



PRESS RELEASE

MICC Announces Winner of Energise Insurance in MENA Essay Contest

Mr Mohamad Chami, Senior Reinsurance Officer – AROPE Insurance Company, Lebanon, emerged the winner of the first ever 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 Chami's winning essay on "Is there a need for a special green fund to be set up to help industry cope with the challenges of global warming?" beat the 12 other finalists in a contest that drew widespread participation from even outside the MENA region. The contest which ran for three months from 1 May was open to all insurance and reinsurance professionals based in or doing business in the MENA region.

The Winner receives an all-expenses-paid trip to London to attend a one-day MBA Course on 26 October 2012 hosted by the Chartered Insurance Institute. The winning essay will also be published in Middle East Insurance Review, which runs the secretariat for the MICC.

A spokesman for the MICC said that the panel of four Judges were so impressed with the quality of the entries that they wanted to recognise the first and second runner up as well. **Ms Basma Barakat**, Asst GM, Technical, Arab Reinsurance Company, Lebanon who also wrote on the same topic came in second while **Mr Mark Jeffrey**, Deputy GM, Technical, Kuwait Re came in third with his entry on "The future of insurance in MENA – Who will lead?".

The Panel of four Judges are:

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

Mr Mahomed Akoob, Hannover ReTakaful, Bahrain

Mr Yassir Albaharna, CEO of Arig;

Mr Sivam Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief of Middle East Insurance Review & Asia Insurance Review

About MICC

MICC was set up by pro-active leaders in the industry with the vision for the Club is 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) Responding to the social unrest and tensions and Arab Spring, MICC hosted a special Conference on Political Risks and Terrorism in the MENA Region in November in 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.
- (ii) It conducted an extensive survey on Future of Mena Insurance. The survey results were released in April 2012.
- (iii) The MICC as an exclusive by invitation only club has grown from 12 to 17 members.
- (iv) It has held two Strategic Seminars for its members – one at the hallowed grounds of the CII in London in November 2010 with the theme: Lessons from London for MENA and the second one in Beirut in November 2011 with the theme: A Dashboard for CEOs.

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 Middle East Insurance Review & Asia Insurance Review.

Members include: **Mr Walid A Sidani**, Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company, UAE; **Mr Fady Shammam**, 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 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 Nagib M Bahous**, MIG Holdings, Bahrain; **Mr Patrick Choffel**, Oman Insurance Company, UAE; **Mr Farid Chedid**, SEIB Insurance & Reinsurance Company, Qatar; **Mr Ashraf Bseisu**, Solidarity Group Holdings, Bahrain; and **Mr Tarek A Hayel Saeed**, United Insurance Company, Yemen.

The MICC's secretariat services are provided by Middle East Insurance Review.

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