

## DIFX and FTSE Group Launch First Tradable GCC Region Indices

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### **FTSE and DIFX create first GCC Country tradable indices**

**Dubai & London – 12 June, 2006:** - FTSE Group (FTSE), the award winning global index provider and Dubai International Financial Exchange (DIFX) have created the first Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country tradable indices for domestic, GCC, and international investors. The GCC countries initially included in the series are the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar.

These indices are intended to facilitate the creation of investment products like tracker funds, index certificates, warrants, ETFs and also pave the way for the introduction of exchange traded index derivatives including futures and options, providing a new paradigm in the growth of capital markets in the region.

The FTSE/DIFX indices will be the first set of real-time indices for the GCC region. The three new indices, which will begin calculation on 12th June will be:

- **FTSE DIFX UAE 15 Index (UAE Residents)**  
Based on the top 15 eligible companies when ranked by full market capitalisation from the United Arab Emirates.
- **FTSE DIFX Kuwait 15 Index (GCC residents and International Investors)**  
Based on the top 15 eligible companies from Kuwait, when ranked by full market capitalisation.
- **FTSE DIFX Qatar 10 Index (GCC residents and International Investors)**  
Based on the top 10 eligible companies from Qatar when ranked by full market capitalisation.

Shariah-compliant editions of these indices will also be available later in the year. Shariah screening is undertaken by Yasaar Research.

Donald Keith, Deputy Chief Executive of FTSE Group, said, "FTSE is honoured to bring its international indexing expertise to this exciting new market. By creating this first phase of tradable indices we hope to improve transparency and liquidity in these markets and facilitate the creation of products that will allow both domestic and international investors to invest in these exciting markets."

Nasser Al Sha'ali, Chief Operating Officer of the DIFX said, "FTSE has a long-standing and proven track record for working with exchanges in developed and emerging markets around the world. With FTSE, we have created the first phase of a viable family of indices that we hope will build bridges between markets."

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About DIFX**

The DIFX is the region's international financial exchange for equities, bonds, Islamic products, funds, index products and (subject to regulatory approval) derivatives. The target areas of the DIFX for seeking issuers include the Middle East and North Africa, as well as South Africa, Turkey and the Indian sub-continent.

The exchange launched in September 2005 and currently has 13 Member banks – Barclays Capital, Citigroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, EFG-Hermes, HSBC, KAS BANK, Morgan Stanley, SHUAA Capital, UBS, Merrill Lynch, Mashreq Capital (DIFC) and ABN AMRO.

The regulator of the DIFX is the Dubai Financial Services Authority. The DIFX is located in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and its owner is the DIFC Authority. [www.difx.ae](http://www.difx.ae)

#### **About FTSE Group**

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indexes. With offices in Beijing, London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris, New York, San Francisco, and Tokyo, FTSE Group services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It calculates and manages the FTSE Global Equity Index Series, which includes world-recognized indexes ranging from the FTSE All-World Index, the FTSE4Good series and the FTSEurofirst Index series, as well as domestic indexes such as the prestigious FTSE 100. The company has collaborative arrangements with the Athens, AMEX, Cyprus, Euronext, Johannesburg London, Madrid, NASDAQ and Taiwan exchanges, as well as Nomura Securities, Hang Seng and Xinhua Finance of China. FTSE also has a collaborative agreement with Dow Jones Indexes to provide a single sector classification system for global investors.

FTSE indexes are used extensively by investors world-wide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation, portfolio hedging and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Independent committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and other experienced practitioners review all changes to the indexes to ensure that they are made objectively and without bias. Real-time FTSE indexes are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters. For more information visit [www.ftse.com](http://www.ftse.com)

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More information about FTSE and its indices is available at [www.ftse.com](http://www.ftse.com)

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