



Issue II  
November 2020

# QATAR HIGHLIGHTS

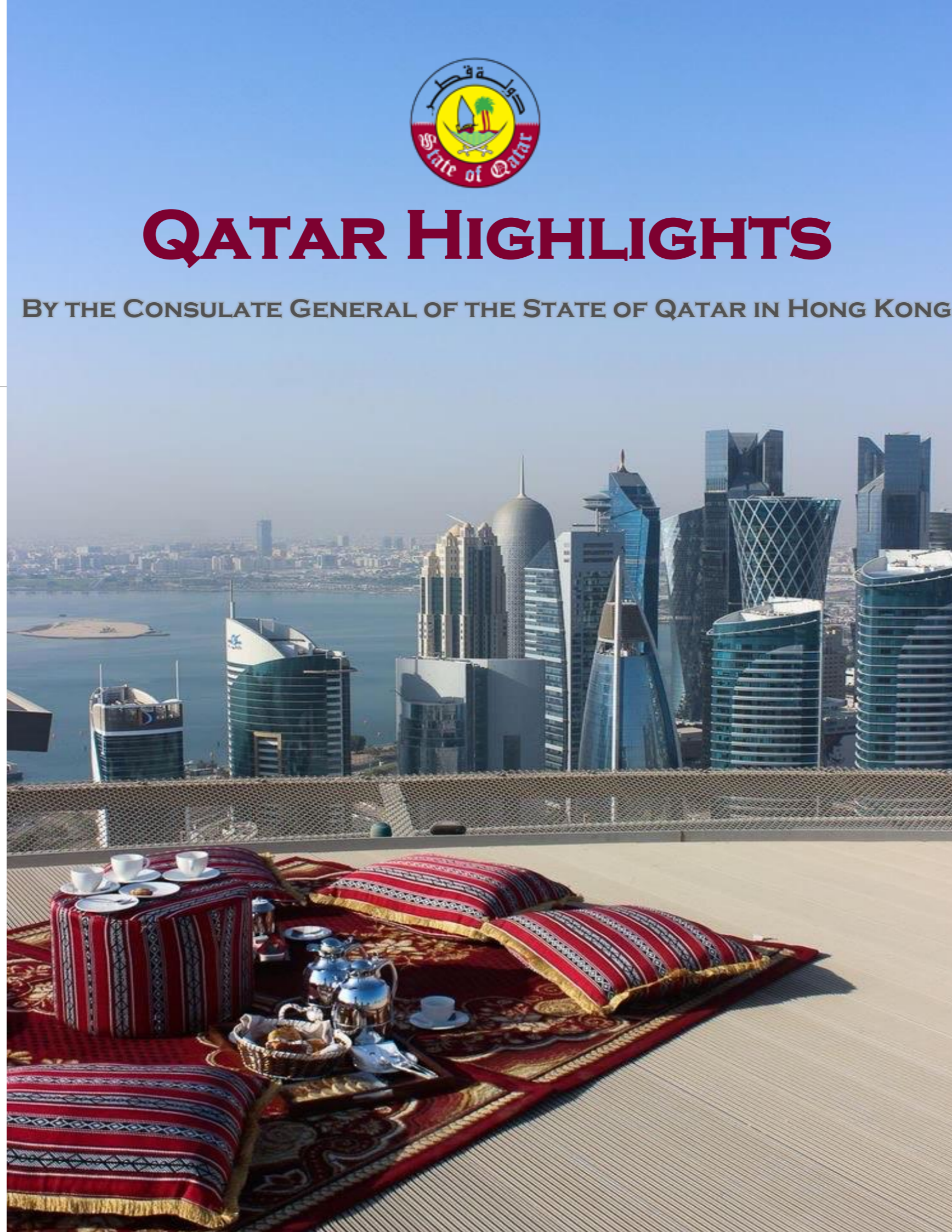
BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE STATE OF QATAR IN HONG KONG

## FOCUS POINT



## SPORTS

**Qatar - Your 2020  
AFC East and Final  
Match Host**



## IN THIS ISSUE

### ❖ *Learn about*

Qatar raising of non-Qatari ownership to 100%

Barzan's Qatari Ventilators to face the Covid-19 pandemic

Microsoft's new cloud datacenter

### ❖ *Get to Know*

Qatar Free Zones Authority

Hamad Port

### ❖ *Discover Qatar*

SOUQ WAQIF

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# QATAR ALLOWS 100% OWNERSHIP FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS



In early 2019, Qatar Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued a new law that allows foreign investors to own 100% ownership in all sectors, as well as support for investors' entry into the Qatari market.

The law offers many investment incentives including:

- ❖ allocation of land to non-Qatari investors to establish investment
- ❖ The non-Qatari investors can import what he/she needs for the investment
- ❖ Exempting the project from income tax in accordance with Income Tax Law.
- ❖ Non-Qatari investment projects shall be exempted from customs duties on their imports of machinery and necessary equipment they import for their establishments.
- ❖ In the field of industry, raw materials and semi-manufactured items for production which are not available in the local markets will be exempted from custom duties on their imports.

*Know now about the law*

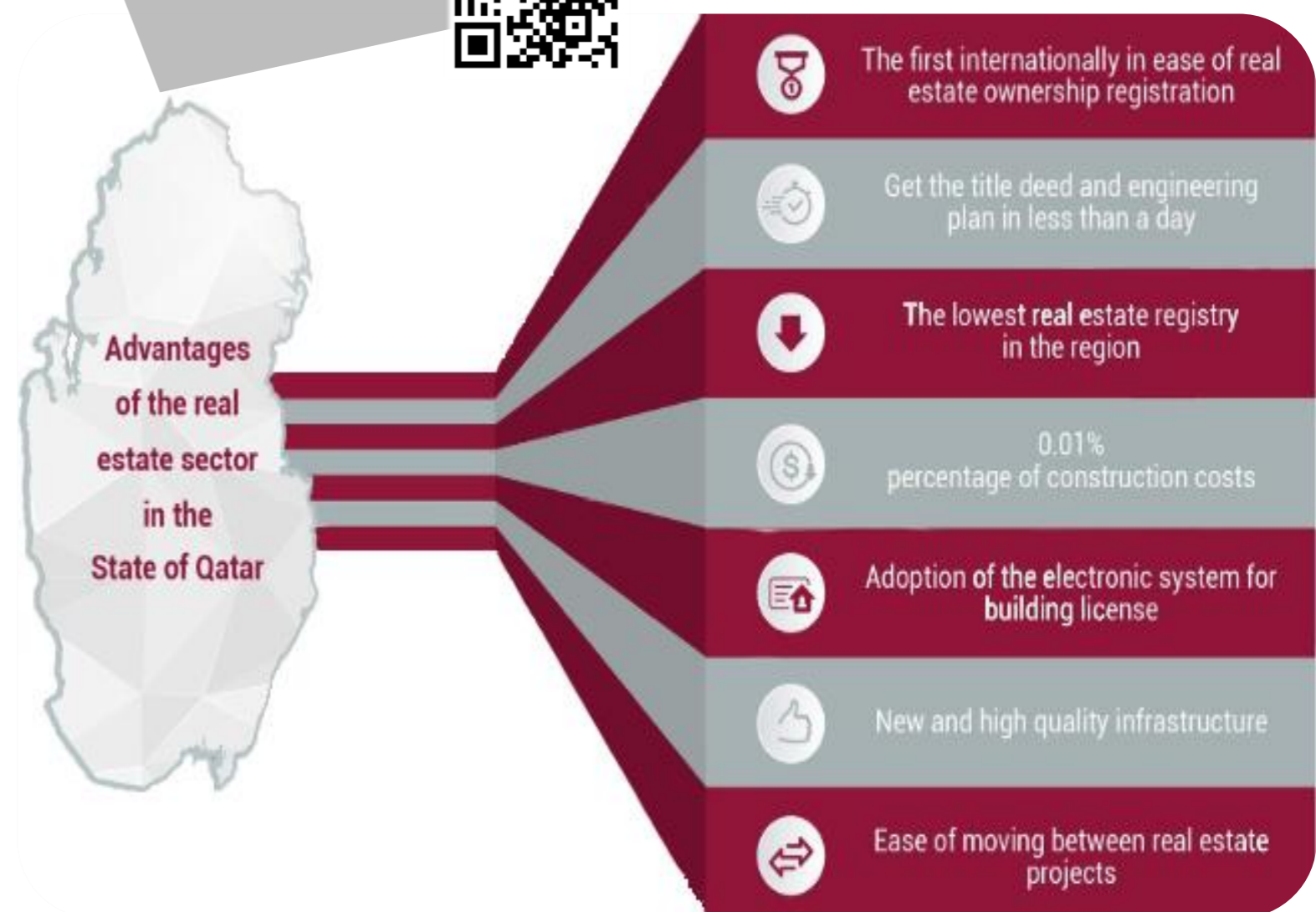
<https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/our-services/investor/laws-and-regulations/>

## Qatari Government Allows Foreigners to Own Properties within 16 Areas

In October 2020, The Qatari Government has announced that Non-Qatari individuals could own properties in nine areas, up from three before, while the number of areas where foreigners may use real estate has also been increased to 16.

Foreign companies can also own properties in nine areas, a big boost from the past when they were only allowed access to real estate ownership within the confines of The Pearl Island project in Doha.

*LEARN MORE*





## TACKLING COVID-19: BARZAN HOLDINGS PRODUCES 8,000 VENTILATORS PER MONTH

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Defence-affiliated company Barzan Holdings has managed to manufacture ventilators that are 100% locally made in record time.

The company is currently producing up to 8,000 ventilators per month to meet the needs of the local and global market.

Barzan is making their Savr-Q ventilators at their headquarters in the Qatar Science and Technology Park from April as Coronavirus pandemic spread around the world.

From the visit of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Barzan Holding to be briefed on the production lines for manufacturing the Savr-Q ventilators

[Learn More](#)



برزان القابضة  
BARZAN HOLDINGS

## Qatar Ranks 1st Worldwide on Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index 2020

Qatar has ranked first worldwide on the Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index 2020 (DARE Index 2020) released by the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict).

DARE Index is a benchmarking tool for disability advocates, governments, civil society, international organizations and policymakers to trace country progress in making Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) accessible for all.

DARE Index 2020 data demonstrates Qatar's belief in the importance of investing in ICTs to unleash the potential of the disabled and help them enjoy independence and self-reliance. Qatar came number-one on the global ranking, the regional ranking, the Peer Economic Development Group Ranking and the Implementation Ranking.



[Read full story](#)



# Hamad Port



**Hamad Port** — Qatar’s gateway to the world- is currently a major bottleneck to the development of the country under Qatar National Vision 2030, and capable of handling up to 7.8 million tonnes of products annually.

Covering an area of 26km<sup>2</sup>, The Hamad Port is creating a new world-class commercial port in Qatar, making it the world’s largest “greenfield” port-development project. Striking a balance between economic gains and preserving the environment was always on mind throughout the construction operations.

The relocation of 14,300 square metres of seaweeds and 31,700 marine seedlings and avicennia trees providing shelter and nourish countless sea creatures, are few among the steps taken to preserve the environment while developing Hamad Port.

*“Hamad Port is the largest eco-friendly project in the region & internationally recognised as one of the largest green ports in the world,”*

**Qatar Free Zones Authority** develops and regulates world-class free zones in Qatar, delivering long-term solutions for businesses while supporting Qatar’s continued growth and diversification. QFZ provides an ideal platform for companies to expand across the region and world.

### QFZA Strategy:

- ❖ Pursue partnerships with promising companies of all shapes and sizes
- ❖ Offer top-of-the line infrastructure, a range of globally competitive incentives
- ❖ Serve as a one-stop shop for companies setting up in Qatar, making it easy to establish operations and enjoy all benefits of the free zones

Check their website <http://fza.gov.qa>

Or get in touch: [investors@fza.gov.qa](mailto:investors@fza.gov.qa)

# Qatar Free Zones Authority





# QATAR FINTECH HUB

مركز قطر للتكنولوجيا المالية

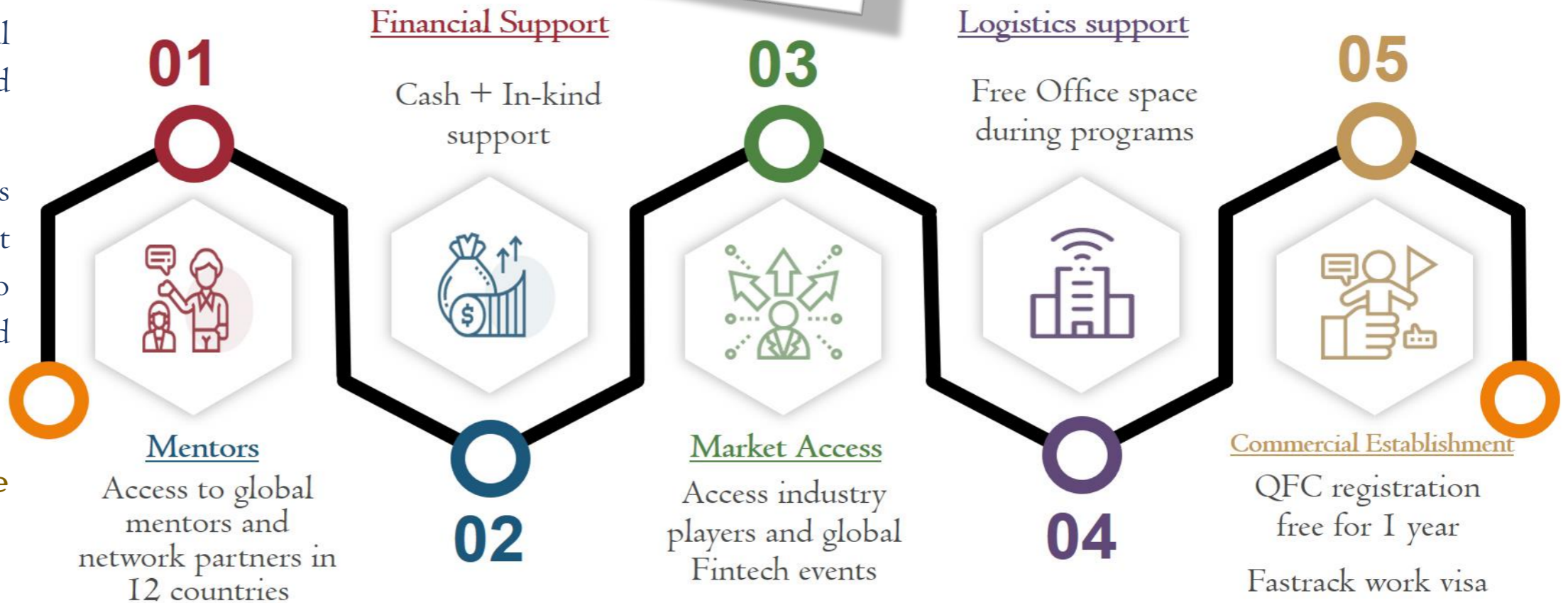


Qatar Fintech Hub (QFTH) is a global FinTech hub, created in 2018 with the purpose to support FinTechs succeed in Qatar, regionally and globally.

Qatar FinTech Hub is chaired by Qatar Development Bank under the aegis of Qatar Central Bank and supported by local and global financial institutions, technology partners and FinTech hubs.

It offers an array of programs developed by Qatar Development Bank in collaboration with EY to support the growth of local and international FinTechs.

Click on the video in the middle of the page to see more



## What QFTH promises FinTechs?

QFTH, in line with its vision to offer the best global opportunities and expertise to the FinTechs, is continuously collaborating with strategic stakeholders within the FinTech ecosystem including financial institutions, technology providers, payment networks, academia and regulators.

QFTH announced its partnership with Microsoft as the technology partner who will support QFTH in building a sandbox environment on Azure and Eversheds Sutherland as the legal partner to offer legal guidance to the FinTechs participating in the QFTH programs.

Additionally, QFTH has signed an MoU with Cambridge Spark as one of the Academia partners to facilitate its efforts to develop the FinTech talent in Qatar. The partners will also provide workshops, offer in-kind services, and opportunities to collaborate. International media partners of the programs include CNN, Bloomberg and Reuters.



## Did You Know?

### **DOHA WILL BE THE HOST OF ALL AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE EAST GAMES AS WELL AS THE FINAL**

The AFC Champions League (East) is to be played in Doha, Qatar, after an agreement was reached between the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the Qatar Football Association (QFA).

The AFC Champions League (East), which will be played between November 18 and December 13, 2020, follows the successful completion of the West Zone competition in Qatar.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC), together with the Qatar Football Association (QFA), have also announced Doha as the venue for this year's AFC Champions League single-leg final, which will be held on December 19.

AFC general secretary Dato Windsor John said: "The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly made the decision on the venue for this year's final more complex particularly in these uncertain times of travel and health restrictions.

"The safety and wellbeing of all participating clubs as well as the protection of all stakeholders has been crucial to the AFC. So, we must thank the Qatar Football Association and the Qatar local authorities and ministries for putting in place the necessary health measures and effective medical protocols."

## Microsoft Azure datacenter in Qatar going online in 2021



A new cloud datacenter region in Qatar is currently being under development in co-operation between the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Microsoft. The initiative seeks to deliver Microsoft's intelligent, trusted cloud services and expand the Microsoft global cloud infrastructure to 55 cloud regions in 20 countries.

The new region is anticipated to be available starting with Microsoft Azure in 2021, and Office 365, Dynamics 365 and Power Platform to follow.

The new region will be managed from the Qatari Free Zones to show their capabilities at the global level as a modern and distinctive incubator for such initiatives, in order to enhance self-sufficiency and sustainability and improve the local environment and make it effective in developing the region and the world.

Learn more about this story



# DISCOVER QATAR

## SOUQ WAQIF سوق واقف

This labyrinth bazaar, whose name translates to "standing market," is the Qatari capital's oldest souq and a major tourist destination.

The covered passageways of Souq Waqif are stuffed with dozens of tiny stores showcasing their wares piled high along the market's mud-coated stone walls.

If you stroll around its narrow lanes, you'll find everything from garments to spices, perfumes to jewellery, scented oils to falcons -- and much more.

Not just a thriving marketplace, Souq Waqif is also home to a wide range of traditional-style restaurants and casual cafés which offer a diverse variety of local and regional flavors.

For more info, click on the pictures.



## The Culture Corner

As one of the most prominent faces of the Arab culture, it may come as no surprise that Qataris are known for their grand hospitality, and generosity. And while this trait is not exclusive to Arabs and Qataris, it is held to them with the utmost importance, being practiced as a ritual.

Much like other virtues and good acts of ethics that are emphasized in the Arab and Qatari culture (including dealing with parents in the best manner, kindness to relatives and neighbours, taking care of orphans and the poor, being honest and sincere, and practicing tolerance); being hospitable is derived from the teachings of Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

**"I have been sent to perfect good manners"**

**-Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)**

**"إنما بعثت لأتمم مكارم الأخلاق"**

**- النبي محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم**

To many of the Qataris, Islam isn't just a religion but a way of life that governs and guides their path through this world. It's an integral and pervasive part of all aspects of life. Thus, the Qatari culture and the daily practices of its people are highly influenced by its teachings.

If you happen to be a guest in a Qatari home, it is important to know that you would be a priority. Enjoy the special treatment and embrace it as customary, so the host may feel a sense of fulfillment regarding their duty to pamper you like you never thought you could be.



Education City Mosque - Doha

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