

# THE FIRST WORD

## PERSPECTIVES FROM THE TOP

### STRIKING THE PERFECT BALANCE

*Juggling the demands of leadership and the rest of your life is one of the biggest challenges for leaders. GC speaks to some of the UAE's busiest CEO's about work-life balance and whether or not it differs in the East and West.*

BY SHANE PHILLIPS



**TONY MAHONEY**

CEO, Bank Dhofar

"THE VERY PHRASE WORK-LIFE BALANCE SUGGESTS THAT THE TWO CANNOT BE ACHIEVED TOGETHER; I.E. YOU ARE EITHER WORKING OR LIVING. I DISAGREE. THE ROLE OF THE CEO IS ABOUT ENJOYING WORKING WHILST DELIVERING RESULTS."



**RON HERMAN**

CEO, Mubadala GE Capital

"The UAE and the broader region is primarily a relationship based economy. Deeper working relationships bode well for a more enjoyable working experience making work life balance less of an issue and more of a benefit to working in the Middle East region."

**ROB BROEDEL**

Country Manager, UAE ABN AMRO

'WORK HARD, PLAY HARD' CAN BE USED QUITE LITERALLY IN DUBAI. IT ALL COMES DOWN TO YOUR ATTITUDE IN LIVING. MY ATTITUDE SAYS, WORK AND LIFE ARE PERFECT COMPLIMENTS AND THE UAE HAS EVERYTHING ON OFFER FOR ALL TO ENJOY."

**MOHAMED BERRO**

CEO, Al Hilal Bank

"Today you are competing against the entire world. You have to be smart, you have to be focused, you have to work hard. I think no matter where you are in the world today, those in the top 10% of their profession are committed and end up working longer hours. That doesn't change if you are in London, Dubai, or Shanghai."

**BARRY SALZBERG**

Global CEO, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

"The young generation in the Middle East is different than the one preceding it, very much like in the West. In both regions, their views about how, when and where work can be done differs from prior generations. They tend to be super-achievers and demand much greater work-life balance. Middle East labour laws may not yet offer the flexible work arrangements present in the West, but progress is being made."

