



TAIB Bank B.S.C.(c)

DUBAI FINANCIAL GROUP

a DUBAI GROUP company

Press Release

**DUBAI FINANCIAL GROUP'S 60% STAKE
TRANSACTION IN TAIB BANK COMPLETED**

Soud Ba'alawy Elected As the Chairman of New TAIB Board

MANAMA, BAHRAIN/DUBAI, UAE - 8 December 2007: In a press conference held today, TAIB Bank B.S.C. (c) and Dubai Financial Group ("DFG") formally announced the completion of the November 8, 2007 acquisition of 60% of TAIB's shares by Dubai Financial Group, the financial holding company of Dubai Group, a member of Dubai Holding.

As part of the transaction TAIB's Board of Directors has been reconstituted and Soud Ba'alawy, Executive Chairman of Dubai Group, has been elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors of TAIB Bank. Iqbal G. Mamdani will continue to be the Vice Chairman of the Board. In all, five distinguished professionals have been newly appointed to TAIB's Board by Dubai Financial Group. The new Board will have four other Directors from TAIB's previous Board, thus providing continuity from the point of view of corporate governance.

Mohammed Al Gergawi, Chairman, Dubai Holding commented on the significance of the deal: "This is yet another strategic investment for the UAE as it capitalises on the growth of the region's banking industry. This comes at the right time as the economies of both UAE and Bahrain rapidly diversify and contribute to positioning the GCC region as a global financial powerhouse."

Speaking on the occasion, Ba'alawy stated, "We are proud to be a major shareholder of TAIB Bank. We regard this transaction as very significant for Dubai Group. Our



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combined expertise and talent will pave the way for further expansion and growth and hence more value for our shareholders.

“As Dubai Group, we are confident not only to create new opportunities for TAIB in Bahrain and Dubai, but also to leverage TAIB’s traditional focus markets of the GCC, India, Kazakhstan, Turkey and the MENA region.”

Sayanta Basu, CEO, Dubai Financial Group said: “Our investments target long-term high growth opportunities in both private and public companies. We believe that our partnership with TAIB Bank is another proven success and will enrich our portfolio of acquisitions as we look forward to more businesses that are fruitful.”

On November 8, 2007 Dubai Financial Group became the controlling shareholder in TAIB Bank after acquiring a 60 per cent stake in the Bahrain-based bank. The transaction was executed in full compliance of relevant regulations and procedures, and had been announced to media on the same day, following the approval of shareholders and Central Bank of Bahrain

Abdulaziz R. Alrashed, TAIB’s former Chairman, said, “This is perhaps the most significant milestone achievement in TAIB’s 28-year history. With Dubai Financial Group by our side, TAIB’s potential has now been vastly scaled up, and we are sure that greater shareholder value will be achieved with the growth that is expected.”

Iqbal G. Mamdani, TAIB’s Vice Chairman and CEO, commented, “TAIB’s long-term strategy since inception has been to focus on countries with high-growth potential, such as India, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and the countries of the GCC. Dubai Financial Group is now our strategic partner, and their consistent objective of building long-term value through all of their investments will help TAIB grow tremendously in each of these countries, thus benefiting clients and shareholders alike.”



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In announcing that he had ceded his Chairmanship, Abdulaziz Alrashed said, “I consider myself privileged to have led the bank through this momentous occasion, and am confident that under the leadership of the new Chairman Soud Ba’alawy, TAIB bank will continue to grow across the region and internationally.”

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Note to Editors

About TAIB Bank

TAIB Bank, a private bank based in Bahrain, was established in 1979 and is regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain. Listed on the Bahrain Stock Exchange since 1994, TAIB is one of the region's first private banks with a focus on providing complete wealth management solutions to both high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors alike. The bank's strength lies in identifying and creating unique investment opportunities and is a testament to its 27 years of investment expertise and its network of six subsidiaries around the world.

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About Dubai Group

Dubai Group (DG) is the leading diversified financial company of Dubai Holding. Focused on banking, investments and insurance regionally and globally, Dubai Group has offices in Dubai, London, New York, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, Dubai Group has business interests in 16 countries that employ 12,000 individuals. Run by high-calibre industry veterans with proven track records, Dubai Group entities include Dubai Investment Group, Dubai Capital Group, Dubai Financial Group, Dubai Islamic Investment Group and Noor Investment Group. Dubai Group plays a pivotal role for the realisation of Dubai Strategic Plan by leading the development of financial industry.

About Dubai Financial Group

Dubai Financial Group (DFG) is the financial holding company for Dubai Group, a member of Dubai Holding. Its core practice is the identification and acquisition of financial services companies, to build long-term value through state-of-the-art governance. Identifying opportunities across the banking, foreign exchange, brokerage and asset management sectors, DFG will reinforce the Group's position as the principal entity mandated to drive its activities in the regional and international markets. It has



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significant stakes in regional and global institutions such as Marfin Popular Bank, Thomas Cook India, Taib Bank, Global Investment House, EFG Hermes and Dubai Bank.

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