

# THE FIRST WORD

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE TOP

## VISION 2013

*Top executives in the region share their global market predictions for the year ahead.*

BY SHANE PHILLIPS



PETER MIDDLEBROOK

CEO of Geopolicity and CEO of The Arab Investor

"2013 WILL BE ANOTHER MIXED BAG YEAR WITH CONTINUED TURBULENCE IN SYRIA, EGYPT AND LEBANON COUNTERBALANCED BY STRONG GROWTH IN THE UAE, QATAR, SAUDI AND KUWAIT. EMERGING MARKETS WILL CONTINUE TO OUTPERFORM ALL OTHER ECONOMIES."

JAAFAR AWEIDAH

CEO, Bin Jabr Group

"Overall the volatility in the international markets will remain, in addition to the fluctuation of the oil prices due to political instability in the region. The financial and economic crises in Europe will have a great impact on the international markets. There will be slow growth in China, Brazil and India, and the impact of the US debts will reflect on the international financial markets."



MATEIN KHALID

Chief Investment Officer, Fortis Capital

"The financial markets will witness seismic shifts in 2013. The election of LDP Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has triggered a global run on the yen...the global currency wars have now begun. Japan's Nikkei Dow stock market index could well rise 30% in 2013."



DOUGLAS MCWILLIAMS

CEO of Center for Economic and Business Research

"Under the surface I see two themes: First, the increasing importance of cheap energy in the US and second, the acceleration of the sector based on the applications of technology - Internet marketing etc."

