

Qatar needs 20,000 to 35,000 workers for railway projects

AILYN AGONIA
DOHA

ABOUT 20,000 to 35,000 workers are needed to complete Qatar's \$40 billion railway projects, said Daniel Leckel, chief technical officer at Qatar Railways Company (Rail).

The massive project covering the construction of Doha Metro, Passenger Rail and Freight Rail and Light Rail Transit networks is slated to complete before the end of 2019.

Speaking during a seminar at Qatar University on Tuesday, Leckel said that the ambitious initiative would be on schedule.

Talking about recruitment, Leckel said the company has been coordinating with the authorities concerned and ministries for provision of work visas and appropriate accommodation for its workers.

He added that the company has also started awarding construction contracts, which should be all in place by next



Chief Technical Officer at Qatar Railways Company Daniel Leckel speaks at a seminar, in Doha, on Tuesday. (HANSON K JOSEPH)

year. According to him, the phase one of the Doha Metro, with 48 percent of the structure to be built underground, began this year and will be completed by

2019 whereas the phase two of the project is expected to be ready for use by 2026.

He said while the Light Rail Transit project in Lusail has begun and is to be completed by 2017, the West Bay phase of the project will be implemented in the later stage.

"Metro system is one key element in developing a sustainable community. Shifting people's focus from cars to public transport will improve the carbon footprint of Qatar within a very short period of time. This initiative is to make Qatar a more environmental-friendly place," he said.

He added, "By 2018, the whole infrastructure system in Qatar will change for the better. There will be no traffic jams and there will be good standards of living. The new project will provide mass transit for mega events from the World Cup to conferences and other international events."

Explaining the key chal-

lenges the company is facing as it proceeds with the project, Leckel outlined logistics and import of construction materials as the biggest constraints, noting that the requirement for construction materials to complete the project includes 800,000 tonnes of steel, 17 million cubic metre of excavations and 5.5 million of concrete.

He said other challenges include keeping the traffic moving while the construction takes place and high need for water and electricity supply, which has made it imperative for the company to collaborate with the Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation.

Leckel also pointed out that collaboration with neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia with regard to the construction of railways that would connect Qatar to these nations is underway in line with the GCC construction master plan.

Ooredoo warns against fake mobile app

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

OOREDOO has warned its customers not to use or download a fake Ooredoo mobile application.

The warning was issued after Ooredoo detected a fake Ooredoo app for Android phones on Google Play.

The fake app uses the logo and design of Ooredoo, but is not authorised by or connected to Ooredoo, and could pose a security risk for customers.

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Ooredoo customers who download the fake app risk having sensitive personal information exposed, including their location, user names and passwords.

For customers who have already downloaded the fake app, Ooredoo recommends that they delete it immediately.

The company said in a statement on Tuesday that it was working with app vendors to take down the fake app as soon as possible.

The official Ooredoo app is currently available only for Apple devices, including the iPhone, iPad and iPod. It is available for free through the iTunes store at www.ooredoo.qa/app.

It assured that the official Ooredoo app meets customers' expectations and strict levels of security.

To reach more customers, Ooredoo said it would soon release its own app for Android and BlackBerry smartphones.

Using the Ooredoo app, customers can view their accounts, top up Hala credit, manage their Shahry account, redeem Nojoom points, reserve easy-to-remember numbers and search the phone directory. Already more than 25,000 customers have downloaded the Ooredoo app.

Hamad Medical Corporation to commemorate 'No Tobacco Day'

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

HAMAD Medical Corporation (HMC) will mark the 'World No Tobacco Day' later this month with a series of workshops and educative activities for the public.

The event to be organised by the Smoking Cessation Clinic at HMC will be held in partnership with the World Health

Organisation (WHO) on the theme 'Ban Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship'.

Every year, on May 31, the WHO and its partners all over the world mark World No Tobacco Day, highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and calling for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of

death globally and is currently responsible for the death of one in 10 adults worldwide.

To raise awareness, the team from the clinic will run several educational activities for the healthcare team at Hamad Medical Corporation and Primary Health Care Corporation, in addition to activities for the public.

This campaign is being sponsored by Hamad International

Training Center and Concoco Phillips Qatar.

The events will include, setting up educational booths for visitors at Hamad General Hospital and the Outpatient Department on May 29 and 30 and at City Centre Mall on May 31 and June 1.

The purpose of the booths is to increase awareness among the public about the health consequences of smoking, tobacco

use and how to quit the habit.

Carbon monoxide levels will be measured for smokers at the booths as well.

In order to supply healthcare workers with the latest information about tobacco use, the clinic will organise a symposium to discuss the effects of tobacco use on health as well as new techniques for rehabilitation and the importance of smoking ban.

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