



FROM RIGHT: Tarek Kanoo of the Kanoo Group, former US Ambassador to Qatar Joseph LeBaron, Professor Bulent Gultekin, Advisory Board Member of Lagoon Capital, Sunil Talwar, Deputy CEO, Qatar Insurance Company and Anuj Khanna, CEO of Lagoon Capital during the forum.

## Lagoon Capital hosts Qatari businessmen

**DOHA:** Lagoon Capital Partners Limited, a private equity and advisory firm based in the Dubai International Financial Centre, hosted a group of some 50 institutional investors from Qatar, the GCC and Europe at a round table forum in Doha to discuss current developments and investment opportunities in the Mena region for 2014.

Professor Bulent Gultekin, advisory board member of Lagoon Capital and former Governor of the Central Bank of Turkey addressed the gathering on "Navigating change in the MENA region".

"While geo-political events and shifting alliances have affected currencies and investor confidence, the medium term prospects remain promising. The prospect of stability in Egypt and resolution of the crisis in Turkey should provide the necessary

confidence boost for the investor community. These are sizeable economies with close ties to the GCC and their stability and continued prosperity is a shared objective", Professor Gultekin said at the meeting.

Also discussed were prospects for private equity during 2014 in the MENA countries and the need for the further development of the regional secondary private equity market. Lagoon Capital, together with its strategic partner, HarbourVest, one of the premier global institutions focused on secondary private equity investing, are focused on providing liquidity solutions to regional investors on their existing private equity investment portfolios via secondary transactions.

Anuj Khanna, CEO of Lagoon Capital, added, "We are delighted to be able to engage with this high level group of investors from across the region and global

markets in order to assess the economic and investment landscape across the Mena region for 2014. With a promising outlook, we see continued opportunity for growth in regional private equity and, in particular, Secondary transactions. These are an efficient way for investors to reposition their portfolios, a focus for many today, and an opportunity to reallocate capital towards new priorities in the year ahead."

Other Advisory Board members of firm also participated in the event. These include former US Ambassador to Qatar, Joseph LeBaron, Tarek Kanoo of the Kanoo Group, Tracy Blackwell Board member, Pension Corporation and Sunil Talwar, Deputy CEO, Qatar Insurance Company, which is among Lagoon Capital's founding shareholders.

**THE PENINSULA**