

# ICIEC NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication of The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

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## Promoting Export and Investment in Member Countries ICIEC and SBP sign an MOU to enhance support to banking sector in Pakistan

ICIEC and The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on January 31st, 2012 in Karachi, Pakistan to cooperate in promoting trade and investments in Pakistan. The MOU was signed by the Governor of SBP, H.E. Mr. Yaseen Anwar and the CEO of ICIEC, Dr. Abdel Rahman El-Tayeb Taha..... **continued on page 6**

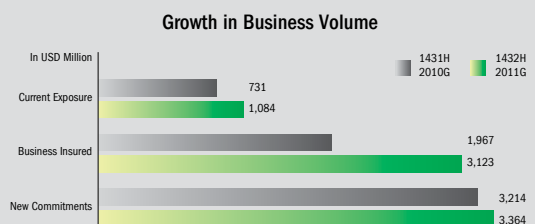


### Moody's Re-affirms Aa3 rating of ICIEC

At the end of November 2011, Moody's Investors Service, one of the leading rating agencies in the world, re-confirmed for the fourth consecutive year its Aa3 Insurance Financial Strength Rating (IFSR) to the ICIEC with a stable outlook, which was assigned to ICIEC for the first time in April, 2008. ... **continued on page 2.**

### ICIEC Achieves 59% Increase in Business Insured for 2011

Under the Chairmanship of the President of the Board of Directors of the ICIEC, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, the Annual Report of ICIEC for 1432H (2011) was approved at a meeting held at the Bank's headquarters in Jeddah... **continued on page 2.**



## EDITORIAL

Despite the increasing global financial and political risks during 2011, ICIEC not only continued to substantially expand its risk mitigation and credit enhancement services in support of the trade and investments of Member Countries, but also achieved a record low in claims ratio and also maintained its favorable Aa3 Moody's IFSR for the fourth consecutive year. All business indicators showed strong growth during 1432H (2011), particularly in Business Insured, which

reached USD 3.2 billion, an increase of 59% over the previous year.

It was a timely decision when, on its 18th Annual Meeting last June, the Board of Governors of the Corporation substantially increased the authorized capital of ICIEC from ID 150 million to ID 400 million, equivalent to USD 624 million.

This not only enhanced the Corporation's ability to expand its insurance capacity to meet the rapidly

increasing demand for its services in Member Countries, but also strengthened its financial position and enhanced the confidence of its clients in its ability to meet its insurance obligations.

I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all Member Countries who have not already done so, to subscribe to the general and optional capital increase.

**Dr. Abdel-Rahman Taha,**  
ICIEC's Chief Executive Officer

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## ICIEC Achieves 59% Increase in Business Insured for 2011

The Annual Report showed significant growth in export credit and political risk insurance business volumes. During the year, the Corporation insured exports and investments of USD 3,200 million, an increase of 59% compared to 1431H (2010).

The CEO of the Corporation noted that this growth in business is a result of the increased awareness among exporters and banks in our Member Countries of the importance of credit and political risk insurance as an affective risk mitigant, specially during today's turbulent times. This growth is also a consequence of the responsiveness of ICIEC to the demand of its

clients to introduce more flexibility in its product offering.

The CEO of ICIEC also informed the Board Members that the Corporation has been able to maintain its high credit rating of Aa3 by Moody's for the fourth consecutive year, which testifies to the financial strength of the Corporation in a challenging regional and global economic and political environment.

The Board was also updated on Member Countries' exercise of their right to subscribe to the recent capital increase approved by the Board of Governors of the Corporation.

## Increase in the Authorized Capital of ICIEC KSA to increase subscription to US\$95 million



“We hope that ICIEC would make greater efforts to increase its operation and raise its revenues,”

Al-Assaf said during the Annual Meeting of the IDB Group, June 2011, in Jeddah.

It is worth mentioning that Saudi Arabia is the largest owner of the shares of the Corporation after the Islamic Development Bank. The Corporation has covered the Saudi investments abroad amounting to USD 510 million. The Corporation will also give special attention to encourage and help investors from Saudi Arabia and other countries to achieve food security for all the Islamic Member Countries.

It is important to note that because of a vigorous and increasing demand from Member Countries and the exponential increase in its business

Under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, ICIEC held its 18th Annual Meeting in conjunction with 36th Annual Meeting of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on June 30th, 2011 in Jeddah.

During the meeting of the Saudi Cabinet held on January 9th, 2012, under the Chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah, and after reviewing the submission of the Minister of Finance and the IDB Governor for Saudi Arabia regarding the increase of the contribution of the Kingdom in the capital of the ICIEC, the Cabinet approved the increase of the Kingdom's contribution to the ICIEC capital from 13,500 shares to 60,000 shares, valued at 60 million Islamic Dinars, equivalent to USD 95 million.

insured over the past five years, especially after expanding its mandate, the utilization of insurance capacity of the Corporation was approaching its maximum limit. Therefore, the Board of Governors of ICIEC resolved at its 18th Annual Meeting held in Jeddah in June 2011, to increase the authorized capital from ID 150 million to ID 400 million, aiming to provide the Corporation with the much needed additional insurance capacity.

Recognizing the usefulness of ICIEC's services to their respective economies, seven Member Countries led by Saudi Arabia have already started subscribing to the capital increase.

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## Moody's Investors Service Ratings ICIEC maintains high credit rating of Aa3 for 4<sup>th</sup> Time

Moody's noted that ICIEC's rating reflects both the stand-alone fundamentals as well as potential support from its shareholders / IDB Group Member Countries. Thus, despite the absence of explicit guarantee, in the context of its key role as a facilitator of trade among Islamic countries, ICIEC's rating reflects its strong ability and the potential high willingness of its main Shareholders.

Furthermore, Moody's noted that the rating reflects ICIEC's legal structure and business nature, as it is the only multilateral export credit and investment insurance Corporation in the world that provides *Shariah*

compatible insurance and reinsurance products, as well as its enhanced regional knowledge based on its experience of operation in the regions. Moody's also noted that as a member of the IDB Group, ICIEC benefits from various managerial synergies and support.



# INSURANCE OPERATIONS



## ICIEC Insures Exports of Telecom Equipment to Algeria

ICIEC recently issued a policy insuring exports of high technology telecom and Internet related equipment from one of the world's leading telecom equipment suppliers to Algeria. The transaction is in excess of USD 20 million and has been supported by ICIEC under its new program which allows the Corporation to cover import of capital equipment from Non-Member Countries to ICIEC Member Countries. Most of ICIEC's Member Countries are importers of capital equipment and high technology equipment from overseas.

Over the years, ICIEC continued to see much demand from exporters of capital equipment as well as of essential commodities, requesting ICIEC to provide cover for exports to ICIEC Member Countries. Since most of these exporters were based in Non-Member Countries, they did not meet ICIEC's eligibility criteria at the time. Keeping this in mind, ICIEC subsequently approached its Board of Governors with a proposal to amend the Articles of Agreement, thus allowing the Corporation to issue insurance policies directly to exporters from Non-Member Countries, as long as the underlying exports were of capital / infrastructure nature, crucial commodities, or food security related items. The Board of Governors approved the requested changes, following which the new services were launched.

The rationale behind ICIEC offering these services is very simple: ICIEC's involvement allows the exporter to offer attractive credit terms to its buyers (who are in Member Countries) and encourages technology transfer as well as access to high technology equipment and services to Member Countries. Since launching these services, ICIEC has seen significant demand for this line of business from exporters across the world.

The current transaction under review fits perfectly in ICIEC's developmental mandate since today access to high speed Internet services has become a key enabler of improving productivity, educational standards and a host of other development indicators.



## ICIEC Covers Water Sector Project in the UAE

ICIEC has recently issued a policy to an international contractor, involved in the design, engineering, procurement and construction of a water treatment plant in the United Arab Emirates. Under the terms of the transaction, ICIEC will provide contract frustration cover to the contractor, which shields the contractor from the non-payment risk of the UAE based counterparty, as well as risks arising from unfair cancellation of the contract. The value of the contract is in excess of USD 75 million.

This was a high priority case for ICIEC, given the very important sector of the project. Drinking water is a critical requirement in the UAE and the project's developmental impact was the main reason ICIEC was involved.

The project was covered under ICIEC's recently launched Contract Frustration policy. The main difference between the standard non-payment risk cover and the Contract Frustration cover is the fact that under Contract Frustration, pre-shipment risk cover is standard. The CF product was launched by ICIEC specifically to cater to the requirements of contractors involved in large infrastructure type projects in ICIEC Member Countries. Usually, such projects involve incremental repayment streams, and pre-shipment risk is a major concern for contractors, since unfair cancellation of contracts would involve demobilization costs which cannot be recovered from the project counterparty.

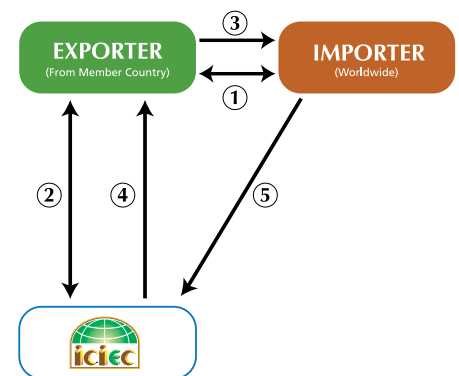
Since launching the product, ICIEC has seen significant demand for this product from contractors in both Member and Non-Member Countries.

## ICIEC Issues New CSTP for Saudi Company

During the 1st Quarter of 1433 (2012), ICIEC signed a Comprehensive Short Term Policy (CSTP) with National Food Industries Company Ltd., a Saudi based leading exporter of dairy and canned food items. ICIEC's policy will cover all export sales to over 20 countries worldwide and its domestic sales representing 10% of the whole turnover. The exporter provides Open Account credit to its buyers, and ICIEC's involvement insulates National Food against the non-payment of its buyers, due to commercial or political reasons.

The partnership will allow National Food to explore new markets in the Middle East, Europe and the Far East, while also ensuring its balance sheet is protected against shocks by isolating the risk of non-payment. The presence of credit insurance will allow National Food to offer competitive credit terms to its buyers, which will directly enhance its competitiveness in new markets, and increase the volume of sales to its existing buyers.

Furthermore, ICIEC's access to specialized databases that provide detailed information on the payment history and creditworthiness of millions of companies allows it to advise National Food on credit management and enhancement wherever required.



### About National Food Industries Company Ltd.

Based in Jeddah, National Food Industries Company Ltd. is one of the largest integrated food industry companies in the Middle East. The factory was established in 1993 and was involved in the processing and packaging of a wide variety of canned products such as peas and beans, evaporated milk, milk powder, sterilized cream and tomato paste in cans and tetra pack. The main brand produced by the company is LUNA.

National Food is committed to producing high quality food products that comply with local and international standards, therefore the company is considered to be one of the main competitors in the world; to enhance this competitiveness it needs to have well studied payments terms offered to its buyers.

## ICIEC & MIGA Promote PRI at DIFC



Prospects for Regional Growth in Light of Current Events as Centre of Discussion at DIFC



Michel Wormser, VP and COO of MIGA



Khemais El-Gazzah, ICIEC's Director of Operations



Abdulla Mohammed Al Awar, CEO of DIFC

In collaboration with ICIEC and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) hosted a forum on “Global Turbulence and MENA Transformations – Political Risk and Investment Trends and Opportunities” on January 15th, 2012. The forum, which took place in DIFC’s Conference Centre, explored how today’s uncertain world affects prospects for regional growth.

Political volatility in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, as well as the financial crisis in the Euro zone, have been the highlights of the past year. The forum discussed prospects for regional growth and the impact these events have had on investment, particularly on infrastructure projects. The forum also explored effective risk mitigants and the role of development financial institutions in the context of the challenges facing regional markets.

The Conference was opened by the CEO of DIFC Authority, Abdulla Mohammed Al Awar, who stated, “There is a lot to be done to identify opportunities and manage investment risks in the region. DIFC actively supports the growth and development of local and regional economies as evidenced by this forum.”

VP and COO of MIGA, Michel Wormser noted, “Foreign direct investment creates jobs and job creation is the lynchpin to development in the region.”

The forum brought together more than one hundred economic development and investment experts from leading regional and international companies, who discussed the impact of the global turbulence on investment in the region and the future development of MENA.

The highlights of the forum included discussion regarding investment trends, changes in capital

flows and FDI in MENA, and the role regional economies play in the global investment landscape. Experts also evaluated the current situation one year after the start of the Arab Spring, and the impact of political risk on investment as governmental changes begin to take effect.

“Events in the region show clearly the role Political Risk Insurance can play in attracting foreign investment into countries which need it the most.”

Dr. Abdel-Rahman Taha

## The 9th Middle East Trade & Export Finance Conference ICIEC Sponsors the Event

A team from ICIEC headed by the CEO of the Corporation participated in the 9th Middle East Trade and Export Finance Conference held in Dubai on February 14th and 15th, 2012.

ICIEC’s participation in the Conference also included its delegates representing the Corporation on two panel discussions. ICIEC’s Director of Operations, Khemais El-Gazzah participated in the panel “Assessing the demand for trade credit and political risk insurance.” During the discussion, Mr. El-Gazzah elaborated on how ICIEC has seen a major increase in demand for export credit and political risk insurance as evidenced by the over 80% increase in ICIEC’s business insured in 2011.

ICIEC also participated in another panel where the topic of discussion was: “Are Banks and ECA’s now seeing their full potential?” Representing the Corporation was Operations Manager of ICIEC’s Representative Office in Dubai, Owais Diyan, who observed during the discussions that with conventional funding sources starting to dry up on account of various factors like the Eurozone crisis as well as regional political upheaval, the role of multilateral ECA’s like ICIEC has become all the more important, and banks and project sponsors are increasingly looking at including ECA insurance and financing in their project structures. In line with the event, the members



Owais Diyan, Operations Manager of ICIEC’s Representative Office in Dubai

of GTR’s MENA editorial board, comprising the CEO of the Corporation, held a discussion about the MENA trade finance market.

## ICIEC BOD CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

# President of IDB Group Receives Tunisian Prime Minister

## Prime Minister Calls on IDB Group to Support Tunisia



The Tunisian Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Hamadi Al Jebali was accompanied by a large high-ranking delegation when he visited the IDB headquarters on February 20th, 2012, and met with the President of the Group, Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali and the Bank's senior management comprising the CEO of ICIEC. The Minister underlined that Tunisia will upgrade development cooperation with the IDB Group. The IDB Group President expressed satisfaction over the level of cooperation between Tunisia and the IDB Group and conveyed readiness of the Group to cooperate with the Tunisian government in supporting its economic and development programs particularly in Islamic banking, public housing projects and small projects financing aimed at Tunisian youth employment. To date, the IDB Group has contributed USD 3 billion to it in terms of financing trade, intra-trade, infrastructural projects and investment and export insurance.

## IDB and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

### to join hands for polio eradication

The IDB Group President, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali received Mr. Bill Gates, founder of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, on January 28th, 2012 at the IDB Group Headquarters. During the meeting Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali and Mr. Gates expressed their firm commitment to polio eradication and control of major communicable diseases, particularly in the least developed Member countries of the IDB, and to address the daunting challenges of food security affecting the poor. Also, addressing Mr. Bill Gates and his delegation, the President appreciated the benevolent efforts undertaken by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the least developed countries around the world, amongst them a number of IDB Member Countries.

Both parties have agreed to establish a technical working group that will soon meet to devise a three-year mutual cooperation program for polio eradication and propose actions for other potential areas of collaboration in the health and agriculture sectors.



## PARTNERS COOPERATION

# ICIEC's hosts Lloyd's Reinsurers from London



A delegation from London comprising of a group of reinsurers (ACE, CV Starr, Chaucher, Catlin, and RFIB) visited ICIEC and held a meeting with the management of ICIEC. The visit aimed to develop a better understanding of ICIEC's business operations and to discuss various issues relating to current and future cooperation between the two sides.

The visit by the delegation from London not only provided the opportunity for both parties to understand each other's operations better, but also allowed an exchange of technical information and knowhow that would be beneficial to both parties. The general consensus at the end of the meeting was that although the present level of cooperation between the two parties is excellent, both parties agreed that this could be increased to a higher level.

Commenting on the visit, the CEO of ICIEC said, "I am very satisfied with the meeting. It gave us the opportunity to inform the visitors more about ICIEC and the Islamic Development Bank Group as a whole and reinforce their understanding of ICIEC's insurance underwriting system. I hope the information shared will help in strengthening the relationship between ICIEC and these leading Lloyd's reinsurers to its insurance portfolio. Reinsurance is a key element of our business. It is not only a risks charring mechanism but it also help us to expand our insurance capacity and better serve our clients."

## ICIEC and SBP sign an MOU to enhance support to banking sector in Pakistan



# Promoting Export and Investment in Member Countries

The MOU aims at establishing a basis for the exchange of information between the two entities on the banking industry's condition and operating performance indicators and ICIEC's exposures on the banks operating in the country. Both the parties will cooperate for promoting and supporting the flow of trade and investment to and from Pakistan in accordance with the prevalent laws and regulations.

The SBP will endeavour to provide and share banking industry wide information and its report papers on the foreign investment environment in Pakistan with ICIEC as and when deemed necessary.

Before the signing of the MOU, Dr. Taha called on the Governor and discussed ICIEC's plans to further expand its operations in Pakistan. The Governor welcomed and appreciated ICIEC's interest in Pakistan and assured SBP's full support and facilitation to ICIEC for promoting trade and investment in the country.

It is important to note that ICIEC's operations in Pakistan, among others, include provision of Shariah compliant insurance coverage to LC issuing banks in Pakistan, which aims to help them in getting their LCs confirmed at competitive prices, confirming benefit from ICIEC's services in terms of credit risk transfer and favorable risk weight treatment under the Basel



II framework. ICIEC also provides export credit insurance in support of Pakistani exporters and provides political risk insurance to encourage the flow of foreign investments into Pakistan.

"I am confident that signing the MOU with SBP will greatly enhance ICIEC's ability to support Pakistan's international trade, particularly with OIC Member Countries," ICIEC CEO said

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Benefits of Inward Reinsurance with ICIEC

"To be the internationally recognized leader in Shariah compatible Export Credit and Investment Insurance and Reinsurance in Member Countries" – This is the Vision of ICIEC.

Taking cue from the Vision, ICIEC recognizes the importance of its existence and the role it has in nurturing growth potential of the ECAs in our Member Countries and extending our reach to all ECAs. As such, ICIEC encourages ECAs in all our Member Countries and Non-Member Countries to come forward and partner with ICIEC in their daily insurance business activities.

By partnering with ICIEC, ECAs are guaranteed to benefit from ICIEC's:

- a) **Strong Credit Rating;**
- b) **Preferred Creditor Status;**
- c) **Close knowledge of all Member Countries;**
- d) **Professional Underwriting Capability;**
- e) **Strong risk prevention and recovery activities;**
- f) **Strong Credit Information database**

One other important aspect worth considering when partnering with ICIEC is that ICIEC covers the risks of emerging markets and LDMCs that is uncommon in the present global situation in the Export Credit and Political Risk Insurance Market.



**Rahmatnour Mohamad,**  
Head Reinsurance Division, ICIEC

#### Potential Areas of Inward Reinsurance Cooperation with ICIEC:

##### 1) Fronting

- Typically arises when an ECA has an issue or issues concerning issuance of a policy in a particular country which could be due to legislation, risk and capability reasons.
- A multilateral ECA like ICIEC should be able to assist in overcoming such restrictions.

##### 2) Treaty Reinsurance

- This is a standing agreement between Insurer and Reinsurer whereby the contract agreement contains all the provisions defining the terms including specific risk definition, limits, retention percentage, provisions for premium payment etc.

##### 3) Facultative Reinsurance

- It provides an Insurer the avenue for coverage for specific risk that is large and / or not covered in the Treaty Reinsurance.



## The 4<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO Roundtable on Youth Employment in the Arab World



The CEO of ICIEC, the Chairman Steering Committee of ITAP, represented the Islamic Development Bank Group in the 14th General Conference of UNIDO and participated in a round table on “Youth Employment in the Arab World” organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The round table took place in Vienna, during November 29th, 2011.

The round table included international and country experts discussing various experiences in dealing with the problem of youth unemployment. The focus was on programs devised and being implemented by the IDB Group to help Arab Member Countries enhance youth employment, particularly the Youth Employment Support Program, the Education for Employment initiative, and the Entrepreneurship Development activities carried out by ITAP.

During the conference, the CEO participated in a meeting with the Director General of UNIDO along with the Minister of Trade and Industry of the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Abdullah Zainal Sheikh and, the Chairman of the Arab Center for Entrepreneurship Development in Bahrain, Ibrahim Khalifa Al Khalifa and a number of Saudi, Bahraini and UNIDO officials. The Director General of UNIDO reiterated UNIDO’s commitment to cooperate with Member Countries to combat poverty and youth unemployment, particularly in Africa. The Director General commended IDB for planning to organize a seminar on youth employment during the upcoming IDB Group Annual Meeting in Khartoum.

## ITAP/UNCTAD/UNIDO Capacity Building Program “FDI & Entrepreneurship Development”



Photo of Participants in the Program, 8 December 2011, Rabat, Morocco

The three-day program brought together 36 investment officials representing 30 Member Countries, and aimed to inform participants of best practices on FDI and Entrepreneurship Development and exchange ideas among IDB Member Countries on best practices in the area.

The UNIDO demonstrated the importance of a strong domestic investor’s base to stimulate FDIs. It highlighted important strategies and tools to be adopted by IPAs to accomplish this objective. Participants were also introduced to UNIDO’s best practice for enterprise creation and enterprise growth through presenting the means of developing entrepreneurs from the informal to the formal

ITAP, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNIDO’s Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) Bahrain, organized a capacity building program for the officials of the Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in the IDB Member Countries on “FDI and Entrepreneurship Development”. The Program took place in Rabat, Morocco during the period December 6 - 8, 2011.

sector and attain sustainable growth rates as well as stimulating enterprises to progress from macro to small to medium.

Similarly, UNCTAD introduced participants to concepts related to FDI and the activities of Transnational Corporations (TNC), SME competitiveness, economic development and UNCTAD’s entrepreneurship policy framework.

## New IRTI Director General Warm Welcome for Professor Azmi



**Prof. Dato' Dr. A. Azmi Omar** from Malaysia was appointed as the Director General of the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), affiliate of the IDB, on January 24th, 2012 on attachment from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He was formerly the Deputy Rector (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) in charge of Academic and Research at the same university. Prof. Azmi

has also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics & Management Sciences, Dean of Corporate Strategy and Quality Assurance and Dean of Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance. He obtained his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Finance from Northern Illinois University, USA and PhD from Bangor University, UK. Prior to joining UIUM, Prof. Azmi has worked in a number of positions in academia and the corporate world. The CEO of the Corporation welcomes Prof. Azmi and wishes him success in his mission as Director General of IRTI.

### News in brief

The CEO of ICIEC accompanied a delegation headed by the President of the IDB Group to the 2011 Annual Meetings of the Governors of the World Bank Group and the international Monetary Fund. The team including the CEO and GM of ICD, Khaled Al-Aboodi and the CEO of ITFC, Walid Al-Wohaib.

The CEO of ICIEC also accompanied the high level delegation from the IDB Group led by Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali that participated in the 2nd annual conference for "Business Owners Union and Business Youth Union" that took place in Doha on October 4th and 5th, 2011 under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani. The CEO participated in the session on "Vision of Sharing Business Project with Business Owners and Business Youth in OIC Countries."

The CEO of the Corporation participated in the 4th Consultative Group Meeting on "Enhancing Intra-OUC Trade" in Marrakesh, Morocco on February 21st and 22nd, 2012, and made a presentation on "The Role of Export Credit Insurance on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade."

At ICIEC headquarters, the CEO of the Corporation received Mr. Fathi Neffati, the General Consul of Tunisia in Jeddah where he held a meeting with management and explored how Tunisia can be helped in attracting investors by utilizing the tool of political risk insurance offered by ICIEC.

The President of the IDB Group accepted the nomination of Lotfi Zairi from ICIEC as a Vice Chairman of IDB Group Task Force on issues related to intra-OIC trade (GTRC).

Khemais El-Guazzah participated in the CreditAlliance General Meeting held on January 17th, 2012 in Paris and participated in the round table on 2012 forecast for the CreditAlliance members.

Turk Exim Bank has joined CreditAlliance as observer, Finar from Turkey, Activa from Cameroon, and Uniseguro from Venezuela become a full members of the Alliance.

AMAN UNION will organize the 2nd Underwriting Training Session on Risk Underwriting and Bond Insurance that will take place from April 8 - 11, 2012 at ECIE Offices in Dubai.

### Fitch Ratings Re-affirms IDB 'AAA'

Fitch Ratings has re-affirmed the Islamic Development Bank's Long Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'AAA' and Short Term IDR at 'F1+' with a stable outlook on November 16th, 2011. The report of Fitch Ratings highlighted IDB's excellent capitalization, strong shareholders' support and moderate credit risk as being key rating drivers.

It is worth mentioning that Moody's has already reaffirmed the IDB's 'AAA' Long Term Issuer Rating and 'P-1' Short Term Issuer Rating with a stable outlook on August 24th, 2011. Stand & Poor's also reaffirmed IDB's 'AAA' Long Term and 'A-1+' Short Term Counterparty Credit Rating with a stable outlook on September 29th, 2011.

### New Staff Joins ICIEC

**Ali Khalaf** is a Bahraini national. He joined the ICIEC on November 30th, 2011 as an Insurance Underwriter in the Short Term Insurance Department. Mr. Khalaf holds a Bachelors in Banking and Finance from the University of Bahrain and has more than 8 years of experience covering Islamic Investment Banking, Consultancy, Corporate Banking and Regulating Investments in Bahrain. Prior to joining ICIEC, Mr. Khalaf worked in many well-respected organizations including Unicorn Investment Bank, Central Bank of Bahrain and HSBC Bank.

