

## Beltone Financial Organizes Mena Conference In Qatar Sponsored By The Qatar Exchange

Press Release



Ahmed Mourad-CEO of Beltone Qatar

Qatar, 22 February, 2010 - Beltone Financial is organizing MENA CONFERENCE IN QATAR, which is being sponsored by the Qatar Exchange, on the 22nd - 23rd February 2010. The conference will highlight the potential the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region offers investors. Sessions will describe why investment opportunities across the MENA region provide some of the best investment opportunities anywhere in the world. The MENA CONFERENCE IN QATAR will be addressed by HE Dr. Khaled Al Attiya, Minister of International Cooperation, Acting Minister of Business & Trade and Chairman of the Qatar Exchange, who will provide invaluable insights into Qatar's contribution to the region, underlining the commitment to commercial reform, domestic investment and economic growth.

Beltone Financial is one of the MENA region's leading Investment Banking firms, outranking every other investment bank in the Middle East for year-on-year growth since its establishment in Cairo in 2002.

Mr. Aladdin Saba, Chief Executive Officer of Beltone Financial, said the MENA CONFERENCE IN QATAR was an important event for investors from the United States, Europe and Middle East to meet with the heads of companies from the region. Each company attending the event will demonstrate that the fundamentals for long-term growth and profitability remain intact in the Middle East after the global slowdown of the last two years.

"Institutional portfolio managers understand the positive long-term fundamentals that are driving growth in the region," he said. "They are demonstrating confidence that earnings growth will remain some of the highest than in the world."

Mr. Aly El-Tahry, Chairman of Beltone Financial, said many business sectors in the Middle East are attracting investor interest into investments in financial services, construction and pharmaceuticals, and into the growing number of small and

medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

"There is good reason for optimism," he said. "The young demographics and low labour costs are attracting quality global companies to set up industrial plants such as Airbus and Nissan into North Africa. In addition, high liquidity in several Middle East countries, improved corporate governance and rising consumer spending are compounding the positive investment factors."

Mr. Andre Went, CEO of the Qatar Exchange, said: "The Qatar Exchange is a strong local market that now aims to become the leading stock exchange in the GCC and a major player in the world. We believe this important conference will highlight the opportunities that are becoming apparent for investment through the Qatar Exchange".

The World Bank forecasts positive growth in the MENA region, which has a combined GDP of more than US\$1,500 billion per annum. Increasing demand for consumer products by its young population and increased global trade are transforming the region's economic landscape.

The MENA CONFERENCE IN QATAR is the latest in a series of investment conferences organised by Beltone Financial. In 2008, Beltone Financial organised "FIRST EGYPT DAY" at the New York Stock Exchange, followed by the "FUTURE TRENDS" conference in London; both of which introduced investors to companies from Egypt, some of which also operate across the MENA region. In May 2009, Beltone Financial's "MENA FIRST DAY" conference at the New York Stock Exchange attracted investors representing funds worth over US\$ 1 trillion.

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### About Beltone Financial Holding SAE

*Beltone Financial Holding is one of the fastest growing investment banks in the Middle East and one of the region's leading financial services firms, founded in 2002 by leaders in the financial services industry in the Middle East. Headquartered in Cairo, Egypt, Beltone Financial has attracted some of the brightest brains, growing to a staff of almost 300. Offices have been established in New York, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.*

*Beltone serves institutions and high-net-worth investors in the world's most exciting investment market, outranking every other investment bank in the Middle East for year-on-year growth since its inception. Beltone Financial comprises divisions for asset management, private investment, private equity, brokerage and research.*

*Belton's Vision is enriching individual, corporate and community wealth by engaging in transformational relationships. Belton is a catalyst in the MENA region and beyond, innovatively leveraging synergies to benefit its clients, as it searches for the best investment opportunities to present to its clients on a daily basis. The focus of Belton's strategy is innovation and product differentiation, for example, introducing the region's first 401-k type savings plan, the first MEN Equity Fund and a variety of new investment banking products*

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