

News

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Moody's Analytics: Bridging the Gap Between Risk and Technology at Dubai Conference for IT Professionals

DUBAI, 7 NOVEMBER 2012 – Moody's Analytics today held a Dubai-based conference targeted at senior IT professionals within banks who deal with the selection and roll-out of risk management software. The conference, entitled "Bridging the Gap Between Risk & Technology", took place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel and focused on the practical aspects of implementing a robust risk technology framework across a bank and gaining efficiencies from the alignment between risk management architecture and IT infrastructure. Moody's Analytics' risk and technology solutions enable banks to address new regulatory requirements by solving their data management, integration and reporting challenges.

Moody's Analytics is an award-winning global provider of integrated risk management and credit risk solutions, which have been installed by more than 100 institutions in the Middle East. Moody's Analytics is the sister company of Moody's Investors Service, the credit rating agency.

Today's conference comprised several presentations by Directors in the software engineering and solutions specialist groups from Moody's Analytics' offices in the United Kingdom, UAE and France, as well as a panel discussion including external guest speakers. The event was attended by around 50 senior IT executives from banks across the UAE.

The event was inaugurated by Wael Jadallah, the Dubai-based Director of Moody's Analytics' operations in the Middle East and head of the company's Dubai office. "Moody's Analytics remains at the forefront in the development of risk management software. The presentations and discussions of today's conference are targeted specifically at senior IT professionals within banks – the first time that one of our conferences has this specific focus," Mr Jadallah said. "Moody's Analytics is proud of its track record of serving the Middle East region for 15 years. We believe that today's event further reinforces our commitment to this region and demonstrates our understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Middle Eastern banks today."

The first presentation was given by Sohail Farooq, Senior Director and Middle East Consulting Practice Leader, who discussed how the alignment of risk management and IT can drive productivity gains among banks, especially against a background of pressure to evolve their credit processes.

Keith Berry, Managing Director of the Software Engineering unit within Moody's Analytics, then discussed how a bank can overcome the challenge of aligning a new risk management architecture with its existing operating model as well as with its business units and IT department. Mr Berry focused on understanding how to leverage investments in risk technology.

Nicolas Kunghehian, a Associate Director and Solutions Specialist within Moody's Analytics, focused on data quality and how a bank can ensure a solid infrastructure in its risk management system, especially in terms of the acquisition, validation, storage and reporting of data.

Victor Oliveira de Pinto, a Director and also a Solutions Specialist within Moody's Analytics, turned the audience's attention to the issue of increasing operational effectiveness and the implications this has for regulatory reporting. Mr Oliveira de Pinto discussed the challenges involved in building a reporting data mart and how to capitalise on regulatory reports by creating data dashboards.

Dr Nick Lacey, a Director and Software Architect within Moody's Analytics, covered the practical steps as well as the "dos and don'ts" involved in successfully integrating a risk technology platform into a Middle Eastern bank's existing program architecture.

Guest speaker Ioannis Stamatopoulos, Director of ERM Solutions at RiskMatrix Ltd, a software distributor with whom Moody's Analytics has an exclusive partnership in the region, then presented a "how to" guide for devising and implementing a bank-wide stress-testing framework.

Moody's Analytics' conference concluded with a panel discussion that addressed the question of how to create value through risk management best practices and technology solutions. The panel discussion focused on challenges faced by GCC banks in implementing enterprise risk management (ERM) solutions and how to extract value from investments in technology. The discussion included distinguished guest panellists from Dubai Islamic Bank, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Muscat Bank.

About Moody's Analytics

Established in the DIFC (UAE) since 2008, Moody's Analytics has been serving the Middle East market for more than 15 years and currently serves more than 100 institutions regionally with market standard enterprise risk management solutions, professional services as well as credit research. Additional information about the Moody's Analytics (DIFC) Ltd in the Middle East region is available at www.moodysmiddleeast.com

Moody's Analytics is a leading provider of research, data, analytical tools and related services to debt capital markets, credit risk and risk management professionals worldwide. Moody's Analytics is the sister company of Moody's Investors Service, the credit rating agency. Both Moody's Analytics and Moody's Investors Service are subsidiaries of Moody's Corporation (NYSE: MCO), which reported revenue of \$2.3 billion in 2011, employs approximately 6,700 people worldwide and maintains a presence in 28 countries.

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