



KPMG Real Estate Monthly Pulse

June 2019

Dear all,

We are pleased to share the latest issue of KPMG in Qatar’s Real Estate Monthly Pulse. In this newsletter, we aim to bring you the latest news highlights from the real estate sector in Qatar. We hope you find this information valuable. If you may have any queries or would like to discuss the newsletter, business or the market, kindly contact us.

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Retail

[Al Mana Malls unveils plans to open Doha Mall in Feb 2020](#)

Al Mana Malls unveiled plans to open Doha Mall in February 2020. Strategically located in Abu Hamour, Doha Mall is built on a plot of 125,000 sqm with a total of 270,000 sqm built up area to produce around 100,000 sqm of gross leasable area. Doha Mall comprises of a combination of targeted retailers over three levels, serviced with over 3,500 parking spaces.

[Al Meera opens convenience stores at two Metro stations](#)

As part of its ambitious expansion strategy and with a view to provide exceptional services to consumers, Al Meera Consumer Goods Company announced the opening of its convenience stores “MAAR” at two newly started Qatar Rail stations. “MAAR”, is a sub-brand of Al Meera and the first retail outlet to be functional in the metro stations in Qatar.

[Family entertainment focus of Summer in Qatar](#)

Several entertainment shows, fireworks, and cultural performances have launched the ‘Summer in Qatar (SiQ)’ programme in various locations throughout the Eid al-Fitr, Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) has announced.

“We want to focus on providing entertainment options for all segments of society which is evident from our selection of activations and events (in this edition of SiQ),” QNTC’s chief marketing officer Rashed al-Qurese said, on the sidelines of a media roundtable. He cited the support of more than 30 partners from the public and private



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sectors who are set to provide a wide range of offerings especially in urban and family entertainment.

Tourism and Hospitality

Qatar attracts 588,000 visitors, 10% rise in Q1 of 2019

The Secretary-General of QNTC and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Akbar Al Baker, said that Qatar received 588,000 visitors during the first quarter of this year, an increase of 10 percent compared to the Q1 last year. The event, Annual Tourism Ghabga, was organised by QNTC at Doha Sheraton Hotel for the representatives of the tourism sector.

The increase in overall number is also due to the robust cruise season 2018-19, which concluded on May 10 with the arrival of the season's last ship Seabourn Encore. Qatar welcomed 44 ships carrying over 140,000 tourists – a 100 percent increase on last year. Al Baker said that this growth is expected to continue in the coming years and Doha Port to be one of most important winter cruising ports broadening opportunity for destination management companies to handle these cruise visitors.

Qatar's hospitality sector retains top spot in the Middle East

Qatar's hospitality sector continues to win accolades, ranked best in the Middle East for a second consecutive year, according to the Guest Experience in the Middle East Report, released by hospitality and travel data providers Olery.

The report analyzed over 12mn online guest reviews between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, using popular online booking sites. Qatar's score increased from 84.3 last year to 85.4. The development of new attractions, such as the recently opened National Museum of Qatar, was credited with helping maintain the hospitality sector's momentum.

Hotels and resorts offer up to 40% off in summer

QNTC is bringing compelling hospitality deals with discounts of up to 40 percent at top hotels to residents and visitors this summer, in collaboration with leading hotel developers and operators Katara Hospitality, Al-Rayyan Project Management, and Marriot International Hotels.

Katara Hospitality, QREC ink pact for Clubhouse operation

The Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club (QREC) and one of Katara Hospitality's operating units have recently concluded an agreement under which Katara Hospitality will manage and operate the QREC Clubhouse.

The QREC Clubhouse comprises several sports and entertainment features and facilities, including a multi-purpose two-lounge banquet hall with the two lounges accommodating 400 and 700 individuals respectively. The structural works are scheduled to be completed at QREC's premises early next year.

InterContinental Doha The City wins Qatar's Leading City Hotel at World Travel Awards

InterContinental Doha The City garnered highly coveted recognition by winning Qatar's Leading City Hotel at the World Travel Awards 2019. The World Travel Awards' winners are chosen through majority votes from select travel and tourism professionals and business and

leisure travel consumers worldwide, recognizing the commitment to excellence demonstrated during the last 12 months.

— [Qatar National Tourism Council makes debut at ITB China 2019](#)

QNTC made its debut at ITB China 2019, one of the leading travel trade shows in China, held in Shanghai from May 15 to 17. The Qatar pavilion showcased a strong delegation of leading private sector partners, including Qatar Airways, destination management companies, and other hospitality suppliers, providing a comprehensive one-stop welcoming service to meet with China travel trade.

Education

— [Third phase of land allocation for private schools launched](#)

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has launched the third phase of land allocation under the BOT system, within the framework of stimulating the participation of the private sector in the economic development projects dedicated to the national curriculum. This came during an introductory workshop on the project, attended by a large number of investors, owners of private schools and senior officials of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Khalid Al Hajri, Director of the General Services Department at the Ministry explained in a presentation that six plots of land were allocated in the first phase and three others were allocated in the second phase. While the third phase will include the allocation of two government-owned land lots for the private sector to design, build and operate the buildings as private schools.

— [Education Ministry plans to build schools in Al Daayen](#)

The Minister of Education and Higher Education H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Abdul Wahed Ali Al Hammadi has announced that the Ministry has an expansion plan for schools in the region, including the establishment of schools for all stages in Al Daayen area to serve the city of Al Khor and surrounding areas.

Economy

— [S&P affirms Qatar ratings, maintains 'stable outlook'](#)

S&P Global Ratings has affirmed Qatar's sovereign ratings with a 'stable outlook', primarily reflecting its view that the country will continue to 'effectively mitigate' the economic and financial fallout of the ongoing blockade.

Qatar, S&P said, "will continue to pursue prudent macroeconomic policies" that support large recurrent fiscal and external surpluses over 2019-2022. Investments related to the government's sizable infrastructure programme will continue to support the country's economic activity, outweighing negative sentiment related to the blockade imposed on Qatar by a quartet of Arab nations.

— [Qatar ranked third in world economic performance for 2019](#)

The State of Qatar ranked third in the world in terms of economic performance, according to the International Competitiveness Report 2019 published annually by the International Institute for

Management Development in Switzerland, which confirms the continued strong performance of the Qatari economy.

Qatar has risen to the top 10 in overall competitive indicators from 63 countries, mostly developed countries, compared to 14 in 2018.

Regulation

[Cabinet approves draft to establish municipality of industrial zones](#)

The Cabinet approved its draft decision to establish municipality of industrial zones. According to the draft decision, a municipality called “municipality of industrial zones” will be established, to be under the Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

The Cabinet also reviewed the memorandum of the Minister of Municipality and Environment on the proposed mechanism to provide a database on the real estate sector in the country and took the appropriate decision.

Sources: *The Peninsula, Gulf Times*

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