

APG Global Quarterly enews: Issue 1

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On the Soap Box

Job opportunities are increasing, commodity prices are on the rise, investment markets are still on the up and up, and the economies have never been more stable!

Can this be true? Well yes, and that's the rosy picture that the millions of inhabitants of the GCC Countries in the Middle East are faced with every day. While their relatives toil away back home in an ever flailing environment, it's all sunshine back in the Middle East. And as we come to the end of another scorching Arabic summer, even the sunshine is a little more pleasant and easy to bear!

It appears the word is getting out there into the market. Over this last quarter we have certainly noticed a rise in high quality job seekers from the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, not to mention a general increase from a variety of other regions as well. And job seekers, there's great progress for you too, with Middle Eastern employers practically ready to book you your ticket on the next plane over.

We've certainly been experiencing a lot of instability in many western societies at the moment. The US stock market made it's biggest jump in a trading session in 7 years only a few days ago...or was that it's biggest one-day drop in 20 years? I can never keep up! Employers in affected regions are feeling the pinch and day after day we read about the lay off of yet another 900 staff. With the outlook on many Middle Eastern mega projects set well into the future, the long term career prospects on offer of 5 to 10 years are very attractive.

So why is this? Well, it is a region heavily rich in commodities that the rest of the world just can't seem to do without. It's world leaders are visionary and well educated, and much of the Middle East's home grown wealth is reinvested back into its growing investment and property markets, which in many ways insulates its economies to a degree from outside influences. This is further propelled on by an abundance of offshore interest in the opportunities that the Middle East presents to investors.

So, with the global market place yet to sustain further changes for at least a year to come, we are gearing up for quite a busy next quarter. We are developing new and innovative services that can continue to bring job seekers and employers together from across the globe. The recruitment environment now is a virtual departure lounge where you can book your ticket to anywhere in the world. And let me tell you, the lounge is full and the flights are booking up fast.

So without further ado, please enjoy our first newsletter and we do hope that you will let us know what you think, so that we can continue to bring you exciting and relevant snippets of golden information in the next and many future issues to come.

“It is a region heavily rich in commodities that the rest of the world just can't seem to do without.”

Coming Up This Quarter...

New Recruitment Campaigns

Every so often we team up with one of our most trusted clients and take the recruitment office on the road. First we locate where the best job seekers in the world are, then that's where we set up camp. We find recruitment campaigns are a unique opportunity for bringing our best job seekers and the employer's decision makers together to meet face to face. If you're searching for a job, you can take advantage of the information sharing opportunities and networks you'll develop with other candidates and our recruitment team. Employers will benefit from spending anything from an intensive few days to a few weeks being able to focus all your energies on one very important task, getting the right people, right now, to help your business grow.

This quarter:

Qatari Diar – The property development arm of the Qatar Royal Family. Involved in prestigious and awe inspiring projects around the world.

The Urban Planning and Development Authority – A most proactive and forward thinking government planning organisation. Involved in the development of the Qatar National Master Plan.

For more information on positions of interest and dates for the above campaigns as well as future recruitment campaigns, please visit our website at www.apg-global.com

APG Global's New Website

This month APG Global launches its new and fantastic website, the APG Global Departure Lounge. We'll share with you our proven experience in helping our clients and candidates make positive connections around the world. Find useful links, articles, services and the hottest jobs this month in one place.



APG on Tour in the Middle East

Bron, Libby and Matt from our team will be back in the Middle East for two weeks at the start of October. On the agenda are a few key recruitment campaigns, a wizz through CityScape and gathering valuable research to help us to continue to improve.

Stay Posted

Hot jobs delivered to your inbox...
This new service will be coming up in the next few months.
Stay tuned for details on how to register.

Cityscape Dubai 2008

It's here again already! If you missed Cityscape Dubai last year, you'd better book your flight now. From the 6th to the 9th of October, the Dubai International Exhibition Centre will be packed with the world's largest and most glittering property show in the world. Bron, Libby and Matt from the APG Global team will be there, rubbing shoulders with the industry's most influential movers and shakers.

Cityscape 
Dubai

06 - 09 October 2008.
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Topline Project **DIFC's Lighthouse Tower**

The DIFC nicknamed "The Lighthouse" because it's designed to serve as a beacon of modernity guiding people towards this forward looking landscape. The Lighthouse is a landmark 400-metre luxury office tower that will be constructed in the heart of the DIFC District, adjacent to the famous "Gate" building. The DIFC District, of which The Gate represents the first phase of development, will be a unique integration of buildings, which in combination will offer everything expected of a world-class cosmopolitan city; including offices, serviced apartments, hotels, shops and restaurants.

The Lighthouse strives to make low carbon commercial towers a reality in Dubai by reducing the total energy consumption up to 65% and water consumption up to 40%. This will be achieved through the use of passive solar architecture, many low energy, low water engineering solutions, recovery strategies for both energy and water and building integrated renewables. The height and shape of the Lighthouse will also play pivotal roles in its goals for low energy consumption, allowing for the instillation of three enormous 225 KV wind turbines (29 meters in diameter), and 4,000 photovoltaic panels on the south facing façade. Still in its concept design phase, plans are in place for all materials in the tower to be selected from sustainable sources.

The DIFC Lighthouse will be characterised by its unique slender design and special external lighting features which will distinguish it from other high-rise buildings in Dubai especially at night by serving, like a lighthouse, to attract the admiration of residents and visitors alike.





How to Get Your Pets Their Passport

Adjusting to your new life as an Expat can be difficult and sometimes a little lonely if you don't have a partner or any family with you. Wouldn't it be nice to come home after a hard day's work to a familiar and friendly face...albeit a furry one? Pets offer endless joy and satisfaction so here are some useful tips for bringing your four-footed friend with you on your next working adventure.

Pets brought into the UAE must be imported as cargo rather than baggage. You will have to contact one of the airlines to arrange shipment or you may wish to use a company specialising in shipping pets. The following website is very useful in locating companies to ship your pet; www.ipata.com The airline or shipping company will advise you of the flight details.

To bring a pet in, you must obtain an import permit. Requirements for this include a document from your veterinary surgeon (signed and stamped) showing the animal was vaccinated against rabies between one year and 30 days previously.

You must also have a good health certificate from the government of the country where the animal is coming from and a vaccination certificate. In addition to rabies, dog owners are recommended to vaccinate their pets against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus. Important additional vaccinations for cats include two types of cat flu as well as panleukopenia.

All pets must be micro-chipped and the micro-chip number must appear on all their documentation.

A copy of the above certificates should be faxed to the cargo HR Department approximately three weeks prior to your pet's arrival in the UAE. Note that the certificates are only valid for one month from the date of issue.

In order to collect your pet from the cargo section of the airport, you will need the original import permit, the original Good Health Certificate, the original Vaccination Certificate and a photocopy of your passport.



A+ Project **KEO Education City**



Education City is an initiative of the Qatar Foundation which aims to be an intellectual and physical hub for the generation of new knowledge. By forging partnerships with elite institutions, Qatar Foundation aims to make Education City an international leader in progressive education and cutting-edge research. It is being created to develop what Qatar identifies as its greatest resource – the potential of its people.

Appointed as the Program and Construction Managers in 2001, KEO is providing professional expertise in land use development, design management, cost & schedule management, quality control and full service construction management. KEO was also appointed as the Infrastructure & Landscape consultants for both Education City Phase 1 of construction as well as for Phase 1 of the Science and Technology Park.

Located on the outskirts of Doha, the capital of Qatar, Education City covers 14 square kilometres and houses educational facilities from school age to research level and branch campuses of some of the world's leading universities.

Due for completion by the 2009/2010 academic year, Education City will include:

- Over 1 million squared metres of built up area
- 15 major world renowned branch colleges
- Largest convention/exhibition centre in the Middle East
- Major specialised teaching hospital
- Central library, student centre and Qatar Foundation new Headquarters
- Community centres for learning and health
- Olympic scale equestrian academy, stables and veterinary care facility
- 18 hole golf club
- Large scale on-campus housing developments
- Commercial and hotel development



Career Destinations

Where do you want to go next?

HOT JOBS

1. Senior Development Managers –

Exotic locations including Vietnam, Morocco, Syria, Oman, Cairo and Doha.

Internationally recognised and highly established property development firm with a truly global portfolio. Your highly developed skills in Development Management will be a valuable asset to this firm as you become involved in the establishment of new regional offices in each of these above locations, as well as leading the full development function from acquisition to project delivery for a number of exclusive and major mixed use projects valued at between USD 200 million and 1 billion within your region.

2. Urban and Regional Planners –

A unique opportunity to become involved in shaping the future of Doha.

Forming part of a highly qualified team of international Urban and Regional Planners you will have a unique opportunity to make positive contributions to the master plan for the future of Doha. The Qatar National Master Plan is one of the most proactive and integrated initiatives you're likely to see in your professional career.

3. Urban Designers –

Dynamic, forward thinking and international specialists are needed for top projects.

This employer is proactive and well positioned to shape the future of the Gulf's most rapidly expanding metropolis. Qatar is now the richest country in the world by GDP per capita and the government is determined to build a city that reflects its identity. You will become involved in creating design initiatives that support this bold new direction.

4. Project Managers (Interiors) –

Prestigious interior design and installation specialist. Unique projects such as Royal private residences and mega yachts.

This is a unique opportunity to become involved in specialist interior design and installation projects. This firm has experience and international recognition in two key fields, high end interiors of 5, 6 & 7 star resorts, palaces and private mega yachts. You will need previous experience in each of these areas, though this employer can offer you the opportunity you've been looking for to put this into action on a project that will be a jewel on your resume.

5. Project Managers (High Rise) –

Unique Design and Construct mega projects in the UAE.

Why travel half way around the world to become involved in projects that you could have seen back home? That's what this major builder said to themselves as well. They've been involved in creating some of Dubai's most recognisable developments, and have now expanded their portfolio further. If you have experience and like a challenge, you can put your skills to use to drive the construction of unique D&C projects with a real Arabic flair.

This Month:

1. Senior Development Managers
2. Urban and Regional Planners
3. Urban Designers
4. Project Managers (Interiors)
5. Project Managers (High Rise)

Most Job Seekers:

The top category of job seekers interviewed by APG Global last quarter are:

1. Project Architects
2. MEP Services Managers
3. Land and Topographic Surveyors
4. Development Managers
5. QA/QC Managers

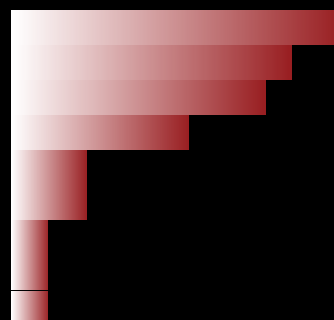
To Apply...

For more information on these Hot Jobs and to tender your application, we welcome you to visit our website at www.apg-global.com. You'll also find a wide range of exciting new jobs that we are currently recruiting for.

Insight Back on the Job Market

Based on a recent audit of APG Global's applicants for last month, we found candidates were back on the job market for the following reasons.

Professional development / to build an international career	26%
Opportunity for new challenges and to work on larger projects	22%
Are interested in working specifically in the Middle East	20%
Downturn in economy creating job instability	14%
Wants to work closer to home	6%
Current project completed	6%
Lifestyle change	2%
Salary	2%
Internal company conflict	2%



Telling It Like It Is

Candidate Q&A

In March this year, members of an urban planning group in Qatar visited APG Global's offices on the Gold Coast, Australia. Their goal: to build a great team of highly skilled professionals for their ever expanding office. With activity on the Qatar National Master Plan ramping up, their need for expert consultation became a hot topic on their agenda.

For two weeks, the Arabic delegates were hosted by the APG Global team. With interviewing progressing well into most nights, we of course had to make some time for a little rest and relaxation and to see the sights of the fabulous Gold Coast. The Gold Coast offered a smorgasboard of options with R.M. William's Outback Spectacular and the opening night of the brand new stadium for the Gold Coast Titans; the local Rugby League team.

Three successful candidates from this effort are Umi, Andrew & Fikreth. We spent 60 seconds with each to get their scoop on becoming an expat.

Getting to Doha: 60 Seconds with Umi

Umi moved from the Philippines to Doha, and started her job just seven weeks ago. Her husband is still back home at the moment. We spoke to Umi about her preparation for the big move.

What sort of things did you research on Qatar before your left? Living expenses like rent, food and transport.

What were you most excited about? I was excited about coming to a new country. I thought it would be a bit of a mix between Qatar and Singapore but it is very different.

What steps did you take to prepare for your move? I made sure I finished off my old projects from my previous job in the Philippines, paid some bills and left pretty much straight after that. It all happened very quickly. Another two weeks to plan would have been great.

Would you do anything differently if you did it again? I would spend a bit more time at home with my family before I left. I would have also put some more thought into what I planned to bring with me and pack!

What source of information was most useful to you? The Qatar Living website: www.qatarliving.com It is difficult to find good information about the country but this website was great.

What will you miss most about your home country? The food and my family. Oh and plants! I miss grass. If you want grass here it needs to be in a pot. I miss greenery. Everything here is brown!

What advice would you give to other new expats about to make the move? Make sure you get a credit card that can be used here before you leave home. It can take a long time to get one here and you can't survive without it. Also make sure you really plan what you need to bring with you. It is very hard to get good technical books here that you might need for your job.

Arriving in Doha: 60 seconds with Andrew

Andrew has just recently joined the expatriate community himself, having departed New Zealand at the end of June this year. We asked Andrew about his first impressions of arriving in Doha.

What was the first thing you noticed about Doha? The heat, especially coming from the South Island of New Zealand in the middle of winter to arriving in Qatar in the middle of summer.

What was the first thing you did when you hit the ground? Track down my luggage which was misplaced for an hour or so and then had a shower at the hotel.

What about Qatar most surprised you? The amount of development and construction and the very diverse nationalities in Qatar especially coming from a small town in the South Island of New Zealand.

What was at the top of your must-do list? Did you do it? Didn't have one.

What was the last thing you did before you left home? Kick the cat outside before I left home in Timaru and phone my wife just before I was about to fly out.

If you had to do these last few months again, what if anything would you do differently? Install Skype on my laptop much earlier on so as to cut down on the cost of calling home.

What was the biggest difference you noticed about your new workplace? No morning tea, lunch or afternoon tea breaks.

What advice would you give to other new expats about to make the move? Be prepared and do some research before you embark and remember that things happen at a different pace over here.



Quick Campaign Stats:

400 applications received by APG Global.

60 candidates screened and shortlisted to the employer, the best of the best.

29 candidates interviewed by the employer.

15 job offers presented (another 13 still being considered.)

13 new employees commenced within the next 3 months.

Settling in Doha: 60 seconds with Fikreth

Fikreth moved over to Doha from Brisbane, Australia. He is just coming up to five months. Fikreth's family have now joined him and his children just started school two weeks ago. We spoke with Fikreth about what it was like to get set up in his new home town.

Have you ticked everything off your list now that you needed to do to feel settled and what was at the top of your list? Yes. Top of the list was getting accommodation and schooling organised.

What was your family's first impression of Qatar when they arrived? They were looking forward to arriving and very excited when they did. We had been apart for three months so they were very happy.

What's your favourite local restaurant, and how did you find it? I found my favourite restaurant on the Qatar Living website. It's called Aryaas. It's a vegetarian restaurant in Al Mansoura.

What do you usually do on your weekends? Usually we visit shopping centres or drive around to see the place. At the moment it is still in Ramadan so we haven't ventured outside of Doha yet as most things are shut during the day. We plan to get to the beach after Ramadan. Oh, and we do go to the Souq Waqif quite a bit.

What was the biggest difference you noticed about your new living environment? I first noticed the traffic. And food is a big difference because it is all Halal. You can go anywhere. It is also a very relaxed lifestyle here in Qatar.

What do you feel has been the hardest thing you have had to face over the past few months? Finding schooling and accommodation, and getting used to driving on the right side of the road.

What advice would you give to other new expats about to make the move? Check it out on the net before you leave. Research everything you can including schooling, houses, and cost of living to get a feel for the place before you get here.

In the Limelight

Progressive Thinking Drives Qatari Diar



20 countries, 70 projects... Turning vision into value.

Wholly owned by the Qatar Investment Authority, Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment & Development Company was established in December 2004 to support Qatar's growing economy and to co-ordinate the country's real estate development priorities.

Qatari Diar creates distinguished property developments with local culture and lifestyle experience to attract tourism and residents, generating sustainable and tangible socio-economic benefits. Qatari Diar's vision is to become the most trusted and effective real estate investment company, by focusing its value proposition on the creation of quality, well-planned and desirable sustained developments. Qatari Diar also provides local and foreign property developers with further opportunities to invest in numerous projects across the globe, including Qatar, Morocco, Egypt, London, Paris, Milan, Seychelles and Cuba, to name a few.

So, what's on the horizon? With such a large portfolio of international interests the need has arisen for Qatari Diar to have a greater on the ground presence. Over the coming 12 months they will adding up to 100 new staff to their offices around the world to assist in delivering their huge portfolio of projects. On the job front, APG Global are now looking for interested applicants with experience in this market. For more information on Qatari Diar and how to get involved in their exponential growth, please drop us a line.

Here's a quick snapshot of exciting Qatari Diar projects:

Ras Al Hadd: Oman –

Valued at USD \$330 million. Ras Al Hadd will include a marina, a five-star and four-star hotel, holiday chalets, residential villas, a coastal entertainment and sports club, restaurants and cafes and a traditional souk for local crafts.



Al Houara: Morocco –

Valued at USD \$660 million. Al Houara will offer a luxury five-star hotel with a stunning spa, a four-star hotel, an 18-hole championship golf course, luxury villas, luxury apartments and extensive leisure facilities.



Resort: Seychelles –

Set in the beautiful granite islands of the Seychelles, Qatari Diar will develop this sensational five star resort encompassing a hotel, spa, kid's village, residential village and retail outlet. The resort is nestled in over 840,000 square metres of stunning landscape.



St Regis Hotel: Cairo –

This stunning USD 1 billion development will be built on 35,000 square metres of prime real estate along the Nile river. Designed by renowned US architect Michael Graves, this consists of two mixed use towers.



Lusail: Doha, Qatar –

The city of Lusail is a meticulously planned urban development that will be the ultimate in living for 200,000 people when it is completed. The Lusail district will comprise of residential, commercial, retail, hospitality, resort & entertainment venues.



Chelsea Army Barracks: London –

Marking Qatari Diar's first European investment, Chelsea Army Barracks paved the way for a flurry of offshore spending. The development will transform central London with luxury apartments and units set on 13 acres of eco-friendly and semi private woodland.



Reality Bites

Shopping for Sunday Lunch in the Middle East

What's on the menu...

Starter – Cheese & fresh bread

Main – Chicken & vegetables

Dessert – Homemade banana cake with cream

Your shopping list:

Camembert cheese	(500 grams)
Bread	(white, sliced, 1 kilogram)
Chicken	(whole, roasted, 1 kilogram)
Potatoes	(1 kilogram)
Onions	(1 kilogram)
Peas	(canned, 250 grams)
Flour	(1 kilogram)
Sugar	(1 kilogram)
Milk	(1 litre)
Eggs	(1 dozen)
Butter	(500 grams)
Cream	(500 millilitres)
Bananas	(1 kilogram)



Your Two Cents

We Want to Hear It!



If you would like to send us feedback, share a story, update your details or send us a new resume please email us at: globalaccess@apg-global.com or call us on: **+61 (0)7 5555 6333**.

If you do not wish to receive our newsletter updates, please email: globalaccess@apg-global.com with UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject line.