

Business Woman of the Year: Nahed Taher, CEO Gulf One Investment Bank

Dr. Nahed Taher, CEO Gulf One Investment Bank, has been appointed "Business Woman of the Year" by the Arabian Business Saudi Achievement Awards committee.

Gulf One, a Bahrain-headquartered bank with US\$100 million in capital, has become operational in the second quarter of 2006. Dr. Nahed Taher is the first Saudi woman to head a bank in the Gulf region. She has first recognized as a senior economist at the National Commercial Bank, making her the first woman to hold such a position in a bank in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Nahed holds a Master's Degree in International Economics as well as a PhD in Economics from University of Lancaster, UK. She holds a vast knowledge in the field on economics and financial analysis and has held numerous senior positions both in academia and the private sector.

Before joining NCB, she worked as a lecturer and later as the Head of the Accounting Unit at King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah. From 1987 until 2002, Dr. Nahed acted as a financial advisor to a number of Saudi companies. She later joined the National Commercial Bank (NCB) in 2002 where she became a senior strategic economist and led the Portfolio Management Committee.

Dr. Nahed is also known for her extensive knowledge in the field of International Economics and has participated in numerous Global Economic forums across the world. She is a member of the Saudi Economic Association, Center for Strategic Studies of Makkah Emirate, Business Women Committee and the Eisenhower Fellowship-Saudi.

Furthermore, Gulf One's mission parallels that of its founder. Dr. Nahed believes in the immense investment potential of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) infrastructure projects and private equity investment. Gulf One's financial products and services are currently focusing on mega-energy and infrastructure investments worth \$1 trillion over the next ten years. In addition, the bank provides services in restructuring and mergers and acquisitions, a presently non-existent but potentially profitable segment in regional corporate finance in hopes of entering Saudi Arabia into the World Trade Organization.

The Bahrain Monetary Authority (BMA) approved the bank's license on Dec. 6, 2006

