

## LEADING SUSTAINABILITY EXPERTS TO ATTEND INAUGURAL QATAR GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE

### ***QGBC Invites Academics, Industry Experts And The People of Qatar To Meet Renowned Authorities At Launch Event***

**Doha, Qatar, 20 April 2015:** Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will host leading sustainability and green building experts from Qatar and around the world at its inaugural annual conference from 27 – 28 April 2015.

Being held at Qatar National Convention Centre, the conference and exhibition will promote new research and innovative best practice that advance sustainability in the built environment and directly address challenges and opportunities of implementing sustainability aspirations promoted in the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030).

The two-day event embodies QGBC's pledge to help achieve the sustainability objectives and support Qatar Foundation's commitment to promote green best practice and environmentally sustainable infrastructure towards the successful long-term delivery of the QNV2030.

To advance this important sustainability agenda, QGBC has invited a number of internationally-recognised experts to attend the conference. Delegates and members of the community are encouraged to seize the opportunity to not only hear, but also meet these experts and discuss with them their own particular sustainability issues and concerns.

Dr Jurgen Schnieders from the German Passivhaus Institute and Dr. Joachim Götsche from the Solar-Institut Jülich will host interactive sessions for interested participants to discuss latest developments in the worldwide Passivhaus sector, with a special focus on Qatar's first Passivhaus experiment.

Qatar's first Passivhaus experiment or project Baytna features an ultra-low energy building, derived from a super insulated airtight building envelope, that requires little energy for cooling, reducing its environmental footprint. The Passivhaus villa has been designed with all the comforts of modern living while consuming at least 50 percent less energy, water and operational carbon dioxide emissions.

Anthony Wilson, Director and Fellow of Building Engineering UK at AECOM and Don McLean, the Founder and CEO IES Ltd, a building performance analytics provider, will share with participants of the interactive sessions the latest inventions in the area of energy modelling. Both Wilson and McLean have extensive experience of carrying out building energy modelling in Qatar for the most complex buildings to provide inputs required for green building certification systems including Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) and Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED).

Jane Anderson, Principal Consultant at ThinkStep, a leading international environmental consultancy, will draw on her research expertise to evaluate efforts of various stakeholders in Qatar in effectively measuring and evaluating carbon footprinting. Ms Anderson, who was the main author of the 'Green Guide to Specification' will be part of the 'clinic sessions' along with the above experts, at the Qatar Green Building Conference.

Dr Alex Amato, Head of Sustainability at QGBC, who is spearheading QGBC's research efforts, said: "This conference offers a rare chance for QGBC members and the wider sustainability community to learn from these valued international experts. We have therefore arranged a limited series of one-to-one sustainability 'clinic sessions' with them, available to both QGBC members and the public.

"However, we would especially like to encourage anyone interested in developing 'green businesses' in Qatar to also attend. Whilst innovative research is a vital element in successfully tackling Qatar's sustainability challenges, most often, the rollout of innovation is dependent on entrepreneurial businesses committed to advancing sustainability. It is our motto that 'Green Business is Good Business'".

The conference's agenda is supported by other leading national organisations in a bid to foster sustainability and green building in Qatar and the wider region.

Eng. Abdulla Hassan Al-Mehshadi, Chief Executive Officer at Msheireb Properties said; "As leaders in our field, Msheireb Properties is proud to support the Qatar Green Building Council in inaugurating this first annual conference. Collaborating to build a vibrant, modern Doha where our people can come together will ensure the success of the Qatar National Vision 2030. That's why we're committed to investing in a sustainable national infrastructure underpinned at every level by environmentally friendly principles – a legacy we can be proud of.

"This inaugural Qatar Green Building Conference affirms Qatar Foundation's and Msheireb Properties commitment to promoting environmentally-friendly best practices in our nation's development industry. We want to find and support great ideas, implement cutting edge green technologies, and champion sustainable urban development throughout Qatar."

Those interested in attending the interactive sessions, which are free of charge, should register on the conference website at [www.qgbconference.com](http://www.qgbconference.com).

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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 H.H. Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser and is helping Qatar on its journey to establish a post-hydrocarbon, knowledge economy and progressive society. Through QGBC, Qatar joins a network of 80 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, constructors, 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. To learn more visit [www.qatargbc.org](http://www.qatargbc.org).