

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FORUM PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY IN QATAR

Policy Experts And Sustainability Practitioners Combine To Draft Energy Efficiency Roadmap For Qatar

Doha, Qatar 24 February 2015: A high level forum jointly hosted by Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) has convened during the past week to discuss key trends and challenges in local energy consumption, and suggest how to improve energy efficiency in Qatar.

Held under the patronage of HE Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry, the Energy Efficiency Forum brought together senior policy and energy experts, and sustainability practitioners to review Qatar's existing frameworks.

The workshop's participants will analyse outcomes and use its conclusions to draft an integrated roadmap for energy efficiency in Qatar, supporting the country's continued efforts to promote responsible energy consumption across all walks of life in the country.

The comprehensive report prepared by the three partners will be shared with decision-makers in the government, and be used more widely to promote wider discussion and consideration of energy efficiency in Qatar.

As members of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), both QGBC and QEERI's participation in the Forum supports QF's mission to support the diversification of Qatar's economy from a carbon to a knowledge-based in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030. QGBC is an organisation dedicated to advocating green building solutions, leading industry research, and promoting sustainable practice within the community, while QEERI focuses on research to address critical national priorities concerning energy and the environment.

Promoting energy efficiency helps Qatar Foundation's mission to ensure the development of cutting-edge, environmentally sustainable infrastructure and standards. These principles already lie at the heart of facilities such as the new QF Stadium which will be built to the highly sustainable Gold LEED standard and serve as a role model for event organisers around the world.

Discussing the suggestions made by the expert gathering, H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani, Chairman of Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said: "As part of our effort to serve the local business community, ICC Qatar is working very close to our key stakeholders

to implement initiatives of public benefit. Energy efficiency is a critical component of any comprehensive sustainable energy strategy and it's not only an environmental imperative, but also an economic opportunity."

Engineer Meshal Al Shamari, QGBC Director, said: "The Forum demonstrated exceptional collective focus by stakeholders to suggest how we can improve energy efficiency in Qatar. Building industry awareness and understanding, and adoption of a responsible energy consumption model in Qatar will form a significant part of the strategy.

"QGBC and its members are committed to sharing knowledge, experience and sustainability best practice. I am confident that the Energy Efficiency Forum will help the nation meet the challenges set out in the Qatar National Vision 2030, and deliver a better environment here in Qatar and beyond."

Dr Mohammad Khaleel, Executive Director of QEERI, said: "QEERI is addressing two major grand challenges in energy and water. The institute is to assist and expedite the introduction of off-grid and grid integrated photovoltaics and energy storage technologies by providing engineering, technical and scientific solutions."

"Energy efficiency and renewable energies are both needed to promote cost-effective energy-saving solutions to give the country an economical advantage and to make our climate better."

Image Caption

Image 01: Remy Rowhani, Director General of Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (QCCI), opens the Energy Efficiency workshop hosted at (QCCI).

Image 02: Engineer Meshal Al Shamari, Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) Director, outlining QGBC's vision and initiatives in support of energy efficiency in Qatar.

Image 03: Dr Mohammad Khaleel, Executive Director of Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, addressing the Energy Efficiency workshop in Doha.

Image 04: Participants at the Energy Efficiency Forum hosted by Qatar Green Building Council, ICC Qatar and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute in Doha.

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Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC):

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 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.

International Chamber of Commerce Qatar (ICC):

ICC Qatar is one ICC national committee. These national bodies comprise leading companies and business associations in their countries or territories. National committees shape ICC policies and alert their governments to international business concerns. www.iccqatar.org

Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI)

QEERI is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030's strategy of transforming the State into a diverse and sustainable knowledge-based economy, QEERI plays a leading role addressing the national Energy and Water Security Grand Challenges through Research and Development (R&D). www.qeeri.org.qa