

Press Release

MENA Green Building Congress 2020 goes online

For immediate release: 2 June 2020

From the 22nd to the 26th June 2020, World Green Building Council's (WorldGBC) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Green Building Congress 2020 will take place virtually.

Following the success of last year's congress in Jordan, government, business, city and civil society leaders will exchange ideas on best practice for green buildings to tackle the region's environmental, economic and social challenges.

Under the patronage of the Minister of Climate Change and the Environment of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), H.E. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, and in partnership with Majid Al Futtaim, the MENA Green Building Congress will explore the latest trends across the industry internationally and regionally.

The MENA region is home to over 381 million people, with the urban population expected to double from 2010 to 2050 due to rapid urbanization. Increasing demand for buildings and infrastructure in the region creates a critical need for the growth of green buildings.

The event will serve as a platform to share success stories and discuss the ways to collectively respond to challenges facing the region. Furthermore, it will highlight means of ensuring buildings provide a high quality of life for people, aim to eliminate negative impacts on the environment, and maximize economic benefits.

Key dates and speakers

There will be two virtual business forums open to the public on the 23rd – 24th June, 12:00 - 15:00 (BST) sharing the latest approaches and best practices on health and wellbeing, net zero buildings, and sustainable reconstruction. There will also be discussions on the regulatory frameworks necessary to support green buildings in the region.

Speakers include high-level representatives from international corporations and NGOs leading the global green building movement: Majid Al Futtaim, Google, Multiplex, JLL, Signify, Saint Gobain, Siemens, Meinhardt Group, AkzoNobel, UN Habitat, C2C and WHO.

[Register for the forum here.](#)

On Wednesday 24 June, WorldGBC's prestigious [Chair's Award and the David Gottfried Award](#) will also be announced online, presented by WorldGBC Chair, Lisa Bate. The Chair's Award is given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to global sustainability and the green building movement. This award recognizes their vision and leadership. The David Gottfried Award recognizes individuals whose contribution to the global green building movement has proven to be unique, innovative and entrepreneurial. David Gottfried was a founder of WorldGBC and U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Cristina Gamboa, CEO WorldGBC, said: “The MENA Green Building Congress will bring together learnings and leadership that are invaluable to our global network and in particular the region. In these unprecedented times, we must embrace a green economic recovery with a priority agenda on buildings, to create new jobs and improve their overall quality. It’s time we deliver at scale net zero, healthy, equitable and sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.”

Mohammad Asfour, Head of MENA & Africa Regional Networks at WorldGBC, said: “Since buildings consume 39% of global carbon emissions and 50% of global material use, we have no choice but to give green buildings the attention they deserve as we plan for the post COVID-19 era. The 2nd MENA Congress will be a great opportunity to highlight the role these buildings can play not only in repairing our planet but in fixing the economy.”

Rima Sorour Al-Housseiny, President, at Lebanon Green Building Council, said: With rising cross-boundary socio-economic challenges, strong emphasis should be given to those activities that integrate society, health, energy, climate, and the built environment. Green buildings are at the heart of these integrated systems: a middle ground to tune legal, social, and economic conditions and a launching pad for sustainable development.

For more information see: <https://www.worldgbc.org/calendar/mena-and-africa-green-building-congress-2020>

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Notes to editors

About the [World Green Building Council](#)

The World Green Building Council is a global network of Green Building Councils in almost 70 countries.

Collectively we are committed to reducing the building and construction sector’s CO² emissions to net zero by 2050 to help limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This goal will help deliver on the ambition of the Paris Agreement.

We are building a better future, and are committed to green buildings for everyone, everywhere.

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