

Kahramaa to spend QR52bn on network expansion

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DOHA: The Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has unveiled projects worth QR52bn to further develop and expand the water and electricity networks across the country ahead of the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

The corporation is also exploring the possibilities of developing renewable energy sources including solar energy and wind energy to reduce dependence on gas and mitigate the environmental impact of conventional sources.

Addressing the annual development planning forum of Kahramaa, which concluded here yesterday, the Minister of Energy and Industry H E Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada said the Corporation had laid increasing emphasis on safety and environmental aspects in execution of plans to meet international standards.

Plans for the next 10 years include development of electricity and water networks at an estimated cost of QR30bn and QR22bn, respectively. Over the past 10 years, the country had spent a total of QR69 bn for electricity and water production, the forum was told.

Demand for electricity and water had grown by 12 percent and 14 percent, respectively in 2010, compared to the previous year. Plans for the next five years include providing electricity and water to the mushrooming sky crappers across the country.

The 10-year plan to be implemented by 2022 focuses on developing distribution networks, increasing production and maintenance of electricity cables and water pipes.

The project includes establishing large reservoirs with a capacity of 1,902 million gallons of water to supply drinking water across the country through pipelines stretching over 183 kilometers.

For electricity, the corporation is looking for "smart" solutions to modernise the distribution system on par with international standards. Major challenges faced by the corporation are to decrease operational costs and minimise the wastage of water and electricity. Judicial procedures are being established to deal with theft of water and electricity, the forum was told.

"We have long term plans to deal with the economic and environmental impact of depending on gas to generate electricity and develop alternative sources like solar energy. In future, we may also use nuclear power as a clean energy," said Eng Essa bin Hilal Al Kuwari, president of Kahramaa.