**GIFT-MENA News Flash**  
August 2011

*With the beginning of the Holy month of Ramadan, the GIFT-MENA Secretariat would like to wish you all a blessed month and invite you to join the network’s upcoming activities as of September 2011.*

Regional Training Program on "Budget Preparation" (Beirut, 6-10 June, 2011)

24 senior civil servants working in the budget and control units of relevant ministries and government agencies from 8 MENA countries took part to the one-week training program on Budget Preparation that was organized by the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank.

Though an interactive learning methodology and case studies, the participants were exposed to the latest knowledge, tools and skills to advance the budget reform agenda in the MENA region and were offered a platform to exchange their experiences.

This program was the first of a series of training modules specialized in Public Financial Management, developed by the Institute in collaboration with the World Bank and the ADETEF.

**Summer activity: The Role of Training in support of Public Accounting Reform (Dead Sea, 3-5 July, 2011)**

The network would like to congratulate the Public Finance Training Center of the Ministry of Finance in Jordan on a successful seminar on "The Role of Training in support of Public Accounting Reform" held at the Dead Sea between July 3 and 5, 2011. The event was a joint collaboration between the Jordanian Public Finance Training Center, the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, ADETEF and USAID.

The seminar brought together 60 experts from 14 MENA countries, mainly high-level officials concerned with public accounting and internal audit reform, senior training managers at schools and institutes servicing the public sector as well as representatives of regional and international institutions and organizations and of the private sector.

*More details are available in the attached seminar brief.*

### Upcoming activities: Save the Date from now!

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Venue / Date</th>
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<td><strong>The Institute of Finance Basil Fuleihan 15th Anniversary Celebration</strong></td>
<td>1. Presidents and directors of civil service training schools and institutes in MENA countries 2. Experts in capacity-building 3. Representatives of regional and international organizations and of partners' institutions</td>
<td>Beirut, 15 November 2011</td>
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<td><strong>Specialized training program on “Audit and Control”</strong></td>
<td>1. Senior or middle government officials involved in audit and control functions at ministries of Finance in MENA countries 2. Supreme Audit Institutions in MENA countries</td>
<td>Beirut, 28 November – 2 December 2011 (TBC)</td>
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We also encourage you to consult the series of publications attached to our newsletter:

- The first issue of the quarterly journal ASSADESSA, published by the Institute of Finance Basil Fuleihan of Lebanon (for further information, kindly email: contact@if.org.lb)

- The issue No. 5 of HAKAMA, published by the Institut Supérieur d’Administration of Morocco (for further information, kindly email: m_aboulethar@isa.ma)

- The electronic newsletter of the Arab Planning Institute (for further information, kindly email: karim@api.org.kw)

Share your news!

Feel free to share your regional cooperation activities and suggestions with the GIFT-MENA Secretariat to keep the momentum going!

Take part to the network and send us your thoughts, opinions and ideas for 2012 by email at: contact@if.org.lb

We need action, we need change, and we need agents of change. We count on you...

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,

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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