

Doha to host Green Building conference

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DOHA: Property developers, architects, urban designers and providers of green technologies will converge here for a three-day conference on "Middle East Qatar Green Buildings 2009", slated to start on March 17, 2009.

The conference will discuss Qatar's green building opportunities and the possibilities of issuing guidelines and future regulatory frameworks in the constructions sector.

Industry sources point out that Qatar's civil infrastructure investment programme will see more than \$130bn spent in the next five to 10 years on major projects across the transport, real estate, power and water sectors. The indirect cost of such extensive construction is considerable in terms of the pressure it places on already scarce energy and natural resources. Qatar, as one of the construction hotspots of the Gulf, is actively formulating a coordinated response to negate the environmental impact of building construction and promoting the design of efficient green buildings.

The opening day will witness discussions on the green building movement in Qatar, Designing green building regulations: Looking at the possibility of a future code for Qatar. Leading Qatari developers will talk about the process of adopting international sustainability standards and what set of green guidelines will apply in the future.

A green building rating system, factors to be considered in selecting an appropriate green building rating system and overview of green building rating systems being utilised in the Middle East and how to achieve green building certification are among the other issues to be discussed in the meet.

A case study in creating mandatory green building regulations, opportunities and pitfalls in developing regulations that provide the greatest sustainability value, the road map for regulation assessment and how to ensure that all buildings contribute towards green building goals will also emerge as major topics of discussions at the meet.

Experts will also outline the ways in which buildings can benefit from wastewater recycling and technical challenges of introducing wastewater recycling.

Mario Senevairatne (Green Building Council, US), Abdel Khan, sustainability Consultant, Faithful+Gould, Dr Sadek Owainati (Emirates Green Building Council), Paul Lorgan, Project Manager, Time Qatar, Martin Townsend, Director of BREAM, BRE Global and Rebecca Pearce, Senior Associate, Sustainability advisory Group are among other international experts to present their papers at the meet.

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