

## Experts Explore Sustainability In Qatar's Hospitality Sector

### *Achieving Sustainability In Qatar's Hotels Is A Key Element Of Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy*

**Doha, 22 November 2015:** Sustainability plays a key role in the process of achieving Qatar National Vision's (QNV 2030) objectives. Through the Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy 2030, Qatar has adopted a comprehensive approach to addressing sustainability in all aspects of the tourism industry, with a special focus on creating a sustainable hospitality sector in the country.

In an effort to explore the progress, challenges and opportunities, Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), during the previous week, hosted an event titled "Towards sustainable hotels in Qatar".

QGBC supports QF's mission to foster a progressive society, and seeks to support the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030) in creating a vibrant and inclusive sustainability culture in the country.

The event highlighted results of a comprehensive Indoor Environmental Quality Case Study conducted by QGBC's Healthy Building Interest Group in collaboration with the Movenpick Hotel West Bay and a host of other partners. The survey focused on measuring numerous aspects of indoor environmental quality including acoustics, accessibility, furniture and material, housekeeping and indoor air quality.

Engineer Al Shamari, Director of QGBC, said: "Today's event marks another milestone for QGBC in its journey towards raising awareness and creating a culture of sustainability in the built environment in Qatar. The outcome of the Healthy Buildings Interest Group's collaboration with the Movenpick Hotel is a valuable addition to the existing sustainability literature and research in Qatar."

Ghada Sadek, General Manager of Movenpick Hotel West Bay, said: "We are delighted to bring together key members of Qatar's hospitality industry to discuss some of the trending sustainability issues in hotels. The study conducted by QGBC's members presents us with a valued opportunity to find innovative ways to address these issues in a sustainable manner."

Ms Sadek added: "Movenpick is taking a leadership role in creating a culture of sustainability within the hospitality sector in Qatar. We are open to work with other partners to ensure these issues are dealt with in the future."

Results of the in-depth 'QGBC's Indoor Environmental Quality Case Study for Hotels' will be made available by QGBC for research purposes in the near future.

Commenting on the launch of the case study, Iñigo Satrústegui, Head of QGBC's Healthy Buildings Interest Group and Managing Director of Quality Air Global in Qatar, said: "The case study is a ground-breaking piece of research, which will prove highly useful for indoor air quality and sustainability experts in Qatar. We would like to extend our special gratitude to the Movenpick Hotel West Bay for allowing us to use their facilities to conduct this vital study."

Mr Satrústegui added: "In the near future, we will use this case study as a benchmark to help other hotels, companies and institutions improve indoor environmental quality for their buildings. QGBC welcomes further collaborations to help improve standards of indoor environmental quality within the built environment in Qatar through launching research and case studies."

Launched in 2013 under the umbrella of QGBC, the Healthy Buildings Interest Group aims to promote the establishment and dissemination of best practices in healthy buildings design and indoor environmental quality assessments. Comprised of seasonal experts from Qatar's sustainability sector, the healthy buildings interest group aims to ensure that all future buildings in Qatar are both healthy and green in accordance with the objectives outlined in QNV 2030.

For more information about QGBC, log onto: [www.qatargbc.org](http://www.qatargbc.org).

#### **Image Caption:**

**Image 1:** Engineer Meshal Al Shamari, Director of Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), delivering opening remarks at an event focused on sustainability in the hospitality industry.

**Image 2:** Ghada Sadek, General Manager of Movenpick West Bay Hotel, briefs the audience about the sustainability initiatives at the Hotel.

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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 Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser and is helping Qatar on its journey to establish a post-hydrocarbon, knowledge economy and progressive society. Through QGBC, Qatar is part of 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 those interested in sustainability in the built environment. To learn more, please visit [www.qatargbc.org](http://www.qatargbc.org).

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