



[Middle East Association Organizes the City & GCC Financial Services Summit](#)

[By Louise Waters](#)

Thursday, 15 July 2010 17:10



Senior representatives from the City of London and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries will meet at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in London on 19 July 2010 to discuss the latest financial sector developments in the Middle East and North Africa, and opportunities for UK/GCC partnerships.

Organised by the Middle East Association (MEA) in partnership with the City of London Corporation, the Conference, now in its fifth year, is the leading London event promoting co-operation between the City of London and the GCC countries.

As in previous years, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Nick Anstee, will make a keynote speech at the Opening. He will be joined by Lord Sassoon, Commercial Secretary to HM Treasury, and Shashank Srivastava, Acting CEO of Qatar Financial Centre Authority.

Other speakers include James MacPherson, CEO, Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution; Michael Tomalin, Group Chief Executive, National Bank of Abu Dhabi; Howard Gooder, Head of Project Finance, Europe Arab Bank; Robert Gray, Chairman, Debt Finance and Advisory Group, HSBC Bank; Sir Anthony Evans, Chairman, Dubai World Special Tribunal; and Xavier Rolet, CEO, London Stock Exchange.

Issues to be debated include project finance and infrastructure development in the MENA region; asset management in the GCC and the role of the City of London; rebuilding and restructuring Gulf capital markets following the global downturn; and improving the

business environment through greater transparency and recourse to arbitration.

“The MENA region is hugely important to the City of London, and our links are growing ever closer,” said Alderman Nick Anstee, Lord Mayor of the City of London. “This conference, which is now in its fifth year, is an excellent opportunity to collaborate further and find ways in which the City can share its expertise and knowledge in areas including infrastructure, asset management, regulatory reform and capital markets.”

“The City of London continues to play a pivotal role in financial services for the MENA region, and it is tremendous to see how the GCC countries are developing their interests and investments across the region,” said Michael Thomas, Director General, MEA. “This is evidenced by the fact that a strong delegation from Palestine will be attending the conference, to include Mr Samir Hulieleh, CEO of Palestine Development and Investment Company - PADICO Holding; Mr Ammar Aker, CEO of Paltel Group (Palestine telecom); Mr Bashar Masri, Chairman of Massar International Group; Mr Samir Zraiq, General Manager of Sahem Trading & Investments Company; and Ms Diala Saadeh, Vice President at Sahem Trading & Investments Company.”

The Middle East Association (MEA) is the UK’s premier organisation for promoting trade and good relations with the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey and Iran. The MEA is an independent and non-profit making association founded in 1961 and based in London. It represents some 400 large and small companies from all business and industry sectors who together account for an estimated 70% of UK trade with the region. The Patron of the Association is HRH The Duke of York, UK Special Representative for International Trade & Investment.

Global Arab Network