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PROMISING OPTIONS | Page 4

QBA explores investment opportunities in Egypt across various sectors

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AI FOCUS : Page 2

Qatar develops frameworks to enhance digital contribution to GDP

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Need to have people at forefront of energy policies and priorities: Al-Kaabi

HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi has asserted the need to have people at the forefront of energy policies and priorities.

Speaking at the opening panel discussion at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC), al-Kaabi said: “All our partners and colleagues in the room know that, we in Qatar, have had the same policy and view on how we see the business, how we see the transition, how we see the need for oil and gas for the future, and that has not changed.”

“We have announced that we cannot reach net-zero because we don’t think it is achievable,” al-Kaabi noted.

HE al-Kaabi stressed that energy should not be politicised, nor should be subject to changing politics.

He said: “Unfortunately, a small part of this conference has changed with politics, and I think they are not looking at facts and realities. We shouldn’t be following politics when we look at the lives of people for the future and how much energy we need for the future.”

Speaking on regulations and trade barriers, al-Kaabi reaffirmed Qatar’s opposition to Europe’s excessive regulations that will impose 5% of global turnover of companies that violate their planned Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

“We have announced very clearly, and

HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi speaking at the opening panel discussion at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference yesterday.

I have spoken on several occasions, that if Europe does not look at how they can water down or cancel the CSDDD and still have a penalty of 5% of our total world turnover as a penalty, we will not be delivering LNG to Europe, for sure,” the Minister of State for Energy Affairs noted.

Al-Kaabi concluded his remarks by affirming that this is not just about oil and gas but rather affects any company doing business in Europe like Toyota

(for example) can be impacted while delivering cars; this is why it is very important that Europe looks at this very seriously.

HE al-Kaabi was speaking during a session entitled ‘Energy Realities: Securing the future in an uncertain world’ with participation from Suhail al-Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, and Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Egypt.

HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani chaired the Qatari delegation at the 41st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, held in Istanbul under the chairmanship of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Türkiye.

Sheikh Faisal calls for deepening economic, trade co-operation under OIC framework

HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani chaired the Qatari delegation at the 41st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), held in Istanbul under the chairmanship of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Türkiye. [To Page 2](#)

Al-Kaabi meets US secretary of interior

HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi met Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Discussions during the meeting, which was held on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2025), covered bilateral energy relations and co-operation between Qatar and the US and means to enhance them.

QDB unveils National Funding Gate TAMKEEN

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Qatar Development Bank (QDB) launched ‘TAMKEEN’ or the National Funding Gate, a unified digital platform for business financing in the country, during a ceremony held in Doha yesterday.

TAMKEEN brings together Qatar’s leading financial institutions under one roof, offering an integrated solution that simplifies access to financing for companies based in the country. The initiative aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 to build a competitive and dynamic local business ecosystem. It will serve as the central hub for companies seeking financing to support their growth. TAMKEEN also digitally connects applicants with participating national banks, reducing time and effort, while enabling banks to reach a wider range of potential clients.

The initiative represents a strategic partnership between QDB and key players in Qatar’s financial sector, fostering innovative financing solutions that strengthen the overall business environment.

QDB also announced the launch of the Credit Guarantee Programme, a revamped version of ‘Al Dhameen’ programme, which issues guarantees to partner banks providing financing to Qatar-based companies. The programme, which is now fully integrated into the National Funding Gate, encourages banks to fund local projects and businesses.

At the launch ceremony, QDB CEO Abdulrahman bin Hesham al-Sowaidi said: “We are confident that this platform will mark a transformative leap in the efficiency and quality of business financing in Qatar.

“It stands as a model of integration and partnership between the financial sector and the business community, supporting sustainable development and economic diversification. Through this initiative, we are advancing a resilient, dynamic, and competitive knowledge-based economy led by the private sector.”

He added: “We have been working to develop the Credit Guarantee Programme to support risk-sharing with partner banks. We will allocate an initial amount of QR3bn for the programme. This is in response to the evolving needs of the business ecosystem and a broader range of customers, which will positively impact Qatar’s economic performance.”

TAMKEEN embodies a unified national vision and a

QDB CEO Abdulrahman bin Hesham al-Sowaidi. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

coordinated effort among leading financial and governmental institutions. Its development was overseen by QDB, under the guidance and leadership of the Qatar Central Bank, and after co-ordinating with partner national banks, all with the shared goal of supporting the private sector and expanding financing solutions for businesses in Qatar.

QDB continues its mission to empower Qatar’s private sector, enhancing its resilience and productivity. It remains committed to enabling entrepreneurs and innovators to launch and grow their businesses, helping them compete, contribute to Qatar’s economic development, and drive national progress.

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Sheikh Faisal calls for efforts to deepen economic, trade co-operation under OIC framework

From Page 1

In his opening remarks delivered on behalf of the Arab Group, HE Sheikh Faisal underscored the Group's strategic role within COMCEC, emphasising the importance of co-ordinating efforts to deepen economic and trade co-operation under the OIC framework, and strengthen bonds among member states in confronting regional and global economic challenges. He highlighted that the meeting was convened amid multiple challenges facing the Islamic Ummah, stressing the need to unify efforts and enhance joint action to consolidate security and stability, foster an enabling environment for comprehensive and sustainable development, and promote prosperity throughout the region. The minister further noted that global economic transformations call for stronger co-operation among OIC member states to advance joint Islamic action, boost intra-OIC trade and investment, and remove barriers to integration and growth. Sheikh Faisal observed that, despite recent crises impacting the economies of the member states, it is forecast that the combined GDP of OIC countries would increase by nearly \$2tn through 2026 to \$31.6tn, representing a projected growth rate of 6.38%. The minister added that efforts by member states to diversify economies, increase domestic output, enhance regional co-operation, and implement the Trade Preferential System (TPS) have contributed to a 13.56% rise in intra-OIC trade, which grew from \$883bn in 2023 to \$1tn in 2024. The share of intra-OIC trade in total foreign trade also increased from 19.16% in 2023 to 20.36% in 2024, marking a 6.26% rise. He commended the ongoing efforts by Turkiye to promote joint Islamic action and advance the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and its Programme of Action (2016-2025). The COMCEC meeting also reviewed the implementation report of the COMCEC Strategy and the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, as well as recent global economic developments and implications for member states. The meetings discussed strengthening financial, transport, tourism, agricultural, and digital co-operation, and exchanged views on aligning export strategies among member states. The session discussed mutual trade and ways to boost private sector involvement in economic co-operation, with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) presenting updates on recent developments. The COMCEC was established in 1981 and serves as the principal platform for multilateral economic and trade co-operation within the Islamic world. On the sidelines of the meetings, Sheikh Faisal held separate meetings with Prof Omer Bolat, Minister of Trade of Turkiye; Hassan Elkhatabi, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt; and Atheer Dawoud al-Ghurairi, Minister of Trade of Iraq.

Qatar develops frameworks to boost digital contribution to GDP, says MCIT official

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Qatar has developed frameworks to enhance the digital economy's contribution to non-hydrocarbon GDP (gross domestic product) by more than QR40bn by 2030, according to a senior official of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). "Guided by Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar is advancing from a resource-based model to a knowledge-driven economy, powered by talent, entrepreneurship and technology," Faraj Abdulla, Director of Digital Economy within Digital Affairs Department, MCIT, told the second edition of Qatar Investment and Innovation conference. The frameworks also seek to create 26,000 ICT (information, communication and technology) jobs and raise the R&D (research and development) expenditure to 1.5% of the GDP by 2030, he said. Investments in Qatar's ecosystem grew by more than 130% in 2024, reflecting a strong investor confidence and the growing maturity of our innovation landscape, according to him. Highlighting that in the same year, Qatar recorded \$2.7bn in foreign direct investment, Abdalla said: "Together, these achievements reflect Qatar's strategic positioning as a gate-



Faraj Abdulla, Director of Digital Economy within Digital Affairs Department, MCIT. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

way for investment in the region." Making clear the priorities of MCIT in developing a strong innovation ecosystem, investing in advanced digital infrastructure and building human capital for the future; Abdulla said through initiatives and programmes like the Digital Incubation Centre, Tesmo Accelerator, ScaleNow and the National Innovation Labs, Qatar provides entrepreneurs and businesses with a pipeline of support.

"Our investments in 5G cloud computing and AI (artificial intelligence) sandboxes ensure innovators have the tools they need to succeed," he said. Stressing that Qatar is establishing a comprehensive regulatory environment for AI that balances innovation with responsibility; he said through MCIT's strategic partnership with ScaleAI, "we are shaping policies and frameworks that promote innovation while ensuring ethical and responsible use of AI technologies". Qatar is making strategic investments to enable AI advancement across the region, he said, adding through partnerships with global leaders such as Microsoft and Google Cloud, the country is driving innovation and integration across multiple sectors. "Beyond infrastructure, we are demonstrating AI's transformative impact through real applications," he said, referring to the Ministry of Municipality's AI-powered building permit system, which now issues approvals within two hours instead of 30 days. "As we progress toward 2030, Qatar will continue to invest in technology that improves lives, implement policies that attract talent and foster partnerships that create shared prosperity across the GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council). Qatar is committed to being more than a national success story," Abdalla said.

Qatar Open Innovation programme sees 80-plus pilots awarded


By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Qatar Open Innovation (QOI) programme, an external funding opportunity funded by QRDI Council (Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council) has seen more than 80 pilots awarded and underway, making the country a "living lab for world-class innovation", according to a top official of QRDI Council. Through QOI programme, "over 90 open innovation calls have been issued, in collaboration with 50 major enterprise and government partners, resulting in more than 80 pilots awarded and underway," Nejjoud al-Jehani, Executive Director of Strategy and Programmes, QRDI Council, told the second edition of Qatar Investment and Innovation conference. "This model accelerates startup growth while turning Qatar's economy into a living lab for world-class innovation, where ideas are not only funded, but tested, commercialised and scaled in real market environments," she said. To build a strong innovation economy, there is need for a full range of financing tools as grants, strategic risk capital, co-investment models, venture partnerships and innovation-driven procurement. "But financing the future is not just about increasing capital. It's about deploying it more wisely and with purpose, targeting mission-driven mega-projects, structuring public-private vehicles that de-risk innovation, building policy frameworks that attract global founders and global investment," she added. The region has developed world-class infrastructure, nurtured exceptional talent and built digital foundations rivalling the most advanced economies, but next



Nejjoud al-Jehani, Executive Director of Strategy and Programmes, QRDI Council. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

chapter will be one that is written through strategic capital, she said. "Capital that accelerates entrepreneurship, fuels research and technology and unlocks new sources of value and resilience," she added. Highlighting that innovation was once viewed mainly as a policy goal, she said: "Today, it has become an investment priority, rooted in long-term economic sustainability, national competitiveness and the belief that the future belongs to nations that invest in ideas, not only in assets." Qatar has been embedding innovation financing at the heart of its national transformation, according to her. Under the third national development strategy, the country is committed to expanding national expenditure on research development and innovation and to significantly increasing private sector R&D participation, she said.



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Auction No.: LUS/OPS/AUC/2025/001

Auction Title:
OPEN AUCTION FOR SURPLUS MATERIALS WITHIN LUSAIL CITY

Brief Description of the Auction Material:
The Auction Material includes the auctioning of the leftover/used/abandoned materials such as but not limited to: Office Management Materials, IT Systems, Landscape, Traffic, Street Lighting, Pavement Tiles, Construction Waste Materials etc. at various locations / stores of Lusail City as per the list in the auction documents.

Auction Bid Bond "Manager Cheque" Value:
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Auction Closing Date:
19 November 2025 not later than 12:00 hours local Doha time

Auction Documents Collection Location:
Lusail Hub Office, Operation Department Building

Auction Collection Date & Time:
04 November 2025 between 08.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.
(Except Friday & Saturday)

Required documents in order to collect the Auction Documents are as follows:

- Copy of the Company Incorporation/Commercial Registration (if represented in Qatar) or individual's QID copy.
- Company Authorization letter (if applicable) and ID of the person who will collect the tender document.
- Completed Confidentially Agreement which shall be collected from the above-mentioned office or requested by email lusailoperations@qataridiar.com

For further queries please communicate in writing to procurementlocal@qataridiar.com



The QFCA has signed an MoU with Doha Bank, marking a major step towards strengthening Qatar's financial services landscape through strategic collaborations in fintech development and digital innovation

QFC partners with Doha Bank to accelerate fintech growth in Qatar

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) and Doha Bank have entered into a strategic partnership to accelerate fintech growth and innovation in the country. The QFC Authority (QFCA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Doha Bank, marking a major step towards strengthening Qatar's financial services landscape through strategic collaborations in fintech development and digital innovation. The MoU outlines a collaborative framework in three strategic areas as driving growth in Qatar's fintech and digital asset ecosystem through joint research, prototype development, and the introduction of innovative financial solutions. It also outlines supporting fintech companies through technical guidance, facilitating secure banking relationships, and streamlining account opening processes; and establishing a programme for regular engagement, including quarterly meetings, joint workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions, to explore new opportunities and ensure the continuous development of the ecosystem. "This partnership with Doha Bank is a stride towards positioning Qatar as a leading hub for fintech and digital assets. Together, we will strengthen the foundations for innovation that enable fintech companies to grow with confidence and support the development of technological solutions that will define the future of financial services," said Youssef Mohamed al-Jaida, chief executive officer, QFCA. Highlighting the importance of collaboration in advancing innovation, Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, Group chief executive officer, Doha Bank, said, globally, the banking and financial industry is undergoing major transformations. "This highlights the importance of collaboration at the institutional level to drive the development of innovative financial solutions in Qatar and keep pace with these ongoing changes. Our agreement today reflects our shared commitment to advancing financial technologies and innovation within an enabling, inclusive, and comprehensive ecosystem," he said. The collaboration signals a new chapter in financial innovation. As fintech and digital assets reshape global markets, the QFC and Doha Bank are laying the groundwork for creating solutions that will not only serve businesses today but also anticipate the needs of tomorrow's economy.

QNB and Ooredoo Qatar to deliver landmark modernisation of national surveillance, monitoring infrastructure

QNB announced the awarding of a landmark and strategically significant project to Ooredoo Qatar for the complete modernisation of its surveillance systems across all branches, corporate buildings, and ATM networks.

The initiative is designed to significantly strengthen QNB's overall security posture and guarantee full compliance with the latest Ministry of Interior (MoI) regulatory standards. As part of the initiative, QNB is equipping 40 branches, 11 corporate buildings, and 420 ATMs with state-of-the-art, next-generation infrastructure.

The co-operation follows a rigorous and highly competitive procurement process, during which Ooredoo Qatar demonstrated not only its unrivalled expertise and advanced technological capabilities but also its ability to deliver large-scale national projects with absolute precision, professionalism, and reliability.

Through the project, QNB is not simply upgrading technology - it is making a strategic investment in security resilience and operational excellence. The



Yousef Ali al-Darwish, senior executive vice-president - QNB Group Projects and General Services, and Thani Ali al-Malki, chief business officer at Ooredoo Qatar, during the signing ceremony.

modernisation will ensure that customers, employees, and assets are safeguarded by one of the most advanced and secure surveillance frameworks in the Qatari banking industry.

Yousef Ali al-Darwish, senior executive vice-president - QNB Group Projects and General Services, stated: "At QNB, we believe that security and trust form the foundation of banking excellence.

By modernising our surveillance and IT infrastructure in partnership with Ooredoo Qatar, we are reaffirming our commitment to innovation, regulatory compliance, and customer confidence. This collaboration

enables us to leverage advanced technologies that meet the highest standards, ensuring long-term value for QNB and the communities we serve."

Thani Ali al-Malki, chief business officer at Ooredoo Qatar, commented: "This partnership with QNB represents a milestone in national infrastructure modernisation. At Ooredoo, we are proud to contribute our expertise in advanced ICT and security solutions to support the financial sector's resilience. Together with QNB, we are setting a new benchmark for technological innovation, regulatory compliance, and long-term

security assurance, driving sustainable growth in line with Qatar National Vision 2030."

By undertaking the strategic collaboration, Ooredoo is reinforcing its role as a trusted national partner in advancing Qatar's technological infrastructure and supporting the security of its financial ecosystem.

Together, both organisations will set a new benchmark for financial-sector resilience, surveillance excellence, and regulatory compliance – a benchmark that underscores Qatar's global reputation as a leader in financial security and digital innovation. The partnership not only delivers tangible technological benefits but also symbolises Qatar's broader vision of national development, security assurance, and world-class infrastructure for its financial sector.

As one of the most valuable banking brands in the region, QNB Group operates in more than 28 countries across Asia, Europe and Africa, providing tailored banking products and services, supported by a workforce of over 31,000 professionals.

Qatar Airways and Air Algérie expand network access

Qatar Airways and Air Algérie announced a codeshare partnership that will "increase access to seamless connectivity" between Algeria and key markets in Asia and the Middle East through Doha's Hamad International Airport.

Travellers can now book codeshare flights for travel starting on November 15.

Building on an existing interline partnership between the two carriers, the codeshare provides Qatar Airways customers easier access to Algiers as well as six other key destinations in Air Algérie's domestic network, including Annaba, Constantine, Oran, Tamarasset, Timimoun, and Tindouf.

Qatar Airways' Privilege Club members will also earn 'Avios' on codeshare flights operated by Air Algérie.

Similarly, through codeshare flights with Qatar Airways, the Algerian national flag carrier offers more travel options for its passengers travelling to Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, and Muscat via Hamad International Airport.

This codeshare agreement will soon be expanded to include additional destinations.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Thierry Antinori, said: "We are delighted to expand our partnership with Air Algérie through this new codeshare agreement, further strengthening our presence across key African markets. This collaboration will offer travellers greater choice and seamless connectivity to the Middle East, and Asia. It also reflects our ongoing commitment to deepening strategic partnerships, such as with Air Algérie, that enhance global connectivity from



Qatar Airways and Air Algérie announced a codeshare partnership that will "increase access to seamless connectivity" between Algeria and key markets in Asia and the Middle East through Doha's Hamad International Airport.

and to Africa through our hub, Hamad International Airport. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Air Algérie."

Air Algérie Head of Commercial Division, Samy El Karim Boutemadja, said: "This codeshare agreement with Qatar Airways will certainly give Air Algérie the opportunity to enhance the company's positioning in the Middle East and in Asia, by offering its customers larger possibilities to reach new destinations, as well as promoting travelling to Algeria. This agreement contributes to Air Algérie's global strategy to expand its network and connections through its Algiers hub. We are looking forward to a successful partnership with Qatar Airways."

Qatar Airways currently has 30 interline and six codeshare agreements with airlines across Africa, and operates 213 weekly flights to 30 cities in 21 African countries.

QBA explores investment opportunities in Egypt across various sectors

The Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) hosted Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mostafa Madbouly and his accompanying delegation at the QBA's headquarters during a luncheon held in his honour.

The luncheon was attended by QBA chairman HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, QBA deputy chairman Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Thani al-Thani, and QBA board members Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser bin Khaleid al-Thani, Saud al-Mana, and Sherida al-Kaabi.

Also present were QBA members Sheikh Mansour bin Jassim al-Thani, Sheikh Nayef bin Eid al-Thani, Sheikh Turki bin Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, Nasser Suleiman Haidar, Ashraf Abu Issa, Nabil Abu Issa, Maqbool Habeeb Khalifan, Abdullah al-Kubaisi, Yousef al-Mahmoud, Ihsan al-Khaimi, and Hakan Ozdemir, as well as QBA general manager Sarah Abdallah and Egyptian ambassador Walid Fahmy al-Fiqi.

During the meeting, Madbouly affirmed Egypt's commitment to strengthening and deepening joint co-operation in various fields, particularly in attracting Qatari investments across multiple sectors in Egypt. He emphasised the alignment between the political leaderships of both countries on expanding frameworks of co-operation.

The Prime Minister expressed his aspiration to build on the momentum of engagement between the two sides to implement the visions and proposals discussed, highlighting the abundance of promising investment opportunities that Egypt seeks to explore with its Qatari counterparts.

Madbouly noted that Egypt's economy grew by 5% in the last quarter of the previous year, driven primarily by growth in the services sector. He stressed that the Egyptian economy remains stable and has successfully overcome many challenges despite regional conditions.

He further stated that 2026 is ex-



Top officials of the Qatari Businessmen Association, led by QBA chairman HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, QBA deputy chairman Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Thani al-Thani, and QBA board members Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser bin Khaleid al-Thani, Saud al-Mana, and Sherida al-Kaabi, as well as other members, join Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mostafa Madbouly and his accompanying delegation at the QBA's headquarters during a luncheon held in Doha.

pected to be a strong year in terms of investments and economic growth, as the Ministry of Investment continues to actively remove obstacles and resolve investor challenges under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. He invited Qatari businessmen to expand their investments in Egypt, expressing his personal readiness to receive any Qatari investor wishing to enter the Egyptian market and to ensure all difficulties are resolved.

Madbouly also announced that a major Qatari investment package, to be launched soon by the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), will focus on the tourism sector along Egypt's North Coast.

For his part, Sheikh Faisal welcomed the Prime Minister and his delegation to their "second home" in Qatar, affirming that Egypt is a key destination for Qatari investors and businessmen.

He stated: "We already have significant investments in Egypt, and, as Qatari businessmen, we look forward to expanding our private investments. The Egyptian market is attractive, with strong purchasing power, and we will be studying the potential investment opportunities in the coming period."

Sheikh Faisal also emphasised that Egypt's advanced infrastructure, developed over recent years, creates a highly encouraging environment for Qatari investors, noting the presence of real opportunities for joint private sector ventures.

The meeting witnessed a QBA presentation on Qatar's economic indicators and the capabilities of its members in both domestic and international investments across nearly all economic sectors. The presentation highlighted the key features of Qatar's economy and its investor-friendly business environment, as the country aims to attract \$100bn in foreign direct investment by 2030 under its national vision.

It also reviewed Qatar's upcoming major projects aligned with the national strategy in the fields of energy, tourism, technology, and logistics, which offer significant opportunities for collaboration between the private sectors of both nations.

Sheikh Dr Khalid noted that Qatari businessmen already have existing investments in Egypt across a wide range of sectors. He outlined several new investment opportunities, particularly in construction and healthcare, and highlighted that returns on investment in Egypt

remain positive. He also stressed the importance of the Golden License, which will facilitate the establishment of real projects by Qatari investors in Egypt.

The meeting highlighted Qatari investors' interest in investing in Egypt's tourism and healthcare sectors, particularly after Madbouly's presentation on the availability of prime land along the Nile River for investment and his praise for the Qatar Investment Authority's tourism initiatives. Other areas of interest included logistics, port management, and related sectors.

The Prime Minister also listened to the concerns of some Qatari businessmen operating in Egypt, including issues related to trademark registration in the tourism sector. Madbouly assured them that a direct communication channel has been established between Qatari investors and the Prime Minister's Office to address any challenges they may face. Madbouly reassured the Qatari business community that there are no restrictions or obstacles to the repatriation of profits for Qatari companies operating in Egypt, following the resolution of many of the difficulties the Egyptian economy faced in recent years.

QIB UK partners with Savills to present opinion of prime residential London market

QIB UK, a subsidiary of Qatar Islamic Bank in Doha, is working with real estate consultancy Savills in order to inform potential investors from Qatar on the latest research about the London residential market, with a focus on prime properties.

Savills's prime sales index reports that values across London's most prime markets are down -2% on the year. But the impact on sentiment is being felt more profoundly in the more rarefied prime central London markets, where values fell by -1.8% on the quarter, the biggest fall since the end of 2016, a period marked by the EU Referendum, a sudden change of the Prime minister, and the introduction of a new stamp duty surcharge. Annual values have fallen -4.7% in prime central London, which also sits -24% below the 2014 market peak, says Savills, offering significant opportunity to buyers to take advantage of historic value.

"The most discretionary, top end of the market (£10mn-plus), is experiencing the greatest downward pressure on prices. The pool of buyers who are typically interested in this price point had already decreased after the end of the non-domicile regime, and some who remain are hesitant to act ahead of the budget announcement. Nevertheless, there remains an undercurrent of demand from those eager to capitalise on the historic value currently available," comments Lucian Cook, head of residential research at Savills.

Property values in outer prime London areas also have dipped slightly, but the declines remain more modest. Over the past three months, prices have fallen by just 0.7% over the past three months, and by 0.8% over the past year, according to research by Savills.

Areas with strong domestic demand, such as South West and West London, have shown particular resilience, with values holding relatively steady. Despite ongoing economic uncertainty, many buyers are still making moves based on necessity - although some are approaching



QIB UK, a subsidiary of Qatar Islamic Bank in Doha, is working with real estate consultancy Savills in order to inform potential investors from Qatar on the latest research about the London residential market, with a focus on prime properties.

purchases more cautiously, given concerns about how future financial changes could affect them.

Limited availability of new homes above £5mn: London's super prime new build market is facing limited supply of quality stock. Currently, just over 600 super prime new build (£5mn+) flats are for sale in prime central London, according to Savills.

Stock is most limited in the traditional prime neighbourhood of Belgravia, with only around 40% of the £5mn+ pipeline is currently for sale, highlighting the enduring appeal and limited availability in this highly sought-after area.

However, emerging areas such as Bayswater are drawing a new generation of luxury buyer.

"Millennials and Gen Z - who are attracted to lifestyle, design, and digital appeal as much as heritage prestige. This neighbourhood has seen a recent surge in luxury stock, driven by the regeneration of Queensway, and around 65% of new homes are on the market," says Katy Warrick, Head of London residential development research at Savills.

Two new developments, Park Modern, overlooking Hyde Park and The Whiteley, home to the UK's first Six Senses hotel, are proving popular in this neighbourhood.

There is also growing demand for turnkey super prime homes, according to Savills, though these still make up less than half the current pipeline. St James leads in offering completed homes in the £5-10mn range - ideal for buyers seeking luxury without the top-tier price tag.

Last fossil fuel standing: Natural gas to remain at cornerstone of energy mix

Natural gas is entering a defining decade, not its decline. Long viewed as the most versatile and reliable fossil fuel, gas continues to underpin global energy security even as renewables accelerate. In its latest Special Energy Report, "Global Natural Gas Demand: When Will Gas Consumption Peak?", the Al-Attiah Foundation finds that global demand reached a record high of 4,170 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2024 – a 2% annual rise – driven by resurgent industrial activity, new LNG infrastructure, and rapid growth across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The study reveals that despite shifting policy landscapes, natural gas remains a cornerstone of the global energy mix, accounting for

about 22% of total electricity generation and roughly 27% of industrial energy use.

The Foundation notes that gas continues to provide flexibility, affordability, and cleaner profile that makes it essential to energy transition worldwide. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), gas use in emerging markets climbed by nearly 6% in 2024, offsetting declines in mature economies.

While forecasts differ on timing, the paper highlights that any eventual "peak gas" will be shaped more by policy choice and technology evolution than by resource limits. Some scenarios anticipate a plateau in the 2030s under rapid decarbonisation, while others – particularly those focused on industrial growth



A liquefied gas tanker in the Atlantic Ocean near Dakar, Senegal.

and energy access – see demand continuing to rise well into the 2050s.

Either way, natural gas is likely to remain the "last fossil fuel standing," balancing renewables, supporting manufacturing, and enabling cleaner growth in developing economies.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) in particular continues to expand its

global footprint. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), nearly 290bn cubic metres (bcm) per year – equivalent to roughly 210mn tonnes per year (MTPY) – of new LNG export capacity is expected to come online between 2025 and 2030 from projects already under construction.

Major developments include the Golden Pass LNG and Plaquemines LNG projects in the United States, Qatar's North Field Expansion, and the Coral South and Rovuma LNG projects in Mozambique, which together represent more than 70 MTPY of new capacity under construction. As a result, LNG is emerging as a flexible, tradable, and lower-emission energy source that connects resource-rich nations with fast-growing importers across Asia and beyond.

At the same time, advances in carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and methane reduction technologies are extending gas's long-term role in a carbon-constrained world. The Foundation emphasises that investment in

"clean gas" infrastructure – including hydrogen-ready pipelines, modular LNG facilities, and CCUS-equipped plants – will be critical to ensuring both sustainability and energy security. The Global CCS Institute reports that global CO capture capacity grew by 50% in 2024, reflecting renewed investment in gas-linked decarbonisation technologies.

Far from fading, gas is evolving. The coming decades will define how nations integrate natural gas within their clean energy strategies – as a partner, not a rival, to renewables. However, even if gas remains essential in the short-to-medium term, its long-term viability depends on the sector's ability to decarbonise rapidly and competitively.