

CFH announces successful closing of real estate fund

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Corporate Finance House (CFH) announced yesterday the successful closing of the Middle East Real Estate Opportunities Fund (MERE0 II) at US\$ 30.0 million.

The fund will invest in residential and commercial properties in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Amman, and Beirut. The second closing is scheduled for the end of November 2006, and is targeting an amount of US\$ 50.0 million.

Fund Manager Karim Chamseddine and his team will operate and manage MERE0 II from the newly established offices of CFH in Dubai. "We strongly believe that MERE0 II is well positioned to benefit from the brisk real estate activity in the region and seek to attain the desired returns," explained Chamseddine.

CFH provides specialized financial advisory and capital raising services. It provides financial advisory for I.P.O.'s, mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity private placements, debt restructuring, leveraged buy-outs, divestments, and real estate finance. In addition, CFH is actively engaged in private equity and real estate fund management. CFH continues to act as owner representative in major multi-contract projects. CFH caters to mid-sized corporations, banks, high net worth individuals, private equity firms and family owned businesses. CFH has completed financial advisory and investment banking transactions in the Middle East with focus on the GCC and the Levant.

CFH was formerly known as Capital Trust Middle East (CTME) and has been in the business since 1997. CFH has a staff of 12 experienced professionals with offices in Beirut and Dubai, and a Riyadh office is under formation and is expected to be operational in January 2007.