

QATAR GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL SEMINAR ENCOURAGES INCREASED INNOVATION IN QATAR'S CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Experts Debate Opportunities And Challenges To Help Deliver The Qatar National Vision 2030

Doha, Qatar, 29 October 2014: In the wake of the nation's construction boom, Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and the Pakistan Engineers Forum (PEF), hosted a joint seminar exploring innovation opportunities and challenges in Qatar's construction sector.

The event, which took place this week at Qatar Foundation, was attended by more than 50 construction practitioners and sustainability experts. The seminar supported QF's objective to ensure cutting-edge, environmentally sustainable infrastructure, and QGBC's commitment to working in collaboration with key stakeholders to encourage innovation and entrepreneurial thinking.

Addressing the gathered experts, Engineer Meshal Al Shamari, Director of Qatar Green Building Council, said: "QGBC is focused on promoting green practice across Qatar's construction sector so we were delighted to host this conversation between sustainability experts, innovators and building specialists. We are committed to helping the nation deliver the Qatar National Vision 2030, and our discussions highlighted some interesting ideas and themes for reform and growth."

Asfandiar Ansari, President of the Pakistani Engineers Forum, highlighted the importance of organisations working together to achieve common objectives: "The Pakistan Engineers Forum was established in 1997 with the main objective to disseminate knowledge within the community. Since knowledge knows no boundaries, we joined hands in our knowledge sharing efforts with key engineering organisations in Qatar like QGBC. The informative discussions at this event enable our members to connect with others and generate new insights into the construction industry in Qatar. We would like to thank QGBC for providing a great networking opportunity for our members."

Among Qatar's large construction projects over the coming decade are Qatar Rail, the FIFA 2022 World Cup stadia, Msheireb Downtown Doha and Lusail Real Estate Development amongst many more.

Dr Alex Amato, Head of Sustainability at QGBC, added: "Innovation opportunities in the construction sector are abundant. The real question we need to answer is, 'to what extent is innovation and research encouraged in this sector?' As part of our efforts to encourage innovation and research in the construction sector, QGBC has brought together members of the construction industry to conduct vital innovative research as part of its landmark project the

Qatar Case Study Passivhaus. The project is now undergoing the research phase and is aimed at reducing energy consumption by half.”

Engineer Mohamed Al-Sada, Chairman of Gulf Scientific Gateway, focused on the important role of entrepreneurs in encouraging innovation in the construction sector. He said: “Qatar’s current regulations and laws help entrepreneurs and innovators in many ways. However, they do not adequately address the main challenge facing new entrepreneurs in Qatar, which is capturing market gains while competing with existing market giants. We hope that we will witness further modifications in this regard.”

Dr Azhar Iqbal, Managing Director of Gulf Scientific Gateway, offered a potential solution. His presentation suggested that increased innovation and the introduction of new concepts to the construction industry will help minimise competition between new entrants and established market leaders.

The event featured another informative presentation by Dr Uvais Qidwai, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Qatar University that highlighted the challenges innovators face in Qatar and how old innovations can provide answers to the modern age challenges.

He explained: “New concepts such as Zero Energy Design housing or the Passivhaus will encourage innovative thinking in Qatar’s market by pushing both the new entrants and existing giants to join forces and work together for their mutual benefit.”

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. QGBC offers membership opportunities to organisations, individuals and students who demonstrate support for QNV 2030 and showcase passion for environmental sustainability.

For more information about QGBC, please visit: www.qatargbc.org.

Images Caption

Image 01: Engineer Meshal Al Shamari, Qatar Green Building Council Director, speaking at the seminar

Image 02: Dr Azhar Iqbal, Managing Director of Gulf Scientific Gateway, addressing the audience

Image 03: Panel Discussion: Experts debate the role of innovation in Qatar’s construction sector

ENDS

For more information contact:

Abed Shirzai
abeds@bljworldwide.com
+974 7021 8259

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 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.