Manama, BAHRAIN, 21 March 2009 – Governments, institutions and investors across the globe are grappling with the magnitude of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Greater market insight and shared knowledge is required to navigate through these turbulent times. As the ripples are being felt region wide, there was never a more compelling reason to stage a forum that harnesses the intellectual firepower of the best and brightest financial minds drawn from across the region and beyond.

More than 250 bankers and investment professionals met at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel & Spa on Saturday, 21st March 2009, for the Annual Charter Awards & Forecast Dinner organized by CFA Bahrain. It is the annual signature event of the Bahrain CFA Society, at which the achievements of new charter holders is recognised. Guests included senior bankers, government officials, consultants, investors and the media. The event featured presentations on the outlook for international and regional financial markets, and forecasts for select asset classes, by three renowned experts. The Charter Awards ceremony took place at 8:30 PM, and was followed by a buffet dinner.

The event showcased a stellar lineup of speakers. Mr. Kit Juckes, Global Head of Research and Strategy, Royal Bank of Scotland spoke about the outlook for global fixed income, credit and currency markets. Mr. Anthony Mallis, Chief Executive Officer, Securities & Investment Company (SICO) provided the regional perspective and Mr. Ramzi Abukhodra, Managing Director, JP Morgan Asset Management, presented the outlook for global equities and alternatives. All three speakers are well known and highly reputed in the investment community. The event was sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland and Securities & Investment Company (SICO).

Mr. Austin Sequeira, President of CFA Bahrain, said he is delighted with the growing popularity of the annual forecast dinner event. Amidst the unprecedented market turbulence that we have witnessed recently, interest in this year’s program is extremely high. With three renowned experts set to present the market outlook, investors will be
keenly looking for direction out of the current market uncertainty. Mr. Sequeira also said the CFA Society takes pride in the achievements of its new charter holders who were publicly recognized at the event.

The CFA Institute, based in Virginia, USA, awarded charters to 4829 investment professionals during 2008. Five of the new charter holders are from Bahrain and it was a proud moment for them when they were publicly recognized at Saturday’s event. The new charter holders from the Bahrain CFA Society are Ms. Mona Janahi, Mr. Jithesh Gopi, Mr. Khaseem Sab, Mr. Ali Jaffar Al-Moulani and Mr. Jerry Gwee.

There was also a chance for all guests to try their hand at forecasting the markets for 2009. The winners of the 2008 forecast were announced at the event and received prizes. The first place was won by Mr. Ajay Tomar. Mr. Hari Gobind was the first runner-up and Mr. Anjum Raza was placed third.

CFA Bahrain (officially known as Bahrain Investment Professionals Society) was established in June 2006, and is affiliated to the CFA Institute in the USA. The CFA Institute is a global professional organisation that awards the CFA designation, and leads the investment industry by setting the highest standards of ethics and professional excellence and vigorously advocating fair and transparent capital markets. The CFA designation has become known as the gold standard of professional credentials within the global investment community. Around the world, employers and investors recognise the CFA designation as the definitive standard for measuring competence and integrity in the fields of portfolio management and investment analysis.

Membership in the Bahrain CFA Society is open to all CFA charter-holders as regular members, and CFA candidates who can be admitted as associate members. The Society has over 100 members who are qualified CFA charter-holders. Besides, there are at present nearly 450 candidates in Bahrain who are actively pursuing the CFA Program.

The elected governing board of the Society includes Mr. Austin Sequeira (President), Mrs. Lamees Al-Baharna (Vice President), Mr. Palani Alagappan (Treasurer), Mrs. Sowmya Ramkumar, Mr. Asad Saeed Khan, and Mr. Essa Maseeh.

For more information about the CFA Institute and the Bahrain society, and their activities, visit www.cfainstitute.org or send an e-mail to cfabahrain@yahoo.com
CFA Fact Sheet

Ten Things You Should Know About the 
Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA®) Designation

- All three levels of the CFA exams are administered by CFA Institute each June. CFA Institute offers its Level I exam again in December.

- The CFA curriculum and exams reflect the latest knowledge that investment professionals need in order to practice in today’s global marketplace. The exam is based on a comprehensive body of knowledge stemming from periodic surveys of industry professionals on the practical knowledge and schools required for today’s practitioners.

- CFA exams are administered in three levels and must be taken sequentially over a period of at least three years. The overall pass rate for the three levels historically has been an average of 52 percent.

- The CFA exams cover investment ethics, securities analysis (both equity and fixed-income), financial statement analysis, quantitative analysis, economics and portfolio management.

- The CFA charter was introduced in 1963, when 278 men and six women sat for the first exam. The number of candidates enrolled at any one time did not exceed 10,000 until 1989.

- CFA Institute has 96,134 members worldwide, of which 2,263 are from Africa and Middle East.

- As of 1st June, 2008, there were 82,902 active charter holders worldwide.

- In the Middle East and Africa alone, candidate enrolment rose to 10,025, in 2008. Whereas globally more than 92,000 candidates sat for the June 2008 exam. 53% of the applicants passed the final level.

- Employers with the largest number of CFA Charter holders include JP Morgan Chase, HSBC, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank, Deloitte & Touche and KPMG.

- The number of local analyst societies and chapters holding memberships in CFA Institute grew from 64 in 1990 to 136 in 2008. In 1990, just two of those were from outside the United States and Canada. Today, there are 46.

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