

Business Lifestyle

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## BANKER MIDDLE EAST REVEALS THE WINNERS OF ITS 2010 INDUSTRY AWARDS

By: CPI Financial

Winners were predominantly from the Gulf region. Al Watany Bank of Egypt wins Best Developing Bank award. Michael Hardwick Tomalin, Group Chief Executive of National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'. R. Seetharaman, Chief Executive Officer of Doha Bank, and Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President and Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Banking Group, given awards for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Industry' and 'Banker of the Year' respectively.

CPI Financial has revealed the 29 winners of the Banker Middle East Industry Awards 2010 at a gala dinner at Emirates Towers in Dubai. Held in partnership with the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance, the 10th annual Banker Middle East Industry Awards ceremony brought together more than 330 distinguished regional and global industry experts and decision-makers to honour and celebrate excellence in the banking and finance industry.

The awards recognised both corporate and individual distinctions amongst top performers in the industry. Dr. Nasser H. Saidi, Executive Director of the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance and Dominic De Sousa, Chairman of CPI Financial, presented the trophy to Michael Hardwick Tomalin, Group Chief Executive of National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD), who was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.

The three individual categories were 'write-ins' in which voters had to name bankers whom they believed had made significant and lasting contributions to the banking and finance industry. The other individual awards were presented to R. Seetharaman, Chief Executive Officer of Doha Bank, and Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President and Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Banking Group, for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Industry' and 'Banker of the Year' respectively.

For the last 10 years, the Banker Middle East Industry Awards have been setting the benchmark for successful banking and financial institutions in the MENA region. "This year is no exception," says Dominic De Sousa, Chairman of CPI Financial. "Industry pioneers who have witnessed growth during these testing times have been recognised for their performance at the industry's most prestigious event."

Winners of the corporate categories, who were selected after a vigilant analysis of a whopping 150,000 votes, were predominantly from the Gulf region. One of the top awards was presented to National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) which won 'Best Bank' for the second time. NBK had previously won this award in 2007.

For the first time, senior industry executives presented the trophies to some of the winners of the corporate categories. Along with Dominic De Sousa, Niranj Sangal, OMA Emirates, presented the award for 'Best Use of Technology' to Emirates NBD, while Fouad Abou Alwan, Regional Manager of Sungard Institutional Asset Management, presented the award for 'Best Hedge Fund Company' to Rasmala Investment Bank and Basil Moftah, Managing Director Thomson Reuters Middle East & Africa, presented the awards for 'Best Brokerage House' to EFG-Hermes and for 'Best Investment Bank' to BLOMINVEST Bank.

"This year there was fierce competition among the nominees," said Robin Amlôt, Managing Editor of CPI Financial. "However, when it came to selecting the institutions who reflected excellence the most, it was conspicuous who the clear winner of each category was."

More than 100 institutions were competing for the 29 awards this year. Readers of *Banker Middle East* and *Business Intelligence* and registered users of CPI Financial's website cast their votes to select the winners of the different categories.

Following is the full list of the winners:

Best New Bank

Barwa Bank (Qatar)



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Best Developing Bank	Al Watany Bank of Egypt (Egypt)
Best Advertising Campaign	Dubai Bank (Dubai, UAE)
Best PR Campaign	Gulf Bank (Kuwait)
Best Customer Service	The International Bank of Qatar (ibq) (Qatar)
Best Contact Centre	Gulf Bank (Kuwait)
Best Use of Technology	Emirates NBD (Dubai, UAE)
Best Law Firm	Al Tamimi & Company (UAE)
Best Advisory Firm (Dubai)	Cedar Management Consulting International
Best Wealth Management Firm	Barclays Wealth (UK, UAE)
Best Mortgage/Home Finance House	Standard Chartered (UK, UAE)
Best Brokerage House	EFG-Hermes (Egypt)
Best Asset Management House	Natixis Global Asset Management (France)
Best Private Equity House	The National Investor (UAE)
Best Hedge Fund Company	Rasmala Investment Bank (UAE)
Best Project Finance House	National Bank of Kuwait (Kuwait)
Best SME Bank/Finance House	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Best Trade Finance House	United Arab Bank (Sharjah, UAE)
Best Islamic Investment House	The First Investor (Qatar)
Best Private Bank	Bank Sarasin-Alpen (Dubai, UAE)
Best Investment Bank	BLOMINVEST BANK (Lebanon)
Best Foreign Bank	Standard Chartered (UK)
Best Islamic Bank	Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Best Retail Bank	BLOM Bank (Lebanon)
Best Commercial Bank	Doha Bank (Qatar)
Outstanding Contribution	R. Seetharaman (Doha Bank, Qatar)
Banker of the Year	Adnan Ahmed Yousif (Al Baraka Banking Group, Bahrain)
Lifetime Achievement	Michael Hardwick Tomalin (National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Best Bank	National Bank of Kuwait (Kuwait)