



**For Immediate Release:  
Launch of CEO Club for Insurers in the Middle East and North Africa**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**1st October 2010-** Insurance and Reinsurance leaders in the MENA region have banded together to launch the first ever Middle East North Africa Insurance CEO Club (MICC) with the mission to provide a pro-active force to help the region's insurance industry face the challenges of the day in an increasingly globalised business environment.

The MICC with 14 active members from the MENA markets is being launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October to serve as a "think-tank" to shape and spearhead the future development of the insurance industry in the region, and to provide a forum for brainstorming ideas on the immediate and long-term strategic needs and priorities of the MENA insurance markets. It will also identify key priorities for relevant research to meet the information gap and needs of the market.

Led by a steering committee comprising **HE Dr Bassel Hindawi**, immediate past Insurance Commissioner of Jordan, **Mr Yassir Albaharna**, CEO of Arig and **Mr Sivam Subramaniam**, Editor-in-Chief of *MiddleEast Insurance Review* and *Asia Insurance Review*, the exclusive Club will help fill the knowledge and resource gaps in the region and offer a serious networking platform to exchange ideas and share topics of concerns while finding active solutions starting with recommended courses of action. Over time, the Club will evolve to lead the industry regionally and become the voice of the Middle East insurance markets in the international arena.

The MICC will hold an annual meeting to brainstorm ideas and the first formal meeting will be held in London in November of this year with a strategic seminar themed: Lessons from London for MENA Insurance Markets.

With the city being a key insurance and reinsurance centre, the inaugural seminar will aim to explore the breadth and depth of the value-added integrated services that make London a first class insurance centre and draw lessons for the MENA region. This is to provide a vision for the future of the MENA market including self-reflections on where we are and where we want to go.

The Club, whose secretariat services will be provided by MiddleEast Insurance Review (MIR), has a total of 14 CEO members including **Mr Walid A Sidani**, ADNIC, UAE; **Mr Nagib M Bahous**, ACE Group of Companies, Bahrain; **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 Co BSC; **Mr Riadh Karray**, BEST RE, Tunisia; **Mr Bassam Hussein**, Doha Insurance Company (QSC), Qatar; **Mr Gail Norstrom**, Gulf Re, UAE.; **Mr Wasef Jabsheh**, International General Insurance, Jordan; **Mr Ashraf Bseisu**, Solidarity Group Holdings, Bahrain; and **Mr Tarek A Hayel Saeed**, United Insurance Company, Yemen.

Full details of the club can be obtained at the website:  
<http://www.menainsurancececlub.com>

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