

Increase in Net Profit of Some Lebanese Banks



Dr. Joseph Torbey, Chairman & General Manager, Credit Libanais

Credit Libanais

Credit Libanais, one of the top ten Lebanese banks, achieved a 14.4% growth in total assets to nearly USD 3.4 bn in the first half of 2006 relative to the corresponding period last year.

Total loans and advances to customers increased by 13.6% on annual basis to reach USD 645.7 mn as of end-June 2006.

On the liabilities side, customer creditor accounts grew by 12.3% to reach USD 2.8 bn for the same period.

The Bank's total capital base went up by 40.5% on annual basis to reach USD 347 mn as of end-June 2006. The ratio of total capital to total assets stood at 10.2% as of end-June 2006.

The net financial income of the Bank grew by nearly 10.8% to reach USD 46.3 mn as of end-June 2006. Also, the net operating income (before tax) increased by 11.3% to USD 17.9 mn during the same period.

The net profit of the Bank recorded a growth of 15.8% on annual basis to reach USD 16.4 mn as of end-June 2006.

Bank of Beirut

Bank Of Beirut's (BOB) un-audited financial statements for the first six-month of 2006 uncovered a 72.44% rise in net profits to \$19.37 million as at end of June 2006 compared to \$11.23 million during the same period in 2005. Bank Of Beirut's net interest income (after provision) during the period rose by 27.50% as at end of June 2006, while net financial revenue grew by 32.8%. On the balance sheet side, the Bank's total assets expanded by an annual rate of 9.90% to \$4.32 billion as at end of June 2006, from \$3.93 billion in June 2005. The customer deposits expanded by 5.45% to \$2.87 billion as at end of June 2006, while net customer loans grew by 4.77% year-on-year to \$765.3 million. BOB return on average assets (ROaA) increased to 0.46% during the first six months of 2006, while return on average equity (ROaE) rose to 8.20% during the same period.

Mr. Salim Steir, Chairman & General Manager, Bank of Beirut



Audi-Saradar Group



Mr. Raymond Wadli, Audi, Chairman & General Manager, Audi-Saradar Group

Audi-Saradar Group's un-audited financial statements for the first six-month of 2006 unveiled a notable 93.46% rise in net profits to \$85.84 million as at end of June 2006 compared to \$44.37 million during the same period in 2005. Audi-Saradar Group's net interest income during the period increased by 61.3% to \$128 million as at end of June 2006, while net commission income rose by 17.03% to \$36.7 million and net profits on financial operations grew by 11.9% to \$31.4 million. Audi-Saradar Group's total assets expanded by 23% to stand at \$12.7 billion as at end of June 2006, from \$10.3 billion in June 2005. The growth in customer deposits stood at 19.2% reaching \$10.5 billion as at end of June 2006. In this scope, Audi-Saradar Group's return on average assets (ROaA) stood at 0.74% as at end of June 2006, while return on average equity (ROaE) stood at 7.94% during the same period. □

BLC Plans To Increase Its Capital and To List Additional Shares on BSE

BLC's extraordinary general assembly meeting held on July 28, 2006, approved the Bank's capital increase to LBP 140.32 billion, up from LBP 40.32 billion. Subsequently, the general assembly decided to decrease the capital to LBP 101.235 billion by writing off the accrued losses (LBP 39.08 million) and making the appropriate financial adjustments. The general assembly also approved the listing of 20,023,580 additional shares on the Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE). The ad-

ditional shares, which are part of the 100 million new shares (LBP 1000/share), will increase the number of listed shares to 23,745,000. □

Dr. Shadi Karam, Chairman & General Manager, BLC

