



KPMG Real Estate Monthly Pulse

February 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

- [Qatar's real estate transaction value jumps to QR2.66bn in November](#)
Qatar's real estate market witnessed strong growth in November 2018, with the total value of transactions reaching at QR2.66bn, registering a double-digit growth of 52.6 percent month-on-month compared to QAR1.74bn reported in October 2018, according to the latest edition of the Qatar Monthly Statistics released by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics.
- [UDC named Best Real Estate Development Company in Qatar in 2018](#)
United Development Company (UDC), one of the leading Qatari public shareholding companies and the master developer of The Pearl-Qatar and Gewan Islands, has added another international accolade to its award tally. UDC has been named "Best Real Estate Development Company in Qatar" in 2018 by the prestigious London-based International Finance Magazine.
- [Alfardan Properties to unveil Burj Alfardan tower in Q2 of 2019](#)
Alfardan Properties is months away from launching an iconic new tower in Marina District, Lusail. Plans are in place to present Burj Alfardan to the nation in the second quarter (Q2) of 2019. Burj Alfardan has been awarded a 3-star Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) certification, highlighting its focus on sustainability standards and eco-friendly practices. The landmark tower is equipped with state-of-the-art

For any enquiries, please contact:



Venkatesh Krishnaswamy
Partner, Deal Advisory
KPMG in Qatar
D: +974 4457 6451
M: +974 5554 1024
T : +974 4457 6444
venkatesh@kpmg.com



Anurag Gupta
Director, Deal Advisory
KPMG in Qatar
D: +974 4457 6438
M: +974 3354 4317
T : +974 4457 6444
aagupta@kpmg.com

amenities such as an excellent gym, an outdoor lap pool, and a wide variety of food and beverage outlets to name a few. The building will also have the distinction of housing the biggest Jaguar Land Rover showroom worldwide.

— **[UDC awards contract for designing master plan of Floresta Gardens to Parsons](#)**

United Development Company (UDC) has selected Parsons to provide master planning and infrastructure consultancy services for the development of Floresta Gardens, which will have a distinctive architectural feature at The Pearl-Qatar.

— **[Over 150 projects to be offered after 2022 Cup](#)**

Qatar's economy will continue to expand with one of the fastest growth rates in the world for years. More than 150 large-scale projects worth billions of dollars are to be offered after 2022, which include projects related to infrastructure development, roads and construction of buildings, hospitals and schools, according to Qatar Chamber (QC).

— **[Third high-tech tram arrives at Msheireb Downtown Doha](#)**

Msheireb Properties received another global accolade by obtaining Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation for the Tram Depot located within their flagship development project, Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD). This accolade coincides with Msheireb Properties receiving their third tram from the US-based manufacturer, TIG/m, LLC.

Hospitality and Tourism

— **[Mega cruise ship carrying 3,700 passengers arrives at Hamad Port](#)**

The luxury cruise ship 'RMS Queen Mary 2' marked its maiden voyage to Qatar. Measuring at 345 meters long, RMS Queen Mary 2 is the largest cruise ship to arrive in Qatar. The luxury cruise ship arrived at Hamad Port carrying more than 3,700 passengers and crew and was welcomed by officials from the Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) and Mwani Qatar.

— **[Doha among Forbes' 15 places to visit in 2019](#)**

Doha has made into Forbes' top 15 places to visit in 2019. This proves the growing stature of Qatar as a tourist destination among international travelers. Recently Doha was picked by The New York Times in their '52 Places to go in 2019' list.

— **[HIA ranked second best globally for on-time performance](#)**

Hamad International Airport is the second best airport in the world for On-Time Performance (OTP) according to OAG's Punctuality League report. As per OAG, the leading global provider of digital flight information, Qatar's state-of-the-art airport ranked second in the major airports category (from 20 to 30 million departing seats per annum) with 85.41 percent of its flights operating on time.

Retail

- [Doha Festival City honored with Top Global Environmental Certification](#)

In recognition of its commitment to sustainable development, Doha Festival City received a 3-star GSAS Design & Build certification by the Gulf Organization for Research and Development (GORD). This achievement adds to Doha Festival City's commitment to being a "smart mall", and further contributes to the mall's list of achievements in 2018.

- [Qatar Airways unveiled the first-ever brand shop at Hamad International Airport](#)

Qatar Airways and Qatar Duty Free (QDF) unveiled the airline's first-ever brand shop at the Hamad International Airport (HIA). Complete with burgundy lighting, curved walls, a business class desk and an A380 first class seat to experience, the store is specially designed to enable customers to feel as though they have stepped on board a Qatar Airways aircraft.

Healthcare

- [PHCC opened Qatar University Health Centre](#)

The Primary Health Care Corporation's (PHCC) newly opened Qatar University Health Centre with the capacity to cater for 35,000 people will provide high standards of patient care. The health centre will initially register 10,000 people from neighboring areas and gradually increase the number. It offers an array of services such as family medicine, dermatology, radiology, dentistry and ophthalmology.

Education

- [Projects to build 45 schools unveiled](#)

New projects to construct 45 schools within the public-private partnership-building program have been announced. The approved projects will include design, construction, finance, operation, maintenance of buildings and transfer of ownership of schools. The announcement came during a workshop on building public schools under the public-private partnership system, organized by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Public Works Authority (Ashghal). The projects will be divided into six investment packages and be offered to the private sector at successive intervals. The first package consists of six to eight schools to be launched during the first quarter of this year.

- [Qatar University ranked 32nd globally among the top 100 universities](#)

Qatar University (QU) ranked 32nd globally among the top 100 universities in the Times Higher Education classification and university rankings. The Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies Summit concluded yesterday with the announcement of the results of the world rankings of the Times Foundation for Higher Education for the year 2019, an important event for higher education institutions around the world.

Agriculture

[QEERI launches solar energy pilot project for farms](#)

Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), launched a pilot project to provide advanced technological solutions for the supply of greener and more sustainable solutions to commercial farms in Qatar. As part of the initiative, QEERI has partnered with a farm that is located to the south-west of Doha. The project aims to build an integrated solar photovoltaic (PV) system to supply the required electrical energy to the farm for irrigation, lighting and cooling.

Industrial

- [Ooredoo, Manateq to transform logistics parks and industrial zones](#)

Ooredoo has announced a partnership with Manateq, the Economic Zones Company, to provide 5G infrastructure that is set to transform Qatar's Logistics Parks and Industrial zones, and accelerate the country's diversified growth.

- [Qatar's ports record highest annual growth](#)

Qatar's ports delivered impressive performance last year with all round growth in all the segments. The ports in the country achieved the highest annual performance in containers, vessels and livestock segments in 2018.

- [Qatar tops 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Index](#)

Qatar topped the global entrepreneurship environment, according to Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report, in which 54 countries worldwide took part. This ranking came as a result of a public opinion poll that included international experts in various fields on all indicators and detailed elements that affect the reality and future of this sector in the country. Qatar Development Bank (a GEM member) said that the report showed that the local environment index for business entrepreneurship in Qatar registered about 6.7 points out of 10 points, and Qatar is ranked first among all countries participating in the 2018 report, followed respectively by Indonesia, and the Netherlands by about 6.6 and 6.5 points.

Source: The Peninsula, Qatar Tribune, GulfTimes

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