

QATAR NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS DOORS

- Venue of choice for global scale events including the 20th World Petroleum Conference
- Hailed as the 21st century model of urban planning
- Exceeds gold certification standards of the U.S. Green Building Council

3 December 2011 (Doha, Qatar): The Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, opens its doors on December 4 with the first day of the 20th World Petroleum Congress, officials said at a press conference this morning. Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, Vice President of Capital Projects at Qatar Foundation, Mr. Ahmed Al Hajjaji, Chief Executive Officer of AMLAK (the holding company that oversees the strategy and operation of QNCC on behalf of Qatar Foundation), and Engineer Ali Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of ASTAD Project Management, revealed the inspiration and details behind construction of the sustainable and environmentally- friendly building, highlighting unique aspects of its facilities and technologies.

Engineer Saad, foreseeing Qatar's rising prominence in the international arena after winning the 2022 bid, hosting such world class events as the Asian Cup 2011, the Pan Arab Games 2011, and the World Postal Congress 2011, mobilized his construction plans for a building that will accommodate future high profile events in Doha. Successfully bringing together scientists and researchers from around the world, the Centre will further Qatar Foundation's goal to enhance education, science and technology, and community development on a global scale, said Engineer Saad. Its sheer size, sensational spaces over three levels, and high-tech solutions will undoubtedly set new standards for international competition, placing Doha in the lead.

After extensive architectural planning with renowned Japanese architect Arata Isozaki, the Centre is now ready for business for those seeking cutting edge facilities in a world-class venue. The construction of the QNCC and its advanced facilities will undoubtedly continue Qatar's legacy of educational and scientific achievement by offering a place where the world's best minds can come together, said Engineer Al Khalifa.

Additionally, the Centre successfully meets the standards for gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED), a global building-rating framework.

Sustainability was our focus when developing the construction plans. The building operates efficiently with over 3,500 square meters of solar panels that provide 12.5 percent of QNCC's energy needs while still offering the latest in communication technology,+said Engineer Saad.

To test out what the building has in store, the Centre has already hosted a number of successful soft launch events, including the World Innovation Summit for Education, The Hague International United Nations, the Qatar Foundation Annual Research Forum, and the Arab Expatriate Scientists Symposium.

By providing the latest in communications technology, spacious foyers, luxury lounges, and the best in hospitality, the Centre will attract the very best from all corners of the globe and put Doha on the map as a target for conferences and events in the future,+exclaimed Mr. Al Hajjaji.

Furthermore, our team at QNCC is ready to launch QF's mission to achieve one of the most dynamic, knowledge-based economies in the world by offering our first-class venue as a hub for international collaboration amongst leading specialists and delegates. QNCC is supporting Qatar Foundation on its journey to enhance education, science and technology, and community development, and our facilities will catalyze that process on a global scale,+Mr. Al Hajjaji said.

Located alongside elite universities and research institutions in Education City, QNCC is furthering Qatar Foundation's mission to turn Qatar into one of the most vibrant economies in the world by becoming the convention venue of the future, culminating values of education, research, and technology into a global hub for ideas and innovation.

***** ENDS *****

Note To Editor :

About Qatar National Convention Centre

A member of the Qatar Foundation, QNCC features a conference hall of 4,000-seats theatre style, a 2,300-seat lyric style three-tier auditorium and a total of 52 flexible meetings rooms to accommodate a wide range of events. It also houses 40,000 square metres of exhibition space over nine halls, and is adaptable to seat 10,000 for a conference or banquet. The Centre's stunning architecture and state-of-the-art facilities are ideal for hosting local, regional and international conventions and exhibitions, gala events, theatrical productions and banquet functions.

QNCC is proudly managed by AEG Ogden, one of the largest facility and entertainment management specialists in the world. For more information, visit www.qatarconvention.com

About Qatar Foundation

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF carries out its mission through three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. QF's education pillar brings world-class universities to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. Meanwhile, its science and research pillar builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. Finally, its community development pillar helps foster a progressive society while also enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

www.qf.org.qa

About AEG Ogden

AEG Ogden is a joint venture between Australian interests and AEG Facilities of the United States. AEG Ogden manages venues throughout the Asia Pacific region, including the Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin and Kuala Lumpur Convention Centres, and the Qatar National Convention Centre, Sydney's Allphones Arena, the Brisbane Entertainment Centre and the Newcastle Entertainment Centre, and the Perth Arena (currently under construction); Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane and live theatres including Perth's His Majesty's Theatre and the Perth Concert Hall.

AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Anschutz Company, is the leading sports, entertainment and venue operator in the world. AEG Facilities, a stand-alone affiliate of AEG, owns, operates or consults with 100 of the industry's preeminent venues worldwide, across five continents, and works in concert with affiliated AEG entities, including live event producer, AEG Live, AEG Global Partnerships and AEG Development to support the success of AEG venues across the globe. AEG owns, operates or provides services to venues including STAPLES Center (Los Angeles, Calif.), The Home Depot Center (Carson, Calif.), Nokia Theatre L.A. Live (Los Angeles, Calif.), Citizens Business Bank Arena (Ontario, Calif.), Sprint Center (Kansas City, Mo.), The Rose Garden (Portland, Ore.), KeyArena (Seattle, Wash.), KFC YUM! Center (Louisville, Ky.), Conseco Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, Ind.), American Airlines Arena (Miami, Fla.), AT&T Center (San Antonio, Tx.), Time Warner Cable Arena (Charlotte, N.C.), Prudential Center (Newark, N.J.), Target Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), Mercedes-Benz Arena (Shanghai, China), Wukesong Arena (Beijing, China), The O2 Arena (London, England), O2 World (Berlin, Germany), O2 World Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Ahoy Arena (Rotterdam, Netherlands), Pernambuco Stadium (Recife, Brazil), Globe Arenas (Stockholm, Sweden. For more information, please visit www.aegworldwide.com

For further information :

Janet Leow
PR & Communications Manager
Qatar National Convention Centre
Education City, P.O. Box 34195, Doha, Qatar

Mobile : +974 3027 7100
Tel : +974 4470 7100
Email : Jleow@qatarconvention.com