



Bank Sarasin-Alpen wins 'Best Private Bank in the Middle East' award for the second consecutive year

BANKER MIDDLE EAST AWARD - a testimony to the bank's performance and innovation

Basel/Dubai, 1 July 2008

Bank Sarasin-Alpen has bagged the second consecutive 'BEST PRIVATE BANK IN THE MIDDLE EAST' recognition at the Banker Middle East annual award ceremony. Starting operations in the Middle East in early 2005, Bank Sarasin-Alpen won the first award in 2007, repeating the accolade this year. The awards include qualitative as well as quantitative review of services and products in private banking.

Bank Sarasin-Alpen provides a complete set of high quality private banking and asset and wealth management services to private and institutional clients in the region. The Private Banking services of Bank Sarasin-Alpen are supported by the Investment Banking business of Alpen Capital, rounding up the excellent track record in providing investment banking & private banking solutions to Institutional and Corporate clients in the GCC and South Asia.

Best Private Bank Award a great success

Rohit Walia, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of Bank Sarasin-Alpen said "We are delighted to have done it again. This award is testimony to our perfectly balanced service offering in the Middle East. High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) in the region are also industry leaders, requiring a combination of private banking and investment banking services. This has been our key differentiator and the reason we have notched up a series of wins on both sides of our operations.

Fidelis M. Goetz, Member of the Executive Committee and Head of Division International at Bank Sarasin & Co. Ltd, commenting on the award, said: "For more than 160 years, Bank Sarasin has remained one of Switzerland's leading private banking institutions. We are happy that this success is now being replicated and recognized in the Middle East."

Joachim Straehle, Chief Executive Officer of Bank Sarasin & Co. Ltd said the bank was delighted to be recognized with the distinguished award for the second year in running. "As a private bank, our success in the Middle East market is a testimony both to our deep understanding of the customer as well as our innovative business model."

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About Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Ltd and Bank Sarasin-Alpen Qatar, LLC – Responsibly yours – www.sarasin-alpen.com

Bank Sarasin-Alpen is incorporated as Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Limited in Dubai with offices in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and in Qatar as Bank Sarasin-Alpen Qatar, LLC with offices in the Qatar Financial Centre Tower (QFCT). Both subsidiaries of Bank Sarasin, Basel, Switzerland provide the complete range of Bank Sarasin's private banking services. Apart from UAE and Qatar the bank caters to the requirements of private & institutional clients in the Middle East & South Asia.

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Founded in 1841, Bank Sarasin is today one of Switzerland's leading private banking institutions. Its sustainable success is based on trust, confidentiality, expertise and dedication. Bank Sarasin's core activities include investment advisory and asset management services for private and institutional clients, as well as an investment funds business. Its complementary services extend to corporate finance and financial analysis. The Sarasin Group – headquartered in Basel, Switzerland – employs over 1,100 staff. In addition to its headquarters in Basel, the Bank has offices in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano in Switzerland. Internationally, the Sarasin Group has offices in Bahrain, Dubai, Frankfurt, Guernsey, Hong Kong, La Coruña, London, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Qatar and Singapore. Bank Sarasin is a limited company. Its shares are listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange, SWX. Its majority shareholder, Rabobank, enjoys the highest qualification of credit status (triple-A rating) from prominent international rating agencies. Measured by its core capital, Rabobank is one of the world's top twenty financial institutions.