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Leading Qatari property developer to speak at Green Building Forum

A leading Qatari property developer will speak at the Green Building Forum in Bahrain next month as part of campaign to encourage leadership in the real estate sector to support global environmental issues.

Dr Yousef Al Horr, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director of Barwa and Qatari Diar Research Institute (BQDRI), will deliver keynote presentations on *'The Development of the First Performance-Based Green Buildings Rating System in the MENA Region'* as well as *'The Role of Education and Research in Promoting Environmental Expertise in the Region'* on May 5 at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). BQDRI is a leading proponent of sustainable communities and developments in Qatar.

The award-winning Dr El Horr is a socially responsible citizen and engineer who believes passionately that responsible design, construction and building operations can mitigate the negative effects of the built environment. Under his chairmanship and direction, BQDRI has won several notable awards.

Jubran Abdulrahman, Managing Director of Forum co-organisers Hilal Conferences & Exhibitions (HCE) said: "In its first year the Forum is attracting leaders in their fields from around the Gulf region. The participation and support of Dr Al Horr and Qatar is a welcome addition to the panel of experts who will address the audience."

Ahmed Suleiman, Partner at leading international event consultancy and Forum co-organisers North Star Associates, said: "Dr Al Horr is a leading authority in his field and his participation provides an invaluable contribution to the Forum by showcasing the pioneering work of BQDRI."

Dr Al Horr joins a distinguished panel of speakers at the Green Building Forum including HE Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa; Dr Mowafak Al Jassim, senior scientist at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the US; Dr Elex Amato, Associate Director at global construction consultants Davis Langdon; Professor Vasanth Bhat of Dayananda



Sagar College of Engineering (DSCE) in Bangalore, India and Professor Hans Haenlein, a leading expert in the planning of education and community facilities. Dr

Hashim Hussein, Head, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) ITPO in Bahrain, will moderate a plenary session.

The Green Building Forum, whose theme is 'Innovating to Protect the Environment', will be held under the patronage of Bahrain's Minister of Housing, HE Shaikh Ibrahim bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. It is supported by the Bahrain Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Emirates Green Building Council, the Federation of GCC Chambers of Commerce, the British Council, British Expertise and The Middle East Association. The Green Building Forum will run concurrently with the fifth gulfBID exhibition, the leading exhibition for the construction and interiors industry in the Northern Gulf, which will be held from 4 to 6 May 2010, also at the BIEC.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BQDRI was established by Dr Al Horr to focus on studies related to new knowledge in sustainability and its applications aiming to address the environmental challenges and empower the construction industry starting from Qatar to the region.

He directed the development of Qatar Sustainability Assessment System (QSAS) in 2009 allowing BQDRI to take leadership of the real estate sector, regionally, including addressing global issues related to energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions.

In February 2010, the Federation of GCC Chambers, Panel of Judges, chose Dr Al Horr to receive the prestigious 1st Middle East Business Leaders Summit and Awards 2010 'Emerging CEO – Green Buildings' Award.

Prior to moving into the field of R&D, education and training and corporate social responsibility, Dr Al Horr was President of Strategy & Investment at Barwa Real Estate.

He has spoken at high profile forums around the world, and was a keynote speaker at the IREF 2009 in London and MEED Green Building and Sustainability Conference.