

MENA FINANCIAL CRIME COMPLIANCE GROUP

Engaging with multi-stakeholders to find solutions to promote best AML/CTF practices.



PRIVATE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN GLOBAL COMPLIANCE EXPERTS: MENA FCCG SET TO HOLD ITS INAUGURAL FORUM IN DUBAI IN SEPTEMBER 2018

The MENA Financial Crime Compliance Group (MENA FCCG) is holding its inaugural Forum at the Sheraton Creek Hotel & Towers on September 16th and 17th 2018, in Dubai-UAE.

This private event seeks to strengthen collaborations on combatting financial crime, money laundering, and terror finance, bringing together leading MENA banks, prominent correspondent banks and key financial crime agencies.

Not Just Another AML/CFT Forum

Instead of the typical orator/audience format, the MENA FCCG Forum is comprised of a series of confidential skill-sharing sessions between renowned guests and participants. The Forum will gather 100 senior financial crime practitioners that includes guests from all corners of the globe, a concentration of expertise that is unparalleled in the regional compliance industry. Topics include global developments to tackle financial crime, making cross border payments frictionless, maximizing sanctions screening programs, enhancing controls or optimizing financial crime intelligence alerts, and implementing the Wolfsberg CBDDQ.

According to Mr. Michael Matossian, EVP & Head of Group Regulatory Compliance at Arab Bank and the Deputy Chairman of the MENA FCCG Group “criminals continually explore new opportunities to misuse the financial sector to advance their illicit activities, it is only by working together and working smarter that we can effectively turn this opportunity to disrupt illicit actors. The forum will offer a peer-to-peer dialogue in the aim to share and build upon the vast expertise of its participants; ultimately spreading anti-financial crime best practices across the MENA region.”

By Invitation Only

Access to the forum is restricted solely to high-ranking compliance executives from across MENA countries.

Leveling the playing field in opinion diversity, attendees also include representatives of leading correspondent banks from the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States as well as select regulators and intelligence agencies.

Gathering of the Masters

An influential list of guests has been summoned to ignite the closed-door discussions with the most effective AML/CFT practices and tactical insights. Confirmed speakers and moderators include renowned personalities such as H.E. Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair, Chairman of the UAE Banks Federation (UBF), the Honorable Daniel L. Glaser, Principal, Financial Integrity Network, Former Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, H.E. Maryam Al Suwaidi, Deputy CEO for Licensing, Supervision and Enforcement Assistant Under Secretary, Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), Mr. John Cusack, Co-Chair of the Wolfsberg Group, and Mr. Ghaith Zubi, United Nations Expert, ISIL/Al-Qaida/Taliban...and much more.

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A Non for Profit Initiative

The MENA FCCG is an industry-driven, voluntary initiative, currently consisting of 12 proactive leading financial institutions in the region that seeks to bring collective action in the fight against money laundering and terrorist finance.

The Group relied on its strategic partners, the Union of Arab Banks and Thomson Reuters, to oversee that participation fees were strictly on a non-for profit basis, sustaining the Group's motto of making a collective impact.

Mr. Victor Matafonov, Group Chief Compliance Officer, Emirates NBD and MENA FCCG Member stated, *"Emirates NBD is proud to be the country sponsor for this inaugural forum. Together with MENA FCCG's strategic partners and the assistance of the World Union of Arab Bankers, we were able to secure the affordability and management of such distinguished undertaking."*

The Snow Ball Effect

This year was another landmark year for MENA FCCG with a series of whitepapers, articles, and outreach initiatives, including a recent complimentary webinar on "Threat Finance Typologies and Sanctions" that have aided many banks from the region to cement a sound and compliant financial environment.

According to Mr. David Shepherd, Head of Market Development Risk Thomson Reuters and MENA FCCG Group Secretariat "with a momentum well underway, MENA FCCG hopes to stretch its local and international collaborations towards assisting MENA banks to overcome increasing challenges".

Amidst the Group's end of year arsenal, is publication of a MENA wide compliance survey results, which have unveiled certain areas of improvement that the region needs to, focus on within the coming years.

According to Mr. Wissam H. Fattouh, Chairman of MENA FCCG and Secretary General of the Union of Arab Banks confirms, "this forum will further our mission to assist Arab banks in withstanding the pressures of tightening and varying international regulations, whilst enabling both foreign and local financial institutions to share and resolve any hidden barriers of correspondent banking. September is another landmark in a series of successful initiatives from the Group to globally promote the governance and transparency of the Arab financial sector."

Forum Information

Location:

Sheraton Hotel Dubai Creek

Date:

16th/17th September 2018

By Invitation Only

Kindly be informed that this event is restricted solely to the Head of Compliance/AML selected by the MENA FCCG

www.menafccg.com