

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **BFX to soft launch Training Academy in June**

The Bahrain Financial Exchange (BFX), the first multi asset, multi access international exchange in Bahrain and the Middle East, launching in Q1, 2010 has announced that it will 'soft launch' the BFX Training Academy in June 2009 by introducing four training courses in financial markets that mark the start of an extensive course programme roll-out.

These highly informative and interactive courses in June will include: designing and implementing operational risk framework, based on a scientific methodology of control systems; Basel II under advanced approaches, will focus on challenges that senior managers face while adopting approaches to Basel II; capital markets, focusing on equities, debt instruments, financial and commodity derivatives; energy markets, will explore fundamentals, pricing, trading and products.

The capital markets and energy market courses will be conducted as a partnership between the BFX and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF). All training will be given by international experts in financial markets who are recognised as being the best in their respective fields.

Simone Carminati, Senior Vice President, Head of Training Academy, BFX said "training is essential to any organisation to increase productivity and profitability, and the BFX Training Academy will offer an extensive course programme to meet the needs of a diverse user profile. These four courses mark the start of the BFX Training Academy and form a soft launch which will culminate in the opening of the actual Academy at the BFX in the Q4 this year."

When completed, the BFX Training Academy will be an international standard in-house training academy to facilitate market understanding of the products and services the Bahrain Financial Exchange will offer market participants. Courses will cover a wide range of financial markets and associated financial instruments with the objective of introducing practical market concepts to new users as well as enhancing and refining current knowledge.

Arshad Khan, Board Director, BFX commenting on the announcement said "the Academy forms an integral part of our business model for the BFX. The courses will develop the knowledge of users of the Exchange today and provide training for the next generation of financial specialists in the Middle East, creating a virtuous circle of knowledge driven economic development of Bahrain and the region."

#### **Notes to editors:**

- The Bahrain Financial Exchange (BFX) will begin trading in Q1, 2010;
- The BFX is licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) to trade multi assets including equities, bonds, currencies, commodities, derivatives and Sharia compliant Islamic financial instruments;
- It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Financial Technologies Group;
- The Exchange has an international standard in-house training academy;
- Website: [www.bfx.bh](http://www.bfx.bh)

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