

## Doha Green Conference from Dec 9

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DOHA: Impacts on the Qatari ecosystem, concrete ways of applying renewable energy systems and efficient water management systems of buildings, and examining the Qatar-Bahrain Causeway project as one of the larger sustainable reference projects, among others, will be discussed during the two-day Doha Green Conference and Workshops at the Movenpick Hotel.

Philipp von Zitzewitz, senior consultant of the Sesam Business Consultants, organisers of the event, said the Doha Green Conference, which will take place from December 9 to 10, will give an overview of the market transformation currently taking place in the building industry worldwide.

"The conference presents important players in Qatar who have taken the topic of sustainability to the forefront of their agendas, such as the Friends of the Environment Centre, the Qatar Society of Engineers, the General Secretariat for Development Planning, the Doha Bank or the Unesco," said Von Zitzewitz in an interview.

He said representatives of certain companies will deliver keynote speeches pointing out the direction they intend to drive sustainable change in Qatar. Moreover the conference presents leading suppliers of the construction industry lecturing on technical solutions for a reduced environmental impact.

"Green Building trends and concepts have been recognised all over the world as one way to reduce energy and water consumption as well as waste output in our homes and offices," Von Zitzewitz said.

According to him, with buildings accounting for the largest share in CO2 emissions it becomes more and more important to understand and educate people about the direct impact on the environment and how to reduce it.

"As in other GCC countries, the construction industry in Qatar contributes largely to the economy and is developing fast. In this context the Doha Green conference aims to offer an educational platform allowing industry professionals as well as the public to inform themselves and discuss current trends in environmental protection through sustainable practices. The conference intends to increase awareness and to showcase green initiatives already taking place in Qatar and the actors behind them," he said.

Von Zitzewitz said during the conference, they will offer workshops will include Water Management and Renewable Energy, and a workshop on Renewable Energy. "The water workshop presents strategies for the reduction of water usage, water treatment and for creating green landscapes with local vegetation. The workshop on renewable energy presents strategies for the application of photovoltaic and solar thermal systems in buildings and also presents municipal waste management solutions."

Von Zitzewitz said they are looking forward to seeing consultants, architects, engineers, interior designers, hotels, building owners, environment-related professionals, governmental departments, students from related curriculums, and the environment conscious public during the conference.

By Joyce C Abaño  
(The Peninsula)