Integrating Shariah compliant products into your investment strategy

Thursday, November 8, 2007
Plaisterer’s Hall, LONDON

Financial News is delighted to announce its inaugural Islamic Finance conference. The one day event provides up-to-date information on the most pressing issues related to Islamic finance in the UK.

Speakers include:

- Mr. Mohammed Abdel-Haq, Global Head, HSBC Ammanah Private Banking
- Mr. Mohammed Amin, Partner, PwC
- Mr. Warren Edwardes, CEO, Delphi Risk Management
- Mr. Ken Eglinton, Director, UK Islamic Financial Services, Ernst & Young
- Mr. Ruari Ewing, Advisor – Primary Markets, International Capital Market Association Ltd
- Mr. Ranjeet Guptara, Chief Operating Officer for Treasury and Budget Finance, Depfa Bank
- Mr. Phelan Hill, Corporate Taxation Department, HM Treasury
- Mr. Mohammad Khan, Director, PwC
- Mr. Ali Mashayeki, Europe and Middle East Team, Wholesale Banks and Investment Firms, Financial Services Authority (FSA)
- Ms. Shireen Muhiudeen, Principal Fund Manager, Corston-Smith Asset Management
- Mr. Lawrence Oliver, Director, DDCAP Limited
- Dr. Natalie Schoon, CFA, Head of Product Development, Bank of London and the Middle East plc.
- Mr. Philip Smith, Senior Director, Fitch Ratings
- Mr. Michael Thomas, Director General, The Middle East Association

Panel discussions include:

- Islamic financial regulation in the UK.
- How to develop successful Shariah compliant investment products for the UK market and what the most important product lines are.
- What are the crucial things to know about international Islamic finance regulation, upcoming market changes and the state of the industry?
- Earning potential with Islamic finance in the UK.
- How to define London’s role as global centre for Islamic finance versus financial centres in the Middle East and South East Asia.

Technology Partner:

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08:30 – 08:50  Registration & Coffee

08:50  Chairman’s welcome

09:00 – 09:30  Keynote address: Introduction into Islamic finance
• The philosophy behind Shariah compliant investment and the basic principles of Islamic investment banking.
• What are the specific implications of the Shariah compliant law?
• What are the main differences to western style business and is Islamic finance suitable for the UK market?

09:30 – 10:20  Panel discussion: Islamic financial regulation in the UK
• Islamic finance regulation in the UK since 2005.
• Why is the UK regulation so successful in comparison with other western countries like Germany, France and the US which don’t have at this point fully fledged Islamic finance retail banks?
• A new tax regime for SUKUK bonds or Islamic securisation?
• Risk management and compliance with Basel II in Islamic banks. What are the shortcomings, where are common areas and what needs to be addressed?

10:20 – 10:50  Coffee

10:50 – 11:40  Panel discussion: How to develop successful Shariah compliant investment products for the UK market and what are the most important product lines?
• What are the traditional Islamic asset classes?
• Introduction into Islamic real estate, equity funds and short term commodity investments amongst others.
• Description of different product lines such as:
  - Sukuk funds
  - Property funds
  - Personal pensions funds
  - Shariah compliant government bonds
  - Shariah compliant CPPR
  - Who are the key market players within Islamic finance in the UK and the differences between fully fledged Islamic financial institutions headquartered in London and international investment banks with integrated Islamic finance operations.
  - Designing commercially viable Shariah compliant products such as the new Shariah compliant Hedge and Pension Funds without infringing on FSA regulations.
  - Steps to consider before, during and after the product development.

11:40 – 12:30  Panel discussion: Trodden path versus trail blazing.
• What are the crucial things to know about international Islamic finance regulation, upcoming market changes and the state of the industry?
• Market participation in the Middle East as well as South East Asia. Why are business operations conducted according to different standards.
• Who are the top players leading and steering the industry and what are the key factors set to shape the industry in 2008?
• The current UK market situation and its impact on the global Islamic finance industry, the overall economic significance of Shariah compliant investment products.
• What needs to be done to increase Islamic business in the UK and how to fully integrate Islamic finance into the national business portfolio?

12:30 – 13:40  Lunch

13:40 – 14:30  Panel discussion: Earning potential with Islamic finance in the UK
• Defining the overall size of Islamic financial transactions in the UK and where to look for the hotspot areas.
• How to secure the big transactions and generate maximum alpha.
• What are the most successful Shariah compliant investment products which do also appeal to Non-Muslims?
• Definition of local demand from the buyer’s side across the leading banking, consulting and legal industry sectors in Islamic finance.
• Local Muslim community versus high net worth external investors, how to pitch, what is the best approach to win the deal and where are the differences?
• Defining a sustainable approach in targeting high net worth institutions, government bodies and single personalities.
• How to convince institutional investors to accept Islamic finance as a way of diversifying and thus broadening their business?
• Measuring the impact of fully fledged Islamic finance institutions in the UK upon customer demand within the UK Muslim community. What areas are likely to be chosen as prime areas of interest? Where to generate maximum returns?

14:30 – 15:00  Keynote address: How to find cutting edge professionals with a thorough market understanding, impressive academic and professional underpinnings as well as the right attitude towards Islamic finance
• What are the key areas of professional expertise in demand and how to close the knowledge gap?
• Which professionals have the biggest success potential in the industry? Personality essentials and recruitment hot spots.
• Western professionals in Islamic finance? How realistic is a career within the growing UK Islamic finance industry.
• What are the key areas in demand? Sales versus product development and marketing, which areas will see the biggest growth rates in upcoming months?

15:30 – 16:20  How to define London’s role as global centre for Islamic finance versus financial centres in the Middle East and South East Asia.
• What are the distinct advantages of London as a global centre for the Islamic finance industry and how to shape London’s unique role as global Islamic finance hub, profiting from its strategic position between the continents.
• In what ways is London different compared to its global counter parts. Where can it develop a lead over its competitors and what needs to be done to enhance and sustain that lead?
• Examining the crucial factors for high net worth individuals and top level investors to choose London as their operational bases as well as investment stronghold.
• Measuring London’s successful record as trading centre for Islamic products such as different SUKUK’s and LME Mudaraba. What can be done to enhance these areas of expertise?

16:20  End of Conference
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