



In July, the Four Seasons Hotel was host to the The Law Conference, the first of its kind in Syria, which focused on a broad range of topics delivered by an impressive array of speakers. The purpose of the Conference was not only to raise awareness on legal issues but also to assist members of the legal profession in Syria in the development of contacts and links with lawyers in other parts of the world.

In his keynote address, Andrew Holroyd, President of the Law Society of England & Wales reminded the audience that if economies are to flourish they need businesses to truly thrive. "That" he said, "requires many things. But at the top of the list is to have the right investment climate. Businesses and investors need confidence. And confidence comes from having the rule of law; having a legal system that businesses can trust; and having a legal profession that can meet the demands of all businesses, from the smallest enterprise to the largest multinational."



The BSS is well known for the success of its series of Banking Conferences, which have encouraged open and frank discussion about the challenges facing the Syrian economy and its relations with the global financial market.

The third in the series, held from 31st October till 2nd November focused on the steps required to further develop the Syrian banking sector and explored the role that the sector must play in stimulating foreign direct investment.

This year's conference was extremely timely in the light of the current global economic slowdown, and brought together international and regional business leaders as well as senior officials from the Syrian government to explore the challenges facing the Syrian financial sector and define strategies to help Syrian companies compete in the global market.

