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QGBC Continues Regional Outreach at Green Building Congress in Dubai

Showcasing Passivhaus Project, QGBC discusses collaboration with regional counterparts

Doha, 05 January 2014: A Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) delegation recently participated in the Emirates Green Building Council's (EGBC) second Annual Congress in Dubai, to meet regional counterparts and showcase its Passivhaus 'Baytna' Project.

The QGBC delegation discussed potential collaborations on projects and events with Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterparts, and engaged in a round table discussion about the green building movement in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region. A summary of the current situation in each of the countries represented by delegates was given in relation to the other countries in the MENA Region.

"The round table discussion was hugely valuable," said Engineer Meshal Al Shamari, QGBC Director, "As we shared each country's achievements in the hope of finding good examples that could be replicated in other countries. We also discussed legislation, subsidy, education and financial incentives in order to find the one area that would benefit most from the sustainable building sector. And finally, we looked to the future as well as the important developments for our industry for 2014."

Eng. Al Shamari added, "The EGBC Congress once again succeeded in facilitating a platform for us as a region to address the pressing issues around green standards to determine what is needed to grow the sustainable building sector. With the UAE hosting the World Expo in 2020 and Qatar the FIFA World Cup in 2022, the demands on materials alongside a region-wide focus on infrastructure makes it an optimum time to address green building in our region. "

During the event, the QGBC team delivered a presentation about the Qatar Case Study, Passivhaus 'Baytna' Project. With partners, Kahramaa and Barwa Real Estate, the Passivhaus study seeks to establish if an eco-friendly villa can be a viable building option. Through the construction and subsequent operation of a Passivhaus villa and a Business As Usual (BAU) villa the project's initial data showed a small increase in capital cost during construction of the Passivhaus compared with a BAU villa, offset against a 50 percent reduction in water and energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.

"As part of QGBC's ongoing efforts to raise awareness levels and disseminate education on green building we sought to continue our outreach to green building councils in the MENA region at the EGBC Annual Congress, which also offered us an invaluable opportunity to see the achievements and activities of the other green building councils in the region," added Eng. Al Shamari.

Under the theme, "Building a Green Future", the EGBC Congress is dedicated to fostering industry dialogue and stakeholder engagement to further influence sustainable practice in the built environment. The EGBC Congress, aimed at accelerating activities across the entire building supply chain, works towards achieving a Green Economy for Sustainable Development by sharing the latest insights from local and international industry experts.

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About Qatar Green Building Council

Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) is a non-profit membership-driven organisation, providing leadership and encouraging collaboration in conducting environmentally sustainable practices for green building design and development in Qatar. QGBC also aims to support the overall health and sustainability of the environment, the people, and economic security in Qatar for generations to come. The council, a member of Qatar Foundation, was formally established in 2009 by a decree signed by HH Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser and is helping Qatar on its journey to establish a post-hydrocarbon, knowledge economy and a progressive society. Through QGBC, Qatar will join a network of 80 different countries that run active national green building councils under the umbrella of the World Green Building Council. QGBC's members include representatives from government, real estate developers, investors, facilities managers, consultants, construction, manufacturers & suppliers, oil & gas, professional firms, financial services, telecom/technology, academia, NGOs & media. QGBC is setting up operations from its HQ, organising awareness events, knowledge seminars, training, forums, and networking sessions with the like-minded.

For more information visit www.qgbc.org