



KPMG Real Estate Monthly Pulse

January 2019

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. We hope you will find this issue an invaluable read, helping you to stay connected with the latest developments.

Real Estate

- The number of new building permits issued in Qatar in October 2018 increased to 795, an increase of 8.2 percent compared to 735 building completion certificates issued in September 2018 according to monthly Statistics of Building Permits and Building Completion certificates, released by MDPS. [Read more](#)
- United Development Company (UDC), one of Qatar's leading public shareholding companies and master developer of The Pearl-Qatar and Gewan Islands, won the 2018-2019 "Best Mixed-Use Development" award for The Pearl-Qatar project at the Arabian Property Awards, held at the Savoy Hotel in London on 3 December 2018. [Read more](#)
- In another milestone ahead of its opening next year, the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) became the first national museum in the world to receive both a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold and a 4 Star Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) rating. [Read more](#)
- Seventy one percent of the reclamation and rehabilitation for the Al Karaana Lagoon project is complete. The project is scheduled to be completed in Q3, 2020. The project aims to reclaim and rehabilitate the site by avoiding health risks to the surrounding environment and to re-establish a natural habitat for wildlife and migratory birds in Qatar. [Read more](#)
- Qatari Diar and the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning have laid the foundation stone for a project to redevelop the historic Sulaymaniyah district in the Turkish city of Istanbul. The project, owned by Qatari Diar, has a total area of 102,000 square meters in the center of Istanbul's historic area. It is comprised of residential and commercial buildings, hotels,

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roads and pedestrian areas, parking lots and re-development of archaeological and heritage sites such as mosques, wells, fountains and more. Project cost is approximately QAR3.1bn.

[Read more](#)

Retail

- Al Meera will open eight new branches in Doha Metro stations in cooperation with Qatar Rail. Al Meera also announced the launch of "Meera Rewards" loyalty programme. Sheikh Thani bin Thamer bin Mohamed Al Thani, Chairman of Al Meera Consumer Goods Company, said that the company is currently working on three projects in Oman. The company has signed an agreement with an Omani company for the construction of a new branch in Al Amerat area, which is due to be completed in eighteen months. [Read more](#)
- The Cultural Village Foundation — Katara, officially unveiled Qatar's first-of-its-kind high-tech planetarium, Al Thuraya Planetarium, coinciding with the celebrations of Qatar National Day. The planetarium takes visitors on a journey around the galaxies of the universe in a simplified manner that suits children and adults. [Read more](#)
- The much-anticipated Al Furjan Markets Raffle Draw by Qatar Development Bank (QDB) announced the draw winners of 45 retail stores. The stores were allotted using a sophisticated electronic raffle draw system for better transparency. For Phase I of the Al Furjan markets project, QDB witnessed an overwhelming response by receiving 13,266 applications. [Read more](#)

Tourism and Hospitality

- A luxury cruise ship, which is a first-of-its-kind service in the Gulf region, is expected to start its service in 2 weeks from Doha to Oman and Kuwait. The 145 meter-long cruise ship 'Grand Ferry' has the capacity to carry 870 passengers and 670 cars. Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti toured the ship, which is currently docked at the Doha Port. [Read more](#)
- With Qatar's push to cement its position as a preferred tourist destination, the cruise tourism sector is witnessing strong growth. Thousands of tourists have visited Qatar aboard 14 cruise ships, which have docked at Doha Port since the start of the season on 2 October 2018. This season, which will continue until May 2019, is set to be the busiest since the development of the cruise tourism sector in Qatar and more than 140,000 visitors in 43 cruise ships are expected to dock at the Doha Port during this season, according to Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA). [Read more](#)
- Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said that the award-winning airline has launched 23 new destinations over the past 18 months, and continues with its significant program of expansion to new routes to further connect passengers around the globe. [Read more](#)
- Hamad International Airport (HIA) has been voted as the "Best Airport in the Middle East" at the 15th Annual Global Traveler's GT Tested Reader Survey Awards in Los Angeles. The award recognizes outstanding performance and customer service displayed by airports across the world. [Read more](#)

Education and Healthcare

- The Public Works Authority's (Ashghal) team participating in Qatar Charity's (QC) 'Competitors-3' program paid a visit to South Darfur to find out about the nature and site of the project. The project involves the construction of a secondary school with an area of 512 sqm and a health center with an area of 33 sqm at a cost of QAR 2.2 million. [Read more](#)
- The Minister of Public Health, H E Dr Hanan Mohamad Al Kuwari inaugurated the Fareej Abdulaziz Health Center for male expatriate workers. The facility, the fourth expatriate workers' health center to be operated by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) under an agreement with Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), has a capacity to handle 20,000 visiting patients per month. [Read more](#)

Regulatory

Cabinet approved the draft decision to form a committee to regulate non-Qatari ownership and use of real estate. The Ministry of Justice prepared the necessary formalities to activate the provisions of Law 16 of 2018 regulating non-Qatari ownership and use of real estate. [Read more](#)

Source: The Peninsula, Qatar Tribune, GulfTimes

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