



Barwa Bank holds “Future of Islamic Finance” seminar Business leaders meet for insight on the bank of the future

Doha, 15 June 2011 - Barwa Bank, Qatar's newest Sharia'h compliant banking service provider, held a seminar entitled “The Future of Islamic Finance” on June 13, 2011 in Four Seasons.

The seminar was attended by over 70 invitees representing the business community in Qatar, who were introduced to the vision and strategy of Barwa Bank and the initiatives it is leading in corporate and business banking area.

After welcoming the guests, Mr. Steve Troop talked about the vision and strategy of Barwa Bank. Following that, Mr. Keith Bradley presented the various initiatives and offerings that Barwa Bank is providing to corporate and business customers, with a focus upon corporate internet banking services which enable clients to manage their accounts and complete various transactions online.

Mr. Steve Troop, CEO, Barwa Bank Group commented on the occasion: “To achieve our goal of becoming a leading Sharia'h compliant banking group, we have developed a unique proposition for each of our customers segments that we believe will position us as the partner of choice for Sharia'h compliant banking services in Qatar. We wanted to share this with our current and potential customers in this seminar, and we have had a very positive reception today”

Mr. Keith Bradley, GM-Head of Banking Group said: “Barwa Bank is new, ambitious and responsive. We will continue to invest with a particular focus on our Corporate and SME customers, and we look forward to partnering with each of our customers to help them seize the opportunities offered to them”

The third speaker in the seminar was Dr. Osama Al Deraie, Executive Member of Barwa Bank's Shariah Board and Cheif Executive of Bait al-Mashoura, who gave an insightful presentation on the guiding principles of Sharia'h Compliant Banking, and the role it plays in driving economic growth.

Dr. Al Deraie commented on the occasion saying :”Sharia'h compliant banking is still relatively new, but it has proved to be resilient and strong during the recent global crisis. This is due mainly to the belief and moral principles that govern all transactions. If the banks want to achieve the prosperity and successes they should work closely with customers in various sectors to apply these principles to innovative Sharia'h compliant banking products and services that meet their needs”



The three speakers then took the stage for an interactive session with the guests, where they answered various questions related to Sharia'h compliant banking in general, and Barwa Bank strategies and operations in particular.

Mr. Samy Kher El-Din, Head of Business Banking Group, Barwa Bank said :“Through our market knowledge and research, we have identified SME as a key growth sectors with over 20000 SMEs operating in Qatar and have established a Business Banking Group to cater to the specific needs of this new sector. This event is a great opportunity for us to share our vision with clients and get their feedback and comments to help us improve and enhance our services”

Mr. Khaled Al Ahabbi, Head of Corporate Banking Group, Barwa Bank also commented on the occasion : "Capitalising on our strong financial situation and innovative suite of products and services, we will continue to work closely with our corporate clients across all sectors to help them achieve their goals and expand their business”

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Note to Editors

About Barwa Bank

BARWA Bank is the newest sharia'h compliant bank in the State of Qatar, established in Doha and licensed & regulated by the Qatar Central Bank.

With an authorised starting capital of QR 2.5 billion, BARWA Bank provides a full range of Shari'ah compliant banking services including retail, corporate and commercial banking, business banking private banking, real estate finance, structured finance, investments and asset management.