

Islamic Finance *news* *Awards*

— Poll 2009 —

Best Individual Islamic Banker



Abdullah Sulaiman Al Rajhi

Position: Managing director & CEO

Company: Al Rajhi Bank

Age: 53

Nationality: Saudi Arabian

Abdullah Sulaiman Al Rajhi is the managing director and CEO of the Al Rajhi Bank, Saudi Arabia, and also spearheads the development of Al Rajhi Bank's Malaysia operations as its Chairman.

Upon graduating in business administration, Abdullah Sulaiman, a member of the well-known Al Rajhi family, added to his academic achievements by attending training courses at the Wharton School in the US and the Cranfield School of Management in the UK.

After familiarizing himself with various activities and levels of banking operations, Abdullah Sulaiman assumed various senior responsibilities in the bank such as deputy general manager for investments and foreign relations. In 1994, he was promoted to first deputy general manager and he became director and general manager of the bank two years later.

In 2005, he took on the position of director and CEO of the bank. He is also a member of the board of directors of a group of other Saudi business entities.

Under the helm of Abdullah Sulaiman, Al Rajhi Bank successfully executed its role as financial advisor, initial mandate lead arranger and bookrunner for several significant deals in the Islamic finance industry last year, two of which were duly recognized and awarded the *Islamic Finance news Awards Deals of the Year*.

In June last year, Al Rajhi Capital acted as mandated lead arranger in the US\$1.05 billion project financing of Al Dur Power & Water Company. This creative multi-source financing was a contender for IFN's Project & Infrastructure Finance Deal of the Year category and won the Bahrain Deal of the Year Award.

In July last year, Al Rajhi Capital acted as initial mandate lead arranger and bookrunner in the landmark US\$1.903 billion project financing for Rabigh Electricity Company, which was in the run for the IFN Awards Project & Infrastructure Finance Deal of the Year categories.

In August 2009, Al Rajhi Capital acted as financial advisor, bookrunner and initial mandate lead arranger in the landmark US\$2.6 billion project financing for Zain KSA, which was awarded IFN Awards Structured Finance Deal of the Year.

Another feather added to Al Rajhi Bank and Abdullah Sulaiman's cap is the fact that the financial institution not only won the Best Islamic Bank in Saudi Arabia but also the Best Islamic Retail Bank for two consecutive years.

Voting Methodology: Voters had initially submitted their nominations for the Best Individual Islamic Banker when conducting the *Islamic Finance news Annual poll* late last year. After the first round of voting, 10 international bankers were selected to compete for this award. Participants were requested to take only last year 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 2,547 votes were cast during the second round of voting over a 12-day period beginning the 6th January. Abdullah Sulaiman is expected to receive the most prestigious award of the year at the special Awards Ceremony to be held at the Grand Hyatt Dubai on the 8th March 2010.