

# Gulf Marcom names GM, Creative Director

Manama

**G**ulf Marcom has made key additions to its management team to bolster company's presence in response to the demands of a changing market.

It has appointed Simon Chapman as General Manager and Degal Pinto as Creative Director.

Simon recently held the role of managing director at Saatchi & Saatchi in KSA. Before that, he was Client Services Director for GMASCO in Dubai. He held the same role at agency Imagination in London and has also acted as GM of Saatchi & Saatchi in Kuwait.

Degal comes with over 18 years of agency experience in Bahrain, New Zealand and India. He brings proven knowledge of creative strategy, communication and management. His work covering categories such as telecoms,

FMCG, hospitality and automotive.

Commenting on the appointments, Thamer Al Muqla, Gulf Marcom Group's MD, said: "Simon and Degal join us as we enter our next phase of development. Having worked with many major agencies and brands they will be a great asset to Gulf Marcom."

Khamis Al Muqla, Gulf Marcom Group Chairman, added, "We welcome Simon and Degal. We see these as key appointments for the growth and continued success of Gulf Marcom."

Gulf Marcom started in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1974 and manages many local, regional and international clients. Gulf Marcom is a part of Gulf Marcom Group, a Bahrain based strategic holding company that manages a portfolio of industry pioneers in marketing communications.



Khamis Al Muqla, Chairman GMG (second from left), Thamer Al Muqla, Managing Director GMG (first from right), Simon Chapman, General Manager (second from right) and Degal Pinto, Creative Director (first from left)

## As US raises tariffs, India backs free trade



**I**ndian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned Tuesday against a new wave of protectionism, saying that trade barriers pose a danger to the world on par with climate change and extremist attacks.

Modi delivered the message in a speech just hours after the U.S. government of President Donald Trump approved tariffs on imported solar-energy components and large washing machines in a bid to help U.S. manufacturers.

"Forces of protectionism are raising their heads against globalization," he told a crowd of business and government leaders in the opening address at the World Economic

Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "It feels like the opposite of globalization is happening."

"The negative impact of this kind of mindset cannot be considered less dangerous than climate change or terrorism," Modi added, without directly mentioning Trump or the U.S.

He urged governments not to turn to isolation, driving home his point by quoting Indian independence leader Mohandas Gandhi: "I don't want the windows of my house to be closed from all directions. I want the winds of cultures of all countries to enter my house with aplomb and go out also."

Modi, the first Indian prime minister to make Davos' opening address, was to be the gathering's highlight until Trump decided to come as well. Trump is due to speak Friday, and the tariffs his administration approved this week will overshadow his arrival to a forum that has long been firmly in favor of free trade. Modi's speech follows on from Chinese President Xi Jinping's address to the Davos elite at last year's event. (Reuters)

# Adeeb Ahamed gets top award

Mumbai

**I**n recognition of his contribution to the hospitality industry, Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Twenty14 Holdings was presented the Hurun Industry Achievement Award in Hospitality & Retail Real Estate 2017.

The Hurun Real Estate Leadership Summit and Excellence Awards, marking the achievements of the real estate sector in India, were held at the Four Seasons, Worli on Thursday.

Adeeb has made a mark for himself on the global level, engaged in various sectors including hospitality, organized retail and financial services. Twenty14 Holdings, the hospitality arm of Abu Dhabi-based conglomerate LuLu Group International, led

by Adeeb was founded in 2014 to capitalize on the growth in the global hospitality industry. The company currently has assets worth more than \$650m spread across the UK, Middle East and India.

In India, the group marked its entry into the hospitality sector with the acquisition of a hotel in Kochi in 2015, which is under renovation. Since then Twenty14 Holdings has invested in two other properties in Bengaluru, that are under various stages of development. With the first phase of development already underway in Kerala and Karnataka, the group is on the lookout for investment options in other major cities across India.

Twenty14 Holdings recently acquired the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh - The Caledonian



Adeeb Ahamed

in Scotland for \$120m and has also made a £110m agreement with property developer Galliard Homes to create a luxurious five-star hotel at 1-5 Great Scotland Yard, the former headquarters of London's Metropolitan Police. The firm co-owns the landmark Sheraton Oman Hotel in Muscat and

owns the Steigenberger Hotel Business Bay in Dubai and three properties in India.

Other winners of the evening include Abhishek Lodha of Lodha Developers, Niranjan Hiranandani of Hiranandani Developers, Irfan Razak of the Prestige Group and Anand Pirama of Piramal Realty.



Adnan Ahmed Yousif thanking Majeed H. Alawi and Jozsef Peter Szalay

On the occasion of the retirement of Majeed H. Alawi - Executive Vice President - Head of Internal Audit and Jozsef Peter Szalay - Senior Vice President - Head of Credit and Risk Management at Al Baraka Banking Group, the Group held a farewell party attended by President & Chief Executive of the Group Adnan Ahmed Yousif, Executive Management members and staff of the Group and Al Baraka Islamic Bank Bahrain. Both Alawi and Szalay have been in the Group since its inception, and both have banking experience of nearly 40 years, during which they held several senior positions in a number of well-known international institutions. Al-Alawi is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, UK (1980). Szalay holds an M.A. (Econ.) from University of Budapest and a Banking Certificate from the Institute of Canadian Bankers. He is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at INSEAD France.