Business forum discusses enhancing Qatar-Germany trade, investment exchange

Sunday, August 20, 2023
Muhammed 4, 1462 AH

GULF TIMES
BUSINESS

Umair Khan and the Al-Germ Business Chamber Dubai organized a seminar titled “Qatar-Germany: Opportunities and Challenges.” The event took place at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in Dubai. The seminar aimed to discuss the opportunities and challenges faced by both countries in enhancing their trade and investment relations.

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In the wake of the recent financial crisis and the ongoing geopolitical tensions, both Qatar and Germany have placed a strong emphasis on strengthening their economic ties. The seminar brought together representatives from both countries to explore the potential for increased cooperation.

Germany has long been a major trading partner of Qatar, with significant investments in Qatar's energy sector. Conversely, Qatar has been a key player in the global gas market, with its significant natural gas reserves.

The seminar covered a range of topics, including the challenges faced by both countries in the current economic climate, the opportunities for increased trade and investment, and the role of technology in facilitating future cooperation.

It highlighted the importance of maintaining strong economic relationships in the face of global uncertainties. Both countries were seen to have a strong interest in expanding their economic cooperation to enhance their mutual prosperity.

The seminar concluded with a strong call for increased dialogue and cooperation between the two nations to capitalize on the existing opportunities and address the challenges faced in the current economic landscape.
Banks uncover loophole to buy home loans at below-market prices

Bloomberg

Banks and other lenders have found a way to take advantage of a tax deduction from the government’s new mortgage subsidy program, allowing them to buy home loans at prices far below the market.

The loophole, discovered by a group of advisers to the Senate Finance Committee, is said to have been intentionally designed to enable banks to buy home loans at a discount. The Senate’s Finance Department has already proposed a fix to prevent banks from benefiting from the loophole.

The loophole allows banks to buy home loans at prices far below the market, allowing them to increase their profits. This is said to be a major concern for the Senate Finance Committee, which is currently examining the program.

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BlackRock, Temasek set up China asset-management joint venture

BlackRock and Temasek have signed a joint venture to expand their assets in China, with Temasek holding a 49% stake in the venture.

The joint venture, called BlackRock Temasek Asia Management Limited, will focus on providing asset management services in China, including pension fund management.

BlackRock, headquartered in New York, has been active in China for several years, with a focus on pension fund management and alternative investment products.

The joint venture is expected to start operations later this year, with an initial focus on pension fund management.

Stressed about Wall St stocks, investors are betting on Europe

For many managers nervous about Wall Street stocks, the search is on for assets that offer a little more stability. Investors are looking to Europe, where stocks have posted gains in recent months.

The European stock market has been relatively calm in recent months, with the region’s economic indicators showing signs of recovery. This has led to increased investor interest in Europe, as many managers see it as a safe haven in a world of volatile stock markets.

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Hedge funds focus on relative value

Hedge funds are focusing on relative value, with many managers looking to take advantage of market inefficiencies.

This approach is particularly popular in a world of volatile stock markets, as managers are looking to hedge against the risks of market fluctuations. Many managers are using relative value strategies, which involve comparing the performance of different assets and looking for opportunities to make profit.

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Southeast Asian tech startup investments fall 13% in first half

Singapore

South East Asian technology startup investments fell 13% in the first half of 2023, according to a report by the venture capital firm Alpha JWC and enthusiast fund.

They raised $2.5 billion in investments in the first half of 2023, down 13% from a year ago, according to data from Alpha JWC. The venture capital firm is the second largest in the region after Singapore's

North America and China also saw a decline, with the report noting that the number of deals decreased by 18%

Confidence is still declining across the region, with investment into start-ups in Southeast Asia falling 13% in the first quarter, according to a report by Alpha JWC.

Work from home boost
Australia high-tech retailers to record profit

Sydney

Two of Australia's biggest tech-focused retailers posted record profits in their latest financial year, driven by a surge in online sales and increased consumer confidence in the sector.

The results from the past year are a testament to the resilience and adaptability of the Australian retail sector, with customers increasingly turning to online shopping and home delivery.

However, the report also notes that the retail sector is facing challenges, including rising costs and increased competition from international players.

The results should be seen in context of the overall economic climate, with Australia's economy looking strong despite the global challenges.

Japan inflation stay at zero even as economy improves

Tokyo

Japanese inflation stayed at zero even as the economy improved in the second quarter, as the effects of the government's stimulus measures wore off and the effects of the war in Ukraine continued to weigh.

Analysts say Biden win over Trump would boost Asian stock markets

Bloomberg

Analysts say that a Biden win over Trump would boost Asian stock markets, as the region's economies are poised to benefit from the US president's supportive policies.

However, the outlook is not without risks, with the global economy still uncertain and the US Federal Reserve expected to continue raising interest rates to combat inflation.

Five years after currency devaluation, China has the yuan it wanted

Hong Kong

China, with the yuan at its current level, would have the currency it wanted five years ago, according to a recent report.

Five years ago, the central bank crossed a key 

The People's Bank of China devalued the yuan by 0.9% in February 2018, in a move that was seen as a deviation from its previous policy of maintaining a steady currency.

The yuan, which had been trading at a rate of around 6.90 against the US dollar, was devalued by 0.9% to 6.83, a move that was seen as a signal that China was willing to let the currency fluctuate more.

The yuan has since stabilised at around 6.80 against the US dollar, with the central bank intervening to limit volatility and ensure the currency's stability.

The yuan's rise has been gradual, but steady, with the currency reaching a record high of 6.38 against the US dollar in September 2022.

The move was seen as a signal that China was ready to let the yuan float more in line with market forces, and for the first time since 2005, the yuan has been allowed to fluctuate against the US dollar.

The yuan's stability has been helped by the central bank's efforts to manage liquidity and keep the currency stable, as well as the government's efforts to promote a more balanced trade account and reduce the risk of capital outflows.

The yuan's rise has also been supported by the government's efforts to promote a more open and equitable financial system, with moves to liberalise capital controls and allow greater foreign participation in the country's financial markets.

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Wall Street investors set their sights on Fed's policy review

By Marc Faber

"Investor can get a start from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke's policy review," said Bill Miller, lead manager of the Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. Inc., a Boston-based money manager. "The central bank will try to manage the long-term rate on financial markets.

"The policy review will determine the future of financial markets," said Mr. Miller.

Software firms gear up for reveal books ahead of busy IPO season

By Karen Milner

"Software firms are gearing up for a busy IPO season," said Mr. Milner.

Wall Street investors give their verdict on current tech boom

By Marc Faber

"Wall Street investors are giving their verdict on the current tech boom," said Mr. Faber.

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) Index increased by 1.72% during the week, to close at 9,767.18. Market capitalisation increased by 1.6% to reach QR568.4bn as compared to QR559.3bn at the end of the previous week. Of the 46 listed companies, 32 companies ended the week higher, while 13 fell and one remained unchanged. Salam International Investment Limited (SIIS) was the best performing stock with a decline of 9.4%. Woqod (QFSL), Masraf Al Rayan (MARC) and Industries Qatar (IQCD) were the primary contributors to the index's weekly gain. QFSL was the largest contributor to the index's weekly performance, adding 36.8 points to the index. MARK was the second largest contributor, adding 31.1 points to the index. Moreover, Industries Qatar (IQCD) contributed 24.4 points to the index.

Trading value during the week increased by 22.7% to reach QR2,674.8mn vs. QR2,179.7mn in the prior trading week. The number of transactions increased by 76% to reach 54,632 transactions versus 30,643 transactions in the prior week. Salam International Investment Limited (SIIS) was the top volume traded stock during the week with total traded volume of 262.6mn shares.

Weekly Market Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market Indicators</th>
<th>Week ended August 22, 2020</th>
<th>Week ended August 1, 2020</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value Traded (QR mn)</td>
<td>2,074.8</td>
<td>1,797.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnover (mn)</td>
<td>585.1</td>
<td>516.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volume (mn)</td>
<td>1,369.5</td>
<td>1,120.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Transactions</td>
<td>38,023</td>
<td>31,683</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Result</td>
<td>30.12</td>
<td>27.18</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Qatar Exchange (QE)

Weekly Exchange Traded Value (QR mn)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Value Traded (QR mn)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloomberg</td>
<td>2,074.8</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bloomberg

Weekly Exchange Traded Value (QR mn)

Technical analysis of the QSE index

The QSE Index closed in the green for the third week, gaining 1.72% from the week before and finishing at the 9,767.18 level. It remains to be moving above its 200-day moving average, which means we are expected to tick higher as the trend strengthens. Our weekly resistance level is expected to be at the 10,000 points, which is a psychological level, but the stronger resistance is to be expected at the 10,400 level. Our support, however, is updated to the 9,400 level.
Global trade set to stabilise further as major economies reopen: QNB

Global trade is set to stabilise further as major economies reopen, according to a new report by QNB. This follows a recovery in trade activity, with global output rebounding strongly over the past few months. The report estimates that global trade volume growth will continue at a rate of around 3% in the current quarter, with significant variations across regions.

**Key highlights from the report**

- **Global trade prospects**: The report predicts that global trade growth will remain positive, with some regions showing stronger recovery than others. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to lead the recovery, followed by Europe and the Americas.
- **Supply chain disruptions**: Supply chain disruptions are still a concern, but the impact is expected to be less severe than in previous months. However, the report warns that some sectors, particularly those dependent on raw materials, may still face challenges.
- **Economic recovery**: Economic recovery is expected to continue, with some countries already seeing a recovery in consumer spending and business activity. This is expected to boost trade demand in the near future.
- **Policy measures**: Policy measures, including tax cuts and other measures to stimulate economic growth, are expected to continue to support trade activity.

**Source**: QNB

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**Business forum discusses trade and investment exchange**

In the wake of the ongoing trade war, a business forum held in the capital on Thursday discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the global economy.

**Key highlights from the forum**

- **Trade tensions**: The forum highlighted the ongoing trade tensions between major economies, particularly the US and China, which have led to a significant slowdown in global trade.
- **Investment opportunities**: Despite the challenges, the forum noted that there are still significant investment opportunities in various sectors, including renewable energy, technology, and infrastructure.
- **Policy measures**: The forum called for increased policy measures to support trade and investment, including the reduction of trade barriers and the promotion of investment in key sectors.
- **Collaboration**: The forum emphasized the importance of international collaboration to address the challenges facing the global economy.

**Source**: Business Times

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**ECB calls Sept to be key month to read economy**

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde has said that September could be a key month to read the economy, as the eurozone faces a critical period of uncertainty.

**Key highlights from Lagarde's remarks**

- **September’s significance**: September could be a key month for the eurozone, with the outcome of the German election and the resolution of the Greek debt crisis both being key factors.
- **Monetary policy**: Lagarde has reassured markets that the ECB will continue to support the economy, with a focus on maintaining low interest rates.
- **Macroeconomic risks**: The ECB has warned of macroeconomic risks, including the possibility of a slowdown in global trade and the potential for protectionist policies.

**Source**: European Central Bank