

DGCX Appoints Bank of Baroda as Clearing Bank



Dubai, December 6, 2007: Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX), the Middle East's first commodities derivatives market, today announced the appointment of Bank of Baroda, one of India's premier banks, as a clearing bank for the exchange.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between DGCX and Bank of Baroda this week, naming Bank of Baroda as a clearing bank. The partnership will now enable DGCX members to open their settlement account with the Bank of Baroda, which is the only Indian bank in the UAE with full fledged banking operations. Bank of Baroda is among the few clearing banks of DGCX for settling the accounts of its members.

Highlighting the significance of the move, Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chairman, DGCX, said, "DGCX is on the threshold of a high-growth phase, with new and innovative products being added to its portfolio. This expansion will be complimented by enhanced services to its members. The appointment of Bank of Baroda as a clearing bank reflects this strategy. Given its strong presence across key markets and proficiency in offering customized solutions, Bank of Baroda brings substantial value to our members." DGCX's existing list of clearing banks includes National Bank of Dubai and HSBC. Bin Sulayem added that the Exchange is committed to providing the most advanced forum for trading derivatives, in terms of technology as well as services. "The inclusion of Bank of Baroda will not only enhance the choice of clearing banks, but also bring to the fore world-class expertise that will benefit members," he said.

Commenting on this occasion, Ashok K. Gupta, Chief Executive (GCC operations), Bank of Baroda, said that it is yet another step by the bank to offer new products and services to its customers. As a clearing bank of DGCX, the bank will be able to offer the settlement mechanism to all the members of the Exchange. This will go a long way in serving DGCX members.

He reiterated that during the last few months, the bank has offered more products and taken up several new initiatives that will step up customer convenience. Apart from opening Retail Banking Shoppe, a one stop shop to cater individual's personal need, starting a central processing cell for corporate customers and adding more ATMs, the bank has recently started 8 am to 8 pm banking as well. It is shortly going to start customer services centers in Jabel Ali & Musafa. The bank plans to open more customer centers at various location of the UAE, start separate SME & Corporate Banking Units, internet banking and credit cards in coming months.

Bank of Baroda, having a network of 2700+ branches spread across India, is one of the premier banks of India and has global presence in 23 countries with over 65 offices. The bank is at present in all major financial centers - New York, London, Brussels, Hong Kong, Dubai, Mauritius, Bahamas, and Singapore. The bank has expansion plans to open offices in 10 - 11 new countries including GCC with the immediate openings of offices at Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In the UAE, Bank of Baroda is present since 1974 and is the only Indian bank having full fledged banking operations covering all segments - Individuals / SMEs / Corporates through 6 branches i.e. Dubai, Deira, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ras-Al-Khaimah and Al Ain.

The appointment of Bank of Baroda comes at a time when DGCX is aggressively growing its portfolio. In mid-2007, the Exchange launched the world's first Rupee Futures contract, which was followed by the world's first exchange tradable Steel Rebar Futures contract. The two contracts aim to meet the industry's growing demand for a cost-effective tool to hedge against price risk.

About DGCX: Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX) is a fully automated, online commodities exchange. Strategically located in Dubai, the Exchange is the first international commodities derivatives marketplace in the time zone between Europe and the Far East.

DGCX is an initiative of the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), Government of Dubai, the majority shareholder, Financial Technologies (India) Limited and Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX).