

Green buildings crucial for Qatar

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DOHA: It is now crucial for the construction industry in Qatar to adopt green and sustainable buildings design, said Dr Yousef Al Horr, President of Strategy and Investment of **Barwa Real Estate**.

Al Horr aired this call in his presentation on the update on Qatari Green Building System recently developed by **Barwa** and **Qatari Diar** during the Green and Sustainable Building Seminar organised by United Kingdom Trade and Investment, British Embassy in Doha and British Expertise.

He said efforts were already made by **Barwa** and **Qatari Diar** over the last two years to introduce the green building system in Qatar in response to the global calls about the need to mitigate the effects of global warming.

At the seminar, the BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for the Gulf Region was introduced before participants, an effort made by the top environmental certification body in the UK to bring green building standards that would suit the needs of the building designs of the region.

Mark Standen, BREEAM Gulf Sector Manager, said their goals in the UK and the Gulf are both dwelt on setting sustainability targets to green buildings. " BREEAM is leading an effort on how best to achieve these targets," Standen said.

Standen however emphasized they will not take the UK version in bringing their assessment standards to the Gulf since the region has its own specifications besides using the experience gained from regional projects to help produce standard scheme tailored to the Gulf and getting feedbacks from local experts.

Aside from BREEAM, 13 UK companies who have wide range of internationally proven expertise and range of experience in providing solutions for green, sustainable and intelligent buildings design architecture, materials and technologies participated in the seminar.

British Ambassador John Hawkins said in his talk during the opening of the event that UK has an internationally proven track record in delivering intelligent, green and energy efficient buildings.

Al Horr reiterated in his presentation about the urgent need for the construction industry in Qatar to go into green buildings to drive home a point about prevailing concerns on a recent study that shows the country being on top on carbon dioxide and the largest consumer of energy per capita in the world.

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