

# **Big 5 to focus on green buildings**

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High-performance, energy efficient green building solutions and environmental friendly technologies are to be highlighted next month at The Big 5 - the biggest and most important exhibition for the Middle East building and construction industry.

The Big 5 Technical Conference will bring together regional and international experts to present practical case studies, the UAE green building compliance requirements and rating schemes, said Simon Mellor, Vice-President Construction for organisers dmg world media.

The Big 5 exhibition will be held place at Dubai International Exhibition and Convention Centre from November 23-27.

It is the largest show for the construction sector in the Arabian Gulf and one of the world's largest trade shows for the construction industry and associated suppliers. The 2007 show featured more than 2,830 exhibiting companies from 53 countries and dmg media say there are already more than 3,000 exhibiting firms for the 2008 show and they expect more than 50,000 visitors.

The Big 5 Technical Conference will be held at Monarch Hotel in Dubai on November 24. The conference is in response to the introduction of a green building directive by the authorities underscoring Dubai's support for efforts to address global environmental challenges. The decree, the first of its kind in the region, focuses on responsible sustainable development in the UAE and advancing green building principles.

Compiled in conjunction with Ecospecifier International, The Big 5 Technical Conference will highlight the latest issues surrounding green building policy and best practices for technology design and product sourcing.

The panel of speakers include Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, who will be addressing green building standards. Other topics include sustainable communities; district cooling; the design of carbon critical buildings; eco-profiling of buildings and green architecture.

The conference is tailored for architects, engineers, developers, constructors, builders, building owners, investors, building and facilities managers, government agencies, interior and landscape designers and planned community designers.

Another green focus is The Big 5 Gaia Awards showcasing environmental-friendly products and services.

Products and services exhibited at the Big 5 exhibition that reduce the impact on the environment are eligible for the awards and a judging panel, comprising senior individuals from local developers, contractors and government has been assembled with the support of Ecospecifier International. The awards will feature over 30 products and services.

The organisers are also collaborating with experts from the British Safety Council for a programme of health and safety training workshops.

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