MoCI, QNTC urge private sector to invest in mega beach resorts

Qatar is uniting private investors to create a new, large-scale public-private partnership (PPP) model in the sector.

This is in line with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in coordination with the Qatar Chamber (QNTC), to unveil the investment opportunity to the private sector.

The initiative comes within the framework of the reconstruction program in Qatar, which is aimed at achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030, and in line with UNESCO’s initiative to develop PPP models in crisis situations globally.

The sector generates tremendous potential for the private sector and for hotels and tourism in the Asian market, according to MoCI.

A new PPP Law (Law No. 21 of 2020) was published on May 11, 2020, to regulate the operation of PPPs in Qatar, which has already been ratified by the Ministry of Law and the Legislative and Justice Authority.

The MoCI and QNTC are seeking potential investors to bid for the project and to provide support for the development and implementation of the PPP model for the sector.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines President Josie B. Antolin said her chamber welcomes the changes to the PPP Law, which will provide a roadmap for PPP projects.

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The sector has a number of projects, including the construction of new hotels and resorts, as well as the development of new tourism infrastructure.

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Pakistan rupee seen to stay at 161-166 against dollar in 2021

Analytical overview

Analysts have forecast that the rupee will remain between 161 and 166 against the US dollar in 2021, but they caution that the exchange rate may be swayed by market sentiment, economic policies, and geopolitical developments. According to local media, analysts have said that the rupee will remain volatile given the uncertainty around the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. A weakening of the currency may result in higher interest rates and increased borrowing costs. The country has a large current account deficit that may put pressure on the rupee. Inflation and currency depreciation will continue to be monitored by the central bank.

China factory recovery moderates as higher costs slow business

China’s factory activity expanded in December as official data showed a surprise increase in factory output and consumer spending, though higher costs and surging energy prices weigh on the recovery.

US bans palm oil imports from second Malaysia firm

The US has banned import of palm oil from a second Malaysian firm, citing the firm’s alleged failure to ensure that its products were free from forced labor.

Singapore economy seeing signs of stabilisation: PM

Singapore’s economy is seeing signs of stabilisation, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The government has been implementing measures to support businesses and workers hit by the pandemic. The fiscal stimulus packages have helped to cushion the impact of the pandemic on the economy. The PM said that the government would continue to support businesses and workers.

Move over Mukesh Ambani, Asia has new richest person

Rajat Sharma

Singapore has a new richest person, according to Forbes Magazine. The list was released on Wednesday, with the new richest person being a Singaporean. The magazine said that the new richest person had a net worth of $10 billion. The list also included several other Singaporeans on the list, with some having net worths of over $1 billion. The magazine noted that the list is a reflection of the strong economic performance of the country in recent years.
**Tesla short sellers lost $38bn in 2020 as stock surged**

Tesla Inc's stock price has soared more than 400% in the past year, making it worth about $1.2 trillion. Short-sellers, who bet against the company, have lost an estimated $38 billion. The rise in Tesla's share price is one of the most spectacular examples of the market's willingness to value electric vehicles as much as, or more than, fossil-fueled cars.

**Sterling extends gains, markets mixed as traders see out 2020**

Against a backdrop of ongoing uncertainty around the pandemic, the dollar has strengthened against most major currencies. The British pound, however, has held up relatively well, with Sterling extending gains against the dollar and the euro on Wednesday. The market is bracing for a possible extension of the UK-US trade talks.

**Day traders put market on unprecedented stock frenzy**

The market has been witnessing a unprecedented level of activity, with day traders making large bets on individual stocks. The rise in volatility has led to a record number of new accounts being opened, with a record number of trades being executed. The market is expected to continue to be volatile in the coming weeks and months.
Commodities: Vaccines, stimulus set bullish tone for 2021

Global commodity markets were riding 2021 on a roller coaster, with recovering demand and understandable supply constraints. The world was recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, and billions of dollars of fiscal support were expected to boost investment and spending in 2021.

"It's been a tremendous year for the commodity market," said a market analyst. "We've seen a surge in prices, especially for copper, which has led to a bullish trend for 2021." The analyst noted that the rise in commodity prices was driven by a combination of factors, including a strong US dollar, geopolitical tensions, and supply disruptions.

"The US dollar has been strong, which has helped to push commodity prices up," the analyst explained. "Geopolitical tensions, such as the tension between the US and China, have also contributed to the rise in commodity prices." The analyst noted that supply disruptions, such as the closure of oil refineries in the Middle East, have also contributed to the rise in commodity prices.

The analyst predicted that the commodity market would continue to be bullish in 2022, with demand expected to remain strong. However, the analyst warned that there were risks to the bullish outlook, including the potential for a stronger US dollar and geopolitical tensions.

"The strong US dollar and geopolitical tensions could put pressure on commodity prices," the analyst said. "But overall, we expect the commodity market to remain bullish in 2022." The analyst noted that the rise in commodity prices was likely to benefit countries that are major commodity producers, such as Canada, Australia, and Brazil.
Sterling shines as no-deal Brexit averted after a tumultuous year

The British pound soared yesterday, as traders rushed to buy the currency before Britain's MPs rejected the deal on the final day before the country's original departure date of March 29. Sterling jumped to $1.3944 in early morning trading to attain the highest level since April 12, 2018, boosted also by news that talks to avoid a no-deal Brexit had improved and the possibility of a shorter delay to leaving the European Union were increased.

Britain's departure from the European Union was in peril of being derailed by its own people after MPs rejected the deal on Tuesday. Sterling had dropped as much as 3% on Monday as investors grew concerned that Britain would leave the EU without a deal and risk another recession.

The pound's surge comes after a week of volatile trading, with traders grappling with the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. The currency has been volatile since the referendum in June 2016, as investors have looked to the outcome of the talks with the EU to determine the future of the UK's economy.

The sterling rally has also been helped by a decline in the dollar, which has weakened against a basket of major currencies. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six major currencies, has fallen to its lowest level in two weeks.

The pound's gains have also been helped by a rise inrisk appetite among investors, who have become more optimistic about the global economy. The US Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates later this month, which has helped to support the dollar.

The pound's rally has also been helped by a decline in the price of oil, which has fallen to its lowest level in two weeks. This has helped to lower the cost of importing goods from the EU, which has helped to support sterling.

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US oil drilling ends fraught 2020 at pre-shale levels

By Brad Weiss

The oilfield that energized the oil industry this decade just ended its most dramatic year in a generation, as the industry grappled with falling prices and a decade-long slowdown in drilling.

In 2020, oil prices fell by more than 50% as the coronavirus pandemic led to a sharp decline in demand for oil and a glut of supply.

The oilfield experienced a sharp decline in drilling activity, as companies cut back on capital spending to reduce costs and preserve cash.

In 2021, the industry is expected to see a rebound in drilling activity, as oil prices remain strong and companies look to increase production to meet growing demand.

AT YOUR SERVICE

US oil drilling ends fraught 2020 at pre-shale levels

‘Opec+ oil output cuts compliance at 101% in November’
Brexit deal forces prosecutors to swap a Ferrari for a Citroen

Britain backtracks over curbs on cross-border swaps trading

EU bets on Biden to resolve aircraft subsidy row

Brexit brings sadness for shopkeepers of Calais

EU bets on Biden to resolve aircraft subsidy row

The European Union will make a last-ditch attempt to settle its long-running dispute with the US over aircraft subsidies, with European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström set to meet US President-elect Joe Biden, as officials say talks could still be salvaged.

The Commission, which is currently in talks to unwind a 2018 WTO ruling, is understood to have set a final deadline of Tuesday for a breakthrough in the dispute.

A spokesperson for Ms Malmström said on Monday: "We are deeply engaged in talks with the US on this issue. The aim is to find a resolution that is acceptable to both sides, in order to avoid a potential trade war."

The talks, which are aimed at resolving the dispute over domestic subsidies that the WTO said were illegal, have been ongoing for several years. The EU is seeking a resolution that allows for continued Airbus subsidies, while the US is pushing for a complete ban.

Ms Malmström said last week that a deal was possible if the US and EU could find common ground.

A spokesperson for the US Trade Representative's office said in a statement: "The US is committed to finding a fair and balanced solution to this issue. We are in discussions with the EU on how to move forward."

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British police have been forced to swap a Ferrari for a Citroen after a concession in a car deal went wrong.

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The French president has delivered a speech to a crowd of French and British shopkeepers who have been forced to close their businesses due to the ongoing Brexit negotiations.

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**US adjusts tariffs on EU products in Airbus, Boeing fight**

**Bloomberg**

The Trump administration imposed tariffs on $7.5 billion worth of European exports in a high-stakes dispute over subsidies to Airbus, and Europe retaliated. Now, both sides are seeking a resolution, with the US and EU set to discuss possible ways to end the dispute.

**US weekly jobless claims fall for 2nd straight week**

**Bloomberg**

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell to a 52-year low last week, providing further evidence that the US economy is recovering strongly from the pandemic-induced recession.

**Exxon signals historic fourth consecutive loss on demand hit**

**New York**

Exxon Mobil Corp., which is struggling to recover from years of falling oil prices, reported a $1.9 billion loss in the fourth quarter, marking its fourth consecutive quarterly loss.

**Wall Street revises down its view on Bitcoin ETF with new SEC filing**

**Bloomberg**

Investor optimism for a Bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF) has been dampened by recent developments, including a new SEC filing that suggests the SEC may be weighing several issues before approving a Bitcoin ETF.