

# Maritime exhibition in Doha from May 5

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**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. (LJALAL PATHYGORI)

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 boosting this industry further on a global scale."

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

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

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