

Business

MENA Pensions Conference to look at institutional investment portfolios

Conference to take place in Bahrain on Nov 28

MANAMA: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of pension, savings and investment solutions for the MENA region, is pleased to announce that a highly esteemed panel of multi-regional experts at the 2017 MENA Pensions Conference will examine the landscape and new trends of pension fund and institutional investment portfolios. The 2017 MENA Pensions Conference will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain, on November 28, 2017.

Pension funds are significant players in financial markets, constituting in excess of 30 percent of world's financial assets and eclipsing the value of national GDPs in several countries. This year's conference will feature a session, representing the first time the MENA region has had such an opportunity, to professionally examine how the huge accumulations of pension assets in every country can and should be invested to support growth and sustainability given anticipated payouts over a very long time.

To discuss this vital topic, TAKAUD has assembled a panel of top-notch experts. The session, entitled "The landscape for pension investing," will be moderated by Mark Burbach, chief investment officer of OSOOL, who brings a macro perspective to the issue. Speakers include Dr. Mohamed Maait, Vice Minister of Finance for Public Treasury Affairs, from Egypt's Ministry of Finance, representing the most populous country in the MENA region. Abdullatif Al-Seif is Advisor to the Governor on Investment Affairs at the Public Pension Agency in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and will bring the investment perspective of the largest pension fund in the GCC. Possible investment options and asset allocations will be examined by global asset management panelists, Lukas Daalder, CIO - Investment Solutions at Robeco, and Dr Wolfgang Mader, Head of Investment & Risk Strategy at Allianz Global Investors (Managing Director of risklab), who represent firms that manage investments valued in the trillions of dollars.

"Given the broad experience of this panel in investing, we will be discussing the structuring of institutional



Mark Burbach, Chief Investment Officer at OSOOL



Dr. Mohamed Maait, Vice Minister of Finance for Public Treasury Affairs, Egypt



Abdullatif Al-Seif, Advisor to the Governor on Investment Affairs, Public Pension



Lukas Daalder, CIO - Investment Solutions, Robeco



Dr Wolfgang Mader, Head of Investment & Risk Strategy, Allianz Global Investors



Ebrahim K Ebrahim TAKAUD

investment portfolios. It will be interesting to see how the different entities have approached the issue and fared in this landscape over time. We need to understand evolving asset allocation models and techniques, touch on beliefs and learn lessons from the past," said Burbach the session moderator.

The Panel's speakers will draw from their experience with leading MENA pension funds to present current structures of institutional investment portfolios and possibilities for performance optimization. Dr Maait said, "Pension investing is an important economic driver whose importance cannot be minimized. Getting the right mix of investments

is critical." Participants will hear how the representatives of key regional entities have gained lessons from the past, and will be presented with asset management models and techniques for portfolio construction. Al-Seif said, "There have been great lessons as the region have built substantial pension reserves and we are eager to share our experience with others even as learn from them."

Lukas Daalder, author of Robeco's Expected Returns 2018-2022 report, which was published just weeks ago, points out that while traditional asset classes such as equities and fixed income remain core holdings for pension funds,

it's becoming increasingly important to have multi-asset "higher-yielding" tools and capabilities to reinvest and optimize portfolio construction over the coming years.

Dr Mader said, "A long-term investment strategy for pension investors needs to be aligned with the long-term return ambition as well as with short and long-term risk goals. These dimensions need to be brought together in defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes on top of existing investment guidelines and investment regulations."

"We are more than pleased that such a distinguished panel of speakers will be discussing this vital topic at the 2017 MENA Pensions Conference," said Ebrahim K Ebrahim, TAKAUD's Chief of Government Business, the Conference Chairman. "If we can think of investing as being like chemistry, where each element must be carefully weighed and proportionally balanced with other ingredients, these men are the chemists. We will be looking to them for the right investment formulas, advice, opportunities and cautions."



TAKAUD hosts a panel of top-notch experts

Flydubai showcases its first Boeing 737 MAX 8 at the Dubai Airshow

DUBAI: Dubai-based flydubai marks its fifth Dubai Airshow by unveiling its brand-new Boeing 737 MAX 8. This is the first aircraft to be delivered from the largest single-aisle Boeing aircraft order placed in the Middle East in the 2013 edition of the show.

The new aircraft, bearing the UAE registration mark A6-MAX, is the first of 76 aircraft on order from Boeing; all of which will be delivered by 2023. Six of these aircraft will join the flydubai fleet by the end of the last quarter of 2017.

flydubai's Chairman, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum commenting on the occasion said: "At the 2013 Dubai Airshow we made history by placing the largest order for this aircraft type in the Middle East. This was made before this aircraft took its first commercial flight. To see that commitment being fulfilled today is another milestone in Dubai's aviation success story. The efficiency and enhanced performance this aircraft promises is going to play an important role in the new chapter of flydubai's growth strategy."

flydubai's Chief Executive Officer, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, commenting on the arrival of the MAX 8: "We are gearing up and putting the final touches to these new aircraft which will improve our overall fleet performance, bring more flexibility and efficiency to our operations and further support our commitment to opening up new destinations, whilst delivering an exceptional onboard experience for our passengers."

flydubai's new Boeing 737 MAX 8s will initially be deployed on the furthest points on the carrier's network. Destinations including Bangkok, Prague, Yekaterinburg and Zanzibar will be among the first to be served by the MAX 8. The additional aircraft being delivered over the next few years will be rolled out across the fleet and will become available on most of the routes on the network.

The 737 MAX family is the fastest-selling airplane in Boeing history with about 3,950 orders from 93 customers worldwide," said Marty Bentrott, vice president, Sales for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia and Africa. "It is tremendous



to see flydubai's MAX at the Dubai Airshow bearing the A6-MAX registration which is a very special accolade to our valued partnership with flydubai and to the MAX airplane."

Since the beginning of 2017, flydubai has



launched six new destinations and grown its network to more than 95 destinations, increased the schedule to more than 1,700 flights per week as well as rolled out its new uniform worn by more than 2,500 uniformed staff.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches its 195th store in Mandya, Karnataka, India

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the big five jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of 195 retail outlets spread across nine countries has launched its latest showroom in Karnataka, India. The showroom located in KVS Complex on the Mysore Bangalore Highway, Mandya was inaugurated by Cine Actress Rachita Ram on 11th November, 2017 in the presence of Asher. O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Iflu Rahman - Regional Head, Malabar

Gold & Diamonds, other management team members, invited guests, media & well-wishers.

The store displays the exclusive range of Malabar Gold & Diamonds sub brands: Mine -Diamonds Unlimited, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Precia - Gem Jewellery, Divine - Indian Heritage Jewelry, Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Hi - Casual jewelry collection and Starlet - Kids' Jewelry. Apart from that, the newly opened outlet unveil a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelry and the grand opening was celebrated exhibiting the finest collection of IGI / GIA certified diamonds and PGI certified platinum jewelry in latest designs for the jewelry lovers.

"This is the group's 19th store in Karnataka Region and we also has plans to further expand our presence in this region. Karnataka has a niche customer base and offers vast market potential for our ensemble gold and diamond jewelry products. We are committed to providing the best money value deals to our esteemed customers," stated Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.



Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Asmaa Ahmed Thiab Al-Jayar
2. Ammar Hussain Gholoum Hussain
3. Baher Tharwat Henary Saeed
4. Fadhel Abdulazeez Ahmad Al-Musallam
5. Zaid Natae Khalaf Rowaie

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account, the new quarterly draw or on any of the bank's products and services, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or simply call the bank's Call Center. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.