

## Keynote Speech

Mrs Katia Tayar

Founder & Chairman

Arabcom group

At the Opening Ceremony of the 17<sup>th</sup> MENA Financial Forum and Expo

Dubai 3 November 2016

Ladies & Gentlemen

Distinguished guests

I am pleased to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 17<sup>th</sup> MENA FFXPO Conference and Exhibition, for online trading and investing, organized by ARABCOM group, through which we contribute to awareness, educating investors, and sustainable economic development in the region.

This unique and pioneering event in the region, since its launch in 2007 in Dubai, played a significant role to enhance the knowledge and awareness about online trading and investing in currencies, commodities, financial derivatives, stocks, bonds, indices, and became a bi annual successful meeting for many years as a result of our continued determination, our high organizing standards and efforts to keep pace with global developments and the latest trends in the financial technology Fintech industry and investment options, and has till date attracted the most important International, Regional and Local Brokerage and Investment companies, banks, Financial experts, analysts, noting our role in encouraging these agencies to open their regional offices in Dubai thus securing jobs for many young Arab graduates.

One of the main challenges faced by today's global economies and financial markets, is the slowdown, in addition to the following :

- An economic transformation implemented by China to reduce its dependence on export, strengthen its dependence on domestic consumption, leading to a slowdown in the Chinese economy and the decline in growth to its lowest level since the beginning of the twenty-first century.
- The slowdown exceeded the borders of China, to reach economies in several countries, which have long relied on the rapid growth in the Chinese economy, such as Canada, Australia and Brazil.
- The Volatility and daily fluctuations of the US dollar in international markets
- Central banks fierce war in Japan and Europe to face the economic slowdown, which prompted them to the use of unconventional weapons, such as reducing interest rates below zero percent.
- Britain Brexit decision to exit from the European Union and the collapse of the pound for thousand points
- Quantitative easing by global central banks to revive their economies by printing and pumping money
- The geopolitical situation Regionally, and wars putting pressure on the region's economies making the picture looks even bleaker
- In addition to the fall in oil prices, which means that the Arab Gulf economies began to experience large fiscal deficits and a slowdown in economic activity

There is no doubt that the volatility of markets offers opportunities for trading speculating and profit-making, therefore it was important for us to keep organizing our events in order to highlight the most important topics that enrich traders and investors with useful information.

The finance industry and its services are in constant development and need for new horizons, High Tech smart trading platforms, mobility, accessibility, real time news, social trading and copying, Live interactivity, in addition to smart phones usage to trade also, thus making this the trend for future years and the main focus of the financial services.

On the other hand, it is important to warn against the risks of trading online and raise awareness of investors and traders in this area to be careful in choosing regulated licensed brokers, including those with us today, to follow financial news, educate themselves via specialized training academies to reach an acceptable trading level to avoid risks and losses.

Dear guests,

We are here today to learn, listen, meet, discover and take advantage of financial experts and analysts highly qualified, who came specially to Dubai to participate in this event to inform participants at the conference sessions on the latest topics, Technologies offered, strategies and outlook at the markets, tips to make profits, return on investment, capital management, as well we are here to meet the world's leading brokerage firms.

I like to thank our loyal Sponsors, customers, international brokerage firms, banking investment houses, funds, financial institutions, Training academies, financial technology and service providers, speakers, and others, expressing our appreciation and wish them continued success. I would like to also welcome our new participants at both the conference and the exhibition who came from different countries, thanking them for their confidence in the selection of our events for their entry into the Middle East markets

In conclusion, thank you all for joining us today, visitors, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, analysts, experts, FinTech providers, colleagues, member of the Media, journalists, local, regional and international news agencies, representatives of the UAE government and all those who worked hard to make this annual event a success, and I wish you a pleasant stay in Dubai.