

VICTORY FAVORS THE FOCUSED

Islamic Finance *news* Awards

Poll 2009

The **Islamic Finance news** (IFN) Awards Polls are the most transparent, definitive and competitive awards in Islamic finance. They are based on a unique poll which is the only true reflector of the global Islamic financial markets. The fifth annual **Islamic Finance news** poll results are in after 2,657 votes were cast over a month-long period.

The **Islamic Finance news** Awards Polls recognizes the best providers of Islamic financial services across a series of markets and sectors as voted by readers of **Islamic Finance news** from around the world.

In the 'Best Overall Islamic Bank' category for the IFN Awards Polls 2009, Malaysia's **CIMB Islamic** emerged at the top spot by the narrowest of margins, followed by the previous award winner for two years, **Kuwait Finance House**. Saudi Arabia's **Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation** maintains the third position that it attained the previous year.

The favorite in the 'Best Central Bank in Promoting Islamic Finance' category, **Bank Negara Malaysia**, has been voted for the fifth year in a row for the top spot. Its previous closest rival, State Bank of Pakistan, is notably absent this time and in second place is the **Central Bank of Bahrain**. A new comer taking the third spot is the **Central Bank of UAE**. In the Best New Islamic Bank category **Ajman Bank** from the UAE emerged as the winner while the most soughtafter category Best Individual Islamic Banker category was bagged by **Mr. Abdullah Sulaiman Al Rajhi**, Chief Executive Officer of Al Rajhi Bank.

In other categories, **Norton Rose** retained its award for the Best Law Firm in Islamic Finance; **Moody's Investors Service** was voted Best Islamic Rating Agency; **Path Solutions** is the Best Islamic Technology Provider; **CIMB-Principal Islamic Asset Management** is named Best Islamic Fund Manager; and **Takaful Ikhlas** is recognized as the Best Takaful/re-Takaful Provider for 2009.

In the Best Islamic Banks by Country category, there were notable wins for **BNP Paribas** (France), **First Community Bank** (Kenya), **Arab Finance House** (Lebanon), **Absa Islamic Bank** (South Africa), **Amāna Investments** (Sri Lanka), **Bank of London and the Middle East** (UK), and **Tadhamon International Islamic Bank** (Yemen).

Methodology: Forty-five categories were contested in the 2009 polls, nine more than the previous year. Participants were requested to take only 2009 into consideration when casting their votes. Voters could not vote for themselves or associated organizations and could only vote once. All votes were scrutinized and validated before being recognized. A total of 2,657 votes were cast during December 2009. Of these, 572 were disqualified due to irregularities discovered during the due diligence process. Therefore, 2,085 votes counted towards the 2009 results.

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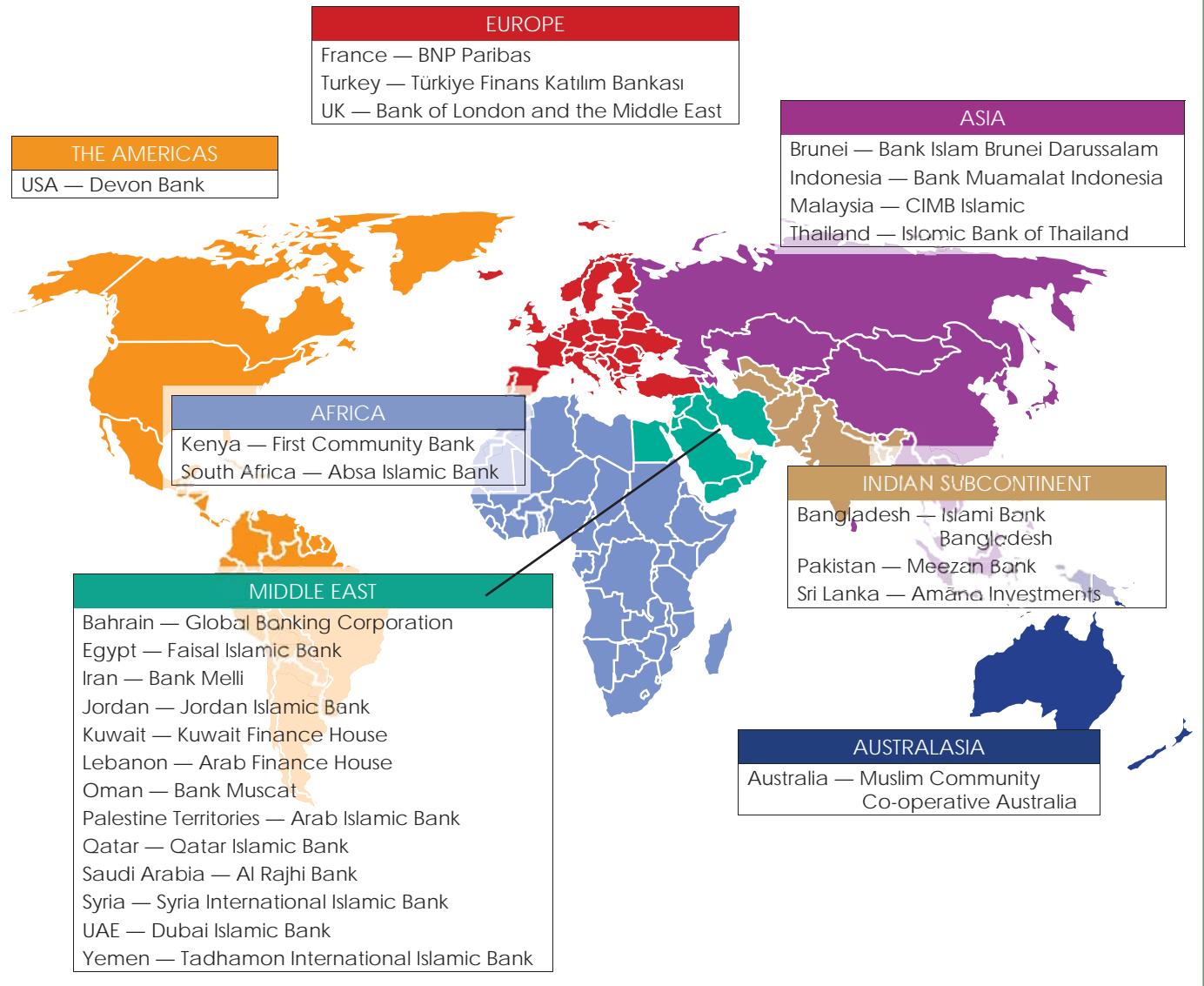
Best Overall Islamic Bank	1 st CIMB Islamic 2 nd Kuwait Finance House	3 rd Al Rajhi Bank
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Best Central Bank in Promoting Islamic Finance	1 st Bank Negara Malaysia 2 nd Central Bank of Bahrain	3 rd Central Bank of UAE
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Best Islamic Retail Bank	Al Rajhi Bank
Best Islamic Private Bank	HSBC Amanah
Most Innovative Islamic Bank	CIMB Islamic
Best New Islamic Bank	Ajman Bank

Best Individual Islamic Banker	Abdullah Sulaiman Al Rajhi
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Best Islamic Bank: By Country



Best Islamic Financial Service Providers Poll

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| Best Islamic Consultancy Firm | PricewaterhouseCoopers |
| Best Islamic Wealth Management Provider | CIMB Islamic |
| Best Shariah Advisory Firm | Dar Al Sharia Legal and Financial Consultancy |
| Best Islamic Research Firm | KFH Research |
| Best Islamic Index Provider | Dow Jones Islamic Market Indexes |
| Best Law Firm in Islamic Finance | Norton Rose |
| Best Islamic Leasing Provider | Bank of London and the Middle East |
| Best Islamic Ratings Agency | Moody's Investors Service |
| Best Islamic Takaful / reTakaful Provider | Takaful Ikhlas |
| Best Islamic Fund Manager | CIMB-Principal Islamic Asset Management |
| Best Islamic Technology Provider | Path Solutions |