

FAAIF to Produce Africa Islamic Investment and Economic Forum (AIIEF) on March 14-15, 2016 in Dubai, UAE.

It is the right time for Africa to engage in Islamic finance.

DUBAI, UAE, January 8, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Camille Paldi, CEO of FAAIF announces the Africa Islamic Economic and Investment Forum "AIIEF," to be held in Dubai, UAE on March 14-15, 2016 at the Sofitel Hotel Jumeirah Beach. The purpose of the event is to provide a forum to discuss the potential of Islamic finance and investment in Africa and enable a platform where GCC and foreign investors can meet with African companies and professionals to forge business relationships and stimulate the economic growth of Africa and the world. Islamic finance is gaining momentum around the world with major banks and financial institutions in Asia, Europe, Africa, the United States, and Australia engaging in the different modes of



Islamic finance, issuing million dollar sukuks, developing takaful (Islamic insurance) companies, and implementing legislation and regulations in order to enable Islamic finance transactions. The business leaders of most nations of the world including IMF Chief Christine Lagarde recognize Islamic finance as a valuable business model and form of alternative finance to stimulate economic growth, raise funds for businesses and government projects, and diversify assets, investments, and investor classes. Africa is now embracing large-scale Islamic finance as it seeks to tap cash-rich Middle Eastern Investors to finance large infrastructure programs. The Seychelles and Ghana became the first countries in the region to issue Islamic bonds, in 2006 and 2007 respectively, but it was not until 2011-12 that others followed suit. In 2013, Nigeria became the first big economy in sub-Saharan Africa to use the \$100bn a year market for sukuk, or Islamic bonds with a \$62 Million Dollar Sukuk. Soon after, Senegal raised \$200 Million through a sukuk issuance in 2014. That sukuk was the first major sukuk issued by a West African nation and achieved a profit rate of 6.25% with a four year maturity. Rolling with the African Sukuk momentum, South Africa issued a \$500m sukuk, which was more than four times subscribed, with an order book of \$2.2bn according to the SA Treasury, indicating that appetite for emerging market Islamic bonds matches that of developed world issuance. The bond, which matures in June 2020, is a Sukuk Al-Ijarah structure with cash flows based on infrastructure assets, although the country has not made public what these assets are. Even Gambia

and Sudan have issued sukuk, however, for small amounts and on a short-term basis.

The Ivory Coast is to become the latest state to issue a Sovereign Sukuk as it recently launched its debut five year 150 billion CFA issuance sukuk priced at a profit rate of 5.75%. The sukuk is being arranged by the Islamic Corporation for Private Sector Development (ICD). The ICD signed an agreement in April 2015 for the implementation of a five-year Sukuk programme for 300 billion CFA to be issued in two equal phases of 150 billion CFA each. A road show was held in Saudi Arabia from 14 to 19 November 2015 and followed a recent upward revision of the Ivory Coast's sovereign rating by Moody's from B1 to Ba3. The launch ceremony held in Abidjan was attended by the Prime Minister and Finance Minister as well as guests from the IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank as well as domestic CEO's of local banks.

Sukuk are particularly suited for sub-Saharan Africa, a region that needs huge investments in infrastructure, from power stations and railways to ports and roads. In addition, Morocco, Tunisia, and Kenya are laying the legal groundwork to issue sukuk and operate Islamic banks. Tunisia also has a sukuk issuance in the pipeline, however, delayed its planned issue of \$500 million in Islamic bonds until the third quarter of this year in order to allow parliament time to rectify a law concerning the sale. Kenya's financial

regulator has proposed a separate regulatory framework for Islamic financial institutions as part of a broad ten-year strategy designed to boost capital markets in east Africa's biggest economy. According to Ernst and Young, the global sukuk market is projected to reach \$900 Billion by 2017. The UK drew orders of more than £2bn from investors in the UK, Middle East, and Asia for its sale of £200m of

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Shariah-compliant debt in June and earlier this month Hong Kong raised \$1bn in its debut Islamic bond issue, attracting nearly \$5bn in orders. It is the right time for Africa to engage in Islamic finance to attract funds for infrastructure and government projects as well as raise capital for African businesses. Camille Paldi can be contacted at camille@faaif.com.



The poster features a top section with a woman's face where the map of Africa is overlaid. Text on the right reads: "Africa ISLAMIC INVESTMENT & Economic Forum by FAAIF". Below this, the full name "FAAIF=Franco-American Alliance for Islamic Finance" is written, followed by a star symbol and the dates "MARCH 14-15, 2016 DUBAI, UAE". A call to action "Save the Dates!" is placed below. A text box on the right explains the forum's purpose: "It is the right time for Africa to engage in Islamic finance to attract funds for infrastructure and government projects as well as raise capital for African businesses and stimulate growth in the African economies. The forum provides a space for Investors, government, businesses, the public and private sector, academics, and students to meet, discuss, and forge the new economic path for Africa in the crossroads of continents, Dubai, UAE." The bottom section contains the FAAIF logo (a crescent moon and a circle), the text "FAAIF Ltd.", contact information for Camille Paldi (email: camille@faaif.com, phone: +971 (0)4 238 4962 | +971 (0)56 950 0562), and the website www.faaif.com.

Event Website: <http://africa-islamic-forum.faaif.com/>

FAAIF Limited is a legal and management consultancy firm servicing clients in Islamic banking, finance, takaful, and the halal industry. FAAIF Events is an events production and management company <http://www.faaif.com>.

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profit rate of 5.75%.

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