

## TOP EXPO GROUP PICKS TORONTO TO HOST CANADIAN REAL ESTATE 2017

**TORONTO:** Internationally renowned Kuwait-based Top Expo Group yesterday unveiled plans to host the Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace - Canada's first-ever international property investment show May 16-18, 2017 in Toronto. The Marketplace will be a showcase that will exhibit present and future developments from the residential, commercial and vacation resort real estate and property development sectors from around the world. Top Expo Group believes that the Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace will outperform the Kuwait, Dubai and London real estate shows, where normally they attracted hundreds of millions dollars in event transactions.

"Canada is now one of the best countries in the world for investors looking for a secure economy and government. The real estate marketplace is booming, which is why we feel Toronto is becoming the new London. There are thousands of attractive property investment opportunities available," says Mohammed Al-Qadoumi, President, Top Expo Group (Canada).

"Canadian luxury home sales are competing on world-class levels. We have opened an office in Toronto because interest from foreign buyers has been increasing substantially. A report from

Canadian realtor Royal LePage found 66 per cent of its advisers believe foreign investor activity is up in their regions. The time to invest in Canada is now," Al-Qadoumi added.

The Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace will be attracting exhibitors and investors from around the world, including property investment opportunities from the Caribbean region. "We want to bring investors and exhibitors from across the Middle East to experience a state-of-the-art international property show of the same caliber Top Expo is known for in the GCC. We are creating the perfect opportunity for exhibitors to have direct access to some of the biggest real estate investors and decision-makers," added Al-Qadoumi.

Exhibitors will receive a fully equipped turn-key display booth at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre and ongoing exposure in Canada and Kuwait through Top Expo's marketing campaigns before, during and after the show.

Top Expo Group has space for 170 exhibitors and is offering premium sponsorship opportunities for companies seeking to increase their visibility in the Canadian real estate market. The Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace represents one significant opportunity to demonstrate a keen



Al-Qadoumi with top expo group team and consultants.

understanding of the Canadian real estate market, as well as a passion to build wealth through every transaction and the vision to seek out greater opportunities worldwide.

The event will see participants from different

sectors including property developers, investors, financial institutions, real estate brokers and agents, legal services, investment brokers, architects, governments and government economic development agencies congregate under one roof.

## AHLI UNITED BANK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BANKING IN UK

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (UK) PLC celebrated its 50th year of doing business in the UK, marking this milestone anniversary with an event held at London's Millennium Hotel in Grosvenor Square. Established in 1966, United Bank of Kuwait Limited, the forerunner of AUB (UK), merged in 2000 with Bahrain's Ahli Commercial Bank to form Ahli United Bank Group, the now pan-Middle East financial services group of which AUB (UK) is a wholly owned subsidiary.

The event was attended by senior diplomats, honoured guests and members of London-based professional and business organizations, as well as the Board of Directors and former and current management and staff members.

Speaking at the dinner, AUB's Chairman Hamad Al-Humaidhi said: "We are proud to celebrate half a century of presence and service to our valued clients in the UK, thus holding the record and distinction of being the oldest bank from the Gulf and MENA region to continuously operate in the UK market. It is a testament to the pioneering spirit of the Bank's founders that, barely a few decades after British institutions

established their -and the region's- first local banks, investors from the region came full circle to establish the Gulf's very first bank in the heart of London. It is the same spirit which continued to inspire and drive AUB's journey of remarkable success and expansion over the years."

"AUB (UK) was founded to connect clients and businesses from the Gulf to global markets and opportunities, undertaking to offer the very best of British banking practice combined with a unique understanding of the special needs of offshore customers from the Gulf and the MENA region at large. Fifty years on, much has changed in terms of our product and service offering, but our guiding principles remain the same, to serve with the highest integrity, always making customer service the priority and focusing on the sustainability of our businesses for many years to come," added Al-Humaidhi.

AUB (UK) is part of Ahli United Bank, a pan-regional banking group with operations spanning seven key Middle Eastern countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, and Libya) as well as the United Kingdom.



Hamad Al-Humaidhi

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS AND AVIANCA BRASIL ANNOUNCE CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, and Avianca Brasil, one of the leading airlines in Latin America, have announced a codeshare partnership.

Under the agreement, Etihad Airways will put its 'EY' code on domestic flights operated by Avianca Brasil, while Avianca Brasil will put its 'O6' code on Etihad Airways flights between Abu Dhabi and São Paulo.

Travellers on Etihad Airways flights between Sao Paulo (GRU) and Abu Dhabi (AUH) and beyond will benefit from convenient connections to and from eight other Brazilian destinations on Avianca Brasil, including Rio de Janeiro (GIG), Curitiba (CWB), Florianapolis (FLN), Fortaleza (FOR), Porto Alegre (POA), Recife (REC), Salvador (SSA), and Maceia (MCZ).

"Avianca is an important strategic partner for Etihad Airways in South America. In addition to the codeshare agreement recently signed with Avianca Colombia, we are further strengthening our presence in Brazil by offering our guests more convenience and connections with a single combined ticket," said Martin Drew, Senior Vice President - Americas at Etihad Airways.

"Through its main hub in Abu Dhabi, Etihad Airways will offer our customers

excellent options of connection flights, especially to destinations in Africa, Asia and Oceania, where Avianca Brasil doesn't operate directly. This partnership is important because it adds even more value to the services we offer our passengers," added Frederico Pedreira, President of Avianca Brasil.

Codeshare agreements offer guests countless benefits, such as direct baggage check-in to their final destination and extra assistance during connections. Later this year, Etihad Guest members and Avianca Brasil's Amigo members will be able to earn and redeem miles on codeshare flights.

Etihad Airways has flown between Abu Dhabi and Sao Paulo, its first destination in South America, since June 2013. By the end of 2015 the airline had carried over 340,000 passengers on the route. Avianca Brasil serves 22 cities in its home country with over 200 daily flights. In 2015, the carrier transported 8.5 million customers.

Bookings on Etihad Airways can be made directly through the airline's website, etihad.com, via telephone at +971 2 5990000 and through travel agencies worldwide.

Competitive fares to Abu Dhabi are available on the Avianca Brasil website (www.avianca.com.br).

## RENAULT AL BABBAIN LAUNCH THE 2016 'SUMMER SERVICE CAMPAIGN'

**Make your Renault's Air conditioner summer ready!**  
Breathe easy this summer by getting your car's air conditioner checked now for free.

**RENAULT**  
Passion for life

- Complimentary AC checkup + 25 points Safety check sheet\*
- 30 % discount on Parts
- 15% discount on Labour
- Free Aircromatic service\*

Offer valid from 15<sup>th</sup> June until to 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 on all Renault models.

\*Any invoice above 35 KD will benefit from a Free Aircromatic service

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babbain Co., the exclusive and authorized agent of Renault vehicles in the State of Kuwait launched the 2016 Summer Service Campaign. Offering Renault clients an exceptional opportunity for a free checkup on their Air Conditioning system during the summer season to ensure peace of mind during the heavy heat waves.

As the safety of Renault Al-Babbain clients and their families is the number one priority, more benefits have been added for the Renault clients through this campaign by offering free checking of the 25 points safety tools.

Moreover the Summer Campaign offer, Renault Al Babbain clients a 15% discount on labor and 30% on genuine spare parts, as it is always recommended to buy genuine parts to guaranty quality and durability. Genuine parts saves expenses on the long-term due to its long life and it's the base of safe driving and peace of mind.

Furthermore the Renault Al Babbain Summer Campaign, offers each client whose service invoice exceeds KD 35 a chance to receive a free air-purifying service for their vehicle.

Renault Al Babbain invites its clients to visit the service center at Al Rai area to benefit from the various special services offered by this unique Summer Campaign.

This campaign applies on all Renault models that are known for its European style and Japanese quality, which succeeded to build strong presence due to its ability to meet all tastes and meet customer's satisfaction in different categories of practical vehicles.

Renault Al Babbain always presents unbeatable promotions and attractive offers comparing to its competitors aiming to achieve its goal of keeping the name of the brand among the leading brands in the automotive market.

## KUWAIT SECOND MOST TARGETED COUNTRY FOR SPEAR-PHISHING ATTACKS IN ME AND AFRICA

**DUBAI:** Cybercrime in the Middle East has been on the rise in the last few years and has become the second most common form of economic crime in the region. Gulf countries, including Kuwait, are especially targeted due to their high uptake of mobile devices and access to high-speed internet. In fact, Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report (ISTR) indicates that Kuwait has a high level of bots, ransomware and spam, some of which rising compared to the previous year.

Overall, Kuwait's 2015 Internet Security Threat Profile increased from a global rank of 70th in 2014 to 61st in 2015, indicating a higher global percentage of security threats, including malicious code, spam, phishing hosts, web and network attacks, and bots from the country. Bucking the global downward trend, Kuwait also experienced more bots with its global rank changing 15 spots from rank 50th in 2014 to 35th in 2015. A bot is a type of malware that allows an attacker to take control over an affected computer.

Kuwait is also highly targeted in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region for spear-phishing (a form of targeted attacks), ranking as the 2nd most targeted country regionally and the 18th most targeted country globally. While Kuwait is ranked lower than the UAE, who was ranked as the 1st most targeted country in the region, it nonetheless remains highly susceptible to these attacks. In 2015, businesses in Kuwait also received a high number of spam emails and ransomware attacks, ranking 52nd globally for spam and 57th for ransomware.

Spear-phishing, a form of targeted attacks, are very carefully crafted and designed to be low in number to remain below the radar. They are aimed at a specific business or organisation, or an individual within an organisation, with the goal of extracting confidential data or information. Cybercriminals engage in highly sophisticated forms of social engineering to dress-up attacks and covertly gather as much information about the company they want to infiltrate and then target key employees.

Hussam Sidani: The Need to protect every Sector in the Economy is Crucial.

"Cyber-attacks are becoming increasingly advanced in nature. Cybercriminals today are mirroring corporate best practices and establishing professional businesses in order to increase the efficiency of their attacks against enterprises and consumers. They have evolved at an alarming rate, adopting clever strategies whereby their attacks on bigger targets are becoming more intelligent and deliberate," commented Hussam Sidani, Regional Manager for Gulf, Symantec.



Hussam Sidani

Ransomware continued to evolve in 2015 and spread beyond PCs to smartphones, Mac and Linux systems, with attackers increasingly seeking any network-connected device that could be held hostage for profit. Kuwait was the 14th most impacted country in the MEA region with ransomware, and the 57th globally. Symantec's annual ISTR report revealed that over 3,600 ransomware attacks were detected in Kuwait in 2015.

Notably, Kuwait's global spam ranking increased 13 places from a global rank of 65 in 2014 to 52 in 2015. Spam can be defined as unsolicited bulk email, or unwarranted communication. Typically consisting of unsolicited messaging, the objective can vary between advertising, phishing or spreading malware. Spam messages sometimes contain masked links that seem to be from a familiar website but in fact lead to phishing websites or sites containing/hosting malware.

"It is crucial for all sectors to recognize that cyber security is an essential element in the security of their companies. For example, we are witnessing a regional shift in the oil and gas industry to the 'digital oilfield', in turn making the industry more susceptible to cyber threats. As a result, the recognition for the need to protect every sector in the economy is crucial," added Sidani.

As Kuwait continues to transition into a technologically advanced, smart economy, cyber security is becoming a dominant concern. Cyber threats transcend across an entire region, country and citizen. The necessity to educate all three is no longer an option but a requirement. As attackers become more intelligent, society, government and businesses are collectively responsible to learn how to protect companies, communities and the nations.

## EGYPT ORANGE OFFERED 4G LICENCE FOR \$400M IN SPECTRUM SHAKE-UP

**CAIRO:** Orange Egypt said yesterday that Egypt's telecommunications regulator had asked it to pay 3.54 billion Egyptian pounds (\$399 million) for a licence to offer fourth-generation mobile phone services.

The regulator had asked it to pay 100 million Egyptian pounds to acquire a fixed-line licence and 1.8 billion pounds to offer international calls, Orange Egypt said in a statement.

Orange Egypt said it was looking into the licence offers and had yet to make a decision. Egypt is selling the 4G licences as part of a long-awaited plan to reform the country's telecoms sector and the regulator has confirmed that it approached the three companies that currently offer mobile services about buying them.

Telecom Minister Yasser al-Qadi told television channel CBC last month that Egypt was

planning to offer high-speed 4G licences to companies already operating in Egypt.

The reforms will allow Egypt's land-line monopoly Telecom Egypt (TE) to enter the mobile phone market directly while allowing mobile operators to offer fixed line services, ending its domination of the sector.

TE, which is majority owned by the government, said on Sunday it had also been granted a 4G licence. It was not clear how much TE, which does not offer its own mobile services but does own a stake in Vodafone Egypt, would pay for the new spectrum.

"This move will enable TE to fulfil our long awaited goal of becoming a total telecommunications operator, by offering mobile services," TE CEO Tamer Gadalla said in a statement.

It was not clear what would happen to the

Vodafone Egypt stake if TE begins offering mobile services directly. Under previous reform plans, which have since been scrapped, TE would have had to dispose of its stake.

Vodafone Egypt said it received an offer from the telecoms regulator a week ago, but declined to give any numbers.

Khaled Hegazi, external affairs and legal director at Vodafone Egypt, said, however, that not all the mobile service providers had necessarily been offered the same prices or terms.

"Each company has specific conditions that are considered competitive. We receive different offers based on each company's condition in the market," he told Reuters.

Etisalat, which also provides mobile services in Egypt, was not immediately available to comment. — Reuters