Dear Members,

The GIFT-MENA Secretariat is pleased to initiate this series by wishing you Ramadan Moubarak.

As you will see from the news below, the network kept quite busy during the summer, planning a series of initiatives for the Fall season.

1. **Regional cooperation:** The Arab Planning Institute (API) and the National Institute of Administration of Palestine are in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding. Another partnership agreement is also under preparation between API and ARADO.

2. **Upcoming events:** The Institute of Finance of Lebanon-Basil Fuleihan Institute is planning to host a regional workshop on Performance Budgeting between November 24 and 28, 2008. The invitation letters as well as the workshop program will be sent out following the Holy Month of Ramadan. If you are interested in attending or sending trainers from your institutions, kindly book your calendars and send the Institute of Finance a brief expression of interest.

3. **Upcoming meetings:** The next GIFT-MENA Steering committee meeting will be held in Beirut, at the Institute of Finance of Lebanon-Basil Fuleihan Institute. The meeting will be preceded by a two-day workshop aimed at validating GIFT-MENA medium and long-term strategic vision. The meetings will take place November 3 to 6, 2008. Outcomes will be shared with you in our November issue of this flash.

4. **New members:** New institutions have contacted the Secretariat and expressed their interest in joining the network, namely the Leadership and Management Development Center and the Central Agency for Organization and Administration for Civil Service Policy Reforms and International Relations, both based in Egypt.

For sharing your news with network's members, kindly send by mail to the GIFT-MENA Secretariat the information you wish to disclose and we will include it in our next GIFT-MENA Activity Report.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Sincerely,

On behalf of the GIFT-MENA Secretariat

Sabine Hatem

For more information, please contact the GIFT-MENA Secretariat - IoF: 01-425 147/9 or contact@if.org.lb

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