



## **Second International Forum on Public-Private Partnership in the Islamic Republic of Iran 19 – 21 November 2011**

### **LIST OF INTERNATIONAL & FOREIGN SPEAKERS**

#### **Chairperson:**

##### **Professor Fariborz Akhlaghi**

##### **Vice President, Major Projects – Engineering, Project Management & Strategic Advisory**

Fari Akhlaghi is an experienced international expert in procurement and delivery of Large and Complex projects, including those that adopt PPP structures. Professor Akhlaghi is educated in UK and is currently working from bases in USA, Europe and Middle East. He has over 29 years of international working experience, including many years in leading large engineering, construction, development and management consultancy operations in USA, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In his current position, as Vice President of one of the world's largest international Engineering and Project Management companies, Professor Akhlaghi is in charge of Global Major Projects and Strategic Advisory to governments and major private sector corporations in all sectors. He is an internationally recognized pioneer in Facilities Management education and professional practice. He has held several senior academic positions in universities in England, Scotland, Ireland and South Africa and is a regular speaker at international events.



#### **Speakers and Panelists:**

##### **Mr Chris Brown**

##### **Partner, Norton Rose LLP**

Chris Brown is a projects lawyer based in London. Chris is a PPP expert and has acted on a wide range of projects in the infrastructure, mining and commodities sectors throughout his career. Chris has over 20 years' experience advising on major infrastructure projects. Chris's clients include sponsors, contractors, international banks and financial institutions, government agencies and multi-lateral agencies such as European Investment bank (EIB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Chris is highly regarded for his experience in the PPP sectors and is cited as a leading individual in PPP in both Chambers Global and the Legal Business directories.



##### **Alberto G Brugnani**

##### **Independent Financial Advisor**

Alberto G Brugnani, a former director with Merrill Lynch Bank, is an independent consultant on Islamic finance focusing on the development of Shariah-compliant products and on capacity building. His unique professional background combines the Islamic, conventional and ethical finance sectors. He is the Founder and Chief of the Board of ASSAIF a think tank that structures and develops Shariah-compliant products and instruments that join the Islamic finance techniques to the implementation of the values advocated by Islamic political economy. It also offers professional consultancy and training in legal and Shariah, fiscal, administrative, financial engineering and marketing areas related to Islamic finance. ASSAIF works with governments, central banks, public and private institutions, local and regional authorities, professional practices and investors.



**Ms Farmida Bi**

**Partner, Noton Rose, LLP**

Farmida Bi is European head of Islamic Finance, based in our London office. She has acted on many of the ground breaking Islamic finance transactions, including advising the UK Government on its proposed Sukuk issue, advising on the first UK sukuk and on the first Islamic 'AAA' rated liquidity fund. A recognised expert in the Islamic capital markets field, Farmida is named as a leading individual for Islamic finance in Chambers and The Legal 500. Farmida qualified as a solicitor in 1992 and as a New York attorney in 1999. She was a partner at Denton Wilde Sapte in London from 2002 to June 2008 and joined Norton Rose LLP as a partner on 1 July 2008.



**Ms Joanne Emerson Taqi**

**Partner (Middle East) Norton Rose LLP**

Joanne has spent the past four years advising on PPP project strategy and structuring, tendering, bid evaluation and bidder negotiation for government and private sector bidders in the water, wastewater, solid waste and social housing sectors. Joanne is currently the team leader of the legal team advising the Ministry of Finance on the Muharraq and Tubli Wastewater PPP projects in Bahrain and the team leader of the legal team advising the project company in relation to the Waste to Energy PPP project in Bahrain. Joanne advised one of the bidders on the New Cairo Wastewater PPP project and one of the bidders on the Bahrain Social Housing PPP project. Joanne has been a named individual in the region in Chambers and Legal 500 independent legal directories since 2008 and is regularly invited to speak at regional and international conferences on PPP-related issues.



**Mr Ufoma Joseph Immanuel**

**Director, Restitution Limited**

Immanuel Ufoma started out his career working with Hedge Funds in the equity derivatives market in London, before moving on to work in the Energy, Renewable Energy & Utilities desk of RBC Capital Markets. Here he worked on numerous M&A / LBO type transactions involved large public utilities in highly regulated and or subsidised markets. He eventually moved onto the Structured Bond Solutions desk at RBC where he worked on numerous Illiquid structured bond financings, alongside PPP / PFI financings for the transportation and healthcare sectors. He has acted in various capacities in the PPP / PFI space, on behalf of local / regional authorities (especially in the UK), construction companies, asset operators and real money investors in PPP / PFI transactions. As part of his experience on the Structured Bond Solutions desk, he has also worked with emerging market sponsors on infrastructure related projects including significant Government involvement.



**Mr Hamed Afzal**

**Associate, Norton Rose LLP**

Hamed is a capital markets and structured finance lawyer who works for leading international law firm Norton Rose LLP in London. He has advised, among others, issuers, originators and corporate trustees in relation to new and the restructuring of existing international capital markets and structured finance transactions (both conventional and *Shariah* compliant). Hamed has previously worked in our Dubai office and has spent 8 months on secondment to a leading financial institution based in London.

