

**Press Release****ICT CEO Speaks at the First Annual Conference of the Arabian Knowledge Economy Association**

**13 January 2008** - Manuel Ron, Chief Executive Officer of Integration Capital & Trade Inc., was invited to speak at the First Annual Conference of the Arabian Knowledge Economy Association, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The conference was held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Governor of Makkah Region. Abdullah Al-Subyani, President AKEA noted the theme of the conference 'Building a Knowledge-Based Economy in Arab World' was aimed at introducing, promoting and highlighting ways of building a viable and vibrant knowledge-based economy in the region. The conference attracted over 1000 delegates from the region and around the globe, along with several international speakers and practitioners who provided various perspectives and share their experiences.

Given his experience both as the CEO of a venture capital backed technology company and Integration Capital & Trade Inc. Mr. Ron's presentation focused on "Venture Capital: a missing link for knowledge economy." He stressed the important role of venture capital in effectively building a knowledge economy. Mr. Ron also highlighted the different viewpoints of venture capital players from the investor to the entrepreneur. At the conclusion, he called the conference, "a complete success".