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ROBOTECH 26 to position Qatar as regional hub for advanced technology investment

DEEPAK JOHN
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: ROBOTECH 26 will position Qatar as a regional hub for advanced technology investment as the country is focusing on digital transformation as a fundamental sector for developing the digital economy, enhancing long-term capabilities in artificial intelligence, robotics, and emerging technologies.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on the sidelines of the press conference held to announce the international exhibition on robotics and artificial intelligence technologies – ROBOTECH 26 set to take place in Doha from October 27–29, 2026, Haitham Shehab, General Manager of the organising company, Stallion highlighted significant role of Qatar hosting the first edition of the expo which is in line with the country's vision.

Shehab said, "We are moving in a very fast direction now, everything is changing. The exhibition is an opportunity for people to see robotics on the ground, hands-on experience, discuss all the worries and positive and negative things about AI with the technology experts directly," he added.

Qatar is moving forward with the Digital Agenda 2030 which about transformation to a digital platform, he emphasised. With participation of over 200 companies specialised, dedicated in robotic technology and AI, the event will give the opportunity for business people and companies to experience robotic technologies.

"We are also inviting some of the most important sectors in the world. We will have companies and pavilions from different countries who are specialised and very well known for robotic technology. So it's going to be a platform not only for Qatari companies but also international companies to come," Shehab further said.

Robotics and AI technology has taken over some of our daily lives whether it's in transportation, or communication, so "I



General Manager of organising company Stallion, Haitham Shehab (left) and Exhibition Manager of ROBOTECH 26, Ling Li



- The global AI market size is expected to reach \$826.73bn by 2030, up from \$93.27bn in 2020, reflecting an unprecedented investment boom in modern technological history.
- Robots will also be applied to improve the efficiency of key industries such as healthcare and automation, with the global robotics market expected to reach \$189.36bn by 2027.

think we have to know how to adapt it and not take it for granted, but to deal with it. We are inviting many educational sectors to come and have a special pavilion for the educational institutes to showcase what they can do in this space."

Also speaking to *The Peninsula*, Ling Li, Exhibition Manager of ROBOTECH 26 said, "I think this is a great timing for Qatar to take the initiative of hosting such an event which is related to AI and robotics development because Qatar's national vision 2030 also aligns with this."

This is an international exhibition that is open to all the companies who are related to AI and robotics to participate. Qatar is putting a lot of effort and time into this sector which shows their dedication and how important technology development is for the country.

Commenting about the participation of various sectors during the event, she said, "We will showcase many sectors such as smart city, robotics manufacturing, medical robotics, and several others are invited to come to show the most advanced technology"

Making a reference to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Li noted that it was an amazing tournament with a huge success and said Qatar was the first in the region to host it. "We believe with the AI and the robotics, Qatar will also be able to manage to take the lead in the GCC countries."

Qatar was among the top 20 countries globally in 2025 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking, published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), joining the ranks of the world's top 20 most digitally competitive nations. ➔ P9

GTA announces tax return filing period for financial year ended Dec 31, 2025

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The General Tax Authority (GTA) has announced that the tax return filing period for the financial year ended 31 December 2025, will commence on 1 January 2026 and continue until 30 April 2026.

This comes in compliance with the provisions of Income Tax Law No. (24) of 2018, its Executive Regulations, and their amendments.

The tax return filing requirements apply to all entities subject to the provisions of the Law, including tax-exempt companies, companies owned by Qatari nationals or nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, as well as private associations and institutions, private charitable associations and institutions, and private public-benefit institutions established in accordance with the laws governing each of them.

The General Tax Authority urges all companies and institutions holding a commercial registration or trade license – including those exempt from tax – to submit their tax returns within the specified period through the electronic "Dhareeba" platform.

The Authority also affirms its commitment to providing all forms of support and assistance to taxpayers and to

الهيئة العامة للضرائب
General Tax Authority
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facilitating the tax return filing process through its official communication channels, including the Call Center (16565) and email (support@dhareeba.qa), to ensure compliance with the prescribed legal deadlines.

This approach comes as part of the Authority's commitment to establishing a fair and transparent tax environment, implementing relevant laws and legislation, and enhancing the level of tax compliance.



QNB continues to champion a culture of continuous learning and professional growth across its local and international workforce.

QNB celebrates excellence in talent development and professional certifications for 2025

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: QNB Group proudly announces a year of outstanding progress in talent development, professional learning, and capability-building achievements throughout 2025. In alignment with one of the Bank's core values – Fostering Career Development – QNB continues to champion a culture of continuous learning and professional growth across its local and international workforce.

Throughout the year, QNB sponsored the completion of several professional certifications across a wide range of specialized fields, including but not limited to accounting, auditing, compliance, risk management, finance, information technology, anti-money laundering, and CIPD. These achievements reflect QNB's commitment to supporting employees in obtaining globally recognized credentials that enhance their expertise and elevate the Bank's

professional excellence.

2025 also marked the successful advancement of participants in the Emerging Leaders Program, who completed a comprehensive development journey designed to strengthen their leadership capabilities and readiness to assume future managerial responsibilities. Their accomplishments underscore QNB's ongoing investment in preparing high-potential talent for leadership opportunities across the bank.

In addition, QNB recognized the achievements of participants in the Kawader Program, reflecting the Bank's commitment to empowering Qatari talent and supporting the nation's long-term human capital development aspirations.

QNB's Learning & Development strategy continues to prioritize meaningful, high-impact development opportunities delivered through instructor-led training, digital learning, coaching, and on-the-job experiences. These

initiatives reflect the Bank's strong commitment to building a future-ready workforce equipped with the capabilities required to support sustainable growth and long-term bank success.

In recognition of the collective effort behind these achievements, QNB also expressed its appreciation to its strategic partners whose collaboration played a vital role in the success of its learning and development initiatives. The Bank acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Ministry of Labor, Qatar Finance and Business Academy, HEC Paris in Doha, Qatar University, Doha University of Science and Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.

These partnerships continue to support QNB in delivering high-quality development programs, fostering knowledge exchange, and strengthening the professional capabilities of its workforce in line with national priorities and international best practices.

Saudi Arabia's net FDI rises 34.5% in third quarter

RIYADH: Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Saudi Arabia increased by 34.5 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2025, the Saudi General Authority for Statistics announced on Wednesday.

The net FDI inflows reached 24.9bn Saudi riyals (about 6.64bn) in 2025, up from 18.5bn riyals in 2024, according to the authority's newly released data.

While inbound FDI saw a modest 4.4 percent year-on-year increase to 27.7bn riyals in the third

quarter, the net surge was primarily driven by a sharp 65.7 percent contraction in the country's own outward investments, which fell to 2.7bn riyals.

Also on Wednesday, the statistics authority reported that in the third quarter, the kingdom's services exports reached 58.2bn riyals, compared to services imports of 120.8bn riyals.

In services trade, travel and transport led exports and imports respectively, according to the data. — XINHUA



Qatar Insurance Company
(Qatari Public Shareholding Company)

QIC's Board of Directors is pleased to announce
the opening of the nomination process for membership of the Board of Directors for the period (2026- 2028)

Starting from Sunday, Thursday 1st, 2026, until Thursday, January 15th, 2026, during official working days of the Company

Those who meet the conditions of membership, in accordance with Article (128) of Qatar Central Bank Law and Regulation of Financial Institutions No. (13) of 2012, Articles (97 & 98) of the Commercial Companies Law No. (11) 2015, amended with Law No. (8) of 2021, Article (37) of the Company's amended Articles of Association, Corporate Governance Code No.5 issued by Qatar Financial Authority Markets and the principles of corporate governance of insurance companies issues by the Qatar Central Bank and wish to be nominated shall visit The Nominations And Remunerations Committee / Board Secretariat at the company's headquarters located at QIC building (ground floor), West Bay – Doha during official working days and hours (Sunday to Thursday, from 7:00am to 3:00pm) to obtain nominations application forms. The forms must be printed on the nominees' letterhead and submitted, or sent by email to agm@qic.com.qa before the deadline for closing nominations, accompanied by the following documents:

1. A shareholding certificate of owning at least 20 million (20,000,000) shares of the share capital of QIC (for non-independent nominees);
2. Copy of valid Qatari ID;
3. The nominee's resume, academic qualifications, practical experience;
4. Evidence demonstrating expertise and specialization in financial matters and insurance services (for independent nominees);
5. Copy of valid Commercial Registration (for corporate nominees);
6. The nominee's personal questionnaire;
7. The company questionnaire along with the questionnaire of its nominated representative;
8. A declaration confirming non-combination of positions prohibited from being held concurrently with membership of the company's Board of Directors;
9. Acknowledgement and commitment to present a certificate of recent good conduct and behavior;
10. Acknowledgment and commitment to deposit the minimum number of shares required for membership (for non-independent nominees) with the depository entity within the legally prescribed period.

"The elections will be held during the Company's Ordinary General Assembly Meeting"
"To be held on 12th March 2026 at the Sheraton Hotel."

Notes:

- The inclusion of candidate's name on the final list of candidates is subject to the approval of Qatar Central Bank
- This announcement, candidacy forms (for individuals, corporate and independent membership), questionnaire forms and confirmations have been posted on the company's website (www.qic-group.com)
- For inquiries or further information, please contact the Board Secretary at 44962202 – 30280288

QSE index ends 2025 up 1.81% amid paradigm shift in debt instruments market

DOHA: The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) closed 2025 at 10,762 points, marking a 1.81% year-over-year increase.

Market capitalization rose by approximately QR23.4bn, reaching QR644.3bn, up from QR620.86bn at the end of 2024.

In terms of trading value, activity declined by about 1%, with total turnover at QR105.5bn, compared with QR106.6bn in 2024.

Qatar News Agency (QNA) reached Investment Manager at Qatar Securities Company (QS) Ramzi Qasmieh, who highlighted that Estithmar Holding's stock reached record highs in 2025, surging over 137%, followed by Medicare Group Co.

with roughly 46%, and Doha Bank (DB), which rose more than 44%.

On the downside, Qatar and Oman Investment Company led the list of largest year-to-date losers, declining nearly 57%, followed by Widam at approximately 36%, and Gulf Warehousing Co. at 33%.

At the sector level, the Telecommunications Sector Index reached record highs, rising nearly 24%, followed by the Banks & Financial Services Sector Index with roughly 11%, and the Consumer Goods & Services Sector Index, which advanced 8.6%.

The Insurance Sector Index posted a 6.5% increase, while



the Transportation Sector Index recorded approximately 5.9% growth. In contrast, the Real Estate Sector Index declined 5.4%, and the Industrials Sector Index dropped

2.55%, Qasmieh noted.

Regarding the performance of the Twenty-Index, the gauge of the 20 largest stocks in terms of liquidity and market capitalization, Qasmieh elaborated that

Qatar Islamic Bank led the forefront as the single most influential stock in the index's ascent, contributing approximately 284 points to its rise.

Qasmieh further noted that a host of events had exerted an impact on the performance of regional markets, including the QSE, such as the Iran-Israel war, in addition to the effects of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

He also pointed to the listing of a new company on QSE, a supporting entity that was added in mid-December, in addition to forging a partnership between Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Fiera Qatar Equity Fund, valued at \$200m.

He explained that 2025 also witnessed a continuation of several companies implementing a lift in foreign ownership to reach 100%, as occurred with the Ahli Bank.

Finally, Qasmieh stated that QSE experienced a paradigm shift in 2025 in the debt instruments market, encompassing sukuk and bonds.

During December, he noted, Qatar International Islamic Bank's sukuk were listed, marking the first Islamic sukuk ever listed on the Exchange.

Additionally, procedures for listing DB's bonds were completed, with trading expected to commence officially by mid-January. — QNA

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China to hit 2025 growth target of 'around 5%'

BEIJING: China's economy is expected to have grown "around five percent" in 2025, President Xi Jinping said yesterday, despite "pressure" during a year he described as "very unusual", state media reported.

The announcement came in Xi's New Year's Eve speech to a top political consultative body that was reported by state news agency Xinhua. Such an annual expansion would be in line with the official government target and on par with the five percent growth recorded in 2024.

The world's second-largest economy has come under increasing pressure in recent years. A persistent debt crisis in the property sector, industrial overcapacity and heightened trade conflict with Washington have also darkened the outlook.

"We faced challenges head-on and strived diligently, successfully achieving the main goals of economic and social development," Xi said in his remarks to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, according to Xinhua. — XINHUA

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This all is going to be lined up together and "I truly believe this is a great timing for everybody to come to this exhibition and explore the new area which will be very exciting for companies and the exhibitors," Li said.

The global artificial intelligence market reached approximately \$136.55bn in 2022, with an annual growth rate of 37.3%. This growth is linked to continuous research and innovation by technology giants, in addition to the adoption of this technology by industrial, commercial, and governmental companies in sectors such as automotive, healthcare, retail, and finance.

According to Market Research, the market size is expected to reach \$826.73bn by 2030, up from \$93.27bn in 2020, reflecting an unprecedented investment boom in modern technological history. Robots will also be applied to improve the efficiency of key industries such as healthcare and automation, with the global robotics market expected to reach \$189.36bn by 2027.

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