

The telecom industry started 2009 with a spate of acquisitions and mergers as opportunities become more financially attractive to operators. Despite these opportunities, however, the industry and operators within it face many threats and challenges for their growth and revenues as a result of the global financial crisis and recession.

With that in mind, but also the fact that the telecom sector remains a major driver of economic growth, **The 9th Arab Telecom & Internet Forum (ATIF 2009)** comes back to gather industry policy makers, leaders and experts to navigate topics and issues facing the industry and operators in the region, including investment opportunities and the availability of finance, mergers and acquisitions, and Telecom convergence with other sectors.

Main topics on the agenda of the forum include:

- Challenges facing the telecom industry and operators.
- Broadband: Telecom convergence and innovation with other sectors.
- ICT development: Is ICT a potential area to re-energize investments?
- The new phase in the industry in terms of finance and competition: Measures to protect investments and consumers.
- New technologies: By the time 3G is deployed will it be time for LTE? Has WiMax delivered on the promise of three years ago?
- Telecom CEOs and Globalization: Challenges and opportunities & mergers and acquisitions.
- Contribution of ITU in the development of ICT in the Arab Region.
- Ministers' Discussion Panel: An open discussion with Arab telecom ministers.

The 9th Arab Telecom & Internet Forum (ATIF 2009) is organized by Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal, in association with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and ARABSAT, and in partnership with the Ministry of Telecommunications in Lebanon. Scheduled to be held at Habtoor Grand Hotel in Beirut, Lebanon on the 15th and 16th of April 2009, the forum will coincide with the general assembly of Arabsat, such that Arab Telecom ministers attending this general assembly will also be guests at the forum.

Participate in ATIF 2009 to be privy to the latest developments and technologies affecting your industry as detailed by industry leaders and decision-makers. Take advantage of this exceptional opportunity and use the attached form to register today.

On behalf of the organizers,



Raouf Abu Zaki