

{ FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH }

COLIN TYLER

The ACT network in the Middle East is a conduit for treasurers to share their knowledge and expertise across the region, says Colin Tyler



Colin Tyler is chief executive of the ACT. Follow him on Twitter @ColinTyl

> These are exciting, if uncertain, times in the Middle East politically, but I am delighted that the treasury profession and the ACT network in the region continue to go from strength to strength. While this has been an ACT-wide effort, I have to thank my predecessors for their foresight in recognising the need for a Middle East presence. Great thanks are also due to the ACT Middle East committee, who you can meet at www.treasurers.org/actmiddleeast/committee

> Since its launch more than four years ago, the ACT's Middle East network has grown to over 3,500 treasury professionals, and we are committed to the development and sharing of treasury knowledge and expertise across the region. We have grown to run more than eight events a year all across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), involving more than 500 treasury professionals; we have provided education and qualifications to over 120 students; and the *Middle East Treasurer* reaches more than 1,000 people in print with each edition – it is also available on our website to the entire ACT network of more than 25,000 professionals.

During that period, the Western economies have experienced a severe financial crisis, which has greatly impacted their domestic economies and institutions.



Colin Tyler meets Lubna Qassim of the Dubai Economic Council at last year's ACT Middle East Conference

By contrast, the GCC economies generally – with the exception of a short-lived downturn in Dubai – took the crisis in their strides. Regional treasurers, however, have had to cope with global instability, while learning new skills and developing their use of new technology. All the evidence suggests you have been very successful at doing so.

Hopefully you will be reading this while attending our flagship event in the region, the ACT Middle East Conference, which is now in its third year. This two-day conference has been growing steadily since its inception and continues to attract treasury professionals from across the region, allowing them to share treasury best practice. This year, our focus will be on the role the GCC can play as a crossroads between the 'old' economies

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of the West and the 'new' economies of Asia. It is a tremendous opportunity to network with fellow professionals and hear the authentic voice of the treasury profession. I hope to be meeting some of you there.

> I have always been keen to celebrate success, and the positive impact of achievement on colleagues

cannot be underestimated. This issue contains the winners of our Middle East Treasury Awards for 2012, who will be lauded at the Awards Dinner on the first night of the conference. We are firm believers in raising the profile of our profession and the people and personalities within it. We're open to suggestions as well, so please let me know if you have any ideas or something to celebrate.

Our expansion internationally has not been limited to the Middle East. We now have a growing presence in the Far East, specifically Hong Kong and Singapore, where we have held events and training seminars. In addition, we have tuition schools for the CertICM course in the US, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as in the UK.

> We are committed to supporting students in the GCC by offering tuition twice a year in Dubai to coincide with the exam cycle. We are also in the process of forging closer links with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in London, Dubai and Mumbai, and are pleased to announce that they are now corporate members of the ACT.

We always welcome feedback, so please get in touch with us via our LinkedIn group page.