



PRESS RELEASE

After successful launch in November
Another Success for the second Networking Event for Financial Professionals.

Sh.Hanadi reaffirms the commitment to supporting the growth of the Qatari economy and contributing to developing its financial sector
Steve Forbes praises the Qatari Leadership and the country's long term prospects

Amwal, Qatar Financial Centre and Qatari Businessmen Association held the second Networking Event.

Doha, March 4, 2007 – The three leading local business and financial organizations which have established a local platform for networking and financial industry development held its second event.

The Networking Event for Financial Professionals is geared to professionals working in the financial sector, and those in financial positions in the wider business community. Amwal, Qatar Financial Centre and Qatari Businessmen Association each invite participants from clients and other professional contacts.

The group offers an opportunity for financial professionals to share information on ethics, corporate governance, and best practices in the field of finance among other finance-related topics.

“We were delighted with the great response to our first event” said **Sheikha Hanadi Nasser bin Khaled Al Thani**, Vice Chairperson and Managing Director of Amwal. “The senior level of professionals attending, and the real mix of people across the various businesses not only based in Qatar but also in the region, prompted some very good comments,” she added.

Our survey after the event confirmed that this kind of activity is much needed by the financial community in Qatar. As an economy, and as a community, we are growing quickly and the opportunities for new business are multiplying exponentially. And to illustrate more how quickly we are growing the QFC has issued 15 licenses to new companies since our last event in November. Also we at Amwal have been busy and we will be launching the first **MENA Special Opportunities Fund** in Qatar shortly.

The very fact that Qatar is holding a Conference such as the Forbes CEO Middle East Forum is an indicator of the level of financial and business maturity we have reached.

The financial outlook is bright and we would all I am sure confirm our commitment to supporting the growth of the Qatari economy and contributing to the development of its financial sector. “



The event that was held on 28 February coincided with the conclusion of the Forbes Middle East CEO Forum in Doha. **Steve Forbes**, President, CEO and Editor in Chief of Forbes magazine, attended the event and addressed the participants :

"I think that the measures Qatar have been taking in recent years underscores why the long term prospects of this country are very good. It has recognized that you cannot just depend on oil and gas and that you have to diversify the economy. Everyone pays lip service to education, but Qatar has done far more than others, for instance by bringing in universities such as Georgetown and Carnegie Mellon. This shows seriousness and purpose that I think ensures Qatar's long time future. We tend to think that oil and gas are natural resources – they are not. The real source of wealth is not physical things, it is metaphysical. It is the brain, and education is essential for bringing out the potential of people's minds."

The events will take place quarterly is by invitation only, and will be tailored to fit the needs of the professionals that are expected to participate. In order to do this, the founding groups have already conducted a post-event survey of those who were invited to the first event. This produced some very positive results and confirmed the need for such a body to meet on a quarterly basis.