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**Fifth MENA Development Forum (World Bank Group) Sponsored By
Investcom LLC**

Dubai, UAE, 24 APRIL 2006 In a workshop on Reform for Enhancing the Business Environment in the Middle East and North Africa, Seven hundred and fifty World Bank partners were told that it is vital to improve the current business climate in the region and to implement the reforms that can make this happen.

The Fifth MENA Development Forum was sponsored by Investcom and held in Beirut from 6th to 9th April.

Members described the discussions and coming together of ideas as essential to the future growth and maintenance of trade and commerce within the region.

The delegates said that they all have a responsibility to introduce the reforms in order to stabilize some areas and to encourage other markets to grow and expand.

The forum was the ideal chance to put forward proposals and talk about the practicalities of putting the changes into action.

Speakers from five countries delivered presentations about the efforts of their organizations in advancing the implementation of reforms aimed at improving businesses in their countries.

The session aims were to emphasize the role of private sector associations, business associations and chambers of commerce to learn what works in terms of policy to implement reforms.

MDF5 included over 750 high-level participants from across the MENA region from the private sector, government, and civil society, Among the VIPs supporting the event, were Mr. Christiaan Portman, World Bank Vice President of the MENA Region, Ms. Frannie Leauttier, Vice President World Bank Institute and HE Dr. Hazem Beblawi, Funds Advisor to the Arab Monetary Fund in the UAE. Women and youth were also featured prominently throughout the Forum.

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The company also provides international carrier services, principally through its operations in Monaco, fixed telephony services in the United Kingdom and telecommunications engineering and consulting services.