

Conference proceedings from Qatar Green Building Council conference 2016 now available on QScience.com

Doha, Qatar: Following a collaborative agreement with the Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press) has published 46 conference proceedings from the Qatar Green Building Council conference on QScience.com, HBKU Press's online, open access research platform.

The QGBC conference was held from November 13th to 15th, 2016. This year's theme explored ways to translate Qatar's sustainability vision into action in line with the global sustainability agenda. The conference is an annual forum that promotes the overall aims of the QGBC to support the health and sustainability of the environment, the people, and economic security in Qatar for generations to come and ultimately establish a post-hydrocarbon, knowledge economy and progressive society.

The proceedings published online explore sustainability and the ways sustainable practices can be implemented in different countries. Most highlight areas of concern in Qatar and the GCC, citing ways to improve sustainability through better building practices or the conservation of depleting natural resources.

The article, **"Qatar 2022 World Cup and its legacies: How to promote sustainable and liveable open spaces in the city of Doha through mega sports events?"** by Simona Azzali explores this year's conference theme of sustainable growth in relation to the preparations for the highly-anticipated 2022 FIFA World Cup. The aim of this research is to identify strategies to plan and maximize the post-2022 FIFA World Cup usage of event sites and venues, and make their neighbourhoods more liveable and sustainable. Azzali identifies how, globally, past experiences have shown that the outcomes of staging major sports events are mostly harmful, considering how sports facilities and their surroundings are underutilized and sometimes abandoned after the event is over, and how Qatar can learn from such past experiences and ultimately avoid them.

The research investigated public spaces in Doha and planning systems, while analysing the government's legacy plans for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The results included a set of guidelines and recommendations to help Doha transform its sports venues and event sites into lasting, sustainable, and liveable public open spaces, and, more generally, to define strategies for achieving successful legacies from hosting mega sports events.

Dr. Tamer Sherif ElGindi, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Environment, and Sustainability at Qatar University takes on the theme of sustainability from an Islamic perspective. In **"An Islamic**

view towards sustainability: The theory and practice of GCC countries”, Dr. ElGindi looks at achieving sustainability through invoking Islam to help change people’s behaviours and attitudes rather than through the implementation of government initiatives and programs.

“In Islam, humans are believed to be the successors of the earth,” explains Dr. ElGindi. “Allah (swt) created the earth for us, which means we have a responsibility to take care of it. Islam preaches harmony between the different creations, and harming the environment is disobeying Allah (swt). “

Dr. ElGindi suggests that most policies on environmental issues are imported from the West, but Islam already has guidelines for sustainability that could be better suited for Islamic countries like Qatar. He states that sustainability can be achieved by invoking Islamic values to alter people’s behaviors towards the conservation of nonrenewable resources by showing how the current trend of overconsumption is in contradiction of what is said in the Qur’an.

“People need to be informed that the Qur’an and our religion already talks about sustainability,” says Dr. ElGindi. “What I’m talking about is a societal change where people understand the emphasis that Islam places on taking care of the earth and our resources as given to us by Allah(swt). Speaking to people’s conscious and motivating people through the rewards of the hereafter could work better than governmental policy.”

This type of grassroots change, which could be implemented in schools, universities, and mosques, is specifically relevant to Qatar and all GCC countries, as the region faces water scarcity and depleting sources of fossil fuel in the near future, yet still ranks the highest in terms of water consumption, electrical consumption, and CO₂ emissions per person.

The QGBC has chosen to publish their conference proceedings with HBKU Press to ensure that the wider community has unrestricted access to the information and valuable research being unveiled at the conference.

“This is second consecutive year that HBKU Press has published the QGBC conference proceedings which allows conference participants to showcase their work with greater visibility,” explains Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Senior Editor at HBKU Press. “As QScience Proceedings are open access, there is an expectation that conference proceedings will have a high rate of downloads, thus supporting QGBC’s goal of raising awareness about sustainable green building design and development locally and internationally.”

QScience.com provides a home to the proceedings of many conferences held in Qatar and the region which makes them citable and archived for use by future generations. Find the full list of publications at <http://www.qscience.com/toc/qproc/2016/3>.

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