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Building sector to see growth in 2018

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Qatar's construction sector is projected to witness growth in 2018 as the government plans to spend "more than 47%" of the national budget on major infrastructure projects, according to an official of Project Qatar.

"The government will be spending around \$103bn for new and major projects," IFP Qatar general manager George Ayache said yesterday at a press conference to announce Project Qatar's 14th edition from May 8 to 11 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

"This led the IMF to state that Qatar will be witnessing the highest GDP growth in the GCC by 3.4%, even exceeding Saudi Arabia. We are all eager to see the development taking place in Qatar and for that Project Qatar remains as the platform to tap into the ever-growing infrastructure and construction industry in Qatar," he emphasised.

The Project Qatar official expressed confidence that the country is at "a very acceptable equilibrium between the demand and supply in the construction market and growth will be witnessed as of 2018 and onwards."

A total of 516 exhibitors from 33 countries are looking to leverage the future developments of Qatar's multi-billion-dollar construction sector supported by their various embassies

in Qatar, including France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, China, Turkey, Kuwait, and Pakistan.

The event, expected to gather more than 16,000 visitors from across the globe, will be the venue of a series of expert-led workshops on key issues within the construction sector such as 'Co-operating to Advance Construction Codes in the Gulf Region', 'Overview of the International Green Construction Code', 'Conflict Avoidance: The Alternative to Dispute Resolution', 'Design of Quality Control Systems to Improve the Quality of Concrete Construction in Complex Infrastructure Projects', and 'Identification and Mitigation of Alkali-Silica Reaction in Concrete Structures'.

"The groundwork and business networking needed in order to optimise the capabilities the global construction has to offer require a dedicated platform for companies of all sizes to build business relations and secure major successful deals.

"The construction industry plays a very important role in achieving infrastructure development and thereby attracting foreign direct investments into the country, consistent with Qatar's vision of becoming a leading hub in the region for world events, including the FIFA 2022 World Cup," Ayache said.

Aside from the workshop sessions, this year's Project Qatar also offers other activities like a live demo theatre, the 'Accessible Qatar Conference', and a B2B Matchmaking event.



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FROM LEFT. Andrea Ferrari, Trade Commissioner at Embassy of Italy, Christophe Payot, Ambassador of Belgium, Fikret Ozer, Ambassador of Turkey, George Ayache, General Manager, at IFP Qatar, Osman Ballah, Business Development Manager at Palmera Agricultural Business, Nidal Al Otaibi, CEO, at QD-CPC Industries, and Anurag Guglani, COO at Nehmeh Corporation, at the press conference to unveil details of "Project Qatar 2017" at the The City Hotel, yesterday. Pic: Kammatty VP / The Peninsula

Over 500 exhibitors to take part in Project Qatar 2017

Sachin Kumar
The Peninsula

A total of 516 exhibitors from 33 countries will showcase their latest equipment and services in 'Project Qatar 2017' - an international trade exhibition for construction technology, building materials, equipment and environmental technology. The four-day expo, taking place from May 8 to 11 at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, is expected to gather more than 16,000 visitors from across the globe.

The exhibition assumes significance as many mega construction projects are going on across Qatar.

The government will spend around \$103bn on major infrastructure projects, said George Ayache, General Manager, at IFP Qatar speaking during a press conference held yesterday at the InterContinental Doha - The City Hotel yesterday.

"The groundwork and business networking needed to optimise the capabilities global construction has to offer require a dedicated platform for companies of all sizes to build business relations and secure

major successful deals. Project Qatar is once again leading the construction sector in building on opportunities for expanding the country's prospects independent from the oil and gas sector as its major source of income and become a more diversified economy," Ayache said.

"The construction industry plays an important role in achieving infrastructure development and thereby attracting foreign direct investments into the country, consistent with Qatar's vision of becoming a leading hub in the region for world events, including the FIFA World Cup which will be held in 2022," he added.

Project Qatar will hold a series of expert-led workshops on key issues within the construction sector.

Nidal Alotaibi, CEO, QD-CPC Industries, said, "For the last few years, Project Qatar has managed to position itself as a strategic venue to discuss and review timely industry topics while also networking with top enterprises from across the region. The event continues to demonstrate its support for the country's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup and in the move to realize the goals and

objectives of National Vision 2030. Serving as the gold sponsor for this event will allow us to illustrate the differentiated building materials and unique services QD-CPC Industries deliver through its six Qatar based building materials factories for the existing and coming massive developments in the construction sector. Rest assured that we will remain steadfast in our commitment to provide the industry with complete building solutions needed in creating world-class infrastructure in Qatar."

Jack Saba, Public Affairs General Manager, Sasol, "Under our corporate social responsibility (CSR) umbrella, Accessible Qatar initiative is thriving to build an inclusive society for the benefit of the disabled community. We strongly believe that the construction sector has a major role to play in this regard. Through Project Qatar 2017 exhibition, we will hopefully make a significant impact on decision makers who are designing the future of Doha and of the entire country. We appreciate the partnership with IFP and Qatar Tourism Authority for their ongoing support on the Accessible Qatar Conference and Awards Ceremony."