



## **Byblos Bank Hosts a Luncheon in Honor of the PROPARCO Delegation**

**Byblos Tower, Ashrafieh, May 17, 2010:**

A powerful regional player that attracts major international financial institutions, Byblos Bank hosted on 17 May a luncheon to celebrate its newly established partnership with the Société de Promotion et de Participation pour la Coopération Economique (PROPARCO). The luncheon that took place at le Maillon restaurant was attended by Dr. François S. Bassil, Chairman and General Manager of Byblos Bank Group, and a large PROPARCO delegation headed by Mr. Laurent Demey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

In April 2010, PROPARCO, which is partly held by the Agence Française pour le Développement (AFD), invested USD 30 million in Byblos Bank's shares, to become one of the Bank's largest shareholders. Through this operation, the Bank will be able to further expand its activities to frontier countries in the Middle East and Africa, and reinforce its already large capital base. This partnership will also enhance the lending capacity of Byblos Bank to extend financing to small, medium, and large scale enterprises.

This operation is indeed a vote of confidence in Byblos Bank's excellent financial indicators and leading performance. Earlier this year, the International Financial Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group invested USD 100 million in Byblos Bank's shares, the largest to date in a Lebanese bank.

Byblos Bank's well thought and solid expansion strategy focuses on tapping under-served and challenging markets in the Middle East and Africa. Leveraging its 60-year expertise, the Bank tailors a variety of products and services to cater to its diverse clientele. To date, the Bank boasts a significant global reach in three continents and 12 countries.