



QFCRA AUTHORISES GUARDIAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT QATAR LLC

DOHA, QATAR – 22 October 2009 The Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) has granted authorisation to **Guardian Wealth Management Qatar LLC**, to carry on Regulated Activities in or from the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) in arranging deals in investments and advising on investments in respect of contracts of insurance.

Guardian Wealth Management Qatar LLC, has been allocated QFC Licence No. 00113.

Welcoming Guardian Wealth Management Qatar LLC to the QFC, Phillip Thorpe Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Regulatory Authority commented:

“We are delighted to see that the QFC legal and regulatory environment continues to attract the most renowned international and regional institutions to Qatar. We are also pleased to contribute to the growth of the insurance sector in Qatar with QFC firms now offering a wide range of insurance services including Takaful and general insurance products and with an increasing number of experienced insurance intermediaries establishing in the country.”

David Howell, Senior Executive Officer of Guardian Wealth Management Qatar LLC added:

“We are delighted to be the first UK and FSA registered independent financial adviser in the QFC. It has been a long journey from the initial concept to the receipt of our authorisation and throughout this we have received invaluable support from both the QFCRA and the QFCA. We look forward to developing a successful financial advisory business which will contribute positively to clients in Qatar and Qatar as a whole.”

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About the QFC Regulatory Authority

The QFC Regulatory Authority is an independent regulatory body established by Article 8 of the QFC Law. It regulates firms that conduct financial services in or from the QFC. It has a broad range of regulatory powers to authorise, supervise and, when necessary, discipline firms and individuals. The QFC Regulatory Authority regulates firms using principle-based legislation of international standard, modeled closely on that used in London and other major financial centres. Further details are available on the website, www.qfcra.com

About the Qatar Financial Centre

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is a financial and business centre established by the Government of Qatar and located in Doha. It has been designed to attract international financial services institutions and major multi-national corporations and to encourage participation in the growing market for financial services in Qatar and elsewhere in the region. The QFC operates to international standards and provides a first class legal and business infrastructure for those doing business within the QFC. The QFC was created by QFC Law No.(7) of Qatar and has been open for business since 1 May 2005.

About the QFC Authority

The QFC Authority is the commercial, administrative and legislative body responsible for driving the commercial strategy of the QFC and for developing relationships with the global corporate community and other key institutions both within and outside of Qatar. More information on the QFC Authority is available at www.qfc.com.qa

About Qatar

In 2005 a nationwide referendum overwhelmingly approved a new constitution providing for Qatar's first legislative election and an independent judiciary. It has one of the world's fastest growing economies, is on course to be the world's leading exporter of liquefied natural gas and has an active programme of infrastructure investment and economic diversification.