

Doha to host Ship & Port + Europort Maritime Expo '08

DOHA - Al Fajer and Ahoy Rotterdam have jointly announced their decision to host the third edition of Ship & Port + Europort Maritime Expo 2008 in Doha.

Billed as the region's largest maritime expo, the three-day event is slated to be opened at the brand new Qatar International Exhibition Center (QIEC) on May 5.

Al Fajer Information and Services is a leading organiser of industry expositions in the Middle East, Africa and India. Ahoy Rotterdam is a property of Europort Maritime, a global name in the field of maritime design and preventive maintenance.

Termining the event as a 'One stop platform for trade and technology seekers' Europort Maritime Exhibition Manager Peter Niemantsverdriet said the show would offer an excellent opportunity to encourage the growth of the maritime industry in Qatar and the Middle East region, where major multi-billion dollar maritime projects are underway.

"Over 150 regional and international exhibitors from 25 countries will showcase their products in the exhibition. Germany, China, Holland, Finland, Korea and Romania will have their country pavilions. A wide array of high tech products and latest developments in the ship building industry will be the highlight of the event", Niemantsverdriet said.

The exhibitors and visitors at the Ship & Port + Europort Maritime have been carefully drawn out locally from the industry vertical, including ship building, port authorities and operators, LNG and oil professionals, ship owners, ship suppliers and distributors, shipping agents, logistics companies, freight forwarders, infrastructure developers and consultants, he said.

Satish Khanna, General Manager, Al Fajer Information and Services said: "Qatar is a key hub for shipping, port and maritime industry. It is an ideal ground to host an international

maritime expo. The previous edition of the expo had witnessed tremendous success in Qatar".

The expo will also be coincided with the Asian conference of Central Dredging Association (CEDA). The CEDA dredging conference will be addressed by industry experts and the movers and shakers in the related sectors, Khanna added.

Raymond Siliakus of Europort Maritime said over 250 delegates from all over the world will turn up to the event. The event will also be marked by an exclusive exhibition on dredging.

The Qatar Port and Customs General Authority is the principal sponsor of the international expo. Qatar Navigation and Radio Holland are the co-sponsors.

Ibrahim Al Naimi, chairman, Al Fajer Al Ulla, Majedz Jaweighan, General Manager, Al Fajer A and Lehdan Al Mohannadi (QIEC) were also present.

THE PENINSULA



Lehdan Al Mohannadi (right) addressing the media as (from left) Raymond Siliakus, Pter Niemantsverdriet, Satish Khanna, Ibrahim Al Naimi and Majedz Jaweighan look on. (SHAIVAL DALAL)

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Maritime exhibition in Doha from May 5

RAJESH MISHRA

DOHA As many as 150 exhibitors from 25 countries are expected to participate in the region's largest maritime expo titled Ship & Port + Europort Maritime 2008 to be organised under the joint aegis of Netherlands-based Ahoy Rotterdam and Dubai-based Al Fajer Partners at the new Qatar International Exhibition Centre from May 5 next year.

The three-day exhibition, which will conclude on May 7, is being organised under the patronage of Minister of State His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Suhaim al Thani and is expected to give a boost to the marine industry of Qatar, which currently handles projects worth more than 100 billion.

Ahoy Rotterdam's Exhibition Manager Raymond Siliakus, addressing a press conference at Marriott Hotel, said the overwhelming response to the Ship & Port Qatar, 2007 in March, had



(From left) Raymond Siliakus, Peter Niemantsverdriet, Satish Khanna, Ibrahim al Neama, Majed Z Jereihan and Lahadn al Mohannadi. (JALAL PATHIYOOR)

prompted the organisers to hold the exhibition in Doha once again and on a greater scale.

According to Siliakus, the exhibition assumes significance because of the fact that the country plans to operate 150 new LNG

tankers by the beginning of the next decade. He said Ras Laffan was world's largest LNG exporting port and that the new shipyard in Qatar will attract investments worth US\$ half a billion.

The oil and gas reserves of

Qatar are 13.2 billion barrels and 900 trillion standard cubic feet respectively, he informed.

Alongside the exhibition, the Central Dredging Association will hold its first ever conference in Asia in which around 250 experts from different parts of the world will discuss dredging and land reclamation in the Middle East.

Speaking on the occasion the General Manager of Al Fajer Information & Services Satish Khanna said, "Qatar is a key hub for shipping, port and maritime industry offering innumerable opportunities for the growth of the industry in the region. It presents ideal ground for hosting an exhibition of international ship building, port and maritime technology."

Talking about the partnership between his company and Europort he remarked, "It gives us immense pleasure to be associated with Europort Maritime, which is considered to be the

power house in maritime industry. We are certain that our partnership will bring unparalleled levels of professionalism in bringing this industry further global scale."

Among the dignitaries present at the press conference were Lahadn al Mohannadi, Ibrahim al Neama, and Majed Z Jereihan.

Al Fajer Information Services is the leading organiser of industrial exhibitions in the Middle East region, whereas Europort Maritime is known for offering special knowledge and technology in the field of maritime design and preventive maintenance.

The visitors at the exhibition have been carefully drawn from several industries including port authorities and operational ship builders, LNG and oil professionals, ship owners, suppliers and distributors, shipping agents, logistic companies, freight forwarders, as well as infrastructure developers and consultants.