



KPMG Real Estate Monthly Pulse

November 2018

Dear all,

We are very pleased to share the latest issue of the **KPMG Real Estate Monthly Pulse**. In this issue we bring you the key news highlights from the Real Estate and related sectors in Qatar for October 2018. We hope you will find this issue an invaluable read, helping you to stay connected with the latest developments.

Real estate

Alfardan Properties launched 'Workinton Doha' project in partnership with Workinton, a Turkish international company. 'Workinton Doha', which was opened at Alfardan Center, offers ready to move office spaces to entrepreneurs and will provide 17 office units and cater to up to 250 persons at a time. [Read more](#)

Tourism and Hospitality

- Hamad International Airport (HIA) welcomed a total of 9.68 million passengers and handled 57,031 aircraft movements in the third quarter of 2018, making this the busiest quarter of the year so far. HIA also handled 538,551 tonnes of cargo in the third quarter of this year. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) and Mowasalat have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further develop tourist transport services as Qatar's cruise tourism sector is expecting to receive 200,000 by 2020. The MoU is part of QTA's ongoing efforts to enhance the overall visitor experience, and comes ahead of a busy cruise season. [Read more](#)
- Katara Hospitality and Marriott International announced the signing of agreement for Al Messila, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, situated in Doha. Scheduled to open by end of 2018, the resort marks The Luxury Collection brand's first property to open in Qatar and eighth across the Middle East and Africa. The signing also marks Katara Hospitality's 39th project under its portfolio of hotels. [Read more](#)
- As part of its ongoing collaboration with private sector partners to develop tourism offerings and experiences, Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding

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(MoU) with Katara Hospitality to manage Al Enna, a winter camping project in Sealine that kicks off from November 1, 2018 and will continue until April 15, 2019. [Read more](#)

- Qatar witnessed a sharp rise in tourist arrivals in the third quarter of 2018, according to Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA). The number of visitors from Russia increased by 214 percent, while visitors from China rose by 47 percent. The number of German visitors also increased by 38 percent while the number of Indian visitors rose by 25 percent. [Read more](#)

Retail

- Qatar Duty Free (QDF) announced the launch of the Prada Voyage Experience at Hamad International Airport (HIA). Prada Voyage will offer passengers a unique experience with a personalisation stand that will enable them to customise their perfume bottle with a Saffiano leather tag stamped with their initials along with the Prada Voyage photo booth, which will be available for passengers to capture, print and share their favourite moments. [Read more](#)
- In a bid to make children familiar with the maritime industry, Mwani Qatar opened its establishment at KidzMondo. The partnership between Mwani Qatar and KidzMondo Doha aims to support educational efforts in Qatar and contribute to build future generations by offering them education in various fields related to maritime works. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) announced the registration for Al Furjan Markets Phase 1 raffle draw to award 45 retail spaces vacant in existing markets. QDB will also offer 350 retail shops during first half of 2019 through same raffle draw system under Al Furjan Markets' project. [Read more](#)

Healthcare

- The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF), has partnered with local and international leaders in healthcare to host the 'Innovation Hub.' This will be WISH's largest exhibition to date, which will be held on November 13 and 14 at Qatar National Convention Centre. [Read more](#)
- The Private Engineering Office (PEO) handed over a hospital and a health center in Mesaieed Industrial City to Hamad Medical Corporation, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health. Hamad Medical Corporation will equip the two health facilities to serve the workers in the southern part of the country. [Read more](#)
- The ENR Global Best Project Awards has named Sidra Medicine as the 'Best Global Healthcare Project' for its outstanding design and construction qualities during an annual award ceremony in New York. [Read more](#)

Sports

Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF), the world-renowned sports city, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) that has paved the way for the two organizations to establish 'Qatar's Sports Business District' (QSBD). The all-inclusive Sports Business District, will be the first-of-its-kind facility in the region. [Read more](#)

Agriculture

- Qatar has achieved 100 percent self-sufficiency in dairy and fresh poultry products after unjust blockade. The production of dairy products increased from 60,000 tonnes a year before the blockade to about 220,000 tonnes this year, which is an increase of more than 265 percent. [Read more](#)
- The agriculture sector has made remarkable achievements on the path of sustainable development and self-sufficiency, especially after the allocation of QAR70mn in annual support over the next five years to stimulate agricultural, livestock and fish production and marketing them in line with the agricultural strategy. [Read more](#)
- Qatar has claimed the top spot among the Arab countries and 22nd globally in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) 2018, released by The Economist Intelligence Unit. Singapore is ranked first in the 2018 GFSI ranking for the first time while Ireland is on the second place, the US has now dropped to the third place in the index. [Read more](#)
- Qatar University (QU) discusses the academic and research cooperation with Euro-Arab Business Council for SMEs (EABC) for the development of some agricultural and industrial development projects that contribute to enhancing the food security of Qatar. [Read more](#)

Education

An international British school for girls, first of its kind run by completely women staff, is scheduled to open at Al Messila area in September 2019. Durham School for Girls Doha will offer a British curriculum added with Qatari values and culture. [Read more](#)

Industrial

Qatar's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Um Al Houl Free Zone, one of the two Free Zones under development, will start receiving both local and foreign investors from the first quarter of 2019, according to Minister of State and Chairman of the Free Zones Authority H E Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sayed. [Read more](#)

Economy

- Qatar's foreign merchandise trade balance, which is the difference between total exports and imports, surged to QAR15.5bn in September this year, showing an increase of QAR3.1bn or 25.6 percent compared to same month last year. [Read more](#)
- Qatar's more enlightened social policies and approach to press freedoms might endear it to more discerning American and European startups or municipalities seeking capital, said Reuters. It added that Qatar may be the alternative for start-ups and governments attracted by the \$45 billion pumped into SoftBank's Vision Fund or \$20 billion destined for a Blackstone infrastructure fund from the kingdom. [Read more](#)
- Qatar's foreign investment increased by about one percent from QAR677.7bn at the end of previous quarter to QAR682.3bn in the second quarter of 2018, according to the quarterly Foreign Investment survey carried out by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) in cooperation with Qatar Central Bank (QCB). [Read more](#)

- Qatar's nominal GDP, measured at current prices, was estimated at QAR171.51bn in the second quarter of 2018, registering a remarkable increase of 17.9 percent year-on-year compared to the nominal GDP of QAR145.50bn for the corresponding period last year, according to preliminary data released by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics. [Read more](#)

Regulatory

- Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued the Law No. 16 of 2018 regulating non-Qatari ownership and use of properties. Under the provisions of the law, non-Qataris may own and use real estate in certain areas. [Read more](#)
- The Coordinating Committee for the Single Window System Management, which was established in 2016 to redesign, facilitate and accelerate all operations related to business services, has managed to establish over 5,000 local companies and 80 international firms till date and has reduced the time spent on the process of issuing licenses from one year and half to 72 hours only. [Read more](#)

Source: *The Peninsula*

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