



Qatalum and Hydro officials after inaugurating the Zero Energy and Emission Building lab at Mesaieed.

Aluminium research, testing facility opens

Every one degree Celsius reduction in room temperature could translate as 5-10% savings in energy used for air-conditioning, according to a top official of Hydro, the Norwegian aluminium joint venture partner in Qatar Aluminium (Qatalum).

"Today, around 40% of the world's energy consumption is related to operating buildings, especially to cooling and heating of the buildings we work and live in," Hilde Merete Aasheim, vice chairman of Qatalum and the executive vice president of Hydro, said.

The comment came at the inauguration of Hydro's newly established facility dedicated to research-

ing and testing aluminium used in curtain wall solutions in support of creating energy, emission and carbon neutral buildings in the Middle East.

"If by using various devices the temperature inside the room can be lowered by one degree Celsius, then a saving of 5-10% in terms of energy used for air-conditioning can be realised," she said, highlighting that Hydro has delivered solutions in aluminium to a large number of energy-efficient and energy-positive buildings.

The inauguration ceremony, which also saw the presence of Qatalum Chief Executive Officer Tom Petter Johansen and

Deputy CEO Khalid Laram, continued at Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), where Hydro and Qatalum have established a technology centre.

Underscoring the importance of Hydro and Qatalum in driving research and bringing international best practices to the region, Chris Devadas, head of the Technology Centre, said the centre "will build up competence and co-operation with other institutions in Qatar in important areas that impact the global climate".

He said research will be conducted to make assessments of the impact of the Middle East climate on building envelopes and how

building envelopes can be developed to influence the long-term sustainability of buildings.

"A zero energy building is a building with zero net energy consumption and zero carbon emissions annually. While no such building currently exists in Qatar, the potential to achieve this is great," said Johansen.

The zero energy goal is becoming more practical as the costs of alternative energy technologies decrease and the costs of traditional fossil fuels increase, he said.

The Zero Energy and Emission Building Research Laboratory consist of two independently operated test containers and a detached chillers station. Each of the

two test containers has two test chambers embedded, which represent a single office room.

In the area of the building envelope the test containers have an opening allowing the installation of different curtain wall solutions. Each test chamber itself can be individually cooled, artificially lighted, mechanically and naturally ventilated.

The research lab can analyse four different curtain wall solutions in parallel allowing mainly qualitative comparison between the options. In addition, the facility is equipped with specialist equipment to test solar thermal and photovoltaic applications.



Participants of a professional training programme in reservoir engineering conducted by TRC-Q at QSTP in Doha.

TRC-Q holds training courses in reservoir engineering

Total Research Centre-Qatar (TRC-Q) held several professional training programmes in reservoir engineering in Doha.

Dr Gerard Massonnat, an international expert from Total, gave a one-day course on the mapping of the permeability in petroleum carbonate reservoirs which is essential for the production of oil and gas. More than 50 attendees from Qatar Petroleum, Qatargas, Dolphin Energy and Total attended the lecture.

Very recently, Andre Fil, one of Total's most experienced scientists in reservoir simulation, also gave a new course on reservoir simulations.

A reservoir simulator is a complex software, which allows to mimic and to predict the behavior of an hydrocarbons field.

As reservoir simulators become more and more complex, Total defined a project in its headquarters to determine the characteristics of the simulators of the future.

To match the production history and to predict the future production of large oil and gas fields, this new software takes into account an increasing amount of data, including geophysical, geological, reservoir and production data.

Dr Philippe Julien, director, TRC-Q, welcomed the participants and explained to them the three main research activities undertaken by the centre.

TRC-Q is currently focused on some of the main challenges of Qatar, including production of carbonate reservoirs (geochemistry, acid stimulation of wells), metrology (smart metering of hydrocarbons production, measurement of air quality) and petrochemicals.

In acid stimulation, a joint Qatar Petroleum and Total research team works in the TRC-Q premises. In geochemistry, a new joint research and development project between QP, Total and Q-Analytica, a specialised company, was started in February.

TRC-Q organises about 10 very high-level professional training courses a year.

By sharing knowledge and skills, global energy major Total said it "clearly wants to support the development of a knowledge-based economy."

"The goal of the TRC-Q is to carry out very innovative research and to share it with our industrial partners - Qatar Petroleum, Qatargas and Dolphin Energy," Dr Julien said.

Academics, researchers have key role to play: QU president

The importance of engaging the public and of recording changes to society since the Arab Spring was highlighted at the opening day of the second international conference of Qatar University's Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (Sesri) yesterday.

The three-day conference on - The Rise in Public Engagement: The Region and the World - is being attended by experts from across the world.

The event covers issues including identity, democracy and governance, economic change and development, women and gender issues, religion, sustainability and human security, and electoral integrity - the problems and progress in holding free and fair elections.

QU president Professor Sheikhha al-Misnad highlighted the importance of surveys in the Gulf and Middle East as a means of charting the social and political transformations which have been taking place in the Arab world over the last few years.

She said: "Now, more than ever before, academics and researchers are called upon to wield their measurement and analytical tools to document and help us understand the changes that are happening in societies, not only in Arab countries, but in this globally inter-connected world."

She praised Sesri and its collaborations with the World Values Survey and Arab Barometer which have advanced research in Qatar and the wider region, providing key statistics to help formulate policy and set priorities.

In his opening remarks, Sesri director Dr Darwish al-Emadi spoke about the growing importance of engaging public, particularly in states which have non-elected governments.

"The Arab Spring started from a lack of public engagement in most of the countries. Public engagement is a way for individuals or groups to have an effective role in decision making in society - they can debate top-



Prof Sheikhha al-Misnad speaking at the conference.



Dr Darwish al-Emadi: "Gulf societies are in transformation."

ics and influence policies?"

He argued that while societies can develop somewhat without public engagement, it is a short-term measure. Such engagement is crucial for long-standing, meaningful development of society, he said.

Leading the first panel discussion, on the issue of "Why we need surveys in the Gulf", Dr al-Emadi said: "Gulf societies are in transformation. Changes are happening so fast - in Qatar we can observe big changes in just three years. Surveys are a good channel of bottom-up communication. We can create awareness of local and regional issues. We can provide windows to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead."

"By bringing issues to

the surface, you can start debate, not just in the one country, but across others with similar issues."

University of Michigan's Ronald Inglehart said: "Things are changing - what people think is changing. Running a society like Qatar without research means that you miss an important component of reality?"

He said that, from research across the world, an intrinsic part of economic development is changes to gender equality. However, he added: "I don't think that gender equality will result in Arab women becoming like French or Japanese women. Cultural heritage shapes these things. Women's role (in the Arab world) will become more active but will be affected by the surrounding culture."

ANNOUNCEMENT


BY THE EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IN DOHA



ELECTION ADVICE TO CROATIAN CITIZENS

In accordance with the Decision of the President of the Republic of Croatia, elections for Croatian Members of the European Parliament will be held on 13 and 14 April 2013. For all Croatian citizens who are entitled to cast a vote at the said elections and currently residing in Qatar, the elections will be held on the premises of the Croatian Embassy in Doha on 13 and 14 April 2013 from 7AM until 7PM.

Croatian citizens, currently living in Qatar and who would like to vote at the elections, must register with the Croatian Embassy in Doha. Voter registration finishes on 3 April 2013. Please contact the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia for more information: 4483 5188, 4483 5224.


THE TRANSPORT COMPANY (MOWASALAT)
 The TENDERS Committee announces the following Tenders:

Tender No.	Subject	Document Fees	Tender Bond	Closing Date
TC-008/PCAS/2013	Provision of Canteen Services for Admn. Staff at Mowasalat - St.-37	500/=	Qrs. 25,000.00	11 th April 2013

CONDITIONS:

- Copies of Tender document can be collected on 19, 20 & 21 March 2013, from The Secretariat, Tenders Committee office during working hours on payment of document fees (non-refundable) to Mowasalat Bank Account No. 0013-011272-060 with Qatar National Bank and present an authorization letter to collect tender document on Company letterhead.
- Required documents: 1) Authorization Letter. 2) Original Bank Receipt. 3) Copy of collectors I.D. 4) Copy of Commercial Registration.
- Tenders should be accompanied by a Tender bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar as a temporary deposit and valid for 180 days from the closing date.
- The successful Tenderer shall submit a Performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the contract sum that shall be valid for 30 days after the completion date of the contract.
- Any Tender Bid that does include the tender bond shall not be considered. (Tender Bond must be in a Separate Envelope)
- Offers should be valid for 180 days commencing from the above closing date.
- Mowasalat shall have the right to increase or decrease the scope of work by 20%.
- Mowasalat should not be bound to accept the lowest or any other tender and is under no obligation to show reasons thereof.
- Tenders should be submitted not later than 12.00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Tender box provided in the office of The Secretary-Tenders Committee, located in the 1st Floor, at the Transport Company-Abu Hamour and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman-Tenders Committee quoting the Tender No. and subject.
- Offers arriving after the closing date & Time Shall not be Accepted.

TEL: 44588991 FAX: 44588850
 CHAIRMAN - TENDERS COMMITTEE

