

PRESS RELEASE

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BFX first annual Exchange Conference a success

The Bahrain Financial Exchange (BFX), the first multi asset, multi access international exchange in Bahrain and the Middle East, launching in Q1, 2010 successfully held its first annual Exchange Conference.

The conference, the first of its kind to be held in Bahrain, attracted over 150 senior level financial professionals from Bahrain and beyond to hear about the new Exchange.

Speakers from the Bahrain Economic Development Board, FT Group, SHAPE™ Financial Corp and the BFX discussed the importance of a liquid and transparent financial market in Bahrain and how the recent financial situation has reshaped the global exchange business and its effect on the financial markets in the region. Speakers also presented the progress made by the BFX since its announcement in January 2009 in areas such as product development, infrastructure set-up, operational arrangements and membership model.

Commenting on the conference Arshad Khan, Director, BFX said, “We are delighted with the number of attendees and the senior level of the delegates. This was not simply a case of us providing information to the market, we wanted the market to tell us what it needs, and this was achieved as we had 30 minutes of excellent questions and answers with the audience. This highlights the interest and appetite the BFX has created in Bahrain and the acknowledgement by the financial market that a liquid and transparent exchange is a prerequisite for any world class financial centre”.

The Exchange Conference also featured a workshop which was held in the afternoon focusing on derivatives and Islamic finance. Attendees were trained about the different products that are available and how they can be used to invest to add value across all risk profiles.

Simone Carminati, Senior Vice President, Head of Training Academy, BFX who gave the derivatives workshop said, “There is a serious appetite in Bahrain to learn more about financial markets and how they can be used to invest and manage risk. The BFX Training Academy will offer training on how to do this and the Exchange will allow them to put this learning into practice for their benefit”.

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

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