

Water conservation and sustainability solutions explored by QGBC

Qatar's environmental buildings organisation partners with UK experts

Doha, 20 November 2013 – Water saving solutions were at the top of the agenda yesterday at an event hosted by Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) and the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

The seminar, titled '*Future Planning of Water Strategy*,' brought senior representatives from Qatar's construction and sustainability industry together to examine eco-friendly and sustainable water management systems and to propose new ways to advance the treatment of water in Qatar.

The experts discussed the importance of capturing, storing, managing and re-using diverse sources of water, in order to achieve sustainable development, as the country's population increases and demand for water supply grows.

Dr Alex Amato, Head of Sustainability at QGBC, said, "The possibility of local treatment for both black and grey water and the storage of rainwater recycled for irrigation leads us to consider if large-scale storm water and sewage infrastructure is necessary. We need to explore whether this is the time to consider the deployment of new technologies for local water treatment that can substantially improve our built environment."

By collaborating with the prestigious Chartered Institute of Building – one of the world's most influential professional bodies for construction management and leadership – QGBC seeks to advance green building practices that can benefit the country for generations to come. Both groups share similar values, with a clear mandate to develop, conserve, and improve the built environment.

Stephen Herd, Business Development Manager of Polypipe, emphasised the value of water management and conservation in our built environment, and explained how waste water can be utilised effectively through innovative systems and technologies.

He said, "We face numerous challenges in today's urban environment, which includes increased water consumption, rapid urbanisation, population growth, a lack of natural resources, and a host of other significant challenges. However, water can be managed and treated differently in our built environment. The conventional approach to storm water management is treating rainfall as waste rather than as a resource, but sustainable storm water design treats rainfall runoff as a valuable resource."

Andrew Ford, Operations Manager at Gulf Contracting Company, shed light on the benefits associated with decentralised solutions that have been designed to preserve the natural environment, such as waste water treatment and re-use, which is both cost-effective and environmentally-sustainable.

He explained, “Innovation is about using alternative ways of managing waste water to meet the current demands of production and population growth. It looks at the current situation in relation to the wider network and compares the advantages of treating waste water locally rather than centrally, in order to reduce the burden on the centralised network. It also offers environmentally-friendly alternatives to localised treatment options. This ultimately satisfies the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 by allowing future generations to sustain their country’s development, while protecting the environment.”

QGBC is a non-profit, membership-driven organisation dedicated to advocating green building solutions, leading industry research, as well as promoting sustainable practice in the community. Through QGBC, Qatar has joined a network of 80 different countries that run active national green building councils under the umbrella of the World Green Building Council.

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About Qatar Green Building Council

Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) is a non-profit, membership-driven organization 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 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, constructors, manufacturers & suppliers, oil & gas, professional firms, financial services, telecom/technology, academia, NGOs & media.

QGBC is setting up operations from its HQ, organizing awareness events, knowledge seminars, training, forums, and networking sessions with the like-minded. To learn more visit www.qatargbc.org.

The Chartered Institute of Building

The Chartered Institute of Building is at the heart of a management career in construction.

We are the world's largest and most influential professional body for construction management and leadership. We have a Royal Charter to promote the science and practice of building and construction for the benefit of society, and we've been doing that since 1834. Our members work worldwide in the development, conservation and improvement of the built environment.

We accredit university degrees, educational courses and training. Our professional and vocational qualifications are a mark of the highest levels of competence and professionalism, providing assurance to clients and other professionals procuring built assets.

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