

MENA FCCG CELEBRATES THE CTBFC CERTIFICATE GRADUATES ATTENDING AUB'S OSB GRADUATION CEREMONY



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MENA FCCG attended the AUB Online at OSB Graduation Ceremony 2025 that took place on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business, Beirut, Lebanon.

The event marked a historic milestone—the first-ever graduation ceremony hosted within OSB to honor the achievements of the AUB Online at OSB graduating cohorts, including the graduates of the Combating Trade-Based Financial Crime (CTBFC) certificate program, developed by MENA FCCG in collaboration with AUB and the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC) – MENA Chapter. The event was graced by the presence of:

Dr. Fadlo Khoury, President of AUB

Dean Yusuf Sidani, Dean of the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB)

Mr. Michael Matossian, Founder and Deputy Chair of MENA FCCG

The CTBFC Program is an empowering voyage in understanding and combating financial crimes associated with international trade. This comprehensive program equips participants to navigate the intricate landscape of financial crime prevention, particularly within the realm of trade and commerce. It aims to address the significant risks arising from the complexity and extensiveness of the global trade making it not only vulnerable to use as a conduit for illicit funds, but also particularly challenging to protect from criminal abuse. The CTBFC Certificate is comprised of two levels. Level I (Understanding International Trade) delivers a comprehensive yet easily comprehended knowledge of trade instruments flows, parties, and an introduction to key associated risks while Level II (Combating TBFC) offers a highly interactive case study immersion to offer participants

a method for both learning and applying their knowledge in a true-to-life scenario involving all aspects of TBFC. Dr. Khoury inspired graduates with his powerful message “You represent the very best of what AUB – Suliman S. Olayan School of Business stands for: learning that adapts to the world we live in.”

From the Certificate in CTBFC program alone, 69 graduates were honored. It was a moment of pride

and celebration for all involved. Upon successfully obtaining the AUB Certificate in CTBFC, participants are eligible to take the MENA FCCG – GCFFC endorsed Certification exam through the AUB platform to earn the designation Certified TBFC Specialists. The Certification is set for launch in September 2025. (Click <http://menafccg.com/ctbfc-certificate/> for further information on the Certificate/Certification).



DR. FADLO KHOURY
PRESIDENT OF AUB

As a Certified TBFC Specialist, participants are able to demonstrate mastery in the Trade Based Financial Crime (TBFC) field, apply advanced training and up-to-date tools and technical strategies, connect with TBFC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from MENA FCCG, and acquire new and updated industry intelligence while demonstrating their commitment to superior professionalism, upholding industry standards, and continued learning.

“My compliments to AUB leadership for creating a ceremony that so powerfully reflected the values of excellence, innovation, and community. The event was a testament to what can be achieved when purpose and dedication come together. Together, we have built remarkable momentum with the

CTBFC Program. I am confident that this is only the beginning, and I very much look forward to continuing this journey and making an even greater impact across the region and beyond” Mr. Michael Matossian, MENA FCCG Founder and Current Deputy Chair and Arab Bank Chief Compliance Officer.

“The CTBFC Program empowers participants to make a difference in the fight against this heinous crime. It allows participants to attain hands-on knowledge which each shall carry with them for years to come.” Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, Director of Executive MBA, AUB Suliman S. Olayan School of Business, Head of Online Learning.

The Program draws upon the TBFC Guide, developed jointly by MENA FCCG and GCFFC-MENA

Chapter which was issued in October 2022. The Guide offers in-depth insights into how illicit funds, goods, or services can be moved through trade flows. It has been deployed within the curriculum for the CTBFC Program. In February 2023, Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) issued Guidance on Trade Based Money Laundering which cites this jointly developed Guide' as one of the key resources deployed in developing the CBB Guide.



DEAN YUSUF SIDANI

DEAN OF THE SULIMAN S. OLAYAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



ABOUT MENA FCCG:

MENA FCCG is an industry-driven, voluntary initiative, currently consisting of 13 leading financial institutions from eight MENA countries. It seeks to bring collective action in the fight against money laundering and terrorist finance in the region. Both the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) and London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) are Strategic Partners. The Group has a strategic alliance with GCFFC, Wolfsberg Group, Crime Stoppers International, GASA, RUSI, K2 Integrity, ACAMS, and United Nations. The Group was officially launched in September 2016 with the inaugural meeting in Bahrain. Visit www.menafccg.com.

In November 2021, the Group officially launched a Europe Chapter at an inaugural meeting in London. The Chapter aims to extend MENA FCCG's objectives to Europe by bringing together compliance professionals of Arab banks operating in Europe to enhance financial crime literacy and support implementation of best practices. The Arab Bankers Association serves as a strategic partner with Themis Services as a Strategic Alliance.

MEMBER BANKS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

EU CHAPTER STRATEGIC PARTNERS



ALLIANCES

