

Sustainability is the future of investing, says Dr R Seetharaman

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DOHA

DOHA Bank hosted an online client event recently to discuss investment outlook. More than 400 guests attended the event on various virtual channels. The outlook was sponsored by the Private Banking division solely for high-net-worth clients in Qatar.

Slim Bouker, Head of Private Banking, said, "These investment outlooks are part of our ongoing efforts to bring market knowledge to our clients."

He also spoke about the partnership with Bank of Singapore (BOS), Asia's Global Private Bank.

"We bring BOS expertise at the doorstep of our HNW clients here in Qatar."

Doha Bank Group CEO Dr

R Seetharaman commented on the global outlook. According to World Bank June 2021, he said the Global economy is expected to grow by 5.6 percent in 2021. The advanced economies are expected to grow by 5.4 percent in 2021 and emerging markets and developing economies are expected to grow by 6 percent in 2021.

"Significant volatility noticed after the recent Fed meeting with dollar Strengthening, precious metals weakening and capital markets falling. The recent rallies in industrial metals also subsided on account of the strong dollar. The global economy expects to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic however the inflation concerns had hurt capital markets. The ESG framework has been given



Doha Bank Group CEO Dr R Seetharaman, its Head of Private Banking Slim Bouker and other dignitaries address the bank's online client event on investment outlook held recently.

thrust globally and in Qatar. Sustainability is the future of investing," he said.

Internationally recognized industry experts were invited by the private bank to the forum which was moderated by Dr Seetharaman

Dr Ian Thom, Research Director at Woodmac, spoke from Edinburgh, and elaborated on oil and gas investment trends and what it means for Qatar.

"Qatar has the world's most competitive LNG, and

thanks to the massive North Field expansion, is one of a few countries globally where hydrocarbon investment is scaling up," he said.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer Thierry Antinori explained how the Qatar

flagship was always there for their passengers.

"We at Qatar Airways have been very honoured to join this conference and to update on our Covid crisis management. We have never been stopping to fly during the pandemic. It has been since the beginning of the crisis to be there for our customers who needed us as a reliable and resilient airline to repatriate. To build on our industry leadership in terms of product quality and bio safety and on trusted relationships with trade and customers to become the largest airline in the world in internal traffic. Sustainability has been a permanent focus too by deploying B787 and A350 aircrafts generating substantially less emissions than four engines aircrafts."

From Boston, Nathalie

Wallace, Head of ESG Strategy and Development at Mirova (an affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers) elaborated on ESG trends, value proposition and value-add to portfolios.

"Mirova, by being at the forefront on innovation in sustainable finance, helps clients transition their investment portfolios in line with a global economy experiencing a fourth industrial revolution," she said.

At the closing of the event, Bouker emphasized on the fact that Doha Bank supports the views of "capital preservation and growth, our clients deserve diversity in their investment solutions. Together with Bank of Singapore, we strive for long lasting client relationships."