

ROLE OF ISLAMIC FINANCE IN PROMOTING MSME'S AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

2 April 2018

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

(Didon 1) Ramada Plaza Tunis

The development of micro, small and medium enterprises is of paramount importance to economic decision-makers in all developed and developing countries alike because of their pivotal role in promoting economic and social development.

Despite serious attempts to develop the sector, it is often constrained by access to adequate finance. It is therefore necessary to look for other financing alternatives that are more suitable and accessible to MSMEs. Islamic finance has come of age and has the ability to adapt to the different requirements of MSMEs with the objective to link financial transactions to real economy and achieve justice between all parties.

This event will discuss the role of Islamic finance in promoting financial inclusion and strengthening MSMEs by identifying the mechanisms and possible modes of financing for this sector and assessing its efficiency and relevance to the realities of these MSMEs. It will also share practical experiences of some international and local Islamic financial institutions and highlight their roles in integrating entrepreneurs in the financial and economic cycle through the provision of financial and non-financial services to them.

Key issues to be addressed:

- 1- What are micro, small and medium enterprises and what are their challenges?
- 2- What is the role of Islamic financial institutions in promoting micro, small and medium enterprises?
- 3- How adequate are the modes of Islamic finance to the needs of MSEs, and how effective and efficient are they?
- 4- What are the challenges and constraints for using Islamic finance as a tool to advance micro, small and medium enterprises?
- 5- What role can Islamic finance play to promote financial inclusion and further enhance and develop it?

S
p
e
a
k
e
r
s



Nabil Ghallab is the CEO of Zaitouna Tamkeen, the President of the NGO Tamkeen for Development and a member of the Board of Directors of numerous banks and financial institutions. He served previously as Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Al-Madīnah Al-Munawwarah and as a Senior Investment Specialist at the Islamic Development Bank. He is a former university professor and author of several academic articles on corporate governance, insurance, risk management and Islamic finance.



Ezeddine Khoja is the General Manager of Zaitouna Bank. He served previously as Secretary General of the General Council of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions in Bahrain. He is a member of the Islamic International Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration and member of the Shari'ah Committee of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions. He is also the author of many books and articles on Islamic jurisprudence and finance.



Ahmed Karam is the President of the Tunisian Association of Banks and Financial Institutions and the General Manager of the Bank - Al Aman. He is an expert in finance and business and has extensive experience in the banking sector. He served previously as Director of Cabinet of the Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia.



Mohamed Ali Chatti is the Manager of the Islamic Finance Investments Division overseeing IDB's investments in Islamic financial institutions, Awqaf organizations and microfinance institutions. He served previously as Senior Investment Specialist at IDB. He is also the author of several books and articles on Islamic finance.



Anas Hasnawi is the President of the group of international support, an international expert and consultant in Islamic finance and economic empowerment to several international organizations such as the Islamic Development Bank and the UNDP.



Mohamed Saleh Frad is the Director General of the United Gulf Financial Services (North Africa Office). He is also the President of the Tunisian Association of Capital Investors (ATIC). He has extensive experience in corporate finance, asset management and financial restructuring of companies. Previously, he served as director of research for a brokerage firm in Tunisia.