



For Immediate Release

Three New Members Join MICC

2 February 2014 – Three new members, including the first lady member, have been inducted to the MENA Insurance CEO Club (MICC), bringing the total to 16. There are three more names in the pipeline as part of the Club's annual renewal exercise.

The three new members are: Mrs Lamia Ben Mahmoud, Chairman & General Manager of Société Tunisienne de Réassurance (Tunis Re), the first lady member of the four-year-old Club; Mr Ronald Chidiac, General Manager of Arab Reinsurance Company (Arab Re); and Mr Christian Vogel, CEO of Gulf Reinsurance Limited (Gulf Re).

Dr Bassel Hindawi, Steering Committee Member said: "The addition of three eminent members to the MICC, given their solid careers and commitment to the industry and the region, will be a boost to the Club's mission to serve as a think tank to shape and spearhead the future development of the regional insurance industry."

Mr Christian Vogel takes over from outgoing member Mr Michael Gertsch, who stepped down as CEO of Gulf Re last December. He was formerly the Chief Underwriting Officer of the company which he joined in 2010.

Mrs Lamia Ben Mahmoud joined Tunis Re as Chairman and General Manager in 2009. She had also served as Director of the General Committee of Insurance of the Ministry of Finance and was a Government Commissioner to the Advisory Committee on Insurance from 2004 to 2008, and a permanent member in the National Commissions for reforms in health insurance and retirement.

Mr Ronald Chidiac, General Manager of Arab Re since 2010, was previously a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Lebanon, developing its actuarial practices within the MENA region.

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 in 1 October 2010, it has achieved the following milestones:

- (i) As an exclusive, by-invitation-only club, the MICC has grown from 12 to 16 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 four 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”), and the fourth in Istanbul in October 2013 (theme: “Strategic Leadership and its Impact on Business”).

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. Its members include:

- Mr Walid A Sidani, Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company, UAE
- Mr Ronald Chidiac, Arab Reinsurance Company, Lebanon
- Mr Fateh Bekdache, AROPE Insurance, Lebanon
- Mr Christian Vogel, Gulf Reinsurance Ltd, UAE
- Mr Mahomed Akoob, Hannover ReTakaful, Bahrain
- Mr Imad Abdel Khaleq, Jordan Insurance Company, Jordan
- Mr Nagib M Bahous, MIG Holding, Bahrain
- Dr Michael Bitzer, National Health Insurance Company – Daman, UAE
- Mr Patrick Choffel, Oman Insurance Company, UAE
- Mr Farid Chedid, SEIB Insurance & Reinsurance Company, Qatar
- Mr Fahad Al-Hesni, Saudi Reinsurance Company, Saudi Arabia
- Mrs Lamia Ben Mahmoud, Société Tunisienne de Réassurance, Tunisia
- Mr Tarek A Hayel Saeed, United Insurance Company, Yemen

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

Full details of the club are at www.menainsurancececlub.com

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