

## **Islamic finance can complement the growth of green finance & FinTech in Asia**

*Address by the Governor of the International Financial Centre Astana will highlight opportunities from bringing together Islamic finance and responsible investment*

April 5, 2017, Zurich, Switzerland – The organizers of the Responsible Finance & Investment (RFI) Summit 2017 are pleased to announce the addition of H.E. Kairat Kelimbetov, Governor, Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) as a keynote speaker at the Summit on 4 May 2017. H.E. Governor Kelimbetov will join Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, former Governor, Central Bank of Kenya to address senior representatives of the responsible finance industry in Zurich next month.

The addition of H.E. Governor Kelimbetov adds a new perspective based on his extensive experience in promoting a stable and sustainable financial system, both in his current role at AIFC as well as previous positions. Prior to joining AIFC, H.E. Governor Kelimbetov served as Governor of National Bank of Kazakhstan, the central bank, as well as holding the position of Vice-Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and CEO of Samruk-Kazyna, the country's sovereign wealth fund.

The collective experience held by the RFI Summit's three keynote speakers will provide a strong foundation for the Summit's discussions. The panel discussions held throughout the day will build on the keynote addresses to generate actionable ideas to promote greater cooperation within responsible finance in line with the overall theme of the Summit, "Building Bridges, Expanding Impact".

H.E. Governor Kelimbetov commented: "I am honored to be invited to speak during the RFI Summit 2017 in Zurich and look forward to sharing the experience from Kazakhstan in advancing the responsible finance industry by encouraging growth of green and Islamic finance and leveraging innovation from the FinTech sector to improve delivery".

Blake Goud, CEO of the RFI Foundation, commented: "We are very excited to add His Excellency Governor Kelimbetov as a keynote speaker during the Summit. Under his leadership, the Astana International Financial Centre is working to attract Islamic finance, FinTech and green finance to Kazakhstan, an important combination to encouraging greater cooperation within the global responsible finance industry".

Biagio Zoccolillo, Executive Board Member and Advisor of the Swiss Arab Network, commented: "The addition of H.E. Governor Kelimbetov to our excellent lineup of keynote speakers will provide Summit participants with a diverse range of opinions relating to the advancement of responsible finance. Their participation validates the premise of the Summit that responsible finance will benefit from building bridges and by doing so, it can improve its ability to benefit society".

### **About the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2017**

The Summit, to be held on 3 and 4 May 2017 at the Atlantis Hotel by Giardino in Zurich, Switzerland, will play a vital role in connecting representatives from across the responsible finance industry to build on the growing cooperation between responsible investment (RI), environmental, social and governance (ESG) and Islamic finance. The RFI Summit in Zurich is an initiative of the RFI Foundation and Swiss Arab Network, two globally active nonprofits institutions seeking to build awareness of shared values that can bring together people from various backgrounds working towards similar goals connected to generating benefits to society.

### **About RFI Foundation**

The RFI Foundation is a non-profit organisation with a mission to identify a neutral, nonpartisan and universal value proposition that encourages convergence of responsible finance practices. RFI evolves Sustainable, Responsible, Impact Investing (SRI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and the Islamic finance sectors towards a convergence of their shared standards, and engages stakeholders to build the responsible finance industry as a catalyst to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. Visit us at [www.rfi-foundation.org](http://www.rfi-foundation.org)

### **About Swiss Arab Network**

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organization with headquarter in Zurich and affiliations in the Arab world that strives to bridge gaps, promote sustainable exchange and intensify the mutual understanding among Swiss and Arab people. SAN is a networking platform and organizes events and gives speeches on topics like Swiss and Arab finance, business, culture, art and film. Established and high-profile organisations from Switzerland and the Arab world are members of the network. Visit us at [www.swissarab.org](http://www.swissarab.org)

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