



SICO Honoured with Lipper Fund Award

Manama, April 2nd, 2008 -Securities & Investment Company (SICO), the Bahrain-based regionally focused investment bank, announced that one of its funds, the Khaleej Equity Fund (KEF), has been awarded by Lipper its award as the top performer in its class (GCC Equity), and is the winner of the Lipper Fund Award for 2008. The Khaleej Equity fund has been monitored for the Equity GCC class over 3 years.

This was announced by Lipper at the Lipper Funds Award ceremony held in Dubai on April 1st, 2008.

Dunny Moonesawmy, Lipper's Head of Research for Western Europe and the Middle East, said: "The Lipper Fund Awards methodology praises consistent return over time and The Khaleej Equity Fund demonstrated an outstanding risk-adjusted performance over three years, outperforming its peers while keeping risk within reasonable budget"

The Lipper Fund Awards are awarded to funds in 21 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Lipper designates award-winning funds in most individual classifications for the three-, five-, and ten-year periods.

The Khaleej Equity Fund, a flagship fund, invests principally in equity securities listed across the six GCC stock markets. The Fund, one of the first Gulf-based funds to be awarded an 'A'-rating by Standard and Poor's last year, saw returns since the beginning of the year up to February 29th, 2008 of 9.8% , a 43.9% return for the year in 2007 and 170.7% since its inception in March 2004.

SICO attributes this award to its conservative asset allocation and bottom-up driven stock picking strategy. At the same time, SICO also adopts a top down approach to risk management by closely monitoring company, country and sector exposures. Portfolio managers focus on identifying companies that are fundamentally strong, and that are trading at less than their fair values.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Anthony C. Mallis, Chief Executive Officer, said: "SICO's investment philosophy and strategies have enabled us to deliver strong performance for our clients since the fund's inception in 2004. We believe the GCC and MENA regions offer remarkable potential for returns for investors during 2008, as we forecast in our recent GCC market overview research. The combination of our regional insight and the quality of our research is a key in SICO delivering consistent returns for investors, and these factors will continue to form the keystones to our investment approach with highly selective stock picking to deliver above average returns to investors."

Securities & Investment Company is an investment bank offering a selective range of services, including asset management, brokerage, corporate finance and market-making, on a regional basis and with a particular emphasis on Bahrain. SICO was incorporated in Bahrain in 1995 and holds an investment-banking license from the Central Bank of Bahrain.



As of December 31, 2007, SICO reported total assets of BD 104.832 million, with shareholders' equity of BD 42.106 million. SICO's shares have been listed on the Bahrain Stock Exchange since May 2003. Securities & Investment Company was the first 'closed' company to list on the exchange.

More information is available online at www.sicobahrain.com

For more information on Lipper Leaders, please visit www.lipperweb.com

