

UDC completes 50% of Pearl Qatar reclamation

Business Reporter

DOHA: With more than 50% of the land reclamation works completed in the \$2.5bn man-made offshore island, The Pearl Qatar, the flagship project owned and developed by the United Development Company (UDC) is racing ahead of schedule.

Over 2.3mn sq m of land has already been reclaimed, representing more than 50% of the total area, according to a presentation made to the board, headed by UDC chairman Hussein Ibrahim Alfardan, said a news item posted on the Doha Securities Market (DSM) website.

The board members of UDC recently concluded a one-day tour of the project site for gathering first-hand information on the work carried out so far, the report said.

The board also reviewed the on-site health, safety and envi-

ronmental impact of the island, soil improvement and the Porto Arabia quay wall construction by subcontractor Six Construct, the news item said.

"When completed, it will house about 40,000 residents and boast one of the region's most elegant shopping districts. It's a mix-use residential, retail, entertainment, and cultural development second to none in the region," Alfardan said.

UDC managing director Khalil Sholy said it is important for the board of directors to get a real hands-on-perspective on the development work at the project.

"The visit demonstrates the commitment to the project and is a great opportunity to view some of the milestones we have crossed," he said citing that the project registered an "excellent" safety record of over 3mn accident-free man-hours, which is "remarkable given the scale of the project.

The Pearl Qatar – a Riviera-

style island to be developed by creating over 30km of new coastline with 985 acres of reclaimed land – is Qatar's first international real estate venture. It also offers freehold and residential rights to global investors.

The Riviera Arabia-themed districts will house three luxury hotels, three marinas, with combined mooring for over 700 boats, and over 1.6mn sq ft of luxury retail, recreation and restaurant space.

The project will eventually house 40,000 residents in an up-scale, multi-cultural residential community, which will be a secure and exclusive island retreat bringing the ambience and lifestyle of the Mediterranean to the heart of Arabia.

The four-phase development comprises 10 distinct districts to be developed over five years, with the first investors expected to take up residency in early 2007.



From left: UDC board member Omar Alfardan; managing director Sholy; Mohammed Hamad Abdulla al-Mana, chairman Hussein Alfardan, Sheikh Nasser bin Faleh al-Thani, deputy chairman HE Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah and HE Abdul Rahman al-Attiyah at the Pearl Qatar project site.

The Pearl Qatar is being built 350m offshore the West Bay Lagoon area of Doha. While offering an exclusive retreat, the

island will also be closely integrated with the capital's thriving community.

UDC, which recently bagged

four awards, including Judges Supreme Award, at the Construction Week Awards in Dubai, had also showcased its

huge project at the MAPIC, an international exhibition for real estate projects, in Cannes, France.