

Lusail City plants trees using Dutch technology

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Continuing the push to make Lusail City the region’s most sustainable community, the Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company and Lusail Real Estate Development (LREDC) in co-operation with the Netherlands embassy yesterday planted some trees using the innovative Dutch technology in water preservation ‘Groasis waterboxx’.

The waterboxx is an instrument that supports plants and trees to survive in difficult circumstances without using groundwater or electricity.

It collects water by catching rainwater and also by producing and catching water from condensation.

Waterboxx subsequently distributes the collected water over an extended period, to the tree growing in the centre of the waterboxx.

More trees are planned to be planted all over the Lusail City, which is leading the green cities legacy as it is the first in Qatar to have adopted the home-grown Qatar Sustainability Assessment System.

Also, a seminar titled: “At the Water’s Edge: Exploring the Potential of Dutch-Qatari Co-operation in Water Technologies”, which was inaugurated by the Ministry of Environment’s undersecretary for Agriculture, Fishery and Animal Livestock Sheikh Faleh bin Nasser al-Thani, was held at the Qatari Diar office in Lusail City yesterday.

The seminar, attended by senior officials from LREDC and the Ministry of Environment, as well as representatives of Dutch companies, provided an opportunity for participants to share information about more Dutch innovative technologies in water management, water saving, water treatment and innovative fields provided by Dutch companies such as TNO, Royal Haskoning-DHV, Groasis, Norit and Dacom.

The co-operation between the Netherlands embassy and LREDC built on a joint pilot project that got underway on July 11 where Lusail City began planting self-contained saplings using the Groasis Waterboxx technology.

As part of the pilot project, at least 10 saplings have been planted at Qatari Diar headquarters’ entrance while more than 130 will be planted soon at Al Qutaifiya Lagoon in West Bay.

Groasis waterboxx collects the dew water then directly push it to the plant’s roots through the absorption and feeding process.

The box needs to be filled only once at the launch of the cycle which lasts several continuous months without the need of refilling.

The technology is a planting technology that saves water up to 90% compared to traditional irrigation methods during the first year and using the technology has the potential to revolutionalise the green landscape in generally arid Qatar if it is successful.

“We take great pride in partnership with the embassy of Netherlands in Qatar, the Doha Municipality and other partners on this joint pilot project that involve the use of ‘Groasis Waterboxx’,” LREDC chief executive officer Eng Essa Mohamed Ali Kaldari noted.

He said that the partnership on the project embodies more than just a tree-planting opportunity.

“As an instigator of sustainable developments in Qatar, LREDC will continue to embrace sustainable solutions that will lead to a lasting social, economic and environmental legacy,” he added.

Sheikh Dr Faleh al-Thani said: “Qatar’s insistence on finding sustainable solutions to challenges such as food security or water shortages has resulted in opening up of highly important areas for co-operation. It is indeed a pleasure to witness such a unique event today, where technology providers from the Netherlands have found a like-minded partner in Qatar in LREDC.”

In reference to the similar challenges both countries face over water management, the Netherlands ambassador to Qatar John Groffen said: “The name ‘At the water’s edge’ evokes geographical locations of Qatar and the Netherlands. It also brings to my mind something more abstract – two countries that use innovative technology that is on the edge of developments in the field of water management.”



From left) Groffen, Sheikh Dr Faleh al-Thani and Eng Kaldari at the inauguration of the Groasis waterboxx plants yesterday