

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.

Islamic Finance news is the industry's leading capital markets focused e-newsletter and features weekly editorial coverage of the global Islamic financing markets. The IFN 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 Bank** 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 Individual Islamic Banker 2009' category the ten most voted for individuals will now go head-to-head in a final vote. They are **Abdullah Sulaiman Al Rajhi** (Al Rajhi Bank); **Adnan Ahmed Yousif** (Al Baraka Banking Group); **Afaq Khan** (Standard Chartered Bank); **Badliyah Abdul Ghani** (CIMB Islamic Bank); **Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali** (Islamic Development Bank); **Humphrey Percy** (Bank of London and the Middle East); **Jamelah Jamaluddin** (RHB Islamic Bank); **Mohammed Sulaiman Al-Omar** (Kuwait Finance House); **Richard Thomas** (Gatehouse Bank); **Zukri Samat** (Bank Islam Malaysia)

In the Best New Islamic Bank category **Ajman Bank** from the UAE emerged as the winner.

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), **Bank Muscat** (Oman), **Absa Islamic Bank** (South Africa), **Amāna Investments** (Sri Lanka), **Syria International Islamic Bank** (Syria), **Islamic Bank of Thailand** (Thailand), **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.

Winners will receive the prestigious awards at two special Awards Ceremonies: The first will take place on the evening of the 25th February 2010 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, followed by another at the Grand Hyatt Dubai on the 8th March 2010.

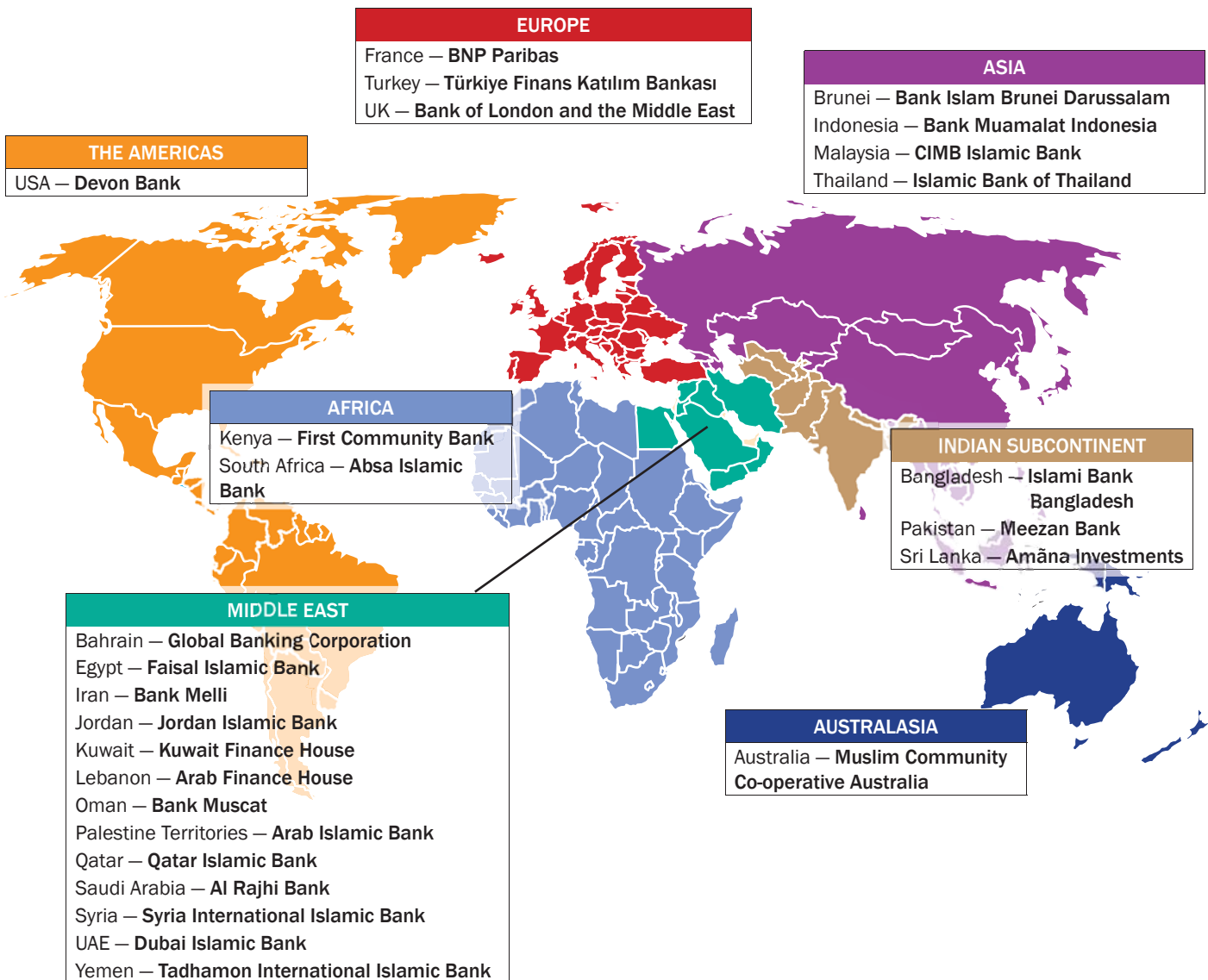
Poll 2009

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| Best Overall Islamic Bank | 1 st CIMB Islamic Bank | 3 rd Al Rajhi Bank |
| | 2 nd Kuwait Finance House | |

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| Best Central Bank in Promoting Islamic Finance | 1 st Bank Negara Malaysia | 3 rd Central Bank of UAE |
| | 2 nd Central Bank of Bahrain | |

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| Best Islamic Retail Bank | Al Rajhi Bank |
| Best Islamic Private Bank | HSBC Amanah |
| Most Innovative Islamic Bank | CIMB Islamic Bank |
| Best New Islamic Bank | Ajman Bank |

Best Islamic Bank: By Country



Best Islamic Financial Service Providers Poll

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| Best Islamic Consultancy | PricewaterhouseCoopers |
| Best Islamic Wealth Management Provider | CIMB-Principal Islamic Asset Management |
| 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 |