



## RECENT NEWS

### Path Solutions Appointed as Trusted Vendor by Kuwait Finance House (Malaysia) Berhad



June 24, 2008, Kuala Lumpur - Kuwait Finance House Malaysia Berhad, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kuwait Finance House has appointed Path Solutions to be its trusted and key IT partner for the supply of its Treasury solution needs.

iMAL\*IslamicTreasury will enable the Treasury Division of KFHMB to benefit from its Straight Through Processing feature, requiring minimal human intervention, thus eliminating the manual processes involved in day-to-day operations and reporting.

Following the kick-off meeting which was held earlier last month and where the project teams agreed to work closely over the next five months in order to ensure delivery of the project by October 2008, a signing ceremony was held in Kuala Lumpur to commemorate the awarding of the contract to Path Solutions.

Dato' K. Salman Younis, Managing Director of KFHMB, commented, "The project will provide a platform to implement a fully-automated end-to-end processing treasury system for KFHMB. We have, within a short span of three years, rolled out various treasury products and established our presence in the local and international treasury markets."

KFHMB Treasury Division undertakes a wide array of Treasury related activities such as foreign exchange and money market activities, Sukuk investments and trading and dealing in hedging products such as the FX Promissory contract-i, Ijarah Rental Swap and Cross Currency Ijarah Rental Swap.

"KFHMB Treasury has been very busy un-

dertaking a growing number of increasingly sophisticated products and transactions. This is in response to customer demand. It has become imperative for us to have a robust system that will not only enable our treasury team to efficiently cater to a growing number of transactions but also respond more efficiently in volatile and uncertain markets," added Dato' K. Salman Younis.

On the same occasion, Mr. Naji Moukadam, President of Path Solutions affirmed, "We are delighted to partner with KFHMB for this strategic project. We are confident that our partnership will go a long way to meet KFHMB's strategic business needs. Our solution will offer truly differentiating benefits to KFHMB to achieve its long-term objectives."

Mr. Moukadam added, "Once again iMAL has reinforced its leadership and superior value proposition to large banks around the world."

Path Solutions has implemented projects at KFH - Kuwait and KFH - Bahrain. This is the first time Path Solutions will facilitate the up-skill of KFHMB. KFHMB can also expect from Path Solutions' team to bring in knowledge and expertise in the global finance industry (both investment and commercial), latest technologies and continuous involvement on how to implement these technologies and adapt them to today's banking industry.

#### About Path Solutions

Founded in 1992, Path Solutions is a dedicated software house, specialized in the provision of IT solutions to the Islamic banking industry.

Path has proven track record of successes,

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highly skilled business consultants and support team, aggressive approach, full commitment and reputation for offering leading-edge technologies to the largest banks in the world. Its flagship product iMAL has been ranked Number One Islamic Banking Solution and the 4th Best Universal Banking Solution in IBS 2007 Annual Sales League Table.

Path Solutions' strategy is to concentrate on its clients' needs and markets while strengthening the competitiveness of its software products.

Path Solutions' KL Branch in Petronas Twin Towers serves as a Support Office to Path's clients in Southeast Asia. The office plays an important role in serving the company's rapidly expanding clients' base and in strengthening relationships with key industry players.

#### About Kuwait Finance House

Incorporated in the State of Kuwait in 1977, Kuwait Finance House K.S.C. (KFH) is listed on Kuwait Stock Exchange. A market leader in the Islamic banking industry in Kuwait, KFH is engaged in providing Islamic banking. ■»P. 02

...services, including consumer banking, real estate financing, lease financing, trade finance, direct investments and portfolio investing, all of which are conducted in strict compliance with Islamic law. KFH has been accorded an upper medium grade (high credit-worthiness) investment credit rating of 'A2' by Moody's Investors Service, as well as 'A+' by Standard & Poor's and Capital Intelligence.

Kuwait Finance House (Malaysia) Berhad (KFHMB) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of KFH and is the regional headquarters for KFH in the Asia Pacific region. KFHMB commenced operations on 8 August 2005 and its paid-up capital has since been increased to US\$300 million, inclusive of US\$100 million in Tier II capital. As a licensed Islamic bank, KFHMB provides cutting-edge Shariah-based financial solutions in corporate & investment banking and commercial, retail & consumer banking. The Rating Agency of Malaysia last year has assigned respective long and short term general ratings of 'AA2' and 'P1' to KFHMB. ■

## First Community Bank goes live powered by Path Solutions' iMAL



June 12, 2008 – Path Solutions, the leader in the provision of high quality integrated Sharia-compliant software solutions to the world's Islamic banking industry today announced that First Community Bank (FCB) Kenya has gone live using iMAL Islamic Banking & Investment System, only 4 months after the project kick off date.

FCB is Kenya's first fully fledged Islamic bank. The bank was granted an approval to pioneer Islamic banking in the country by the Central Bank of Kenya in May 2007. The bank then chose Path Solutions' iMAL System after extensive and competitive vendor selection process that included other major global solutions' providers.

By deploying iMAL, FCB will provide premium Sharia compliant Retail, Commercial services and Investment banking solutions to meet the diverse needs of its clientele.

Hassan Muhammad, Head of Business Technology & Project Manager at FCB said: "It was important to select a partner that shares our bank's grand vision on Islamic finance. Indeed, Path Solutions understood our business

## Path Solutions appoints Mohammed Kateeb as Chairman

June 13, 2008 - Path Solutions, the leader in the provision of high quality integrated Sharia-compliant software solutions to the Islamic banking industry, today announces the appointment of Mr. Mohammed Kateeb as Path Solutions' Chairman.

In his leadership role at Path Solutions, Mr. Kateeb -who has been serving on the Board of Path Solutions since 2004- will spearhead the development of Path Solutions' large portfolio of products. He will also focus his efforts on leading Path's strategy in continuing to expand into new markets, thus bringing additional value to the entire firm.

Mr. Kateeb selection for this important and critical role is based on his breadth of experience in building businesses, teams and identifying and capitalizing on market opportunities for over 22 years in the USA, UK and the Middle East. He specifically brings with him a wide experience in IT and he is known for being results-driven, dynamic and highly entrepreneurial.

"We felt the firm was ready for a new leader who would take Path to its next phase of growth," says Mr. Ahmad El Sager, Path Solutions Ex-Chairman. "We think the company will benefit from someone with his extensive experience in IT and in managing multinational corporations. After 16 years of growing with the company, it is bittersweet to hand it off, but I will continue to be the Director of the Board and continue to provide full support to our employees and customers."

Mr. Kateeb comments: "It is an exciting op-



portunity to be able to lead Path Solutions and I am honored to carry on the tradition that Ahmad has built over the past 16 years." And he notes, "I look forward to working closely with our customers in the years ahead. It is key for Path Solutions to leverage its reputation in the delivery of quality Islamic banking solutions that provide strategic benefits and a competitive advantage to our customers."

Mr. Kateeb most recently served as the Managing Director of Microsoft Middle East. He has spent 11 years in Microsoft of which 6 in the USA. Mr. Kateeb was the Founder and CEO of InnoKAT "Innovation Knowledge and Advanced Technology" System Integrator. He is currently the CEO of Kuwait Cable Vision as well as being the Vice Chairman of Jareed Telecommunication and Technologies. ■

model, are adaptive and flexible in perceiving Kenya's dynamic financial requirements – with special attention to Shariah principles and compliance." And he added: "We are proud to have chosen the right technology solution not only to cater for our current business requirements but also to support us in the fast dynamic growing Islamic finance industry. Last but not least, we thank Allah for this achievement as we usher a new era in Kenyan banking with the birth of FCB. Verily, this success is an enormous blessing to everyone in the East African region."

Commenting on the Go Live, Raida Hafez, Path Solutions' Project Director said: "The whole implementation process went extremely well, largely because of the quality and commitment of both teams." ■

### About First Community Bank - Kenya

First Community Bank Limited (FCB) is a Banking Financial Institution incorporated in Kenya with an assigned share capital of One (Kes.1 b) Billion Kenya Shillings. It has the unique distinction of being the first fully fledged Islamic bank to be approved in Kenya by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in May 2007. As a pioneering financial institution, FCB has combined the best of traditional Islamic values with the technology and innovation that characterize the best of modern banking. FCB was on April 29th, 2008 licensed by CBK

and intends to operate three branches in Nairobi (City Center, Eastleigh and South C.), one branch in Mombasa and one Branch in Garissa by the end of 2008. There-after the bank intends to increase its branch network in Kenya to seventeen branches by third year of operation. FCB will also have a regional presence in East and Central Africa within a short time.

First Community Bank has introduced innovative Islamic banking services to meet the ever-increasing demands of customers who wish to bank based on Islamic principles, within the universal banking standards. FCB will continue to develop new and innovative Islamic banking services which support the ever-changing needs of its customers in Kenya and beyond.

## Islamic International Arab Bank goes live with iMAL powering expansion across its entire network

April 28, 2008 – Path Solutions and Islamic International Arab Bank officially announce the successful Go Live of iMAL implementation spanning 16 different locations in Jordan. Specifically in this deployment, Path Solutions implemented iMAL as the primary Core bank-

ing solution across IIAB entire network. The deployment also included alternative distribution channels like ATMs, POS, IVR & SMS services along with the integration with the Electronic Clearing Cheques and others which give the bank a consolidated view of all interactions while providing convenience to its customers through greater transaction touch points in addition to Consumer Financing, Corporate Financing and full Retail services.

Nihad Maraqa, IIAB Head of Operations' division commented on this success saying: "With the new Core banking system, IIAB will be able to grow and expand its operations to stay ahead of the market, meeting all international standards and requirements. On this occasion, I would like to thank all teams for their great efforts and their will to complete and launch the second phase of this project."

Commenting on the implementation process, Bassam Elayyan, Head of IT and the Project Manager at IIAB said: "Due to the essential need to update and deploy the latest technology in order to align the business need with the technical line, we have decided to consider iMAL which would improve our performance and enhance the services we provide to our customers."

Mr. Elayyan also added that having a solid Core banking system will enable IIAB to introduce new delivery channels that meet customers' demands and achieve IIAB top management strategy as one of the leaders in Islamic banking.

Mr. Elayyan was also quoted saying: "We are delighted that our technical and business team along with Path Solutions' team have completed this project and went live successfully."

IIAB underpinned by iMAL solution now provides its customers with a greater range of Sharia-compliant products and services, powered by a new platform designed to enhance reporting capabilities and improve productivity and global decision making.

Alain Abou Khalil, Project Director at Path Solutions stated: "Our technical and business consultants have remarkably collaborated with IIAB team and spent great efforts towards the success of this milestone. We look forward to continuing to work closely alongside IIAB as they expand their business rapidly and stay ahead of the market."

Acknowledging the extensive work provided by Path's development, support and ICT teams, Mitri Karam, Path's Project Manager said: "The combination of domain expertise and skills in cutting edge technologies has enabled us to manage the probability of all factors involved with this project and give true value-added support to IIAB".

## About IIAB

Islamic International Arab Bank (IIAB) considered one of the prominent Islamic banking institutions in Jordan is a subsidiary of Arab Bank, one of the largest financial institutions in the Middle East.

Established in 1998 as a public company in Jordan, IIAB offers an extensive range of services and products in accordance with the Islamic Sharia covering four major areas:

Personal Banking, Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB), Wealth Management and Treasury, which are catered to serve the needs of individuals, corporations, government agencies and other international financial institutions.

IIAB plays a significant role in developing Arab economies through financing strategic infrastructural projects across the Middle East / North Africa region (MENA).

The Arab Bank Group's financial strength and stability is continuously emphasized by the ratings received from the most internationally recognized rating agencies. Its long-term foreign currency deposit ratings are "A-" by both Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Fitch, and "A1" by Moody's. ■

## Path Solutions scores very high in IBS Sales League Table 2008

March 03, 2008 – Path Solutions, a renowned IT firm dedicated to providing Islamic and Investment software solutions to the banking industry today announced that IBS has placed Path Solutions' iMAL first in its Sales League Table for 2007. the biggest winner of the niche suppliers and the leader in the Islamic banking systems space, this ranking alone is evidence to its valuable contribution to the Islamic banking industry by developing products to meet the newly identified market demands.

Path Solutions' iMAL has been ranked Number One Islamic Banking Solution and the 4th Best Universal Banking Solution in the world by International Banking Systems (IBS) UK, in its Annual Sales League Table results for 2007, unveiled in London on February 28.

Moreover, Path Solutions leads all other IT firms, in the Islamic banking category, in terms of number of new wins for 2007, mainly start-up Islamic banks in the United Kingdom, with a spread over Malaysia and Africa. IBS report states that Path Solutions had 14 new Islamic banking wins in the past year alone, most of them are live sites today. While Path Solutions is declared

Since its inception, Path Solutions' iMAL is the choice of over 45 major Islamic financial institutions across the Middle East, Gulf, Africa, Europe and South East Asia, a unique distinction in itself.

The IBS Sales League Table is the industry's best-recognized global sales listing. Its publishing house conducts annual survey of sales of banking solutions in the area of Wholesale, Retail, Corporate, Retail, Private and Islamic banking.

This survey is global in nature and includes the major banking software solution providers. The IBS Sales League Table has high credibility in the banking arena and gets wide and comprehensive coverage. ■

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

### Technology aspects in Islamic Finance – Challenges and prospects

by Naji Moukadam - President



\*\*\* It is currently estimated that Islamic finance is growing at a rapid pace of 15 to 20 per cent per annum globally, and is worth about \$650 billion. Islamic banking product offerings are similar to conventional banking products, however the main difference is that Islamic banks only propose Shariah-compliant services, which means that the funds collected are not for the purpose of accumulating and paying interest (Riba) or invested in any harmful businesses that are against morality or societies' ethical concerns.

Islamic banking or Shariah finance is not new. But nearly 10 years ago, with the rise of consumers' awareness, the request for Islamic financing next to conventional financing becomes stronger in various domains and surprisingly it caught up in the past 6 to 7 years in unexpected financial capitals of the world such as in the UK and Switzerland, where leading international banks started conducting a wide range of banking operations in conformity with the Islamic banking principles.

Moreover, the large-scale growth in Islamic finance and banking particularly in Muslim geographies like Bahrain, Pakistan and Malaysia is influenced by factors including the liberalization of capital movements, privatization, global integration of financial markets, structural reforms in financial systems and the introduction of innovative and modern Islamic products.

It is clear that Islamic banking is not a negligible or merely temporary phenomenon. It is growing and expanding rapidly with an evolving consensus around getting most of the domestic product offerings to be universally-compliant and globally accepted. In Islamic banking, ground-breaking ideas could add more variety to the existing financial network. Given the trends and fantastic growth rates in Islamic banking sector, it is only a matter of time before Islamic banking will be acceptable and widespread in other parts of the world such as Eastern Europe, Australia and the

United States.

As in other areas of business, banking is now entirely driven by technology. Financial institutions are working on technologies that will support emerging new guidelines such as the implementation of Basel II on management of operational risks. Some European banks are already incorporating those new features in their IT systems.

A major revolutionary service revolves around the provision of pure Shariah-compliant software that mainly offers extensive functionality to support the special and unique requirements for Islamic banking. Its rich underlying processing capabilities, high level of parameterization and substantive features based on core principles of Islamic finance provide commercial and investment banks the flexibility to offer a wide range of ethical products to their customers and to create new value added offerings.

Besides, growth of any new business model in financial services is heavily dependent on availability of the right technology to meet customer services expectations, operations and compliance. To this end, solution providers compete in launching full service enterprise-wide technologies that provide end-to-end automation of retail, wholesale and investment banking services with global banking standards within the framework of Shariah.

Of their side, Islamic banks actively forge to offer their customers best-in-class products and services while ensuring strict compliance with Basel II and Shariah doctrine. The solution needed should support the complete life-cycle processing of a wide range of Islamic banking practices.

Retail and investment banking Shariah-compliant products help to unlock trillions of dollars of funds lying idle with high-networked individuals and corporate world, who follow Shariah principles in their day-to-day business and investment and thus would not participate in typical financial transactions.

Islamic finance is by right reaching new levels of sophistication. In reality, Islamic finance has sophistication together with a transparency facet that requires complex business processes to be incorporated and dual compliance to be managed at the financial institution level.

The rising worldwide participation in Islamic finance as a form of financial mediation in a hyper-competitive global environment has demonstrated its viability and competitiveness. Nonetheless, in today's dynamic economy and shaky world order that is also driven by advances in technology, harsh realities were brought to the forefront in the Islamic banking industry. New challenges and risks can be expected to continuously emerge and thus the industry requires continued developments to be pursued on all fronts.

Global giants around the globe are increasingly outsourcing solutions processes and IT operations and relying on technology to make their remaining proceedings more efficient. They compete in a wide sweep of diligences to seize business imperatives and obtain an immediate market impact.

For this reason, the call for robust and practical technologies with a distinctive ethical and moral dimension is crucial. Technology expertise will contribute to the people's understanding for implementing best practices in favor of the sustainable development of Islamic finance.

An important point of focus for Islamic banking is to maintain initiatives of adjusting strategies and creating new business models in order to keep operating competitively in nowadays' high-tech, multi-channel banking industry. ■

## INTERVIEW

### Mr. Atiyeh Shnaneer, General Manager and Mrs. Taghrid Amireh, Director of Finance, Head of Branches - The Arab Islamic Bank, Ramallah

The historical development of the banking sector in Palestine was, initially, marked by weakness and deformity in its structure and activities due to the political conditions that Palestine went through. Efforts to maintain peace and stability were limited under difficult circumstances occurring in the region.

The Palestinian government made every effort to restructure the banking sector in the country according to modern international standards. It carried out the responsibility of building a strong and safe banking sector and had accomplished some remarkable achievements in this regard. The Arab Islamic Bank was the most famous bank in the region.

#### When was the Arab Islamic Bank established?

**Mr. Shnaneer:** The AIB was established in 1995 and it continued spreading its branches over many Palestinian territories until 2003.

#### What was the system used at that time?

**Mr. Shnaneer:** At the beginning, we were operating as a Conventional Bank.

With time arose an immense need for building a strong banking system capable of meeting the latest economic and financial developments in Palestine.

#### How did you shift to the Islamic banking system?

**Mrs. Amireh:** Since its inception in 1995 and the start of business in 1996, AIB has pursued a strategy in improving its services and slowly adopting Sharia-compliant products despite the challenging backdrop of the Palestinian situation. So, we started searching for a true solution based on IAS and AAOIFI standards. The Bank of Jordan was consulted in search of a true Islamic banking system.

#### How was the first contact with Path Solutions?

**Mr. Shnaneer:** Path was shortlisted when our activities shifted to banking in accordance with Islamic principles, and the first presentation on iMAL with Path Solutions' EVP Business Development was done in Bahrain.

#### What were the problems you faced during implementation?

**Mrs. Amireh:** Due to the bad political situation in Palestine, iMAL was implemented in

just one branch. It took time to implement the system online real-time. Our location was not easy to reach. The bank's implementation team often put their lives in danger every time they drove to our premises. At that time, Palestinian banks were unable to function as intermediaries between the depositors and borrowers due to Israeli obstructions and restrictions. The main job of those banks was to facilitate the commercial operations and to hold deposits.

#### Since then, did you acquire other modules you are trying to work on?

**Mrs. Amireh:** Yes, we did. Facility Management and Shareholders Register as well as The Profit Calculation module which is now under implementation.

#### Was the implementation period fast?

**Mrs. Amireh:** Well, it took us a year before having a good and reliable online system, approximately until end of 2005. We had our ATMs linked to the system using iMAL\*IntegrationManager. SWIFT can now generate Trade Finance messages but is not implemented on production yet. The Treasury solution is working very well.

#### What are your future plans?

**Mr. Shnaneer:** AIB is currently looking at increasing its branch network from the existing eight branches. It has expanded its distribution capabilities through remote ATMs and point-of-sales.

We have invested heavily in the latest technology over that period, in order to deliver superior services to our customers. This has helped to differentiate AIB from its competition in the Palestinian market.

AIB also opened recently a new branch in the American University campus in Jennin and is planning to set up new branches as part of its strategy to expand and provide services to all sectors of the Palestinian society.

We are planning to open five more branches in the near future and we intend to acquire new products such as Mobile Banking, Internet Banking, and probably Sukuk later on, said Mr. Shnaneer.

#### How do you see AIB now?

**Mr. Shnaneer:** The Arab Islamic Bank is ranked Nb. 2 among Palestinian banks, and Nb.1 Islamic Bank in Palestine.

We attribute this strong performance to the excellence and expertise of the management and staff, and outstanding products and services offered by the bank, along with its strong credentials as a modern Islamic Bank.

To this end, the bank's performance has exceeded our expectations for this year. Profits have grown by 105% more than expected.

Based on the bank's deep understanding of the Palestinian market and the huge potential of the market itself, a business restructuring plan was carried out during year 2004, which led to the creation of a Business Development and Planning Department. This helped AIB to reap the rewards of the growing Palestinian market, and was also reflected in a healthy rise in shares' prices.

The Business Development and Planning Department strategy included new products' development, improvements in customer service, and effective marketing and PR activities.

The Arab Islamic Bank made notable profits from its Investment Certificates Program, which allows individuals and institutions to invest money in accordance with Islamic law using modern banking facilities of outstanding quality of service.

The bank has also expanded its strategic partnerships and diversifications to increase shareholders value.

"We are leaders in the Istisnaa in Palestine; we also provide Takaful services," concluded Mrs. Amireh.

The Arab Islamic Bank has been a pioneer in introducing modern and ethically-aware products and services as part of its efforts to develop the Islamic banking sector and the Palestinian economy.

### About AIB

The Arab Islamic Bank is a Palestine-based bank engaged in providing financial solutions and services in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia. The bank operates in two market sectors, Corporate and Retail. The bank's Corporate sector offers a range of financing and investment services such as Mudaraba, Musharakah, Murabaha and Ijara, as well as direct investment and leasing services. The Retail sector offers check clearing, transfer of funds, letters of credit, letters of guarantee, sale and purchase of travelers' checks, purchase and sale of foreign currencies, savings accounts, current accounts, specified investment accounts, investment savings, time deposits and other financing services. ■

## EVENTS & CEREMONIES

### Path Solutions, Exclusive Sponsor of 2008 Cambridge Workshop



July 24, 2008 - Following a highly successful participation last year, Path Solutions announces Major Sponsorship of the 2nd Annual 3-Day Residential Workshop to be held at Clare College, University of Cambridge in England on 8-10 August 2008.

Organized by the Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance, the workshop is widely regarded as the premier program in Europe that provides participants with an opportunity to exchange knowledge on technical innovations driving the industry forward, and on the legal issues in structuring Sharia-compliant finance products. ■

### Path Solutions displays its offerings at WIBC Europe

July 10, 2008 - Speakers and delegates of the 1st Annual World Islamic Banking Conference - Euro WIBC that was launched in London on the 8th of July were more confident that the basic frameworks and market conditions are now coming into place and hence would enable the rapid expansion of the Islamic banking industry in the UK.

In the concluding session, they all agreed to debate these points further in the upcoming WIBC Bahrain.

As a Strategic Silver Partner of WIBC, Path Solutions has showcased its fully-integrated and modular products' suite specifically tailored to the Islamic banking sector. ■

### Unbeaten presence for Path Solutions at Malaysia's Euromoney Summit



June 26, 2008 - Rohana Abdul Munim, Path Solutions' Malaysia Branch General Manager today highlighted the benefits of the company's successful participation in the 5th Annual Islamic Finance Asia Summit, which concluded on June 24 in Kuala Lumpur.

During the two-day event, senior executives from different Islamic financial institutions debated the most pressing issues in the region. ■

### Path Solutions in the spotlight at MEFX 2008

June 4, 2008 - In an effort to consolidate its position in the finance industry, Path Solutions concluded a significant role in the Middle East International Banking, Financial Technology and Services Exhibition and Conference which was held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre from 1-3 June 2008. Presented by DIFC, MEFX is the only event focusing on banking products, financial technology and professional services for the financial services industry.

At MEFX, Path Solutions showcased its cutting edge technology solutions designed to meet the growing needs of the rapidly expanding regional banking and finance industry. It has also conveyed its expertise through presentations conducted during private briefings. ■

### Path Solutions on visit to Turkey



May 30, 2008 - Path Solutions participated in Leaders in Islamic Finance Conference which took place in Istanbul, Turkey on the 26 of May.

In addition to Path, a prestigious blend of technology providers assumed their part in the event, presenting their products and recent achievements.

Path Solutions' presence in Istanbul was to demonstrate its commitment to the global Islamic finance industry. ■

### Path in Bahrain for AAOIFI 7th Annual Sharia Conference

May 29, 2008 - The widely-renowned provider of software solutions to the Islamic banking industry, Path Solutions participated as a Gold Sponsor of AAOIFI 2008 Sharia Conference. Commenting on their participation, Rosie Kmeid, Head of Corporate Communications & Marketing at Path said: "Our presence at AAOIFI reflects our long lasting commitment to availing our latest innovations and focused expertise to the Islamic financial world while playing an active role in shaping the future of a technology-driven era of financial services."

The conference, which was held on 27 & 28 of May in Bahrain, dealt with pertinent issues related to the application of Sharia for the international Islamic banking and finance industry. The discussions were led by esteemed members of AAOIFI Sharia Board. ■

### Path Solutions took part in NY 2nd Annual Islamic Finance World Conference

May 23, 2008 - On May 21 & 22, Path Solutions was present in New York to showcase its latest IT innovations in the city that played host one more time to North America Islamic Finance World Conference.

The 2nd annual conference and exhibition... ■ P. 06

provided a good opportunity for Path to share its knowledge on banking software solutions with its prospects.

It was also an opportunity to gain insight on leading banks accessing the North American Islamic financial market and meet with the pioneers of North American Islamic finance. With the North America Islamic Finance World Conference, Islamic Finance will have a bigger chance to introduce the true concept of Islamic finance to all North Americans.



## Path Solutions at the 5th IFSB Summit

May 16, 2008 – Under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and with the support of Path Solutions as a Bronze Sponsor, the 5th IFSB Summit has opened its sessions on May 12, in Amman - Jordan.

During the Summit, distinguished panellists discussed several issues such as the regional integration of Islamic financial markets, including Islamic capital markets and the promotion and the catalytic role of governments as well as the impact of globalisation on Islamic financial services. ■

## Path Solutions exhibited at the exclusive Euromoney Kuwait Conference

March 14, 2008 - Co-hosted by Kuwait Ministry of Finance, the Euromoney's conference was held for the first time in Kuwait at the Sheraton Hotel on the 11th and 12th of March. Following its long-time tradition, Path Solutions was present in one of the most significant events on Islamic Finance in the region.

The aim of the conference was to encourage interactive discussions on the implications and opportunities in a fast growing economy because of high market liquidity and to allow participants to share their insights on current and developing trends of the Kuwaiti financial services industry. ■

## Path Solutions' delegation went to Massachusetts for the Eighth Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance

April 23, 2008 – Path Solutions' delegates, Dourria Mehyo, AVP Business Consulting and Rosie Kmeid, Head of Corporate Communications & Marketing participated in the last Islamic Finance Project of Harvard Law School that was held from April 18 till 20, 2008 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with an aim of getting insights on the latest developments in the global finance industry.

The theme of this year's forum was "Innovation and Authenticity." Nobel Laureate Robert C. Merton, University Professor at Harvard Business School, delivered the keynote speech, which was followed by a highly intellectual debate involving Sharia scholars, academics and industry professionals. ■



## Path Solutions; an active participant at the Third Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions Conference in Syria



March 15, 2008 - Under the Patronage of H.E. Dr. Adib Mayaleh, Governor of Central Bank of Syria, the 3rd Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions Conference was held on 10th -11th March at Four Seasons Hotel Damascus.

Under the slogan: "Islamic Banking and Financing between Fact and Ambition", the conference speakers discussed several important topics, among them the supervisory role of central banks and the role of accounting and Islamic statutory standards in directing and organizing the work of Islamic banking.

This conference comes shortly after launching the activities of a number of Islamic financial institutions in Syria, and it accompanies the increasing foreign banking investments flow towards the new promising Syrian market. The convening of this conference is an important factor in consolidating and supporting Islamic banking and financing in the country.

Path Solutions participated as a Technology Partner in the event where it exhibited its latest Islamic software tools to the members of the Islamic finance industry.

## Job Fairs

As usual, Path Solutions participated in job fairs held at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Lebanese American University (LAU) and BIEL where Path representatives provided students and fresh graduates with information on career opportunities as well as specific details on company current openings.

Job fairs are an introduction to the real world of business and a chance for job-seekers to decide about their future career path. ■



## Path Solutions attends the AAOIFI CSAA Program

Path Solutions' Product Strategy Experts Team attended the AAOIFI Certified Sharia Advisor & Auditor Program which was extended over a period of 6 days from May 27 till June 3 in Bahrain.

## CIPA Certifications

Congratulations to our Kuwait-based colleague Anil Kumar who has successfully passed the 2008 CIPA Exam and was awarded a certificate by the AAOIFI in Bahrain! ■

## ACTIVITIES

### Path Solutions' Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 7 celebrates Speed Test during racing series



July 17, 2008 – Youssef Koussaifi, the famous rally car driver racing for Path Solutions will demonstrate high speed using the facelifted red 4x4 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 7, 2.0 ltrs. Turbo charged, 400 horsepower. Youssef, whose passion for motorsports began at a very early age, has demonstrated beforehand his driving skills under the supervision of Lebanese Champions Abdo Feghali and Jean-Pierre Nasrallah.

All guests and rally enthusiasts are invited and encouraged to acclaim Path Solutions' driver of Mitsubishi Lancer, fully equipped to experience high-speed rides around specially designed 3-circuits as indicated below:

- Sunday July 20, 2008, Beirut Sports City, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm (organized by ATCL)
- Saturday July 26, 2008, City Mall Parking Dora, starting 8:00 pm (organized by Red Bull)
- Sunday August 10, 2008, Faraya – Mzaar Wardé Parking, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm (organized by ATCL) ■

### A dusty day out in TerreBrune, Fakra



On Friday June 13, Path Solutions has organized an outdoor trip to Faqra where employees enjoyed their time riding ATV and having a tasty lunch by the pool. This day which was described by the majority as "Faqra Dusty Day" helped Path employees discover new regions of the beautiful Lebanon. Thus and since summer is here, new plans and activities are set for the team for the upcoming months. ■

### Football Game



Every Thursday, a group of 12 to 14 players from Path Solutions gather for a football training.

Elie Gemayel, one of our good players, handles reservations for the football field and takes care of emails informing all Path players and supporters about the date, time and place of each match.

The football field is the place where everybody can meet and enjoy the challenge.

The good news is that we have got the approval to establish an official football team!

The main differences between Path team and other teams are the respect, discipline, politeness & self-control the players show during the game. So you would never hear anyone yelling at the other or using bad words. No one cares who wins or loses. We only care about the fairplay.

Also at Path, we use the correct terms. Examples:

“Penalty” instead of “Bilanty”

“Corner” instead of “Cornall”

“Hands” instead of “Hans”

“Offside” instead of “Offsite”

“Goalkeeper” instead of “Golargeh”

“Espadrille” instead of “Zbedreen” ■

### Basketball Game



Path Solutions' Team swept Beirut Cargo Center Team 81-40 at a friendly game on Thursday June 26, thus giving a good start for Path Solutions' training sessions for the upcoming official tournaments.

The newly-formed 21-player Team was able to settle the match with a sweeping double score victory where its guests could not get any close in none of the quarters.

Sometimes during trainings, all that matters is getting out in one piece and moving on to play again against the opponent team. Such was not the case for the player, Ali Houry, who suffered a shoulder injury which stopped him from attending the Thursday game. Big thanks to the Red Cross who transported him to the nearest hospital on the spot. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on the court. ■



## PATH SOLUTIONS' EVENTS CALENDAR 2008

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	ORGANIZER	SPONSORSHIP
Structuring Innovative Islamic Finance Products	08-10 / 08 / 08	Cambridge UK	IIBI	Major Sponsor
The Shari'ah-compliant Finance Summit	12-14 / 08 / 08	Mauritius Islands	Team Synthesis	Technology Partner
Islamic Finance & Investment World	26-27 / 08 / 08	Johannesburg South Africa	Terrapinn	Technology Sponsor
The Rise of Islamic Banking & Ethical Investments	14 / 10 / 2008	London UK	efinancial News	Technology Partner
Islamic Finance Summit	20-23 / 10 / 08	New York USA	IQPC	Technology Partner

## ISLAMIC BANKING COURSES

### IIBI Post-Graduate Diploma

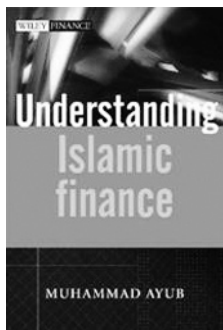
Devised by a team of Islamic financial experts, and geared towards developing the ability to understand the principles governing Islamic finance, the Post Graduate Diploma in Islamic banking and Insurance aims to equip individuals who have relevant work experience with the purpose of educating and training in Islamic banking and finance.

The course may also be of interest to eligible professionals who simply wish to have an understanding of the underlying concepts and implementation of Sharia-compliant financial transactions.

For more info, please contact The Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance, London – United Kingdom, Tel : +44 020 7245 0404 or Fax: +44 020 7245 9769.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Understanding Islamic Finance Muhammad Ayub



**Publisher:** John Wiley , Sons Inc  
**Publication Date:** January 2008  
**Pages:** 516  
**ISBN:** 0470030690

### Financial Risk Management for Islamic Banking and Finance Ioannis Akkizidis & Sunil Kumar Khandelwal



**Publisher:** Palgrave Macmillan  
**Publication Date:** March 2008  
**Pages:** 220  
**ISBN:** 0230553818

### A Dictionary of Economics, Business, and Finance E-A Nabih Ghattas



**Language:** English-Arabic w/Arabic Glossary  
**Pages:** 700  
**Classification:** Dictionary

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