



# IRAQ FINANCE 2014

International Conference & Exhibition on  
Banking and Financial Services in Iraq

## Iraq Finance 2014

*Second International Conference & Exhibition on Finance & Banking in Iraq*  
27/28 January 2014,  
Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### **Preliminary Draft Agenda**

#### **Day 1 – Monday 27 January 2014**

<b>09:00-09:30 Welcome</b>
<p>Welcome by Dr Abbas al-Hussaini, Chief Executive Officer, <b>Symexco</b></p> <p>Welcome by Dr Sami al-Araji, Chairman, <b>National Investment Commission</b></p>
<b>09:30-11:00: Opening Session</b>
<i>The Macroeconomic View- addressing challenges and future opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CBI strategies and policies for Iraq financial and economic development.</li> <li>- Iraq's public finances: revenue generation, fiscal federalism, and budgetary constraints.</li> <li>- Strategies to increase the contribution of the financial sector to Iraq economic growth.</li> <li>- Licensing framework for foreign applicants: CBI requirements for bank ownership and acquisition.</li> <li>- How the TBI became an important player in Iraq's financial system.</li> <li>- How can foreign banks contribute to the development of Iraq's financial sector?</li> <li>- Global leaders entering Iraq- how will global giant Standard Chartered alter the banking landscape?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keynote Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>H.E Dr Rowsch N Shaways</b>, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq</li> <li>- <b>H.E Dr Qusay al Suhail</b>, First Deputy President of Parliament</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Dr Abdul Bassit Turki Saeed</b>, Chairman, <b>Federal Board of Supreme Audit (FBSA)</b>, Governor, <b>Central Bank of Iraq (CBI)</b></li> <li>- <b>Mrs Hamdiyah al-Jaff</b>, Chairman &amp; CEO, <b>Trade Bank of Iraq</b></li> <li>- <b>Mr Gavin Wishart</b>, CEO Iraq, <b>Standard Chartered Bank</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Session moderator:</i> <b>Hussein Allawi</b>, Managing Director, <b>Symexco</b></p>
<p><b>11:00-11:30: Tea &amp; Coffee (sponsored by BLOM Bank)</b> <b>Official Opening of the Exhibition by CBI Governor</b></p>
<b>11:30-13:00: The Banking Sector</b>
<i>Advancing the role of domestic lenders and encouraging foreign companies to enter the market</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CBI supervision of the banking sector: legislative changes to the regulatory framework and recent steps forward.</li> </ul>



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- Updates on the restructuring of Rasheed and Rafidain: accelerating the restructuring of Iraq's two largest banks and the cleaning-up of balance sheets.
- The role Iraq's banks can play in the growth and development of the private sector.
- Capabilities of Iraqi private banks to finance SME's: what needs to be done to boost lending?
- Achieving the operational independence of Iraq's private banks: how to create a level playing field between state-owned banks and Iraqi private banks.

**Keynote Speakers:**

- **Mr Waleed Eidy Abd Al Nabee**  
*Director General of Statistics & Research, Central Bank of Iraq (CBI)*

**Speakers**

- **Francois-Xavier Bonnevie**, *Director of Financial Services, KPMG AB*
- **Adnan al Chalabi**, *Managing Director, Bank of Baghdad, President, Association of Private Banks in Iraq*
- **Bilal Al Sugheyer**, *expert on MENA Private Banks, International Finance Corporation (IFC)*

*Session moderator:*

**Mais Abbas Abousy**, *Attorney-Advisor, International, Commercial Law Development Program  
Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce*

**13:00-14:00: Lunch (sponsored by Bank of Beirut and the Arab Countries)**

**14:00-15:30: The Iraqi Payments System**

*Future challenges and opportunities*

- CBI policies and strategies to strengthen the payments system and promote financial inclusion.
- Improving Iraq's retail payment system through technical partnerships with international companies.
- Credit Cards and Iraq's electronic payment infrastructure.
- Adapting innovations in international banking technology to Iraqi standards
- Modernising standards for domestic and international payment, clearing, and settlement.
- Status of bank security in Iraq – physical and electronic security.
- Iraqi ATM implementation- challenges and solutions.

**Speakers:**

- **Mrs Dhuha Abd Al Kareem**, *Head of Payments, Central Bank of Iraq (CBI)*
- **Phil Corper**, *Executive Banking and Payments Expert, USAID Iraq Financial Development Project*
- **Dr Hasan Alkhatib**, *Chief Technology Officer, International Smart Card (Qi)*
- **Mr Basel Ettell**, *Market Manager, Levant, Mastercard*

*Session Moderator:*

**Phil Corper**, *Executive Banking and Payments Expert, USAID Iraq Financial Development Project*

**15:30-16:00: Tea & Coffee (sponsored by BLOM Bank)**



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## 16:00-17:00: Improving the business environment and strengthening the real economy

*Urgent reforms needed to enable strong economic growth and a well-developed financial system*

- Policies and strategies to strengthen Iraq's financial infrastructure: the role of government stakeholders, Iraqi private sector, and international corporate players.
- The establishment of a National investment Fund to support Iraq's private sector: reality or illusion?
- Governance issues: tackling bureaucracy, Iraq's complex political situation, and legacies of prevailing state intervention.
- Achieving the unification of Iraqi company laws and reducing the complexity of corporate registration rules and requirements.
- Accounting / Auditing: developing skills to IFRSA desired standards and increasing the number of trained Iraqi accountants.
- Ensuring transparency in the banking sector: mechanisms for banks to identify creditworthy clients
- Risk reduction: improving the regulatory framework to protect investors and ensure a fair, efficient, and transparent market.

### **Keynote speaker:**

- **Carlo Sdravovich**, Mission Chief for Iraq, **International Monetary Fund**

### **Speakers:**

- **Shady Shafer**, Senior Economist MENA, **Standard Chartered Bank**
- **Jonathan Biles**, Chief Executive Officer, **Gate Insurance Group**

### **Session Moderator:**

**Anders Jonsson**, Global Relations Secretariat, **OECD**

## 17:00: Close of Day 1 of the Conference

## 19:30-22:00 : Iraq Finance 2014 Gala Dinner

**Venue - Westin Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina**



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## Day 2 – Tuesday 28 January 2014

<p><b>09:00 – 09:15: Welcome and Summary of Day 1 of the Conference</b></p>
<p><b>09:15-09:30: National Investment Commission</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NIC priorities for investment and project development: opportunities for private sector participation by industry and province.</li> <li>- Sectors with strong FDI potential: power and utilities, transportation, and social infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Sami Al-Araji</b>, Chairman, <b>National Investment Commission (NIC)</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>09:30-11:00: Capital Markets and the Iraq Stock Exchange (ISX)</b></p> <p><i>Development of capital markets – the engine of growth for Iraq’s redevelopment</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing Iraq’s capital markets- milestones reached and future challenges; increasing the ISX’s overall market capitalisation.</li> <li>- Legislative and regulatory changes: what is needed to further develop capital markets and ensure safe and transparent protection for investors?</li> <li>- Updates on the Permanent Securities Law- where have these reached, and when is the law expected to be passed?</li> <li>- Increasing the issuance of medium/long-term notes and bonds by the GOI- why is there a lack of maturities beyond one year?</li> <li>- Implementing government incentives to encourage private companies to list on the ISX.</li> <li>- What precedents does the Asiacell IPO set for future listings?</li> <li>- Opportunities for a potential secondary market for SMEs – would this work in the Iraqi context?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Taha Ahmed AL-Rubaye</b>, CEO, <b>Iraq Stock Exchange (ISX)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Sanjay Motwani</b>, President, <b>Sansar Capital</b></li> <li>- <b>Sadeer Munir</b>, Managing Director, <b>Melak Iraq (Rabee Securities)</b></li> <li>- <b>Salman Ansari</b>, Regional Head of Debt Capital Markets, <b>Standard Chartered Bank</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Session moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Gavin Wishart</b>, CEO Iraq, <b>Standard Chartered Bank</b></p>
<p><b>11:00-11:30: Tea &amp; Coffee (sponsored by BLOM Bank)</b></p>
<p><b>11:30-13:00 Energy &amp; Infrastructure Finance</b></p> <p><i>Managing risk and maximising opportunity in Iraq’s US\$ 16bn projects markets</i></p>



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- Financing Iraq's infrastructure and energy projects: the role of government, domestic institutions, and international lenders.
- Assessing urgent needs for infrastructure finance in Iraq and available funding tools.
- Securing alternative sources of capital in the absence of GOI sources - which foreign investors have the appetite for Iraq infrastructure development?
- The role of international and regional organisations, sovereign wealth funds, and development banks.
- Ensuring ECA involvement in Iraq transactions to ensure lender comfort and help facilitate project success.
- Multinationals and the Iraq projects market: perspectives from international financing experts.
- How should Iraq move forward with a national infrastructure financing programme?

**Speakers:**

- **Anders Jonsson**, Global Relations Secretariat, **OECD**
- **Ravi Suri**, Head, Project and Export Finance in India, Africa and MENA, **Standard Chartered Bank**
- **Andre Sebelius**, Regional Head of Middle East & Africa, **AB Svensk Exportcredit**

*Session moderator:*

**Hussein Allawi**, Managing Director, **Symexco**

**12:30-14:00: Lunch (sponsored by Bank of Beirut and the Arab Countries)**

**14:00-15:30: World-Class Solutions for the Banking Sector**

*Recent developments and priorities to facilitate private sector projects*

- Critical Reforms for the Iraqi Banking Sector
- Electronic banking solutions for a cash rich society
- Defining regulations to help Iraqi banks work with merchants and payment organisations
- Application of international technological solutions
- Business areas in need of IT innovation and development.
- Effective risk management for the Iraqi banking sector.

**Speakers:**

- **Chris August**, President, **Philadelphia Consulting Group**
- **Usman Qureshi**, Head of International Business Development, Banking Solutions, **DOTIN**
- **Homayoon Saghari**, EVP Technology, **Regional Switch & e-Payment Solutions Manager, UFO**

*Session moderator:*

**Carlo Sdralevich**, Mission Chief for Iraq, **International Monetary Fund**

**15:30-16:00: Tea & Coffee (sponsored by BLOM Bank)**



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## 16:00-17:00: Round Table Sessions

Parallel sessions with high-level participation from Central Bank of Iraq, NIC, and international banking and investment professionals:

**Topic 1:** Project and Infrastructure Finance

**Topic 2:** Private/Commercial Banking

**Topic 3:** Capital Markets

**Topic 4:** Software & Technology

**Topic 5:** Public Private Partnerships

## 17:00-17:30 Summing-Up

## 17:30: Close of the Conference

*Please note that details and topics were confirmed at the time of publishing, however, circumstances beyond the control of the organizers may necessitate substitutions, alterations or cancellations of the speakers and/or topics. As such, Symexco reserves the right to alter or modify the advertised speakers and/or topics if necessary. Any substitutions or alterations will be updated on our web page as soon as possible. Please continue to visit our website ([www.iraqfinance2014.com](http://www.iraqfinance2014.com)) for further updates and information.*