

September 2024: Muscat, Oman – In line with its goal of becoming an international financial services hub, Oman Investment Bank recently participated in the 9th IFN Oman Forum held at the Grand Hyatt Muscat.

The IFN Oman Forum is part of the global IFN series, which highlights Islamic financial markets on global, regional, and national levels.

As the only international Islamic finance event of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman, the IFN Oman Forum attracted a large number of local banks and intermediaries and received full regulatory support.

Mr. Omar Musharraf, Head of DCM & Structured Finance at the bank, was among four panelists discussing "Building on Oman's Growing Position as a Centre for Islamic Capital Markets." As a seasoned finance professional, Mr. Musharraf provided various insights into the Sultanate's evolution and growth as a regional and global center for Islamic capital markets. He addressed several current topics in Islamic finance, such as how a period of lower global interest rates might influence Islamic capital markets, the key factors currently affecting global Islamic markets, the importance of developing a yield curve, the impact of new bond and Sukuk regulations from both issuer and investor perspectives, and how a flourishing equity and IPO market is contributing to Oman's broader divestment program.

Additionally, Mr. Musharraf and his fellow panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities facing Islamic capital markets in a rapidly evolving global financial environment.

This year's IFN Oman Forum served as a significant platform to showcase Oman's remarkable growth in the Islamic finance industry. It also highlighted how regulators, including Oman's Financial Services Authority and the Central Bank of Oman, are advancing the industry with robust regulations, a clear vision, and continuous stakeholder engagement.

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## **About Oman Investment Bank**

Oman Investment Bank is Oman's dedicated corporate investment bank owned by the Government of Oman and headquartered in Muscat; whose specialist and internationally experienced practitioners, derived from a global perspective, provide sophisticated and bespoke financial solutions and products for local and regional corporates and institutions. With a local footprint and international reach, Oman Investment Bank is growing dynamically into a major cross border specialist financial services hub for advisory and capital markets business, transaction banking and trade finance, and research insights; while acting to facilitate trade in financial instruments. For further information, interested parties can visit Oman Investment Bank's official website <a href="https://www.oib.om">www.oib.om</a>

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