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www.thegroup.com.qa		4 4 4 8 7 6 6 6		385,117	7.74	1,625,229	22.46	159,940	136.40	489,972	18.37	179,127	80.70	803,270	35.40	203,249	16.57	77,918	75.50	354,251	45.30

## Investment in Qatar Forum opens in New York tomorrow

**NEW YORK:** The Business and Investment in Qatar Forum will be held tomorrow in New York under the patronage and in the presence of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al Thani and high-level officials from Qatar and the US.

On the sideline of the Forum, the formal inauguration ceremony of Qatari-US joint project of the Golden Pass LNG terminal will be done by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in the presence of Minister of Energy and Industry H E Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, during a dinner reception.

The Golden Pass LNG terminal in Texas and the Golden Pass Pipeline have started commercial operations. Located near Sabine Pass, Texas, the Golden Pass LNG terminal has the capacity to deliver the equivalent of 2.5 Bcf/d of natural gas.

The aim of this year forum, which will last for two days, is to promote Qatar's roles, as well as highlighting the opportunities it offers by marketing three main messages. The first of these messages is that Qatar is emerging as political, economic and cultural centre of the Middle East, preserving the better parts of Arab tradition while racing toward the future's knowledge-based world; because of its openness to Western technology & education, its mediations in international disputes (Doha Round); its international sporting events, e.g., World Cup 2022; and its commitment to become a knowledge-based economy.

The second message of the forum is based on Qatar National Vision 2030 which receives unprecedented support from oil and gas wealth as it pursues its ambitions of improving the quality of life for everyone, helping create social institutions that are just & kind, protecting the environment while transforming Qatar into a knowledge-based economy.

The third message is Qatar progress on investing and commitment to education (Education City), intellectual freedom; expanded visibility on the world's media stage (eg Stars of Science, Asian games, World Cup 2022); commitment to healthcare (Sidra); commitment to entrepreneurship (Enterprise Qatar).

## Steel Summit calls for joint Arab projects

Arab Steel Summit opens in Doha

**DOHA:** Arab Steel Summit Conference 2011 was opened here yesterday associated with the iron and steel international exhibition which are to run for three days. The conference and the associated exhibition are co-organised by Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) and Qatar Steel Company.

Member of Board of Directors and General Manager of Qatar Steel Ali bin Hassan Al Mreikhi said in his opening address he delivered on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Industry Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada that joint Arab projects and using advanced technology are the way to the Arab steel industry's success. He added that they are also the way for competing in the international market and achieving self-sufficiency in that field.



Mohamed Laid Lachgar, Secretary General of the Arab Iron and Steel Union, Ali bin Hassan Al Muraiki, Director and General Manager of Qatar Steel, and Dr Hilal Hussain Al Tuwaiqi, Chairman of Al Tuwaiqi Holding Group and Chairman of the Arab Iron & Steel Union (AISU) with other officials during the opening of the Arab Steel Summit 2011 in Doha yesterday.

He said highlighting meantime the investment volume Qatar is expected to expand in the next 10 years to reach \$170bn, the matter which would make of Qatar a centre for growth and investment in the region and the world at large.

He added that Qatar has applied a promising reform and development programme and issued several key legislations with a view to building a free and miscellaneous economy capable of incorporating into the global economy. Qatar has pursued a balanced investment policy between all economic sectors.

Secretary General of the Arab Iron and Steel Union Mohammed Eid Al Ashqar said during the opening ceremony that the Arab world's steel industry occupies the third place globally behind China and India in terms of growth. He added that the industry is set to witness a set annual growth of 7 percent in the coming years.

## US crude hits 2.5-year high; Brent nears \$120 a barrel

**LONDON:** North Sea Brent crude oil hit a 2-1/2-year high of almost \$120 a barrel yesterday as unrest in the Middle East and North Africa kept the focus on oil supplies as economic growth bolstered demand for fuel.

## Qatar, Saudi left standing in Syria telecom licence bid

**DUBAI:** Three major telecom companies have withdrawn from bidding for Syria's third mobile telecoms licence leaving the way clear for Qatar Telecommunications and Saudi Telecom Co to fight it out.

The three — France Telecom, the UAE's Etisalat and Turkcell — were unhappy with some of the licence requirements, Syria's telecoms ministry said, including a 25 percent tax on revenue and a state monopoly over infrastructure for seven years. All three pulled out last week.

Against an average of 62 percent in Arab states as a whole, "Qtel confirms that it has submitted both the financial and technical bids for the third licence in Syria," Qtel wrote in a statement emailed to Reuters. On Saturday, STC said it had submitted an offer for the Syria licence.

The country's mobile penetration was 33 percent in 2009, according to data from the International Telecommunications Union, against an average of 62 percent in Arab states as a whole.

"Syria currently has a pretty even duopoly between Syriatel and MTN," said Nomura's Mabbutt. MTN has a build, operate and transfer licence, under which it has constructed a local network the Syria government owns, deterring MTN from investing heavily in the country, Mabbutt said.

The government of Libya — the world's 47th-largest oil producer and Africa's third-largest — has sent an envoy to Greece to discuss an end to fighting, but gave no signs of any major climb down in a war that has ground to a stalemate between rebels and forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi.