



*'Investing in the Middle East' – a boardroom session*



*Khaled Al-Dhaheer, President, Alsharif & Aldhaheer Investment, Saudi Arabia, on corporate philanthropy*

trade, also due to high trade barriers among Arab countries. 'We need to turn the Arab world into a free trade zone which includes the Gulf, the Levant and Northern Africa,' urged **Sheikh Saif bin Hashil Al-Maskery**, Chairman, Al Mahfadha Investments, Oman. 'I envision a new Silk Road connecting the Arab world with Asia, Africa and Europe. Turning this vision into reality will require political of all countries involved,' surmised **Mr. Deepak Premnarayen** Chairman of the ICS Group.

On the various panels, participants also considered issues related to geopolitics, including the aftermath of the wars in Libya and Syria, the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian problem, the unsecure situation in Iraq and the heightened tensions over Iran's nuclear programme. 'These geopolitical risks will continue to challenge the spread of the Arab Spring and attempts by Arab revolutionaries to advance transformative change,' said **Khaled Al-Dhaheer**, President, Alsharif & Aldhaheer Investment, Saudi Arabia.



*Mr. Deepak Premnarayen  
Chairman of the ICS Group*

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The Middle East is currently experiencing the rise of Islamist parties. 'We have to monitor the linkages between religion and politics,' said **Alex Anyse**, Co-founder and Managing Partner, The MASY Group, USA. 'I am optimistic that most of the new governments of Islamist background do deliver on nation-building,' said **Omar Farooqui**, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Capinvest, UAE. Otherwise, they won't be re-elected,' added **Khaled Imam**, Founder & Managing Director, Books.com.eg, Egypt. Despite the challenges of conflict, citizens of Arab countries

