



عمان في: ٢٠٠٦/٣/٢٦

الرقم: ١٢١/١٣/دأس/٢٦١١

DISCLOSURE - ARBK - 27-3-2006

معالي الدكتور بسام الساكت الأكرم

رئيس هيئة الأوراق المالية

هيئة الأوراق المالية

عمان - الاردن

٦٥١٦ ٠٦ ٠٣ ٢٦ ١٤ ٣٢

J.S.C.

تحية واحتراما،

استنادا لأحكام المادة ٤/٨ من تعليمات افصاح الشركات المصدرة والمعايير المحاسبية ومعايير التدقيق بالاستناد لأحكام المادة ١٢/ف من قانون الأوراق المالية رقم ٧٦ لسنة ٢٠٠٢.

يسرنا اعلام معاليكم بأن السادة مؤسسة فيتش العالمية قد قامت برفع التصنيف الائتماني على المدى الطويل للبنك العربي ش.م.ع اعتبارا من ٢٠٠٦/٣/٢٣ من BBB+ الى A- ، اذ يعتبر هذا التصنيف تنويع لجهود البنك العربي وثقة متجددة في موقعه وادائه المتميزين.

نرفق لاطلاع معاليكم صورة عن اعلان مؤسسة فيتش العالمية للتصنيف وكذلك نسخة عن البلاغ الصادر عن السيد رئيس مجلس الادارة/المدير العام للموظفين.

وتفضلوا معاليكم بقبول فائق الاحترام،،،

الدكتور عيث مسمار
المستشار القانوني/أمين سر مجلس الادارة

١٢

هيئة الأوراق المالية
الدائرة الإدارية
الديوان
٢٦ آذار ٢٠٠٦
الرقم التسلسل ٤٦٥
رقم الملف
المهمة المختصة ١٤/٢٦

مرفقات/

ان م

From: Abdel Hamid Shoman - Chairman and CEO
Sent: 23 آذار، 2006 02:09 م
To: GM - All Exchange users (Jordan); GM - Arab Area Managers; Abdul Kader Askalan - Ruwi; Ferid BenTanfous - Tunis; Ghassan Bundakji- Islamic International Arab Bank
Subject: رفع التصنيف الائتماني للبنك العربي من وكالة فيتش
Importance: High

عمان في 2006/3/23

الرقم م م ع/72/32

حضرة السادة مدراء وموظفي البنك العربي المحترمين

تحية واحتراماً ،

يسعدني ويشرفني أن أعلن لكم انجازا هاما يرسخ موقع البنك العربي في مصاف النخبة من المؤسسات المالية العالمية.

فقد قامت مؤسسة فيتش العالمية للتصنيف اعتبارا من اليوم برفع التصنيف الائتماني للبنك العربي للمدى الطويل من (BBB +) الى (A-)

واني اعتبر هذا التصنيف تتويجا لجهود البنك العربي وإصراره وتفانيه خلال الاعوام السبعة الماضية، وأرى فيه ثقة متجددة في موقعه وأدائه المتميزين.

وإنني إذ أشكركم وأهنئكم على هذا الانجاز، لكلي أمل بأن يكون هذا حافزا لمزيد من العمل الدؤوب لرفع البنك العربي إلى آفاق جديدة ورحبة.

نرفق لكم طيا نسخة عن إعلان مؤسسة فيتش للتصنيف.

واقبلوا الاحترام ،،،

عبد الحميد شومان

رئيس مجلس الادارة / المدير العام

Eman Al-Sahhar - Secretariat Department

From: Abdel Hamid Shoman - Chairman and CEO
Sent: 23 آذار، 02:09 2006
To: GM - Division & Department Heads - Jordan; GM - International Area Managers (Group); Mario Di Marco / GM of AB (Switzerland)
Subject: Fitch Ratings Upgrade
Importance: High

Date: 23/3/2006
Ref.: CCEO/32/72

Dear all,

I am proud to announce a major milestone in Arab Bank stature among the elite of international financial institutions.

As of today, Arab Bank's Long-Term Rating has been upgraded by Fitch Ratings from (BBB+) to (A-).

Crossing this important threshold is the crowning of seven years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. It reflects a rejuvenated confidence in the global positioning and performance of Arab Bank, as well as in what Arab Bank stands for. For this, I thank and congratulate all of you.

As we enter the exclusive "A" rating domain, I am full of confidence that this great achievement will be an additional motive for all of us to take the Bank to new heights.

Please find a copy of Fitch Ratings announcement.

Best regards,

Abdel Hamid Shoman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

26/03/2006

Fitch Upgrades Arab Bank

Fitch Ratings-London-23 March 2006: Fitch Ratings, the international rating agency, has today upgraded Jordan-based Arab Bank Plc's ("Arab Bank") Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'A-' (A minus) from 'BBB+'. At the same time the agency has affirmed the bank's other ratings at Short-term 'F2', Individual 'B' and Support '5', and revised the Rating Outlook on the IDR to Stable.

The upgrade of the IDR reflects improved growth potential for the bank following a substantial rights issue in January 2006, and in the context of favourable economic conditions across most of the bank's core Middle East markets. The rights issue added JOD1,080 million (USD1,525m) to Arab Bank's capital, representing a 63% increase on end-2005 equity.

"High energy prices are contributing to a regional economic boom, leading to vigorous loan demand and a benign banking environment," says Martin Oldham, Director in Fitch's Financial Institutions Group. "The larger capital base strengthens Arab Bank's competitive position and makes it better placed to exploit opportunities."

Results for 2005 show a strong improvement in the bank's returns, driven by higher revenues and declining credit provisions. As Arab Bank expands, it will be able to achieve greater economies of scale, helping to boost returns further. As well as supporting asset growth in the parent bank, the new capital will be used to bolster the equity of existing and new subsidiaries and associates within the group.

Although Arab Bank has adopted a more dynamic growth strategy, management has confirmed it will maintain its hitherto conservative attitude towards risk management and balance sheet liquidity. This approach has helped the bank to weather difficult operating conditions in the past, as has the diversified nature of its activities. Around 80% of consolidated activities are outside Jordan. However, regional risks cannot be entirely discounted given the bank's exposure to politically volatile and less developed, relatively undiversified economies.

During 2006, Arab Bank will start bringing its European branches under the control of a newly incorporated entity in London. As well as strengthening business development and relationship in management in the European operations, the restructuring will also improve regulatory oversight by putting the European branches under the supervision of the UK's Financial Services Authority.

Arab Bank Plc is the main entity in the Arab Bank Group, which also includes its sister company, Arab Bank (Switzerland). The legal structure of the group insulates it to a degree from political and sovereign risks in Jordan and elsewhere in its home region. The proven ability to continue functioning independently during regional crises is a key strength of Arab Bank's franchise. Arab Bank's ratings are not constrained by Jordanian sovereign risks.

Arab Bank is Jordan's largest bank and has a comprehensive international network of branches, subsidiaries and affiliates spanning its home region and major global banking centres. The capital increase described above makes Arab Bank Group the largest banking group by equity in the Arab World.

Contact Martin Oldham, Mark Young, London, Tel: +44 (0) 20 7417 4222