

Gulf Insurance Group announces KD 14.09 million (US\$ 46.9 million) in net profit of 2015 with EPS fils 78.60

BOD recommends 40% cash dividend

'Growth in net profit, gross written premiums and shareholders' equity'
says company's Chairman

Kuwait City, 14 Feb, 2016: Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) announced today that it has achieved a net profit of KD 14.09 million (US\$ 46.9 million), or 78.60 fils per share for the financial year ended December 31, 2015, compared to KD 12 million (US\$ 39.9 million) in 2014. The results represent a growth of 17 per cent at KD 2.09 million (US\$ 6.9 million).

The Board of Directors has recommended the distribution of 40 % cash dividend (40 fils per share) for the financial year ended December 31, 2015, subject to the approval of GIG's General Assembly and other concerned regulatory authorities.

GIG's book value per share has increased to 500.2 fils per share compared to 469.3 fils reported in 2014.

GIG increased its shareholder's equity by KD 5.4 million (US\$ 18 million) to reach KD 89.6 million (US\$ 297.9 million), representing a 6 per cent growth rate as at December 31, 2015, compared to KD 84.2 million (US\$ 279.9 million) in 2014.

Gross written premiums grew 7 per cent compared to last year, with an increase of KD 12.3 million (US\$ 40.9 million) to reach KD 185.9 million (US\$ 618.3 million) at the end of 2015.

Net investment and other income reached KD 12.3 million (US\$ 40.9 million) at the closing of 2015, an increase of KD 693,284 (US\$ 2.3 million), or 6 per cent, compared to 2014.

GIG's net technical reserves were raised from KD 106.8 million (US\$ 355.1 million) in 2014 to KD 112.7 million (US\$ 374.7 million) at year-end. This increase of KD 5.9 million (US\$ 19.6 million) represents a growth of 5.5 per cent, and aims to sustain the Group's operational activities, as well as protecting policy holders' rights, to ultimately strengthen GIG's ability to cover emergencies and risks that may rise in the future.

Total assets increased by KD 21.2 million (US\$ 70.5 million) to reach KD 368.4 million (US\$ 1.23 billion) at year-end, a growth of 6.1 percent compared to the same period in 2014.

Mr. Farqad Al-Sane, GIG's Chairman, said:

"Our results for the year 2015 reflect the growth we have achieved and the strengthening of our ability to preserve stakeholders' benefits and protect their rights. This is also in line with our constant endeavor to provide the best insurance services to our valued customers in all markets we operate in, supported by our proven strategy which aims at expanding our distribution networks, and our regional expansion plan to acquire greater market share locally and regionally.

He added:

"We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the unlimited support from our shareholders, especially KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts and all the concerned regulatory authorities in Kuwait."

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

Gulf Insurance Group is the largest insurance Group in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in both life and non-life insurance. Gulf Insurance has become one of the largest insurance networks in the Middle East and North Africa, with companies in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Bahrain, Emirates and Kuwait. Its reported consolidated assets stand at US\$ 1.23 billion as at 31 December, 2015.

KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company – is Gulf Insurance’s largest shareholder, followed by the Canadian-based Fairfax Financial Holding Ltd.

Gulf Insurance Group holds a Financial Strength Rating of A- (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of a- with positive outlook from A. M. Best Europe – Rating Services Limited. Standard & Poor’s has also assigned its Financial Strength Rating of BBB+ with stable outlook.

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