IQ posts QR700mn Q1 profit

On the other hand, on a like-for-like basis, management reporting revenue — accounting for proportionate consolidation — was QR3.6bn, a decrease of QR500mn or 12.3%, compared with the same period last year.

The year-on-year reduction was primarily driven by a moderate reduction in the product prices across all segments, most notably in the petrochemicals and steel products, and muted demand in some of the major buying countries. The reduction was also further impacted by the lower sales volumes due to weaker demand and lower production volumes on account of periodic maintenance, “IQ said.

Prices in the steel segment were also down year-on-year due to the number of planned shutdowns in one of the joint ventures. On the other hand, on a like-for-like basis, management reporting revenue excluding the impact of these shutdowns was QR4.2bn, compared to QR4.1bn for the same period in 2018, where IQ had reported a net profit of QR1.3bn.

The net profit in the first quarter was “impacted negatively by weaker prices and persistent higher operating costs,” IQ said.

In the first quarter ending March 31 was QR1.3bn, a marginal decrease of 8.4%, over the same period of 2018. This year-on-year reduction was due to a moderate fall in volumes. IQ said. Prices of petrochemical products were also down last year.

On the other hand, on a like-for-like basis, management reporting revenue excluding the impact of planned shutdowns in one of the joint ventures was QR3.5bn, a decrease of QR500mn or 12.3%, compared with the same period in 2018. IQ said.

A marginal reduction in crude oil prices, and muted demand in some major markets due to unfavourable economic conditions resulted in lower petrochemical product prices. In the steel segment, however, prices were impacted by the supply of low cost steel from countries outside the region and ensures the effective delivery of justice,” he continued.

The announcement of the new agreement exemplifies the success of QFC in the past two years in terms of strategic growth and its ability to adapt to the new economic activities in Qatar as part of the economic development plans of the Qatar National Vision 2030,“ al-Sahouti emphasised.

The legal system adopted at QICDRC is a key attraction to international companies and investors that look to expand their work in Qatar and want the assurance of a specialized, transparent, and efficient legal system that they can resort to in the case of legal disputes,” he continued.

Al-Sahouti also stressed that QIC, Line 2 No. 2 of 2009. established the court and paved the way to enforce its judgments. However, it was not until 2013 that QICDRC started receiving applications from litigants requesting it to enforce its judgments.

He said the court’s ability to enforce its judgments against entities that are not registered under the QFC gives it a competitive advantage over similar legal models in the region and ensures the effective and fast delivery of justice and establishing an authoritative legal framework that helps advance Qatar’s reputation as a trustworthy business environment,” al-Sahouti stressed.

“Amid the evident growth of the Qatari economy, QICDRC’s main mission continues to focus on ensuring the continued improvement in quality, service and efficiency, with the aim of ensuring a smooth three-dimensional process for all litigants, which will provide the best possible service to the litigants,“ he added.

These achievements also served as a testament to the rapid growth witnessed in the local economy in the past several years, both in the private and public sectors.

The appointment of the new agreement exemplifies the success of QFC in the past two years in terms of strategic growth and its ability to adapt to the new economic activities in Qatar as part of the economic development plans of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

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Al-Sahouti also explained that the signing of the new agreement will mean that the court’s ability to enforce its judgments against entities that are not registered under the QFC gives it a competitive advantage over similar legal models in the region.

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New deal to expand OICDRC jurisdiction over QFZA entities

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) and the Qatar Free Zone Administration (QFZA) have signed an agreement that will expand QICDRC’s jurisdiction to cover entities operating under the QFZA.

The new partnership agreement, which will be announced in a file that will be issued later this year, exemplifies an unprecedented expansion of the court’s jurisdiction since its establishment, and further advances its position locally and regionally as a specialised judicial authority.

“QICDRC has started receiving applications from litigants requesting it to enforce its judgments. However, it was not until 2013 that QICDRC started receiving applications from litigants requesting it to enforce its judgments,” he continued.

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He said the court’s ability to enforce its judgments against entities that are not registered under the QFC gives it a competitive advantage over similar legal models in the region.

The court’s jurisdiction extends to enforcing a judgment against a non-QFC registered entity. This new agreement also means that QICDRC’s jurisdiction extends to enforcing a judgment against a non-QFC registered entity, in addition to its current jurisdiction, which includes the court’s ability to enforce its judgments against entities that are not registered under the QFC.

By Peter Alagia

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Qatar First Bank EGM approves resolution for capital reduction

The Qatar First Bank EGM approved a resolution to enhance shareholders’ value through convertible bonds. "The board of directors has recommended to the general meeting the issuance of convertible bonds with a principal amount equivalent to 30 per cent of the bank's paid-up capital, limited to a maximum of 40 per cent of the paid-up capital at the time of issuance, to be listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange," a statement issued by the bank said.

"The convertible bonds would provide the shareholders, whether current or new, with an opportunity to participate in the bank's equity capital. These convertible bonds would be issued at a discount, with the conversion rate to be determined at the time of issuance," the bank explained.

The meeting also approved a resolution to decide on the admission of the bank's convertible bonds to trading on the Qatar Stock Exchange, with the necessary amendments in the articles of association of the bank. The decision was adopted by a vote of 99.3% of the shares submitted for voting.

Additionally, the bank approved a resolution to issue a warrant to shareholders of the bank, with a warrant value equal to 30% of the paid-up capital, limited to a maximum of 40% of the paid-up capital at the time of issue.

The meeting also approved the issuance of a warrant to shareholders of the bank, with a warrant value equal to 30% of the paid-up capital, limited to a maximum of 40% of the paid-up capital at the time of issue.

The Underwriting Committee issued a report on the proposed capital reduction plan. The plan aims to reduce the bank's authorized and paid-up capital by 97.11% of the current paid-up capital, with the surplus of paid-up capital to be readjusted to shareholders as cash or cash equivalents.

Turkish treasury to issue €3.7bn debt to boost lenders’ capital

Turkey’s treasury will issue €3.7bn in bonds to top up the capital of state lenders and relieve bad debts in the sector, as the country moved to shore up economy plagued by double digit inflation.

The government debt securities, which will be sold to banks and other financial institutions, will help to strengthen the capital of state lenders, as Turkey’s Finance Minister Berat Albayrak said last week the ratio stands at around 4.2% and described it as “quite good.”

Turkish Treasury announced the launch of ‘Takreem Awards’

The Qatar Businesswomen Association (QBWA) announced the launch of the ‘Takreem Awards’, which aims to recognize women who have contributed to Qatar’s economy and society through their significant achievements in different sectors. The awards will be co-hosted by Al Wadi MGallery hotels located in Msheireb and will be visited by more than 15 women from different fields across Qatar.

The awards will be presented by a number of women leaders and will be selected after long and thorough transparent process.

QBWA vice-chairwoman Aisha al-Romaihi was selected after long and thorough transparent process.

The Qatari Businesswomen Association (QBWA) has announced the launch of the ‘Takreem Awards’ for women in different sectors who has brought their knowledge of Qatar’s business and social landscape to the table.

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Baghdad, Iraq 'ready' to lift oil exports

(M上班p) would "more than make up" loss May, the White House announced on April 6. US sanctions waivers for Iranian oil products from Tehran.

The US reimposed sanctions in May. Iran said, adding that the US had no "We are going to zero. We're going to stop Iranian exports."

The Trump administration said it was working with leading oil exporters and buyers to ensure the oil market is "crucial to stop up the widespread power outages and power shortages from Iranian imports."

Venezuela production as well as a major drop in Iran's exports have fallen to less than 1 million barrels a day, the US government said.

Combined with declines in global crude stocks, continued losses in oil revenue. South Korea, for example, buys condensate from Iran, which has been buying and testing alternative cargoes from areas such as Africa and Australia. While it's not possible to find the specific country numbers, the price relief?

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The current set of waivers expiring on May 2 allowed China, Japan, South Korea, India, Turkey, Greece, Taiwan, Italy and Greece to continue purchasing Iranian crude oil, as well as other products.

If crude prices go higher, companies may consider stopping or reducing purchases and inflation could accelerate.

Buyers face being cut off from the American financial system if they continue purchases. With the end of the waivers, the US will impose secondary sanctions on any country that continues to buy Iranian oil.

The US government also said that it got commitments from some countries, including Saudi Arabia and UAE, to make up for lost volumes. South Korean buyers will like how the US was able to halt Veracruz refinery imports.

Russia and others, agreed to reduce their output by 2.5 million barrels per day.

The majority of oil imports to Japan are to refineries in the Kansai region. This area is expected to lose about 800,000 bpd of Iranian crude. For others, US shipments may not be the best option. That's because the Middle East nations export oil only limited supplies of condensate – a form of ultra-light oil – and can't make use of their own production capacity.

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China equity gauge tumbles 2.3%, biggest loss in a month

Shanghai

The world's best performing stock market is suddenly looking a lot more vulnerable after Beijing indicated it was ready to cool the real estate market, sending local equities plunging.

China’s stock market has historically been a key gauge of economic sentiment, with the central bank also using it to manage expectations.

The CSI 300 index of equities traded in Shanghai and Shenzhen sank 2.3% yesterday, its biggest loss in a month. In Shanghai, the S&P/BSE Sensex index dropped 1.3%, while the NSE Nifty 50 Index slipped 1.4%.

The CSI 300 index was the biggest loser in a month, with two stocks falling for each that rose. The CSI 300 sunk 1.4% on March 4 after a strong rally at the start of the month.

The Politburo meeting showed that there won't be any aggressive monetary stimulus in the near future, indicating limited tools available to the government to boost growth through traditional channels.

Tommy Xie, head of Greater China equity strategy at DBS Group Research, said in a note that the Shanghai Composite index had risen 25% so far this year, the most of any developed market.

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Shanghai

The world's best performing stock market is suddenly looking a lot more vulnerable after Beijing indicated it was ready to cool the real estate market, sending local equities plunging.

China’s stock market has historically been a key gauge of economic sentiment, with the central bank also using it to manage expectations.

The CSI 300 index of equities traded in Shanghai and Shenzhen sank 2.3% yesterday, its biggest loss in a month. In Shanghai, the S&P/BSE Sensex index dropped 1.3%, while the NSE Nifty 50 Index slipped 1.4%.

The CSI 300 index was the biggest loser in a month, with two stocks falling for each that rose. The CSI 300 sunk 1.4% on March 4 after a strong rally at the start of the month.

The Politburo meeting showed that there won't be any aggressive monetary stimulus in the near future, indicating limited tools available to the government to boost growth through traditional channels.

Tommy Xie, head of Greater China equity strategy at DBS Group Research, said in a note that the Shanghai Composite index had risen 25% so far this year, the most of any developed market.
Interest rate cut may not save ringgit bond rally

The ringgit is struggling to rally against a falling dollar and a surging yen, a fading prospect for a likely interest rate cut this month, dealers said.

The ringgit has lost about 1.2% so far this month, leaving it about 3% lower for the year to date. It has shed 2.1% over the past three months, the most of any major Asian currency.

OCBC seeks partner for Chinese business security

OCBC is setting up its first business security outfit in China.

OCBC said on Wednesday it is forming OCBC Maritime, which will be based in Hong Kong and will provide international maritime services.

The bank, which has a long history in the region, said the move was part of its efforts to expand its business into new markets.

Bloomberg QuickTake Q&A

Why Ghosn’s back in jail and what it says about Japan

Carlos Ghosn was a jet-setting captain of industry who hadeverything going for him when he helped save both Renault SA and Nissan Motor Co. To the shock of many, he was arrested in Japan on November 19 on allegations of financial misconduct. After 109 days in jail, he was released February 6.

Q: Was he re-arrested?

Carlos Ghosn had set out to build a global automotive empire when he became the joint head of Renault SA and Nissan Motor Co. But he was arrested in Japan on November 19, charged with financial misconduct.

Since his release, Ghosn has faced a barrage of charges, including financial misconduct. He has denied the allegations and said he is innocent.

Q: What happened next?

Ghosn has been released from jail in Japan but is still facing charges of financial misconduct. He is free on bail and is working on his defense.

Q: What’s going on with his trial?

Ghosn’s trial has been delayed multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is scheduled to appear in court on February 14, 2023.

Q: What’s his next move?

Ghosn plans to continue fighting for his release and to clear his name.

Q: What’s the latest on his case?

The latest development in Ghosn’s case was his release from jail on February 6, 2023. He continues to face charges of financial misconduct and is under house arrest.

Q: What’s the bigger picture?

Ghosn’s case is a symbol of Japan’s legal system and how corporate executives can be treated. It also highlights the importance of transparency and accountability in the global business community.

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EMs at mercy of US growth as investors weigh bets

**Bloomberg**

Eoming-market investors will have to keep tabs on US economic sentiment, according to China’s top policy think tank. The US economy is an important component of the global economy and any shifts in US sentiment can have a significant impact on other markets. Investors will have to watch closely for any signals that US growth is weakening, as this could signal a potential slowdown in global demand. Additionally, investors should keep an eye on the US Federal Reserve’s policy decisions, as changes in interest rates can affect EM economies.

China growth rebounds as officials said to prepare new stimulus

**China**

As officials prepare new stimulus measures, China’s economy is showing signs of recovery. The government has announced a series of measures to support the economy, including tax cuts, increased spending, and infrastructure projects. These measures are aimed at boosting consumer confidence and increasing investment. Investors should keep an eye on the implementation of these measures and the impact they have on the economy.

China’s steel machine revs up to record to seed infrastructure

**Bloomberg**

China’s steel industry is revving up to record levels, as officials prepare new stimulus measures. The government is working to support the economy by increasing investment in infrastructure projects. This is expected to drive demand for steel, and investors should keep an eye on the implementation of these projects and their impact on the steel industry.

**Maybank**

Maybank collaborates with Halliburton and Tynecon

Maybank has collaborated with Halliburton and Tynecon to offer a range of services, including loan financing and project management. This partnership is expected to support the growth of the oil and gas industry in the region. Investors should keep an eye on the progress of these projects and the impact they have on the company's financial performance.

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**Bloomberg**

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MUFG is said to weigh $900mn write-down of its card business

**Bloomberg**

The head of Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund is unconvinced by the high valuation of tech startups. “Valuations are high,” Lim Chow Kiat, chief executive officer of GIC Pte, said in an interview at the fund’s San Francisco office on Tuesday. “We see a lot of Gen Y [Generation Y] companies in the market, but you have to wonder if they are really building a business who are called growth companies, or selling something that is not whole in itself.”

The fund, which is responsible for $1.4 trillion, has doubled its investments in startups over the past two years, as it seeks to expand outside its traditional markets in Asia and the Middle East. GIC has committed $25 billion to technology investments since 2016, more than any other investor.

“Many of these companies are unprofitable and have never earned a dollar, but they are valued at multiples of the S&P 500 Index,” GIC chief executive officer Lim Chow Kiat said in an interview. “We don’t see much basis for those valuations.”

GIC’s investments have been concentrated in fintech and health care, with more than half of the fund’s technology investments in health care companies. It has also invested in companies that are focused on education and entertainment.

**Gulf Times**

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Half of economists now expect BoJ’s next policy move to be more easing

**Bloomberg**

A half of economists now expect the Bank of Japan (BoJ) to increase its yield curve control policy this year, according to a Bloomberg survey.

The survey also found that 10% of economists expect the BoJ to at least one inflation forecast for coming year, which means it quarterly outlook report to reflect the inflation forecast for the fiscal year starting in April 2021. The survey also found that the BoJ to increase its yield curve control policy this year, according to a Bloomberg survey.

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**Profit pinch weighs on $334bn bounce in Japan stocks**

Bloomberg

Japan’s stock market has regained $334bn in value this year after losses in 2018, but analysts warn that perhaps the rally isn’t enough to get everyone excited.

A gauge of fund manager demand for Japanese equities slid this month to the lowest since November 2016, Bank of America Merrill Lynch said on Monday, a sign that recent gains may have run out of steam about the outlook for earnings. The Topix index, a 384.5% rebound this year, shows the performance of other developed markets.

While only one in 10 of the gauge’s components have reported to be, earnings have outpaced in the downside for a majority of the benchmark’s shares since the start of the year and it looks like the season could be over. In addition to the worries about Japanese crude oil, Fast Retailing Co and Yamaha Electric Corp are hitting hurdles.

“Don’t expect a lot of investors to buy Japanese equities,” said Kiyotaka Shinozuka, head of equity strategy in Tokyo at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley. “The oil price rally is healthy for the market, but it’s still not enough to lead to Japan, but the fundamentals are not at the peak.”

A survey in the KGI report, which is the number of the report, shows that fund managers now buy Japanese stocks at the weakest in more than two years. The KGI is generally accepted by monitoring the percentage of fund managers who expect to underperform Japan from those who said it would underperform. From 13 percentage points, down from 15 at the end of last year, fund managers are not as optimistic as Japan’s growth outlook, according to the survey, which was conducted from April 4 to 11 with 216 investors participating.

The Topix gained 0.1% to close at 2,058.43 to Tokyo yesterday, while the Nikkei 225 Stock Average advanced 0.3%, or 0.29%.

**Japanese stocks outperform global peers**

Advancing signs that Japanese stocks can maintain their robust gains, despite having faced a series of challenges, are a sign that global investors are getting more optimistic about the outlook for the Japanese economy. The Topix index is up 0.7%, rising in the year since January 2018. Asia News is an online news platform that provides the latest news and analysis on Asia. The Topix index is a stock market index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. It includes the largest 225 companies listed on the exchange. The index is calculated in real-time and is widely used as a benchmark for the Japanese stock market. The Topix index is calculated by dividing the value of all stocks listed on the exchange by the number of outstanding shares. The index is rebalanced quarterly, with the top 200 companies by market capitalization included in the index. The index is calculated in real-time and is widely used as a benchmark for the Japanese stock market.
**WORLD INDICES**

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<td>Hang Seng</td>
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**TOKYO**

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**FTSE 100**

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<td>Legal &amp; General Group Plc</td>
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**Gold recovers from 4-month low and tracks oil price rally**

Gold recovered from a 4-month low and tracked oil price rally on Wednesday. Futures and options on gold gained 0.7% to $1,270.63 per ounce, with the contract rising above $1,260 for the first time in two months. Gold and silver tend to move in tandem, with both precious metals sensitive to the dollar and the price of oil.

**Shanghai aluminium jumps to near six-month high as inventories fall**

Aluminium futures on the Shanghai Futures Exchange (ShFE) rose to their highest in nearly six months, topping $2,430 per tonne, on Wednesday, as investors react to a stronger demand in the second quarter. The most active aluminium contract on ShFE jumped to a high of $2,420 per tonne, with the contract rising by 0.6% to $2,430 per tonne. Inventories have fallen by more than $100 per tonne since November 2017. The second quarter should see a strong increase in demand and a reduction in inventories. The 14,000 tonne increase in stocks is a strong indication of gold's strength, and a sign that growth in 2017 will be stronger than 2016, she added.
Big four accountants face shakeup as CMA renews call for split

**Bloomberg**

The US competition regulator called for new rules to cut down the dominance of the Big Four accounting firms, saying that the auditors were not independent enough.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in the UK said it would extend its probe into the market to address concerns about the high concentration of audit services.

The watchdog said it would “bring forward reforms to ensure UK firms audit the highest standards in the business. The regulator also revealed a plan to require audit firms to change their business model and offer a stronger evidence base, which they will consider carefully. It...”

The CMA’s findings provided a “strong evidence base, which we will consider carefully. It...”

The regulator also revealed that “radical solutions imposed by the CMA’s report for the Big Four, as well as making recommendation on its final report. As the report, saying that the “largest companies in its final version of the report...”

The report was released as “the report found. And the trade deal could actually hurt the US auto sector, increasing competition but...”

The US auto workers would rise by a net 44,000 workers in the United States but also auto plants were already running at capacity and the trade deal would not “...a major challenge for the US auto industry...”

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Reuters 3.8% year-on-year

Existing home sales fall 4.9% in March, with 4.98 million home resales in the market last month. The dollar slipped against a basket of currencies after the release of existing home sales

A survey last week showed that while A large number of home sales had been done by first-time buyers, sales of older homes were not as good. The median existing house price increased 3% from a year ago to $316,600 in March, the lowest level since May 2017.

That was the second straight month- drop in existing home sales. As demand for homes currently available in the market slows and prices fall, many first-time buyers are looking for homes in the lower and upper ends of the housing market last month. The dollar slipped against a basket of currencies after the release of the existing home sales report. The median existing home price increased 3% from a year ago to $316,600 in March, the lowest level since May 2017.

A real estate agent (right) stands with potential home buyers outside a home in MacArthur, Illinois. Existing home sales dropped 4.9% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.98 million units last month. Dismay's sales pace was revised down from a 4.98 million units from the previously reported 5.10 million units. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a sales rate of 4.98 million units last month.

Existing home sales fell short of the 5.05 million units reported by the National Association of Realtors last month, but sales fell 4.9% from a year ago. That was the 5th straight year-on-year decline in home sales. Falling mortgage rates, strengthening labor market growth and slowing housing prices inflation have improved affordability. New home building permits were 1,540,000 units last month. Seasoning home sales, which make up about 40% of US home sales, declined 5.4% from a year ago.

The median existing house price increased 3% from a year ago to $316,600 in March, the lowest level since May 2017.

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Role of technology in dispute resolution, says QICDRC

By Peter Alagiah

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) has underscored the importance of leveraging technology in enabling a faster and more convenient dispute resolution process, further democraticising it from local and cultural models to international settings.

QICDRC CEO Faisal Rashid al-Sahouti, speaking to reporters during a media round-table yesterday, said that barriers towards the use of technology in the region that allows litigants to initiate, manage, attend hearings, and receive case decisions without the need to travel to a courtroom facilities, was the court's digital platform to resolve legal disputes free of charge and without time restrictions.

The court was able to hear cases that were free of charge and without time restrictions.

The QICDRC CEO also said the QICDRC's digital platform, eCourt, as well as the court's participation in several international legal gatherings, embodies QICDRC's efforts to become a global model for participation in several international legal gatherings.

The CEO said that the QICDRC's eCourt, as well as the court's participation in several international legal gatherings, embodies QICDRC's efforts to become a global model for justice and position Qatar as a key player in the global legal community.

The court was able to provide users with a convenient and secure online case management system.

For users, the court's digital platform offers a convenient and secure online case management system.

The court was able to provide users with a convenient and secure online case management system.

Gazprom Neft, not in favour of securing deal extension, and a less-than-expected output for the month, improving its output by warmer weather and strong economic outlooks of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Gas offers tenders for June delivery, and the June delivery prices were in the range last week, even though the delivery prices were expected to reach their lowest level since June 2016. The drop was mainly due to the rise in US economic activity, making Ooredoo “Best for Business,” thanks to its breadth and depth of talent, best fixed and mobile networks, broadest portfolio of ICT services and solutions, and trusted partner for 60 years.

In the US, Henry Hub natural gas futures dropped by 6.4% last week to reach their lowest level since June 2016. The drop was mainly due to the rise in US economic activity, making Ooredoo “Best for Business,” thanks to its breadth and depth of talent, best fixed and mobile networks, broadest portfolio of ICT services and solutions, and trusted partner for 60 years.

This article was supplied by the Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development.