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## Travel agency eyes top award

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### Staff Reporter

Qatar's Regency Travel & Tours has been nominated as one of 10 global agencies for this year's World's Leading Travel Agency award.

The highly coveted honour by World Travel Awards is to be presented at a grand finale to be held in the beautiful Caribbean islands of the Turks and Caicos on December 12.

The only travel agency to be nominated from the country, Regency Travels had earlier this year won the prestigious Middle East's Leading Travel Agency award.

After the regional triumph, Regency officials are now optimistic about repeating the feat at the international level. "Our chances are extremely good", enthused general manager Tareq Abdullatif Taha.

"We have always striven to build a world-class travel services organisation offering world-class facilities and services. I am proud that this effort is being recognised by our nomination as the World's Leading Travel Agency by World Travel Awards. It is a great moment for us and we are proud to represent Qatar on the global stage".

He cited a number of reasons for his optimism. Regency Travel is the only agency in Qatar that operated 24/7. In its "state-of-the-art head office, the agency innovated the one-stop-shop concept housing airlines, hotel, car rental, banks, courier and cargo services, telecommunications, insurance, international driving license facility, coffee shop and a gift shop under one roof".

It had made its offices accessible to special needs people and offered a dedicated car park, the general manager pointed out.

Besides offering world class services, he said, the agency facilitated online booking, provided door delivery of premium tickets, premium class lounge at the office and a dedicated car park for customers. It also had its own newsletter and magazine and a multi-lingual staff. Few companies, if any, could boast of all these attributes, he said.

World Travel Awards, considered the Oscars of the world travel industry, was established in 1993 to acknowledge and celebrate excellence in the travel and tourism industry. Last year, 160,000 travel professionals in over 200 countries cast their votes, and the award is regarded as one of the highest accolades in the industry.

Regency is among 10 final nominees selected from different regions of the World, including the Middle East, Africa, North America, South America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Indian Ocean. Regency had a tradition of winning such honours over the years, and for the past 20 years the agency had a number of awards, Tareq said.

Regency represents in Qatar Air Arabia, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, South African Airways, Orbitz (trade fairs), Trafalgar Tours, MSC Cruises, Costa Cruises, Peter Deillman Cruises, Gulf Jet and Indian Railways.



Tareq Taha with the Middle East's leading agency award

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