

Qatar Green Building Council joins International Sustainability Alliance

As members, property owners, occupiers and investors in Qatar gain access to global network to share best practice in green building – Qatar Foundation registers as first ISA member in Qatar

Doha, February 15 2014 –Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) has announced its strategic membership of the International Sustainability Alliance (ISA) and will now offer organisations in Qatar the opportunity to become members and receive a host of benefits, including bespoke evaluations on the sustainability of their buildings.

QGBC and ISA have a shared understanding of education, science and community development and, as a result of its new strategic partnership, will represent the international body in Qatar. QGBC will also act as the hub for all Qatar-based companies wishing to become members of ISA and can support them on ensuring their buildings meet sustainability benchmarks.

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), represented by Health, Safety and Security and Environment (HSSE) Directorate, has become the first organisation in Qatar to become an ISA/QGBC member. As a result, the environmental performance of many of QF's buildings can now be evaluated against similar structures in Qatar and the world. Consumption reports will also be on offer, covering direct, indirect and on-site energy, carbon emissions, water consumption and waste generation.

QGBC's ambition is to create a sustainability culture amongst industry professionals through an education and training programme. The organisation also aims to fill knowledge gaps and identify areas for improvement in Qatar's built environment. Its new partnership with ISA will help achieve these goals.

"Joining ISA fits our strategic objective to foster the growth of innovative, sustainable development for the whole of Qatar," said Eng Meshal Al Shamari, Director of Qatar Green Building Council. "ISA plays a leading role in sustainability benchmarking on an international basis, and membership will open up new avenues and opportunities for companies operating in Qatar and play an important role in raising awareness about green development."

ISA is a global networking organisation, dedicated to improving the sustainability of real estate through benchmarking. Its members include property owners, occupiers and investors who are then able to come together to share best practice in the sustainable management of their property portfolios in order to improve overall performance.

QF and other ISA members can enter their property data in an online tool and evaluate the results any time they choose. In addition, ISA's online tool allows them to identify good and bad performance from within their own portfolios to aid with decision making and possible changes

to future ventures. Members can also monitor improvements in environmental performance over time and against targets, allowing for on-going trend analysis.

“We are delighted to welcome QGBC as a strategic member,” said Phil Buttery, Chief Executive of the International Sustainability Alliance. “QGBC has ambitious plans to champion green building in Qatar, and as a commitment to research and robust metrics, this is something that is completely aligned with ISA.”

QGBC is a non-profit, membership-driven organisation. It is 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.

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