

## Partnership with the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Islamic Banking Conference Press Release

Zurich, October 2016



**The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is proud to announce its partnership with the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC).**

### **Swiss Arab Network to become Associate Partner of the WIBC 2016**

The Swiss Arab Network is proud to become an Associate Partner of the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> World Islamic Banking Conference taking place from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in the Kingdom of Bahrain with its strategic partner the Central Bank of Bahrain.

### **Swiss Arab Network as a gateway between Swiss and Arab financial centers**

This partnership builds on the strategy of our network and marks a series of activities and events in 2016 to build bridges, explain similarities and differences and highlight opportunities. An overview here:

- On the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the first ever Islamic finance forum in Switzerland was launched at the 5-star Hotel Atlantis in Zurich with world leading institutions as partners and more than 110 financial professionals attending from over 15 countries (more details [here](#) and video [here](#))
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 a private Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB)-SAN Financial Services Luncheon at the 5-star Hotel Park Hyatt private dining room, with 16 invited executives from Swiss Re-insurance, Banks and Swiss Fintech
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 upon invitation of the the Bank Kader Verein Zurich (1600 members in management positions at banks in Zurich) to lecture with two veteran experts of our network on i) the difference between sustainable Islamic Banking and Swiss Banking and ii) how to develop an Islamic Finance Private Banking Platform in Switzerland at the UBS Gruenenhof Center (more details [here](#))

### **World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC): A 23-year heritage**

For 23 years, the WIBC has solidified its reputation as the indisputable compass for the global Islamic finance and banking industry, building a robust platform across the globe.

This year's conference theme is "Economic Uncertainties: Vigilance & Growth", reflecting the fact that global economy finds itself at an important inflection point. WIBC 2016 is aimed at enabling Islamic finance to converge, strengthen and growth itself as an ecosystem whilst equipping leaders with breakthrough insights to navigate the complexity of the global financial system.

Key features for WIBC 2016 include a Governors' Power Table; Guru Speaker; specialized streams focused on banking leadership opportunities and asset management best practices; thought leadership from leading strategy consultants; and panel sessions focused on SMEs and entrepreneurship, the impact of innovation in financial technology ("fintech"); and much more.

## **WIBC: the Middle East's definitive thought leadership platform**

Over the past 23 years, WIBC has served as the definitive platform for thought leadership, playing host to luminaries such as Sir Howard Davies, Former Chairman of the European Central Bank, Professor Robert Kaplan of Harvard Business School, Nicholas Naseem Taleb, the author of “The Black Swan,” and Dr. Mark Mobius, Emerging Markets Guru and Executive Chairman of Templeton Emerging Markets.

WIBC 2015 witnessed the launch of no less than 8 intelligence reports by Thomson Reuters, EY, National Bank of Kazakhstan, Toronto Financial Services Alliance, Middle East Global Advisors, Bank of Khartoum and other leaders. Over the years, WIBC has partnered with Strategy Associates such as EY, Thomson Reuters, Harvard University and McKinsey & Company to produce cutting-edge pragmatic insights to serve the Islamic finance, banking and insurance industries.

For more information visit <http://wibc2016.com>

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### **About Swiss Arab Network**

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organization with headquarter in Zurich and affiliations in the Arab world that strives to bridge gaps, promote sustainable exchange and intensify the mutual understanding among Swiss and Arab people. SAN is a networking platform and organizes events and gives speeches on topics like Swiss and Arab finance, business, culture, art and film. Established and high-profile organisations from Switzerland and the Arab world are members of the network. More on [www.swissarab.org](http://www.swissarab.org)

### **About WIBC**

The team behind WIBC, Middle East Global Advisors, are the conveners of the ground-breaking Global Ethical Finance Forum, in strategic partnership with the Scottish Government, and the co-organisers of the Responsible Finance Summit, in strategic partnership with Bank Negara Malaysia. A key focus at WIBC 2016 is identifying ways in which Islamic finance can connect with the broader ethical finance industry and benefit from collaboration with other ethical finance sectors to support their common growth prospects – SRI, ESG and faith-based investing – as well as looking at the model of community banking and microfinance to promote financial inclusion. More on <http://wibc2016.com>