

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Overwhelming response to inaugural Middle East Insurance Industry Awards**

8 July 2014 – *Middle East Insurance Review (MEIR)* has received an overwhelming number of entries to the first Middle East Insurance Industry Awards (MIIA), co-branded with the DIFC to recognise and salute excellence in the industry.

“The MIIA aims to recognise and salute excellence in the Middle East insurance industry, and to actively contribute to greater professionalism. Response to the Awards has been better than expected and shows that the industry is proud of its achievements and wants to be measured and achieve higher standards,” said Mr Sivam Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief of *MEIR*.

Entries to the MIIA closed on 30 June after a nomination period of three months. Modelled after the internationally acclaimed Asia Insurance Industry Awards, now into its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the MIIA is fully transparent with defined criteria for the 14 categories. The integrity of the MIIA system is underpinned by a panel of 22 distinguished Judges drawn from local, regional and international insurance leaders. Scores will be tabulated and audited by independent auditors EY.

Judging day will be 12 October, with the results kept secret until the Gala Dinner on 17 November 2014 in conjunction with the MENA Rendezvous. All these events will be held in Dubai.

**The awards categories are:**

Life Insurance Company of the Year  
General Insurance Company of the Year  
Health Insurer of the Year  
Educational Service Provider of the Year  
Innovation of the Year  
Service Provider of the Year  
Law Firm of the Year  
Broker of the Year  
Reinsurance Broker of the Year  
Reinsurer of the Year  
Personality of the Year  
Family Takaful Company of the Year  
General Takaful Company of the Year  
Retakaful Company of the Year

**The Judging Panel comprises:**

Regional Judges

Mr Abdul Khaliq R Khalil, Secretary General, General Arab Insurance Federation (GAIF);  
Dr Bassel Hindawi, former Insurance Commissioner, Insurance Commission of Jordan  
Mr Fahad Al Hesni, Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Reinsurance Company  
Mr Fareed Lutfi, Secretary General, Emirates Insurance Association;  
Mr Fateh Bekdache, General Manager, AROPE Insurance;  
Mr Jason Light, Chief Executive Officer, Emirates Insurance Company;  
Mr Mahomed Akoob, Managing Director, Hannover ReTakaful;  
Mr Mario Valdes, General Manager, MetLife Alico Gulf;

Mr Mark Cooper, Director, Insurance, Reinsurance & Captives, Dubai International Financial Centre Authority;  
Dr Michael Bitzer, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Insurance Company – Daman;  
Mr Steve Dixon, Regional Managing Director, ACE Group MENA Regional Office;  
Mr Walid A Sidani, Chief Executive Officer, Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company;  
Mr Yassir Albaharna, Chief Executive Officer, Arab Insurance Group; and  
Mr Younis Al Sayed, Chairman, Bahrain Insurance Association.

#### International Judges

Mr Ashok Kumar Roy, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, General Insurance Corporation of India;  
Mr Geoff Riddell, Regional Chairman, Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa, Zurich Insurance Group;  
Dr Kai-Uwe Schanz, Representative, The Geneva Association;  
Mr Michael J Morrissey, President & Chief Executive Officer, International Insurance Society;  
Mr Patrick Liedtke, Managing Director & Head of Financial Institutions Group – EMEA, BlackRock;  
Dr Peter F Hugger, Chief Executive Officer, Echo Reinsurance Limited;  
Dr Roger Sellek, Chief Executive Officer, A.M. Best – EMEA & Asia Pacific; and  
Dr Sandy Scott, Director General, Chartered Insurance Institute.

#### **The MIIA is sponsored by:**

Arig  
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Munich Re  
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For more details, visit [www.meinsurancereview.com/meirawards](http://www.meinsurancereview.com/meirawards) or contact:

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#### **About *Middle East Insurance Review***

Established in 2006, *Middle East Insurance Review (MEIR)* has become an integral part of the marketplace as a highly professional magazine meeting the information needs of insurance practitioners, not only those in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), but those interested in doing business in the region.

*MEIR* is the magazine of choice for both conventional insurance as well as takaful players in these markets, as the only publication with a dedicated section on the global takaful industry. Due to its reputation and extensive reach, *MEIR* is the official publication for major industry events such as the GAIF and FAIR Conferences. In addition, *MEIR* has made its mark through technical conferences adding value to the industry.

*MEIR* also manages the secretariat services of the prestigious and exclusive MENA Insurance CEO Club (MICC). Together with its sister publication, *Asia Insurance Review*, *MEIR* has nearly 30 years of experience in covering the insurance industry.