should be made **payable to IREFME** and should be sent to:
IREFME, 84 Dewsbury Road, Dollis Hill, London NW10 1EP, United Kingdom
Please note that there is a payment processing charge of US\$35 per cheque/draft.

By **Invoice** Please invoice me. (Payment must be received **within 7 days** of date of invoice)By **Bank Transfer**

I have transferred the money and have paid all bank charges.
Please **quote reference** using your full name when transferring funds, and please **fax us** your remittance/bank transfer receipt upon completion of the transaction.

Please make your payment to:

Account name IC Group • Name of the Bank Bank of Scotland

Branch The Business Bank Inverness,

Account Number 18840 USD01 • Sort Code 12-24-82

IBAN GB97 BOFS 122012 188401 01 • BIC address BOFS GB2LXXX

Please note that there is a payment processing charge of US\$35 per wire transfer.
Kindly reference payment for 'IREFME2006' in wire transfers.

VENUE AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Jeddah Hilton
North Corniche Road
Jeddah 21362, Saudi Arabia
Tel +966 2 659 00 00
Fax +966 2 659 11 11



CANCELLATION

Should you be unable to attend, a substitute delegate will be very welcome at no extra charge. A charge of 50% of the registration fee, plus US\$200 administrative charge will be made for cancellations received in writing at least 3 weeks prior to the conference. Alternatively, you may choose a credit note for the full value of the registration price, which may be put towards another ICG event. The company regrets that no cancellations will be accepted within 6 weeks of the conference start date. Course documentation will, however, be sent to the delegate. ICG reserves the right to alter the programme without notice.

DATA PROTECTION

ICG may contact you by mail, phone or email about products and services offered by ICG and its group of companies, which ICG believes may be of interest to you, or about relevant products and services offered by reputable third parties. ICG may also disclose your contact details to such third parties to enable them to contact you directly. Certain entities to which ICG discloses your contact details are located overseas which have fewer legal safeguards to protect personal data. By returning this form to us, you agree to our processing of your personal information in this way. Please tick the appropriate box if you do not wish to receive such information from: [] the ICG Group; [] or reputable third parties.

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