



ICAI Doha Chapter hosts seminar on 'anti-money laundering and transfer pricing updates'

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Doha Chapter recently organised a seminar on 'Trust and Transparency in AML, Recent Updates in TP & Go Paperless - Stay Compliant'.

The event attracted around 150 finance professionals and chartered accountants from across Qatar. The keynote session was led by Karan Rana, partner at Ernst & Young (MENA), who provided a comprehensive overview of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) frameworks with a focus on

governance, compliance, and global enforcement trends. Drawing from global case studies like Danske Bank and Deutsche Bank, he emphasised how AML failures can lead to severe reputational damage, regulatory penalties, and executive accountability. His insights stressed the importance of embedding AML compliance as a strategic pillar rather than a regulatory afterthought. The second session was delivered by Balakrishnan Karyot, partner at Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants - Qatar, who presented an in-depth

analysis of Qatar's Transfer Pricing (TP) framework as per the latest tax laws and executive regulations. The session provided practical guidance on FAR analysis, comparability studies, and preparing for tax authority audits and risk assessments. The event also saw a brief technology presentation by Seby Cyriac, global director at Cube Innovators Technologies, showcasing how organisations can adopt paperless systems to support compliance, improve efficiency, and reduce environmental impact.



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QIB Group CEO named 'MENA Islamic Banker of the Year' by MEED

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has been awarded the 'Best Bank for Cross-Border Transactions'! At the same time, Group CEO, Bassel Gamal, was named 'MENA Islamic Banker of the Year', at the MEED MENA Banking Excellence, Corporate & Investment Awards 2025.

Mashaal Abdulaziz al-Derham, assistant general manager, head of Corporate Communications & Quality Assurance at QIB, received the awards at a ceremony held in Dubai recently.

The MENA Islamic Banker of the Year award was presented to Gamal in recognition of his strategic leadership and long-term contribution to Islamic banking. Under his direction, QIB has delivered consistent financial growth, operational excellence, digital innovation and financial inclusion, reinforcing its position as Qatar's largest Islamic bank.

QIB was named Best Bank for Cross-Border Transactions for its role in facilitating secure and seamless international financial flows for individuals, SMEs, and corporates.

Through its Direct Remit Service, customers can send money 24/7 in real time to eight key markets, including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the UK, benefiting from competitive rates and full transaction visibility.

Accessible via the QIB Mobile App, the service supports wallet-to-wallet and UPI transfers, of-



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fering convenience and speed. Strengthened by a global network of correspondent banks and strong trade finance capabilities, QIB continues to lead in Shariah-compliant cross-border banking.

Gamal said, "These recognitions from MEED reflect our continued focus on innovation, inclusion, and operational excellence. We are pleased to support

our customers with secure digital solutions and to contribute to the advancement of Islamic finance in the region. I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, employees, and customers for their trust and continued support."

The MEED MENA Banking Excellence - Corporate & Investment Awards 2025, now in

its fourth edition, are held in partnership with leading financial services publications Retail Banker International and Private Banker International.

As the region continues to emerge as a global financial hub, the awards recognise standout institutions and leaders shaping the future of banking across the Middle East and North Africa.

Doha Bank signs €500mn loan for diversification of currency mix and fund sources

Doha Bank has entered the global debt market with its first euro-denominated syndicated facility for €500mn on highly attractive terms, demonstrating the continuing attraction to international institutional investors, including European.

The three-year loan achieved a 1.3 coverage ratio; contributing to bolster the diversification of the bank's currency mix and broadening its liquidity sources. European investors accounted for 56% of the transaction and Asian investors 44%.

The loan succeeded in attracting new lenders with 56% of it placed with new lenders to Doha Bank, which demonstrates the attractiveness of the bank's credit profile to international lenders.

Banco Santander, BBVA, Emirates NBD and Mizhuo served as co-ordinators, book runners and mandated lead arrangers.

This loan follows on from the highly successful \$680mn three-year facility signed with lenders in December 2024.

"We are very pleased of the outcome of our debut euro syndication which is part of our continuous effort to diversify funding base across products and jurisdictions. Our efforts to explore other opportunities on this front will continue," said Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, the Group chief executive officer.

The successful transaction gives yet another testament to the increasing trust in Doha Bank's outlook among investors driven by the implementation of the transformation strategy, the bank's strong financial results in 2024 and the recent rating upgrade to 'A' from 'A-' by Fitch, the international credit rating agency.

They are also attracted by the strong economic position of Qatar and Doha Bank's role in it.



Doha Bank officials after inking the debut euro-denominated loan.