

The First Arab Female Executive Among The Top 50 Women in World Business

Dr. Nahed Taher, CEO and Co-founder of Gulf One Bank holds 23rd position

20 November 2011

Dr. Nahed Taher, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Gulf One Investment Bank was ranked in the 23rd position in the Financial Times' top 50 women in world business report for 2011 as part of the Financial Times' Women at the Top magazine. Dr. Taher is the only Arab woman to receive such recognition for the third consecutive year after ranking 25th and 24th in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Dr. Taher is a leading figure in the region and a pioneer as a founder and CEO of Gulf One Investment Bank, and the first female CEO in the Gulf region. She is a leading economist and executive banker who strongly believes in creating and sustaining the development of wealth and prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and beyond.

Commenting on her ranking in FT's top 50 women in world business, Dr. Taher said, "It is an honour to be among the top female chief executives and to represent Arabian women in such rankings. Being a female CEO in our part of the world is challenging and interesting at the same time."

The top 50 were selected by an expert jury of seven members who ranked executives managing a group's controlling company and who have served at least 12 months in the main executive role. A range of criteria were used to assess the candidates: the executive's achievements; size, scope and complexity of the company; and competitive landscape.

"Women by providing top professionalism in their work and collaborating with their male peers could only achieve great success. I am not gender biased as I look for brains who could deliver the tasks needed and also be creative. However, if women rise up in knowledge and hard work among their teams from both genders, I ask and expect from policy-makers and institutional leaders to put them in their right place whether in management or top technical positions. Increased participation of both talented genders at work would add immense value to the real economy and development, which is very essential especially in the current global economic disturbances. I hope that the future sees more women executives in our region.

There are many talented young women in the region and I encourage them to shine as tomorrow's leaders." Dr. Taher concluded.

-END-

Notes to the Editor:

Gulf One Investment Bank B.S.C. (c) (“Gulf One”)

Gulf One is a leading knowledge based investment bank focused on providing professional and high-quality infrastructure related investments and opportunities for the MENA region. Opportunities are identified and developed through an independent approach based on knowledge, expert insight and innovative thought, which produces secured, ethical and profitable results for all stakeholders and brings meaningful contributions to society. Gulf One was jointly founded in 2006 by Dr. Nahed Taher, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Mr. Ziyad Omar, Chief Investment Officer (CIO).

Gulf One’s primary focus is on vital economic sectors including water, power, mining, transport and down-stream petrochemicals. Guided by Islamic principles, Gulf One’s products and services offer unique financial solutions custom tailored to meet and build regional capacity. The Bank’s financial model is based on a complete alignment of interests with clients, demonstrating a transparent, long-term commitment to them.

Gulf One is an independent investment bank and exclusively focuses its core products and services on large scale energy-related and infrastructure development projects. The aim of the bank is to facilitate sustainable economic development and create wealth and prosperity.

Headquartered in Bahrain, Gulf One operates under a conventional wholesale banking license granted by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), CR 62199, with a paid-up capital of USD 113,888,889. www.gulf1bank.com

For any enquiries, please contact our Communications department on:

Tel: +973 1710 2554

Fax: +973 1710 0063

Email: media@gulf1bank.com