

Riad Toufic Salamé

Governor of the Banque du Liban, Lebanon's Central Bank



Riad T. SALAMÉ is the Governor of Banque du Liban, Lebanon's Central Bank, since August 1, 1993. He was reappointed four times for a six-year term of office in 1999, 2005, 2011 and 2017. Governor Salamé manages all aspects of the Central Bank and is assisted in his functions by four vice-governors.

In this capacity, he chairs the following bodies: the BDL Central Council (BDL Governing Board), the Higher Banking Commission, the AML/CFT Special Investigation Commission since its establishment in 2001, the Capital Markets Authority, the Open Market and Investment Committees.

Mr. Salamé is the Governor for Lebanon at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

In 2012, he chaired the IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors held in Tokyo.

Between 1973 and 1993, Governor Salamé had an extensive career in Merrill Lynch (Beirut and Paris offices) that led to his designation from 1985 through 1993 as Vice-President and Financial Advisor, a position that he occupied till his appointment as BDL Governor.

His tremendous efforts as Governor have been widely appreciated.

In 2016, he was named by the Global Finance magazine among the world's six best Central Bankers. In November 2012, he participated in the opening of the London stock exchange on the occasion of Lebanon Capital Markets Day, an event that gives an update on developments in Lebanon's economy. He has also received numerous awards: the World Union of Arab Bankers Award as Best Arab Central Bank Governor for the Year 2012-2013; the Banker Magazine Award as Best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East for the Year 2012; the Global Finance magazine Award as one of the World's Top 6 Central Bankers in 2011; an Honorary Sash and a Shield Award from the Hariri Canadian University- Lebanon, in May 2011; the key of Dearborn- Detroit, the status of honorary citizen and the Chicago Fire Department's Medal of Honor in October 2010; a Shield Award for Creativity and Sagacity from the Lebanese International Business Council in Michigan in October 2010; the International Chamber of Commerce –Lebanon Award as Man of the Year in September 2010; a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the Lebanese University in May 2010; the Officer of the Legion of Honor bestowed on him by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in December 2009; the 2009 Arab Creativity Award in Economics, presented by HRH Prince Khalid Al Faisal, Chairman of the Arab Thought Foundation; a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the Lebanese American University of Beirut (LAU) in 2009. In March 2009, he was the first Arab Central Bank Governor to ring the NYSE opening bell and.

The Banker Magazine voted him as the Middle-East Central Bank Governor for the Years 2009 and 2008. In 2008, he also received the Banking Leadership Award from the World Union of Arab Bankers. In 2007, he was honored by ABANA (the Arab Bankers Association of North America). He was previously granted the Euromoney Awards as the world Best Central Bank Governor in 2006 and the Best Central Bank Governor in

the Middle East in 2005 upon his selection among the world Best 20 Central Bank Governors; a Shield Award from Bankers for a Better Future in 2004; the 2003 Euromoney Award's Man of the Year as Best Central Bank Governor; the Knight of the Legion of Honor bestowed on him by French President Jacques Chirac in 1997; and the 1996 Euromoney Award as best Arab Central Bank Governor.

Governor Salamé attended the Jesuits College of Collège Notre Dame de Jamhour and graduated with a BA degree in Economics from the American University of Beirut.