

Responsible finance can help Islamic financial institutions address a \$12 trillion new market opportunity while better managing existing risks

The Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2019, being held at Abu Dhabi Global Market, will inform Islamic finance professionals about the business case for adopting responsible finance practices

London, United Kingdom, 13 February 2019 – The organisers of the 4th Annual RFI Summit are pleased to announce opening of registration for the RFI Summit 2019. The RFI Summit, which will be held at Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) on 29 April 2019, will provide participants with an opportunity to learn how responsible finance can help them improve the risk management capacity and identify new market opportunities for Islamic finance.

The RFI Summit is organised around the theme of “A New SRI: Can Sustainable, Responsible & Islamic Finance work together for impact?”. It offers participants the opportunity to learn about how Islamic financial institutions have unlocked benefit for their bottom line by incorporating responsible finance practices. The Summit will highlight real-world opportunities created by addressing the environmental and social impacts that their financing enables.

The universally-accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on which responsible finance has become increasingly focused, provides more than just a set of global goals. The Business & Sustainable Development Commission analysed the business case for the SDGs and estimates that businesses that align themselves to the SDGs will create \$12 trillion in new market opportunities and help to create 380 million new jobs.

For financial institutions that direct financing to these SDG-oriented businesses, this is a large untapped market opportunity and provides a compelling story to help forge a stronger and more resilient connection with their depositors, customers and investors. The RFI Summit offers engaging dialogues between sustainable, responsible and Islamic finance industry experts to translate the global opportunity into specific actionable recommendations that the Islamic finance industry can adopt.

The RFI Summit will also demonstrate how adoption of responsible finance in Islamic finance supports ambitions enshrined in the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration. The declaration was [signed by 25 public and private sector institutions](#) in January 2019 during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and represents a significant commitment by financial institutions operating in the UAE to use finance to address climate change and to support action on the SDGs.

Blake Goud, CEO of RFI Foundation commented: “Islamic finance has an opportunity to improve its risk management capabilities by understanding and adopting environmental and social risk management practices. As responsible finance becomes more widely understood and integrated into the region’s financial system, there will be new avenues for business growth. The RFI Summit helps participants get ahead of the curve by connecting them with industry experts and by offering valuable peer learning opportunities to help them advance their institution’s adoption of responsible finance.”

Mounir Khouzami, Executive Board Member, Chairman of the Advisory Board and Co-Founder of Swiss Arab Network said: “Those who have adopted responsible finance practices understand that it can help

them to mitigate risks and identify new markets that support the SDGs. We have seen promising developments in responsible finance emerging at some Middle East and North Africa-based Islamic financial institutions but it is far from being widely adopted. RFI Summit participants have a significant opportunity through their participation to come away with new knowledge about how responsible finance works in practice.”

For more information about the RFI Summit 2019, please visit www.rfisummit.org. To register with a limited-time 30% discount, please [complete your registration before 6 March 2019](#).

About the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2019

The RFI Summit will be held at Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), a broad-based international financial centre for local, regional and international institutions, on 29 April 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The RFI Summit 2019 will bring together key stakeholders within responsible finance to build connections to new growth opportunities and more measurable impact. It plays a vital role in connecting representatives from across the global responsible finance industry to build on the growing cooperation between SRI, ESG and Islamic finance. Now in its fourth year, the RFI Summit is an initiative of the RFI Foundation and Swiss Arab Network to build awareness of shared values that can bring socially responsible investing (SRI), environmental, social and governance (ESG) and Islamic finance together to increase their positive impact.

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

About Swiss Arab Network

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organisation with headquarters 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 organises 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

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