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**Hilton Worldwide and Al Faisal Holding Company To Launch DoubleTree by Hilton in Qatar With Two Major Developments**

*Double Announcement For Expanding Hotel Brand in Region's Fastest Growing Destination*

**Doha, Qatar – 16 May 2012** - Hilton Worldwide and Al Rayyan Tourism Investment Company (ARTIC), part of Faisal Holding Company LLC, one of Qatar's largest private diversified industry groups, today announced the joint signing of a management agreement for two new DoubleTree by Hilton properties in the Qatar capital, Doha.

Both developments, the 145-room DoubleTree by Hilton Doha - Al Sadd and the 240-room DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Doha, are expected to open in 2014 and will join a further three Hilton Worldwide pipeline properties due to open in Qatar over the next three years.

DoubleTree by Hilton Doha - Al Sadd will be located in Doha's main commercial and retail district. The 145 rooms include 15 suites and featured facilities including a health club, an outdoor pool, two restaurants, one of which will be speciality, a lobby lounge and a bar. The hotel will also feature two boardrooms, four meeting rooms and a business centre.

The DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Doha will include a mix of one, two and three-bedroom accommodations within a luxury, 52-storey, high-rise complex located in the Doha upscale financial and diplomatic districts of West Bay. Targeting the growing number of guests seeking mid to long-term stays, facilities will include a function room, four meeting rooms, two boardrooms as well as a business

centre, a health club and spa and an outdoor pool. The property will also feature two restaurants and two bars.

H.E. Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani, Chairman of Al Faisal Holding said: “We’re delighted to be working with Hilton Worldwide to bring such prominent properties to the growing landscape of Doha. As the city continues to attract international investment and visitors, Hilton offers the quality experience and first class hospitality standards and service that is expected of a major business hub. The addition of the DoubleTree by Hilton to our portfolio reflects our clear investment focus on high quality assets as we continue to grow the business both locally and internationally.”

As the world’s fastest growing economy, Qatar is experiencing a surge in visitor numbers, particularly business travellers, as the country embarks on a record number of construction and infrastructure developments. Headline plans include a new airport capable of handling 50 million passengers, a \$5bn deepwater seaport with large cruise ship terminal, a causeway linking Qatar to Bahrain as well as a network of projects required to support the staging of the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Rudi Jagersbacher, president, Hilton Worldwide, Middle East & Africa said: “We’re very pleased to be part of Qatar’s long term ambitious growth and development which reflects the bold expansion plans we also have to provide exceptional hospitality service for the country. With today’s announcement, our commitment in Doha, over the next three years, will see the opening of five new properties and the launch of three Hilton Worldwide brands including Hilton Hotels & Resorts, DoubleTree by Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn.”

Guests at DoubleTree by Hilton Doha – Al Sadd and DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Doha will benefit from the characteristic qualities found at a fast-growing collection of more than 300 DoubleTree by Hilton hotels and resorts in 25 countries, including the warm welcome of the brand’s legendary chocolate chip cookie presented to every guest upon check-in; an array of upscale amenities and guest services; the rewards of the Hilton HHonors guest loyalty programme; and a unique and caring team member commitment to the local community.

Rob Palleschi, global head, DoubleTree by Hilton said, “While the two new Qatar properties will have distinctly different offerings, they will both share the well defined and premium features of the DoubleTree brand our guests have come to expect. Our success is based on providing high standards of service and facilities in key cities, which we expect will be an ideal choice for Doha’s thriving community.”

A wholly-owned Al Faisal Holding Company LLC subsidiary, ARTIC is engaged in real estate development, acquisition and leasing with a primary focus on the hospitality sector and hospitality-related services both in Qatar and overseas. The agreement represents Al Faisal Holding's vision to enhance its investments in the hospitality sector with a goal to own 25 hotels in key cities by 2020. Today's announcement brings the number of owned hotels to 18 located across Middle East and Europe in Qatar, London, Egypt and North Africa. Some hotels are fully operational while others are still under development.

Hilton Worldwide currently operates 56 properties in Middle East and Africa, totalling more than 16,500 rooms across 19 countries. There are eleven hotels across the UAE, 18 hotels in Egypt, one hotel and one convention centre in Jordan, six in Saudi Arabia, two in Lebanon and one each in Oman, Qatar and Kuwait, plus another 12 hotels in Africa and 3 hotels in the Indian Ocean. Hilton Worldwide has a signed development pipeline of an additional 40 properties across Middle East & Africa in the U.A.E, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Uganda, Nigeria and Cape Verde.

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#### **About DoubleTree by Hilton Hotels**

With a fast-growing global collection of more than 300 contemporary, upscale hotels gateway cities, metropolitan areas and vacation destinations across five continents, every little thing we do at DoubleTree by Hilton inspires us to create a rewarding experience for our hotel guests, our team members and the communities we proudly serve. Our hospitality begins with a warm chocolate chip cookie welcome upon arrival and continues with the award-winning Hilton HHonors® guest loyalty program, an array of fine services and amenities and our longstanding CARE Culture tradition that empowers more than 65,000 team members to provide the special comforts and acts of kindness that make the traveller feel human again. To make reservations at any DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, travellers may visit our brand website at [www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com). Social media users may connect with us at [www.facebook.com/doubletree](https://www.facebook.com/doubletree), [www.twitter.com/doubletree](https://www.twitter.com/doubletree) and [www.youtube.com/doubletreehotels](https://www.youtube.com/doubletreehotels). For the latest news, story starters and fact sheets about our brand, reporters and bloggers may visit our DoubleTree by Hilton Global Media Center at [www.doubletreebyhiltonglobalmediacenter.com](http://www.doubletreebyhiltonglobalmediacenter.com).

#### **About Hilton Worldwide**

Hilton Worldwide is the leading global hospitality company, spanning the lodging sector from luxurious full-service hotels and resorts to extended-stay suites and mid-priced hotels. For 93 years, Hilton Worldwide has offered business and leisure travellers the finest in accommodations, service, amenities and value. The company is dedicated to continuing its tradition of providing exceptional guest experiences across its global brands. Its brands are comprised of more than 3,800 hotels and timeshare properties, with 630,000 rooms in 88 countries and include Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, Conrad Hotels & Resorts, Hilton Hotels & Resorts, DoubleTree by Hilton, Embassy Suites Hotels, Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Hotels, Homewood Suites by Hilton, Home2 Suites by Hilton and Hilton Grand Vacations. The company also manages the world-class guest reward programme Hilton HHonors®. Visit [www.hiltonworldwide.com](http://www.hiltonworldwide.com) for more information and connect with Hilton Worldwide at [www.facebook.com/hiltonworldwide](https://www.facebook.com/hiltonworldwide), [www.twitter.com/hiltonworldwide](https://www.twitter.com/hiltonworldwide), [www.youtube.com/hiltonworldwide](https://www.youtube.com/hiltonworldwide), [www.flickr.com/hiltonworldwide](https://www.flickr.com/hiltonworldwide) and [www.linkedin.com/company/hilton-worldwide](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hilton-worldwide).

#### **About Al Faisal Holding Company LLC**

Incorporated in 1964, Al Faisal Holding Company LLC ("Al Faisal") is one of Qatar's largest privately held diversified industry groups, owned by His Excellency Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani. Al Faisal operates through its subsidiaries and associated companies in a variety of sectors, including real estate, construction, hospitality, trading, transportation, entertainment, education, services and information technology. Al Faisal's investments include its interest in Aamal Company Q.S.C, one of Qatar's largest, most diversified and fastest

growing companies, in addition to investments in a range of sectors across Europe, MENA region and the Far East.

Its wholly owned subsidiary Al Rayan Tourism & Investment Company (“ARTIC”) is engaged in the development, acquisition and leasing of real estate with a primary focus on the hospitality sector and hospitality-related services locally and internationally. Its current portfolio comprises of more than 18 hotels in Qatar, Egypt, London and North Africa as follows”

**Qatar**

Fully operational

1. Renaissance City Center Doha
2. Marriott Executive Apartments
3. Courtyard City Center Doha
4. Merweb Al Sadd Hotel

Under development

5. Shangri-la Hotel
6. Traders Hotel
7. Rotana Hotel
8. Grand Merweb
9. Hilton DoubleTree Al Sadd
10. Hilton Double Tree West Bay

**Egypt**

11. Four Seasons First Residence Hotel- it also includes a high end shopping Center” first
12. Hilton Plaza Hurgada- also a shopping mall “City Center mall” is under development
13. Maritim Jolie Ville Alexandria

**London**

14. W hotel

**South Africa**

Three Hotels are under development

In addition to its hotel portfolio,”ARTIC” owns hospitality-related services companies Modern Central Laundry, the Middle East’s first state-of-the-art industrial laundry service managed by Paragon Laundry Limited of the UK, and Deliopolis Qatar, a high quality catering service company.

[www.alfaisalholding.com](http://www.alfaisalholding.com)