

# Experts from the European Union and the Arab world share knowledge at the executive training in Medina on Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Under the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Salman bin Abdul – Aziz governor of Medina, a 3-day executive training on "Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings: Policies-Technologies and Best Practices" was launched on Monday, April 16 in Medina, Saudi Arabia. The event is an initiative of the EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network coorganised with the Al – Madinah Al – Munawrah Development Authority and the Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT), in association also with Blue Wave Media.

The seminar is followed by more than 40 selected experts coming from the GCC and Arab public sector.

H.E. Eng. Fahad Al Buliheshi Secretary General, Al Madinah Almunawarah Development Authority (MDA) officially opened the executive training programme by welcoming the partner organizations, delegates and experts and wished for a successful event and to build on it in the future implementation. "Al Madinah Almunawarah Development Authority welcomes the cooperation with the EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network and the Environmental Center for Arab Towns in the field of clean energy and renewable energy as it comes from the priorities of MDA".

The European Union and the Arab regions share a continued challenge for mitigating climate change in a sustainable way, thus more countries are increasing their efforts in implementing measures that will reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Buildings are playing a significant role since they are considered as the main energy consumers. For this reason, there is an increasing demand for the deployment of energy efficiency retrofits for private, commercial and public buildings which is considered to be as a very important pathway for increasing energy security in worldwide level.

Mr. Hussain Al Fardan Director of The Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT) said "The aim in partnering with the EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network and the Al Madina Al Munawarah Development Authority is to raise capacity building of professionals from Arab towns regarding energy efficiency in buildings and the strategies, technologies attached to it and to learn from lessons learnt, knowhow and best practices in the EU countries and worldwide, thanks to all presenters from the EU GCC for their valuable informative presentations".

"This seminar aims to enhance awareness on energy efficiency and energy conservation in the building sector and facilitate knowledge exchange and partnerships between the EU and the Arab regions." noted Dr Mustapha Taoumi, Energy Technology Expert, representative of the EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network at his opening address. "The EU and the GCC have a huge opportunity to be partners in the "clean energy transition" that is happening in the global energy arena. The European Union is keen to share the lessons learnt and best practices from its clean energy technologies and policies followed in the past years. The EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network is a mechanism that can facilitate this interaction and exchange among the two regions. We are honored to be hosted in Medina, partnering with motivated and strong actors of the region for this important initiative and we look forward to more events towards the same objective. "

The three days executive training addresses numerous topics that include: EU Energy Efficiency policies in New and Existing buildings, Energy efficiency policies and developments in the GCC and the Arab regions, Climate Resilience – Water Efficiency Technologies & Practices, Energy Conservation in Buildings, Energy Efficiency measures in Building Envelope/HVAC systems/Lighting systems, as well as Smart Grids and the integration of variable RES,

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Measuring, Monitoring Methods & Procedures – BEMS, Trigeneration and District Cooling Systems, Financial analysis of EE projects for Public Buildings, Smart energy Buildings and Net Zero Energy Public Buildings.

#### **ENDS**

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## **Notes to Editors**

The EU– GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, funded by the European Commission, was established as a response to the common EU and GCC interest for strategic clean energy cooperation. The Network aims to act as catalyst and facilitate the development of clean energy partnerships including the related policy and technology aspects among various stakeholders in the EU and GCC countries. The Network is structured around collaboration in five working areas, with Climate Change as a cross-cutting topic: Renewable Energy Sources; Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management; Clean Natural Gas & related Technologies; Electricity Interconnections & Market Integration; Carbon Capture & Storage. The Network is funded by the European Commission. Its head office is in Abu Dhabi/ UAE.

More information available at: www.eugcc-cleanergy.net | contact@eugcc-cleanergy.net