



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MICC Announces Winner of Second Essay Contest

5 September 2013 – **Mr Cyril Antony George**, Manager, Risk Inspection & Technical with Vision Insurance Company in Oman, emerged as the winner of the annual Essay Competition organised by MENA Insurance CEO Club (MICC) as part of its ongoing efforts to boost professionalism and increase the core of research material in the market.

Mr George's winning essay on "How can the region cope with climate change and the increasing natural catastrophes in the region?" beat 21 other finalists in a contest that drew widespread participation even from outside the MENA region. The contest, which ran for three months from 15 April and received more entries compared to last year, was open to all insurance and reinsurance professionals based in or doing business in the MENA region.

The Winner receives a cash award of US\$1,000 and trip to Istanbul in October 2013 to attend MICC's 4th Strategic Seminar, as well as a one-year subscription to *Middle East Insurance Review (MEIR)*. The winning essay will also be published in *MEIR*, which runs the secretariat for the MICC.

The panel of four Judges were so impressed with the quality of the entries that they wanted to recognise the runners-up as well:

- First runner-up: **Mr Ashley Moheput**, Qualified Actuary with National Health Insurance Company, Daman, writing on "How can the region cope with climate change and the increasing natural catastrophes in the region?";
- Second runner-up: **Mr Suresh Gunathilaka**, Branch Manager with Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company, writing on "How can insurers take advantage of the mass appeal of social media?"; and
- Third runner-up: **Dr Ludwig Stiftl**, Directeur Commercial Adjoint of Munich Re, writing on "How can takaful deliver on its promise?"

The Panel of four Judges who scored the essays without being privy to the contestants' names are:

HE Dr Bassel Hindawi, immediate past Insurance Commissioner of Jordan;

Dr Michael Bitzer, National Health Insurance Company - Daman, UAE;

Mr Yassir Albaharna, CEO of Arig; and

Mr Sivam Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief of *MEIR* and *Asia Insurance Review*.

About the MICC

The MICC was set up by pro-active leaders in the industry with the vision to become the mouthpiece of the MENA insurance industry. Over time, the MICC aims to serve as the premier think tank for the MENA Insurance Industry. Launched on 1 October 2010, it has achieved the following milestones:

- (i) As an exclusive, by-invitation-only club, the MICC has grown from 12 to 18 members.
- (ii) Responding to the social unrest and tensions and Arab Spring, the MICC hosted a special Conference on Political Risks and Terrorism in the MENA Region in November 2011. Some 120 delegates attended the conference to look at the key challenges facing insurers in the market in responding to the increasing need and demand for cover.
- (iii) The MICC conducted an extensive survey on the Future of MENA Insurance. The survey results were released in April 2012.
- (iv) It has held three Strategic Seminars for its members – the first at the hallowed grounds of the Chartered Insurance Institute in London in November 2010 (theme: "Lessons from London for MENA"), the second in Beirut in November 2011 (theme: "A Dashboard for CEOs"), and the third in Abu Dhabi in October 2012 (theme: "From CEO Dashboard to Strategic Implementation").

The Club is led by the Steering Committee consisting of **HE Dr Bassel Hindawi**, immediate past Insurance Commissioner of Jordan; **Mr Yassir Albaharna**, CEO of Arig; and **Mr Sivam Subramaniam**, Editor-in-Chief of *MEIR* and *Asia Insurance Review*. Its members include:

- **Mr Walid A Sidani**, Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company, UAE;
- **Mr Fady Shammas**, Arabia Insurance Company S.A.L., Lebanon;
- **Mr Fateh Bekdache**, Arope Insurance S.A.L., Lebanon;
- **Mr Mahmood Al Soufi**, Bahrain National Holding Company BSC;
- **Mr Michael Gertsch**, Gulf Re, UAE;
- **Mr Mahomed Akoob**, Hannover Retakaful, Bahrain;
- **Mr Wasef Jabsheh**, International General Insurance, Jordan;
- **Mr Imad Abdel Khaleq**, Jordan Insurance Company, Jordan;
- **Mr Ayman Adel El Hout**, Group Vice President - Operations, Medgulf, Bahrain;
- **Mr Nagib M Bahous**, MIG Group, Bahrain;
- **Dr Michael Bitzer**, National Health Insurance Company - Daman, UAE;

- **Mr Patrick Choffel**, Oman Insurance Company, UAE;
- **Mr Fahad Al-Hesni**, Saudi Re, Saudi Arabia;
- **Mr Farid Chedid**, SEIB Insurance & Reinsurance Co, Qatar; and
- **Mr Tarek A Hayel Saeed**, United Insurance Company, Yemen.

The MICC's secretariat services are provided by *MEIR*.

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