

## The Annual Meeting of the Arab Business Council



### Programme at a Glance

Over the past few years, the Middle East has seen a tremendous escalation of instability on the political and social scenes. Indeed, the recent crisis in Lebanon has clearly demonstrated the volatility of the situation and its potential impact on neighbouring countries. Today more than ever, the Arab Business Council (ABC) believes that economic integration and job creation remain important means of addressing these issues and contribute to building the foundations of a sustainable and robust economy. This year's Annual Meeting of the Arab Business Council will focus on four main topics, including trade, competitiveness, reform and the effect of the current political situation on business in the region.

At this year's meeting, Arab world competitiveness will be showcased through the results of The Global Competitiveness Report 2006-2007 of the World Economic Forum. The discussion will lay the foundations for preparing the Arab World Competitiveness Report, which is supported by the ABC.

Moreover, the meeting will serve as a platform to launch the ABC-financed trade study. With its results, participants will be invited to discuss the benefits of trade agreements with relevant government leaders. Participants will also openly explore the compatibility of various international trade agreements and their effects on regional trade.

The meeting will allow participants to explore the effects of recent political and armed conflicts on business and serve as an experience-exchange forum for investing in affected countries.

The meeting will help the ABC identify what it really takes to advance change in the region with the help ABC alumni members and other business men and women who now serve in government positions.

The economy needs the dynamic and rigorous intervention of the Arab business community at all levels, from policy-making to investment and from planning to implementation. This year's annual meeting will provide an opportunity for all ABC members to contribute and provide feedback to the ABC initiatives and, if possible, expand the scope of these initiatives.

### Programme Structure

Saturday 2 December	Sunday 3 December	
<b>17.00 – 17.45</b> <b>Registration</b>	<b>07.30 – 08.00</b> <b>Registration</b>	<b>14.00-15.30</b> <b>Interactive Session</b> • Business People Turned Political Leaders
<b>17.45 – 18.00</b> <b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	<b>08.00 – 09.00</b> <b>Informal Breakfast</b>	<b>15.30-16.00</b> <b>Contact Break</b>
<b>18.00 – 20.00</b> <b>Arab Business Council General Assembly</b>	<b>09.00-10.30</b> <b>Interactive Session</b> • Trade and Regional Integration	<b>16.00-17.30</b> <b>Interactive Session</b> • Political Impact on Business
<b>20.30 – 22.30</b> <b>Working Dinner</b> • Education	<b>10.30-11.00</b> <b>Contact Break</b>	<b>17.30 – 18.00</b> <b>The Way Forward</b>
	<b>11.00 – 12.30</b> <b>Interactive Session</b> • Competitiveness (GCR/NCCs)	<b>18.00 – 19.00</b> <b>Closing Reception</b>
	<b>12.30 – 14.00</b> <b>Lunch</b> • Informal Discussion with Special Guest	