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**‘Intercultural Dialogue Boosts Development’
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
Forum in Doha**

by Alina Mambrey



H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar meets H.E. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations in Doha

This year's 4th Annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) themed: 'Intercultural Dialogue Boosts Development' and took place in Doha, Qatar. The three-day Forum from 11th to 13th December 2011 opened at the Qatar National Convention Centre. In total the forum attracted around 2,000 visitors including political and corporate leaders, mayors, civil society and youth representatives, journalists, academics, foundations and intercultural organizations and religious leaders. All of them met in Qatar to improve intercultural relations between diverse nations and communities.

The main objective of the Alliance of Civilizations is to put intercultural dialogue at the heart of the world's development agenda. Therefore world leaders and civil society organizations joined their efforts in Doha, helping to make this year's Forum a turning point. For the very first time since the establishment of the UNAOC in 2005 the civil society could actively contribute to the debates and outcomes of the Forum. With this in mind, a pre-Forum for civil society brought together 190 participants from 80 countries in Doha May 2011. The UNAOC Forum in Qatar strongly promoted peace and development within and between societies through

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Editorial



Dear Readers,

It is a great pleasure to present to you this year's first edition of the Qatar-German-Business-Forum that covers the end of a very successful 2011.

Specifically the month of December witnessed visits from high-ranking officials from Germany to Qatar. H.E. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, engaged in the 4th United Nation Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha to promote intercultural dialogue. Qatar's capital Doha, this year's host, has proven once more its efforts to augment its commitment to culture. The first official visit by H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, highlighted the favourable economic relations between Germany and Qatar.

In this edition, we cover many significant economic developments, with focus on cooperation between Germany and Qatar including agreements in the field of research into Qatar's solar resources as well as Qatar's role as a regional infrastructure hub. A topic of high interest is the cooperation in the field of health education, which was addressed on a conference organised by the German Orient-Institute in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Health on 12th January 2012 in Berlin. Also included are interesting topics concerning the energy sector of Qatar.

Last but not least, as host for the Arab Games Doha 2011, Qatar was once again able to demonstrate its outstanding role as sporting host in the region. Likewise, Doha Festival City, a super-regional complex, will serve and promote Qatar as well as our neighbouring countries.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of Qatar-German-Business-Forum and wish you a pleasant reading.

With kind regards,

Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Khulaifi
Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany

Necklace of Independence for H.E. Al Attiyah




H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, granted the Necklace of Independence to H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar

On 20th December 2011, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar received H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and Chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority, at Al Wajba Palace.

In recognition of his role and his contributions made for the country, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani granted H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah the Necklace of Independence, the highest honour in Qatar. His contributions to the progress of the national economy, namely the oil and gas sector, were particularly praised.

H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah served as Head of the Department of International and Public Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum before becoming Director of the Ministry of Finance. Soon after, he became Director of the Office of the Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Finance and Petroleum. Since 1992 he served as Minister of Energy and Industry. Since 2003 he has served as Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar.

H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah expressed his deep gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for this honour promising to continue his efforts and work. 

The 20th World Petroleum Congress in Doha

From 4th to 8th December 2011, Qatar hosted the 20th World Petroleum Congress. The event took place at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha. It is the first time this congress has been held in the Middle East. More than 5,000 representatives from political and economical spheres, from science, as well as producers, consumers, governmental officials and social representatives were in attendance at the conference, including more than 900 Qatari participants.

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, stressed the importance of the region and especially of Qatar in the global energy industry during his speech at the congress. The 20th World Petroleum Congress, under the caption "Energy Solutions for All - Promoting Cooperation, Innovation and Investment", centered the debates and discussion on solutions targeted at providing global access for all to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy in the near and long term future.

The opening session was attended by H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar. In his welcome speech, H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada affirmed that the congress is focused on stronger cooperation, innovation and investment in the energy sector. Research and development in this industry is playing an increasingly important role. Thanks to the participation of the International Energy Agency (IEA) representing the consumers and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) representing the producers, different interests could be addressed. The intention of the congress was to

address current and future challenges concerning the oil and gas industry.



H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar at the 20th World Petroleum Congress

Confronted with the impact of the recent global financial crisis, the participants discussed new technologies which could help the industry to advance. New technologies may also help to prolong the exploitation of oil and gas reservoirs. To help advance these technologies, international investment is needed. Additionally, the participants discussed progressive ways to find and develop new oil, gas and alternative energy resources, as well as to set higher standards for wiser, more efficient and cleaner energy consumption. The need for a long term view on the massive investments required by the energy sector, and the returns of investors that adopt such a visionary approach, was also highlighted and debated.

The number of participating delegates, space of exhibition and the number of exhibitors were impressive and made this congress the biggest ever held of its kind. Held every 3 years the World Petroleum Congress is the most important event for the oil and gas industry. One of the reasons why the congress took place in Qatar is the

country's significant role in the global oil and gas industry. Qatar is the world's largest liquefied gas producer and forerunner in this technology. Ras Laffan, the largest liquefied natural gas plant is located in Qatar and enables the transportation of this valuable resource. Burning natural gas is cleaner than burning oil and it will become a more and more important energy source in the future; it plays an important role in reducing CO² emissions. It is expected that the Qatari oil and gas liquids production will increase by 25.6% between 2010 and 2020.

German politician and Member of the European Commission, Günther Oettinger, represented the European Union at the conference and stressed the increasing importance of energy relations between European and Middle Eastern countries.

In the coming decades the energy industry will face several challenges. A growing world population, growing demand especially in developing countries, as well as the need for new renewable energy resources will lead representatives of all areas of producer and consumer countries to cooperate. The World Petroleum Congress is an important event to bring them together. During the congress, representatives of OPEC acknowledged that global warming is an issue that has to be taken seriously. Thus, they were in favour of a step towards clean and renewable energy. H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, confirmed that it is also the interest of oil and gas exporters to develop clean and renewable energy resources and take responsibility towards future generations.

H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler's first official visit to the State of Qatar

In December 2011, H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, visited the State of Qatar to intensify bilateral relations between the two countries. He was accompanied by a delegation of high-ranking German company representatives. The visit was also in conjunction with the 20th World Petroleum Congress which took place from 4th to 8th December 2011 in Doha.

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, received H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, at the Emiri Diwan Office to discuss bilateral cooperation in various fields.



H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics and Technology with H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar

On the same day, H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, met with H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler and his accompanying delegation. Also present were H.E. Anne Ruth Herkes, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Qatar, and a


number of senior officials from Qatar Petroleum (QP) and Qatar Petroleum International (QPI). The focus of the meeting was to strengthen bilateral

economic relations. They reviewed aspects of joint cooperation as well as opportunities and means of enhancing them.



H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics and Technology with H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar

Following this, the German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economics and Technology H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler met with H.E. Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, Minister of Business and Trade of the State of Qatar, to deepen the bilateral relations especially in the business and trade sector and hence to intensify their efforts to enhance the volume of trade and investment exchange in both countries. Additionally, the meeting addressed other issues of mutual concern.

The visit once more showed the friendly and excellent relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Qatar and the great mutual potential to benefit from each other in various aspects. 

Inauguration of the pioneering Pearl GTL project in Qatar

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, recently inaugurated the Pearl gas-to-liquids (GTL) plant in Ras Laffan. The construction of the world's largest gas-to-liquid plant will boost the significance of Qatar as the global leader in this technology. H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, as well as Peter Voser, Shell Chief Executive Officer and Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, attended the inauguration in Ras Laffan.

Due to its abundance of natural resources, Qatar is playing an increasingly important role in the future energy supply. After Russia and Iran, Qatar holds the largest natural gas resources and is the biggest exporter of liquefied gas with a capacity of 77m tons a year. The liquefaction of natural gas (LNG) is a process that prepares natural gas for transport, by cooling down the gas and turning it into a liquid.

The Pearl plant project is a milestone in supplying markets worldwide with fuel and lubricants. Natural gas is one of the most important energy sources in the future and already enjoys a strong demand. One of the reasons is certainly that burning natural gas is twice as clean as burning oil. Experts estimate that over the next 25 years the global demand for natural gas will increase by 50%. The largest proportion will be imported by Europe and also Asia as well as North America will depend on imports. In addition, a growing demand especially for "cleaner-burning" diesel in Europe and globally for aviation fuel is expected. Asia will be the key market for chemicals and plastics. It is estimated that the global demand for naphtha, jet kerosene and gas oil will grow by 30% from now until 2020, most notably in Asia. The process of

industrialisation as well as the growing global energy demand reinforce the significance of energy resources. Due to the innovative technology and the strong partnership between Qatar Petroleum (QP) and Shell the joint venture can contribute much to global energy needs.



f.l.t.r.: H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, Peter Voser, the Shell Chief Executive Officer, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar

The plant will be fully-operational by mid-2012 and its production capacity will reach 140,000 barrels per day (bpd) of GTL products as well as 120,000 bpd of natural gas and ethane. The Qatar-Shell joint venture costs USD 18.5bn and was completely funded by Shell. The Development and Production Sharing Agreement, signed by Qatar Petroleum and Shell, governs the legal terms of the project and how the profits are allocated.

The Pearl GTL plant is based on the Shell Middle Distillate Synthesis (SMDS) process, which contains more than 3,500 patents and has been developed more than 35 years ago. The GTL Technology enables the transport of natural gas by turning it into liquid fuels and products and prepares the products for the export. The plant is located in the North Gas Field, which extends from Qatar's coast into the Gulf and represents 6% of the world's gas reserves, exceeding

500 trillion cubic feet. The Ras Laffan port is the hub where the products are shipped and exported to purchasers worldwide. It is part of the strategic plan how to optimize the gas production and turn it into a transportable good.

The plant integrates upstream and downstream processes and includes therefore the offshore development as well as the onshore gas processing. Offshore it will produce 1.6bn cubic feet of wellhead gas per day. GTL products include gas oil, naphtha, kerosene, normal paraffin and lubricants' base oil. Additionally, elemental sulphur is produced as a by-product and is processed further into hydrosulphuric acid or fertiliser.

The Pearl plant is not only the world's largest GTL plant, but also the first one to use this technology. Furthermore, it provides the largest capacity to produce quality lubricant base oils, oxygen and GTL based normal paraffin.

The final investment decision for the joint venture of Qatar petroleum and Shell was taken in 2006. Ras Laffan Industrial City offers an excellent infrastructure to realise the project. In 2010 the major construction was completed and the expansion is divided in 2 phases: The first phase commenced in the first quarter of 2011 and is almost completed. In June 2011 the first commercial shipment of gas oil was already exported. The second phase will be finished by mid 2012. During the construction more than 52,000 people are working on the project and it will create further job opportunities.

In general the Pearl GTL plant can be a pilot project for further plants, utilizing the same technology. Pearl GTL products have good and long-term prospects.

USD 250m loan facility agreement for Qatar Steel

A subordinated loan agreement was signed by Qatar Steel and two banks, the International Bank of Qatar (IBQ) and Union National Bank (UNB). The new loan will be utilised by Qatar Steel, a fully owned subsidiary of Industries Qatar (IQ), for a medium-term loan facility of USD 250m. According to a press statement, USD 150m of the project costs will be provided by IBQ with the remaining USD 100m funded by UNB.

The agreement was signed by Ali bin Hasan Al Muraikhi, Director and General Manager of Qatar Steel, George Nasra, Managing Director of IBQ and Ala' Abu Mughli, Senior Vice President and Country Head of UNB-Qatar. The loans will be used by Qatar Steel to construct a state-of-the-art new steel melt shop, where targeted markets are local and regional. The perspective launch date of the new steel melt shop, with a production capacity of 1.1 MTA, is scheduled for October 2013.

The loan facility agreement marks a milestone in the expansion plans of Qatar Steel, which was established in 1974 as the first integrated steel plant in the region and began commercial production in 1978. The Government of Qatar acquired complete ownership of Qatar Steel and transferred the same to Qatar Petroleum (QP). In 2003, shares were transferred to Industries Qatar (IQ). As a leader in the steel industry, Qatar Steel has an annual production of 2.3 million tons of DRI, over 1.5 million tons of molten steel and over 1.5 million tons of rebars.

Qatar Steel also operates a UAE-based subsidiary – Qatar Steel Company, FZE Dubai – which mainly produces steel bars and coils. Furthermore, Qatar Steel also has stakes in three associate companies – United Stainless Steel Company (USCO), Bahrain, Gulf Industrial Investment Co. (GIIC), Bahrain and Qatar Metals Coating Company W.L.L. (Q-Coat).

Qatari-German cooperation in the field of solar solutions



f.l.t.r.: Dr. Rainer Tamme, Acting Head of the Institute of Technical Thermodynamics, Prof. Ulrich Wagner, Member of the Executive Board of German Aerospace Center (DLR), H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Ali Bin Jassim Al Thani, Vice-Chairman of QNFSP

German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany's national research centre for aeronautics and space, and the Qatar National Food Security Programme (QNFSP) have agreed to cooperate in the field of research into Qatar's solar resources. H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Ali Bin Jassim Al Thani, Vice-Chairman of QNFSP and Professor Ulrich Wagner, Member of the Executive Board of DLR, signed a contract on the management of solar plants on 8th December 2011. The ceremony was attended by major players in Qatar's energy industry such as Qatar Petroleum (QP), Kahramaa, Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), Qatar Solar Technologies (QSTec) and Chevron Green Gulf.

To collect data about Qatar's high potential for solar energy the DLR uses satellite based high-resolution solar resource mapping and ground measurements of solar radiation. The project is calculated to cost about EUR 500,000. There are also plans to construct concentrated solar power (CSP) and photovoltaic solar power plants.

Professor Ulrich Wagner affirmed that Qatar provides excellent conditions to install solar projects. Thanks to its long

term experience and competence concerning the assessment of renewable energy, DLR will be able to contribute much to establishing a solar industry in Qatar. Among other projects the DESERTEC concept is based on DLR studies. A stable supply of energy and water is crucial to secure the food supply of the Qatari population. Therefore it is an important pillar of the Qatar National Food Security Programme. In particular solar power which can be used during the desalination process contributes much to ensuring access to purified water.

Last year a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of new and renewable energy was signed by the Qatari Ministry of Energy and Industry and the German Ministry of Economics and Technology.

Early in December 2011, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, accompanied by QNFSP delegates met H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Economics and Technology. All participants indicated their interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation especially in the area of renewable energy and beyond.

First Gas Exporting Countries Forum Summit in Doha

On Tuesday, 15th November 2011 the First Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) took place in Qatar's capital Doha. High-ranking officials from Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela were in attendance at the summit as well as conference officials from Kazakhstan, Norway and the Netherlands were also present.

The summit was held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. In his address he requested that

limits on controlling prices, strengthened by the competition among the bidders. This conclusion should be based on a dialogue between gas consuming and gas producing countries.

During the last meeting in June 2011 in Cairo, the GECF's discussion also handled the option of long-term agreements for stabilizing gas trading. The GECF members agreed on the fundamental removal of any gas taxation of the consumer countries.

The forum was established 2001 in Tehran as an intergovernmental

Iran and Qatar. Following the member countries' calls at last year's meeting, the first Gas Exporting Countries Forum was planned to consolidate the gas exporting countries' demand for protection against political and economical volatility. As an expression of their independence, they aim to distance themselves from the practices of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by influencing the price with production quota.

As one of the concrete results from the summit, Russia's Energy Minister H.E. Sergei Shmatko declared that Qatar and



H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar (center) with high officials at the opening ceremony of the First Gas Exporting Countries Forum Summit

the participants discuss issues of concern to the gas industry and ways to promote natural gas as a vital source of clean energy, whose impact on environment is less negative than oil.

The Gas Exporting Countries Forum aims to find ways to stabilize the price of natural gas. One measure could be to link the gas price to the oil price by arguing with the convergence of oil and gas. Further, it was hoped that a comprehensive market management plan would emerge from the forum. The unification of market strategies would enable the gas exporting countries to determine the price by minimizing the gas exporting countries' competition. Until now the global gas supply has set

organization to represent the common interests of the gas exporting countries, such as the sovereign rights over gas resources, as well as achieving best development opportunities by exchanging experiences, information, and through coordination and cooperation. The member countries of the GECF possess 64% of the world's natural gas resources, 85% of liquefied natural gas production, and 38% of the gas pipelines sovereignty. Future estimations expect gas exports to reach 1,038bn cubic metres in 2020, up from 488bn cubic metres in 2007. In comparison the non-GECF exports are expected to rise to 430bn cubic metres from 325bn cubic metres in the same period. The leading countries are Russia,

Russia seek to cooperate with one another to establish a liquefied natural gas production field in Russia's arctic area.

As a common aspect of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum Summit, the gas price does not represent the future role in meeting the international power demand.

Consumers and producers agree that the need for investments will be crucial in order to meet future demand. The International Energy Agency estimated the required future investment to meet future energy demand is around USD 10tr until 2035, which corresponds to USD 400bn per year.

Gulf aviation sector leads the way

The aviation industry is highly competitive, but also highly lucrative. And the airline operators of the Gulf region, in particular Qatar Airways, are not only aiming to position themselves high up the leader board of the world market, but also to become a global traffic hub capable of handling all types of aircrafts and operating to all destinations. This ambition is exemplified in the recent aircraft orders placed by Gulf airline operators at this year's edition of the Dubai Airshow taking place from 13th to 17th November 2011.

The Dubai Airshow is one of the most significant aviation events in the region, and this year was record breaking in terms of figures with over 55,000 participants and USD 63bn worth of orders placed over the course of the five-day event. At the event, Qatar Airways reached an agreement with European aircraft manufacturer Airbus to purchase 88 aircraft, including 50 new generation A320 neo aircraft (with the option of a further 30) as well as five A380s (with the option of a further three).

The development of the aviation sector in the Gulf region has been dynamic and very rapid. In the last 20 years, Qatar Airways, for example, has grown from a mere start-up airline operator to one of the most respected airlines worldwide. The airline's growth is also remarkable and future expansion plans reflect the airline's continued desire to



Akbar Al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways and John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer of Airbus after signing the new aircraft deal at the Dubai Airshow 2011

be the best in the world. In 2011 alone the airline added 14 new destinations to its ever-growing list.

In addition, the Qatari operator has orders totalling more than USD 40bn for over 200 various aircrafts; by 2013 the goal is to operate more than 120 destinations worldwide with a fleet of 120 aircraft. Following in the footsteps of Qatar Airways, and also part of the region-wide move to improve transport infrastructure as a whole is Emirates Airlines, who also placed orders for new aircraft at the Dubai Airshow. In terms of scale and level of investment, the Gulf region is, at present, without doubt one of the hotbeds of aviation industry development worldwide.

Projects such as the new Doha International Airport are unparalleled with regards to total investment. This new airport, to be operated by Qatar Airways, is scheduled to open in 2012 and estimated at having a total investment value of USD 11bn. This

large-scale project not only mirrors the need for increased capacity due to Qatar Airways' rapid expansion.

Similarly large-scale projects worth in excess of several billion dollars are planned or underway across the region, including King Abdulaziz International Airport in Saudi Arabia, and extensions of both the Abu Dhabi Airport and Bahrain International Airport. These expansion plans, coupled with those of the airlines,

clearly demonstrate the region's confidence in this exciting growth market and will lay the foundations for an aviation transport hub capable of dealing with increased capacities of passengers thereby meeting future demand.

As always with project implementation, a stable and growing economy is a crucial part of the climate needed to successfully foster growth in an industry. The scale of many of the projects, either planned or underway, is massive. Some feel that there is a potential danger that the Gulf region may overreach itself with its many ambitious aviation projects. However, if the growth and expansion of Qatar Airways is anything to go by, then continued growth in demand and revenues of Gulf airline operators would allow and also justify the planned projects.

Looking ahead, the general economic outlook, and therefore the outlook for

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Qatar - German Cooperation in Health Education

On 12th January 2012, the German Orient-Institute organised in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Health a high-ranking international conference on health education cooperation between Germany and the Near and Middle East in the field of medical specialists.



H.E. Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Khulaifi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany and H.E. Thomas Ilka, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Health

The conference showed that the cooperation in the health care sector between Germany and the Near and Middle East is an important

vehicle to improve bilateral business opportunities and to construct a knowledge-based health care sector within the Arab countries. During the conference, H.E. Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Khulaifi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany, gave an introductory speech on the bilateral relations between both countries:

Your Excellency Federal Minister Daniel Bahr, ladies and gentlemen,

I'm honored to speak to you this morning at this conference, which aims at furthering and strengthening Arab-German relations in the healthcare sector, and would like also to take this

opportunity to speak a little about my country's experience with Germany. Both of our countries are linked by excellent political and economic relations. This has found its expression in a number of recent high-level visits from both countries, which shows how determined we are to advance our bilateral relations.

Qatar's health system has been experiencing a boom for several years. The infrastructure, the technical equipment, and the training of personnel are all at a very high level.

The National Development Strategy 2011-2016, a plan for carrying out "The

Qatar National Vision 2030", set out certain goals for the health industry. For example, one of these objectives is to increase the healthcare efficiency through an e-health program. Government authorities aim to have all images taken at hospitals uploaded and stored digitally as part of the country's e-health system. Healthcare providers across the country will be able to access and share the information.

While Qatar's population continues to climb, the health industry must adapt to its changing needs. More than 167 million Euros have been budgeted for the implementation of the six-year plan.

This program is intended to improve the healthcare system through seven main objectives:

1. ensuring that high-quality care is accessible to the entire population
2. integrating health services
3. encouraging preventative measures
4. building a more skilled workforce



Participants of the conference



H.E. Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Khulaifi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany, H.E. Dr. Masednah El-Kothany, Ambassador of Libya to Germany, H.E. Thomas Ilka, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Health, H.E. Prof. Dr. med. Ossama Abdulmajed Shobokshi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Germany and Doyen of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Hussain Mahmood Fadhalla Alkhateeb, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Germany

5. creating effective regulation

6. maintaining costs

7. and increasing the amount of medical research.

Still we aim at improving our health sector and provide first class medical services to domestic and international patients, as well as high quality training facilities for health professionals.

To this end, we have a great interest in working closely with partners like Germany to gain expertise and, in particular, to enter into sustained effort in the field of medical education.

We are striving to widen the basis of medical specialist training in foreign countries based on scholarships, so that the young Qatari medical practitioners will be able to improve their knowledge and gather essential experience that will benefit them when they return to their home.

At the same time, the Qatari health system as a whole can take advantages of the expertise found in the German medical sector. Germany offers excellent opportunities in this regard due to several contributing factors, some of which are:

- Germany's medical system enjoys a good reputation in Qatar because of its extensive and rigorous training of its medical personnel as well as the safe

environment created by its liability laws and quality surveillance procedures.

- German medical centers have traditionally been among the top-tier health travel destinations in Europe, and its medical specialist training is counted to be amongst the best in the world.
- Most medical technology in Qatar comes from Germany.
- Medical tourism is becoming a major growth industry in Germany, with patients from many different parts of the world acknowledging the benefits of seeking treatment abroad. In 2010, Germany was the second most visited country for travellers out of the Gulf region, with a considerable number (10,000 or more) of these travellers were patients seeking treatment.

However, only few Qatari medical practitioners are pursuing further training in Germany. According to the information of the German Medical Association, a total of 17 Qatari medical practitioners were employed at German hospitals and clinics at the end of 2010.

Many Qatari doctors prefer to train in England or the USA instead of Germany, due to the language barrier and the often confusing and complicate nature of the German medical specialist training system.

In addition, language barriers among medical personnel, for example nursing staff, can become a hampering factor for exchange opportunities. English language based exchange and training opportunities should therefore be broadened to encompass not only those working in research.

Enhanced visa requirements can also become an issue and should be adjusted as much as possible to advance exchange opportunities for medical personnel.

Nevertheless, the bilateral cooperation between Germany and Qatar in training medical specialists has developed positively in recent years as well as Qatar's interest in German know-how in the health sector. Qatar has a strong international reputation for the quality and the innovative approach of its healthcare system, making it a regional health center.

This involves healthcare education and training, which is being aided by partnerships with international institutions, some of which in Germany.

We are proud to have concluded a cooperation agreement between Qatar's public hospital, the Hamad Medical Corporation, and the University Clinic of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt.

This agreement provides a first step for an extended cooperation between our



H.E. Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Khulaifi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany, Prof. Dr. Mathias Rohe, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the German Orient-Foundation, Faculty of Law, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg; H.E. Dr. Masednah El-Kothany, Ambassador of Libya to Germany, H.E. Prof. Dr. med. Ossama Abdulmajed Shobokshi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Germany and Doyen of the Arab Diplomatic Corps

two countries in medical research and training.

In addition, an important partnership has formed between Germany's Heidelberg University Children's Hospital and Doha main hospital. The two organizations are creating a research facility dedicated to the study of genetic disorders. Another positive example of successful cooperation between Qatar and Germany is the Qatari-German Company for Medical Devices, which is the region's largest medical device manufacture. The firm currently manufactures a variety of needles and safety syringes and maintains export operations extending to Russia, Europe, Mexico and South Africa.

Furthermore, partnerships are in place with several German clinics in Berlin such as Vivantes, where several Qatari Medical specialists are already pursuing further training of specializing, whereas the Charité is also planning joint activities in the near future in this regard.

The University Hospital Munich, the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, and Klinikum Stuttgart gain a growing

reputation as medical centers in Germany. Highly reputed physicians and doctors perform a range of complicated procedures in the fields of oncology, neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, rehabilitation, and orthopedics.

This is the partner we envision and whose services many patients from the Gulf States have sought over the past years.

In our envisioned cooperation, let us be guided by the principles of excellence in medical education and research, enlisting the support of the political and economic sectors in order to identify opportunities and to promote the education of medical experts and medical personnel in Germany and Qatar.


Let me emphasize again, Qatar is highly interested in building strategic partnerships with Germany by facilitating medical travels for domestic and international patients in Germany; facilitating the exchange of medical personnel; establishing collaboration in medical research; encouraging trade in medical equipment (this could become part of the German-Qatari Mixed Business Commission which was set up in 2007). These objectives should be pursued formally and informally, as part of official government contacts, and as part of corporate and academic initiatives.

Already, healthcare professionals from Germany and the Gulf States are organizing health-related conferences and exhibitions in both parts of the world.



f.l.t.r.: Helene Rang, CEO of NUMOV, H.E. Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Khulaifi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany, H.E. Thomas Ilka, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Health, H.E. Prof. Dr. med. Ossama Abdulmajed Shobokshi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Germany and Doyen of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Hussain Mahmood Fadhalla Alkhateeb, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Germany, H.E. Dr. Masednah El-Kothany, Ambassador of Libya to Germany

The Arab Health fair in Dubai is the biggest healthcare convention and exhibition in the entire Middle East, and will welcome over 70,000 healthcare professionals and specialists from around the world in only two weeks from now.

I wish all of you present here today successful deliberation and I thank you for your attention. 

QAFCO largest single site producer of ammonia and urea

On the 20th of December 2011 H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, inaugurated a key project from the Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO) called QAFCO-5 in the city of Mesaieed. Also attending the ceremony were H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar.



H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, (center) and H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar together with Qatari officials and QAFCO staff

Under the QAFCO-5 project two ammonia plants are being built which will increase production capacity by around 3 quarters. The project will further enable an increased production capacity of urea by 40%. Thus, it will enhance QAFCO's position as the world's largest single site producer of ammonia and urea. As H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, stated, financing is being provided through state investments of USD 1.1bn as well as private investments of USD 2.1bn. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of

cooperating and working with international partners to optimize the coordination of production and supply.

The foundations of the international competitiveness were already laid in the 1970s so that the joint venture QAFCO could prove and establish its international presence. Worldwide longstanding operations are already being executed with Australia, South Africa as well as with the United States. However, the company's management,

Chairman Abdulaziz Bin Ahmed Al-Malki and Vice Chairman and CEO Khalifa Abdullah Al-Sowaidi, underlined the meaning of the government's support as they extended special thanks to H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and to H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar.

As a result of the collaboration of the private and the public sector, QAFCO managed to improve its capacity for the diverse production of 2.2m tons of ammonia and 3m tons of urea per year. Especially research and modern technology play a particular role therefore increasing the number from four trains of anhydrous ammonia and urea each to five. According to provisional calculations QAFCO will be able to achieve its targeted production of 3.8m tons of ammonia and 4m tons of urea per year therefore responding to the increasing demand for fertilizers worldwide.

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the development potential of the aviation industry in the Gulf, is largely positive. Economies are rapidly returning to growth and pre-crisis levels, if they have not already done so.

GDP growth in Qatar is currently projected at 18.7% for 2011; in the UAE, while the growth figures may be more modest they are certainly solid – 2011 will see the UAE post GDP growth of 3.3%. This growth looks likely to continue over the coming years and should provide a stable base, upon which investors and companies can realise their projects.

Rising demand and sustained economic growth, in conjunction with the clear expansion plans laid out in the region, mean that it is very likely that many of the planned projects will succeed.

While many factors will play a significant role in the successful realisation of the region's aviation projects, the most crucial will certainly be procuring the necessary investment, on-time completion, and aligning planned expansions and investments with future demand. Although some believe the region may be over-investing in this

sector, all indicators would suggest that the Gulf operators are justified in making these expansions: economic growth is consistently high providing the right climate for investment and project realisation; airline growth has likewise been consistently strong; passenger demand, both tourist and business traveller figures, has increased and continues to increase sharply. If the region is indeed successful in implementing its many aviation projects, it could usher in a new era of excellence concerning transport infrastructure and help position the region as a global hub for air transport.

Milaha represents Qatar Navigation's new identity and strategic transformation



*H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada,
Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, with Officials*

Qatar Navigation has witnessed an outstanding development: the dependable shipping agent has become one of the largest maritime and logistics companies in the region. Its legal entity holds 5% of the Qatar Exchange Index. Boosting economic growth through the allocation of transportation and shipping, Qatar Navigation plays an important role in Qatar's economy. The company enjoys a strong reputation in the region and holds important partnerships with great energy companies as well as shipping lines. In the area of maritime transportation Qatar Navigation has expanded the transport of gas, petroleum products, containers and bulk as well as in offshore support services, port management, logistic services, trading agencies, shipyard, logistics, real estate and asset management. Founded in 1957, Qatar's first public shareholding company has a long-standing tradition and has now decided to reinvent itself with a new identity.

In celebration of its new identity Qatar Navigation held a ceremony at La Cigale Hotel, which was attended by

H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, together with high-ranking officials, Qatari business leaders as well as clients and partners. H.E. Ali bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, the Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Navigation, held a speech and announced the company's new identity. This new identity contains the new name Milaha with an Arabic logo, expressing the company's Arab roots as well as its international orientation. It represents Milaha's ambitious and pioneering character. The new identity is connected to a new strategy that aims at strengthening its role in the Middle East, focussing on changing markets and customer needs and entering new sectors in the maritime and logistics industry. To fulfill the company's vision and ambitions the expansion of business and collaborations as well as an extension of its international presence is crucial.

The logo itself, its purple and orange colours, the solid and simple typeface, the carefully designed graphic, has been custom designed and perfectly symbolises the

company's identity. Embodying strength, expertise and integrity the logo also communicates synchronisation of the different units of the company and a customer-oriented approach. Despite its diverse character Milaha has succeeded in upholding unity and synergy.

A restructuring of working areas shall contribute to attaining its goals of a greater specialization and a better synchronization of solutions for clients. The new strategic units are: offshore, gas, petrochemicals, maritime & logistics, trading and capital.

To achieve its goals Milaha can build on strong foundations, thanks to a well-trained team, wealth of assets and a strong foothold in the region. Next to the company itself, Qatar provides a wide range of opportunities for investors. Qatar is an important economic actor in the region, with a great energy sector and labour reserves. These advantages will certainly help the company to continue its successful history. 

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intercultural dialogue, which is found in the slogan of the Forum. As was earlier stated by H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, during the UN General Assembly, Qatar stands for the promotion of dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

The opening ceremony was attended by H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF) and Ambassador of Alliance of Civilizations, and H.E. Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General, and in the presence of high-ranking diplomats and heads of state. Taking into account

the past and current achievements of earlier Forums in Madrid, Istanbul and Rio De Janeiro, the UNAOC Forum in Doha presented a milestone since it defined the conditions which allow intercultural dialogue to emerge as a key driver for development, security and peace. It increases the synergy between the UNAOC's mission and the Millennium Development Goals. For both, H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned is a vocal supporter. By reinforcing the cultural and intercultural approach, social cohesion and harmony is strengthened and positive change is possible.

Present and speaking at the inaugural session amongst others were H.E. Jorge Sampaio, Former President of the Portuguese Republic, H.E. Manuel Chavez, Vice-President of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Bashir Atalay, Deputy Premier of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Michel Temer, Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and H.E. Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria. Speaking at the opening plenary H.E. Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General, said that the Forum had identified this

area as a necessity for building a safer world, preventing conflicts and maintaining sustainable development. The world societies should develop a better mutual understanding in order to



H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, H.E. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

achieve these goals.

Also speaking was H.E. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, who visited Qatar on this special occasion during his six-day trip to the Gulf countries from 8th to 13th December 2011, including the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Kuwait. Especially the role of the civil society was a major theme during his visit. Therefore his speech at the UNAOC Forum in Doha reached the most recognition and encouraged his cause.

Beginning his speech by offering his gratitude to Qatar for hosting the Forum, H.E. Christian Wulff acknowledged the role of H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Ambassador of the Alliance of Civilizations. Indeed it was much of H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned's ambition and involvement that led Qatar to becoming the host of the 4th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum.

As H.E. Christian Wulff stated in his speech, the world is more connected than ever through the media, markets and migration flows: "Religious

pluralism is an important prerequisite for peaceful coexistence! For many people their faith is an integral part of their identity. But we can not define people solely by religion." He pointed out that human dignity must be the link, serving as the basis of a common humanity, as a global ethic.

"In the long run it is the diversity of an open society that is the best guarantor of peace, stability and development opportunities." Adding that to create decent living opportunities for all is a shared responsibility across all cultural boundaries.

Referring to the upheavals in the Arab world in 2011 and the efforts of many, he added that it has shown the world that the desire for free development, for justice, for dignity and recognition, according to political, social and economical participation is universal. "We have a great chance to find a world of diversity in new ways of understanding and cooperation – between our countries as well as inside of societies, between people of different cultural or religious backgrounds." He noted, in this perspective, that the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council have shown a high sense of responsibility in the past few months – not least on the initiative of Qatar, highlighting that this development deserves great recognition and respect. Hailing Qatar's role, H.E. Christian Wulff underlined that: "Qatar will help us to understand each other, approach each other and learn from each other." Adding that Qatar serves as a stunning example of a dynamic process that benefits many.

The core of the message of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, was to correct negative stereotypes of other

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Qatar Foundation and Siemens plan to expand Qatar's infrastructure expertise

H.H. Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF) and Peter Löscher, President and CEO of Siemens AG have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to reinforce Qatar's role as a regional infrastructure hub and knowledge economy. This agreement signed on 10th December 2011 intends also to increase Siemens' presence in the country. H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned together with H.E. Christian Wulff, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany presided over the ceremony during his visit to several countries in the region.




f.l.t.r.: Bettina Wulff, H.E. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Peter Löscher, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, H.H. Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, Dr. Tidu Maini, Chairman Qatar Science & Technology Park

In detail, Siemens plans to establish a service headquarters, regional competence centre for rail bound transport, as well as an innovation centre at Qatar Science and Technology Park. These facilities shall help to develop knowledge and products that are tailored to the region's needs. This project will, on the one hand, benefit Qatar and will, on the other, help Siemens to gain a foothold in the region.

The project supports the developing of human capital, which is a crucial pillar of Qatar's National Vision 2030. Qatar aims to

According to QF human capital is crucial for realising Qatar's vision of completing the transition from a carbon to a knowledge based economy. With the help of international partnerships in the areas of education, scientific research and technology QF intends to develop Qatar's infrastructure expertise. Whereas more than 90% of its population lives in the city,

Qatar plans to expand its infrastructure and supports strongly innovative projects in this sector. Qatar intends to invest USD 60bn in infrastructure projects as well as a cleaner power supply. Qatar's vision of sustainability, particularly concerning human potential and its infrastructure, shall be attained through cooperation between the public and private sector.

maintain a high standard of living for its population and an advanced and a highly educated society. Education is the cornerstone of sustainable development and addresses also the demands of future generations. To attain its goal of the National Vision 2030, Qatar has initiated a wide range of innovative and prospective projects. 

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civilizations and to use cultural diversity to fight poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. On his behalf, his message for the occasion was read by H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, at the opening of the Forum.

"We consider that the world's cultural diversity with the values and beliefs it reflects would assist development and lead to stability, understanding and rapprochement among peoples; therefore, this cultural diversity should be utilized in combating poverty, ignorance and illiteracy, and facing the

various current challenges to achieve the maximum development goals because culture and development are intertwined," he said and further emphasised the role of culture and to make cultural diversity an asset and a source of strength and progress.

The 4th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha once more helped to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and people across cultures and religions. Under the auspices of the United Nations, the UNAOC was established in 2005 and its secretariat

is based in New York. It works with a global network of partners with states, international and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations and the private sector.

For Qatar, it is top priority to help develop a better understanding among people of different faiths across the world. The inter-faith dialogue, which takes place in Qatar annually, is another good example of Qatar's efforts to achieve peace through a better understanding of people from different cultures and religions. 

Qatar targets further digital improvement

The Information and Communication sector is playing an increasingly important role in Qatar's society. 89% of Qatari households and 85% of the Qatari population owned a computer in 2010 and nearly 70% are broadband connected, an increase of 29% since 2008. The growth in the mobile communication sector is still accelerating: with a 167% penetration rate of Qatar's population, it is the highest rate worldwide. The prognosis is that this growth trend will continue in future. In addition, internet is also used via mobile phone and Computer.

The Supreme Council of Information & Communication Technology, ictQATAR which overviews Qatar's ICT sector, was established in 2004 by H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. In conjunction with the Qatar National Vision 2030, ictQATAR finalized the Qatar National ICT Plan 2015, following its first five-year plan, which was successful concerning the broadening of computer and digital literacy. With these measures, the plan follows the nation's aim to transform Qatar's society into a more knowledge-based one. There are five strategic points which the Qatar National ICT Plan 2015 follows for general ICT improvement.

The most important challenge is the accommodation of Qatar's network to the people's demand. The measures focus on the improvement of the digital infrastructure by a national fibre network and a new satellite programme to achieve an omnipresent high speed broadband access in Qatar.

The second aim is the digital education targeting the ICT-literacy of the population. With this target, it is planned to expand the Qatari ICT workforce to 40,000 employees.

As a third measure, ictQATAR aims to optimize the economic environment for

attracting private investors. For this, the ictQATAR aims to double its GDP contribution to USD 3bn.

The fourth aim is to develop a governmental data centre and to coordinate the official organization's internet representation network. There are plans to establish a computer cloud system for governmental services. As a further step this cloud technology shall be transferred into the educational system and thereby support the country's development with modern, economical instruments. For Qatar it is expected, that the data volume will grow by 650% until 2015. Additionally, these measures also include boosting Qatar's digital security standard.


The fifth task is to implement Information and Communication Technology with its internet network into the social sector, for example in the medical and educational sectors. In this context, ictQATAR launched the five-year National eAccessibility Policy for equality of access to technologies for people with disabilities in Qatar. It aims to help disabled people join governmental services, as well as internet accessibility, telecommunication, ATMs and public access terminals.

The first measures are viewed in 2012 to emerge accessible headsets, user interfaces, relay services, special rate plans, emergency services and accessible public pay phones for facilitating more comfortable access for people suffering from illnesses. In total there are 11 programmes included in the National ICT Plan 2015: ICT infrastructure, modernising the legal and regulatory framework, cyber safety and security, digital inclusion, ICT human capital, innovation and entrepreneurship, digital content, second generation government, e-education, e-health and internet & society.

artec technologies receives follow-up order from QNA

The German-based artec technologies AG has received another order from the Qatar News Agency (QNA) to expand and modernize its TV and radio evaluation system, one of the most modern in the region. The order volume amounts in the lower six-figure Euro range.

artec technologies AG develops and manufactures innovative software and system solutions. These are designed for the recording, transfer and evaluation of video, audio and metadata in networks as well as on the Internet. artec technologies AG is one of the leading companies for the development of streaming media applications and therefore sets standards for the parallel recording of analogue and IP cameras in video surveillance amongst others.

The cooperation between QNA and artec technologies AG exists since 2007, where artec delivered the systems for Qatar News Agency. With the help of this system QNA evaluates 200 TV-and radio stations. The demand for these technologies is rising in the region not the least because of the 2022 Football World Cup in Qatar. 

For meeting those aims, Qatar's ICT sector is expected to receive USD 1bn of investment in 2012, with an increasing annual growth of 12.3% until 2015.

From 5th to 7th March 2012, the QITCOM will take place – the second edition of Qatar's ICT conference and exhibition at the Qatar National Convention Centre. The three day conference is going to attract policy makers, experts and international leaders for discussing trends, political solutions to terms faced by Qatar's ICT sector. 

Barzan Gas Project opens up new business opportunities for Qatar

H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, presided over the first stone laying ceremony of the Barzan Gas Project on 1st November 2011. Other guests present were senior government officials and delegations from the companies Qatar Petroleum, RasGas and ExxonMobil.



H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, (center) together with H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar

The Barzan Gas Project represents an important milestone in Qatar's domestic energy supply and is expected to fuel further economic growth. In general, the project is an important contribution to the country's power, water and industry sector. Located in Ras Laffan Industrial City, the project shall meet the growing demands of power stations and industries.

The joint venture between Qatar Petroleum and ExxonMobil costs in total USD 10.3bn and is one of Qatar's most outstanding energy projects. RasGas manages the construction of the plant and is going to be the operator. It is partly financed by a loan from local, regional and international banks.


Qatar Petroleum holds a 93% stake in the Barzan gas field and ExxonMobil the remaining share. The project will be financed by up to 30% equity and the remaining 70% will be funded by a syndicated loan provided by several banks and export credit agencies. Although the current international market conditions are challenging, financial donors are confident that the project will be a success.

H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, stressed the importance of the project as a major source of domestic energy and its accordance with the vision of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to implement the national development strategy, targeting the optimal and efficient usage of Qatar's

natural resources. Furthermore, the increasing natural gas supply will fuel water desalination plants and other industries in Qatar. During the third quarter of 2014 the first stage of the project will be ready-to-operate and the second stage, in all probability six months later. At the moment, the production of natural gas for the domestic market comprises about 2.8bn cubic feet of gas per day and will be increased to 4bn cubic feet

by 2015. Several LNG trains are under construction to transport natural gas.

Located in the north of the Qatari capital, Ras Laffan has become home to one of the world's largest liquefied natural gas plants. Natural gas is considered to be an important energy source for the future. Growing profits from the project will be sold to local and international markets. Exports include propane, butane and liquid hydrocarbon. The majority will be exported to Europe, Asia as well as North America.

In view of the FIFA World Cup in 2022, Qatar has initiated numerous infrastructure projects, which will increase the demand for energy. Therefore the Barzan Gas Project will fuel the power supply for the country. 

The biggest sporting event of the year Arab Games Doha 2011

From 9th to 23rd December 2011 Qatar's Capital city hosted the 12th Arab Games under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of State of Qatar. Qatar's winning bid to host the Arab Games 2011 marks the first time that the GCC has had the opportunity to host this internationally recognized competition. The spectacular opening ceremony, which took place in the Khalifa International Stadium, was opened by H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. Qatar welcomed above 6,000 athletes and officials from 21 participating Arab countries.

After three years of organisation and installing, the Arab Games 2011 started with a show involving more than 3,250 participants including dancers, musicians, athletes, horsemen and falconers in front of more than 40,000 people in the audience, in addition to the enormous technical expenditure, which set the record for the world's largest stadium projection surface. The show presented the unity and diversity of sport and culture in the Arab countries by presenting music and art from an array of participating countries. For this, the athletes of each Arab country walked into the stadium, led by the country's sporting legends as flag bearer. Accompanied by an impressive firework display, Qatar demonstrated its central role for sports in the Arab world with its excellent sport environment.

The Arab Games 2011 in Doha comprised 32 disciplines including athletics, basketball, equestrian, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, shooting and swimming amongst others. For Qatar, the games were very successful. The country not only ranked third in the medals (32 gold, 38 silver and 40 bronze) but also the Qatari female athletes broke records. In all, the Qatari female athletes won 32 medals: 10 gold and silver, and 12 bronze. This marked a big increase

successful country achieving 80 gold, 67 silver and 59 bronze medals, around two times more than the second place country Tunisia with 42 gold, 35 silver and 35 bronze medals.

The Arab Games Doha 2011 have been the main project of the Qatar Olympic committee, which has been planned and organized by the Arab Games Organising Committee (AGOC). Besides the multi-sport events in 14 highly specialised sporting venues, the AGOC established several non-competitive attractions. Among them, the international visitors were welcomed to a hit exhibition at Souq Waqif initiated by the Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum and supported by the Qatar Olympic committee and the Egyptian Olympic committee, running from 4th October until 23rd December.

The exhibition presented the scientific and technological aspects of competitive sports, as well as the history of the Arab Games, which were founded in the year 1947 and first took place in Alexandria, Egypt in the year 1953. Shown were exhibits of sport memorabilia such as medals, posters, programs, films and interviews with athletes. In addition, the exhibition focussed on the history of Qatar's athletes at recent Arab Games. Beside this, Qatar celebrated the Arab Games with a lot of cultural events, music shows and other artistic performances, especially with festivities on the 18th December 2011, the Qatar National Day.



Opening Ceremony of the Arab Games 2011 in Doha

compared to the last Arab Games in Cairo in 2007, when the Qatari athletes only won 14 gold, 13 silver and 13 bronze. Gymnast Shaden Wahdan and shooter Bahya Mansoor Al-Hamad became sport heroes by achieving 5 medals each. Shaden Wahdan became the most successful female athlete of the Arab Games ever. The Tunisian swimmer Oussama Mellouli emerged during the Games to become a sporting icon by achieving 15 gold and one silver medal. With this success, he dominated the swimming competition in an outstanding manner, and was deservedly named "athlete of the 2011 Arab Games". Egypt was the most

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Doha Festival City - a major state-of-the-art multipurpose destination for the region

Doha Festival City provides Qatar with an iconic shopping, entertainment and leisure destination. The USD 1.65bn project is set to be finished in 2014 and will additionally include automotive showrooms, international hotels and a convention centre. The in total 433,847 m² project, with 260,000 m² of gross leasable area, will, when completed, be the largest of its kind in Qatar.

Located just 15 km north of downtown Doha, the iconic complex of Doha Festival City ensures easy access: it is situated at the strategic position on Al Shamal Road, an arterial route to the city centre, which will also connect Doha with Bahrain via the planned 'Friendship Bridge'. Therefore, Doha Festival City will not only serve the needs of Qatar but also as a super-regional complex for neighbouring countries.

Doha Festival City is owned and developed by Bawabat Al-Shamal Real Estate Company (BASREC). As parent company BASREC includes shareholders like Al-Futtaim Real Estate Services, Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) as well as private Qatari companies. For Al-Futtaim, which is owner developer and operator of

Festival City brands in Dubai, UAE and Cairo, Egypt, it is the third mega-project in the MENA region. On 5th September 2010, these investors signed a USD 1.65bn joint venture agreement for the construction of the super-regional multi purpose complex: Doha Festival City. The first phase include IKEA, an Al-Futtaim franchise brand, will have 32,000 m² of space and is expected to be completed in Q4 2012. The remaining elements of the 400 retail units Doha Festival City will be fully operational by 2014, according to Marwan Shehadeh, group director of corporate development, Al Futtaim Group.

The multipurpose destination will, apart from the retail shops of international brands, include food courts, cafés and casual dining, entertainment and leisure concepts, cinemas, supermarkets, luxury, hotel and convention facilities as well as automotive showrooms. The interior will have a unique design



Project design Doha Festival City

connecting clearly identifiable zones. These were inspired by the four elements wind, water, wood and earth and will be translated to: Water Concourse, Garden Promenade, Rainforest Boardwalk and Fashion Galleria. The complex will therefore reflect the tradition of thematising its space of the Festival City.

When Doha Festival City is fully completed in 2014, it will provide Qatar with its biggest shopping centre and an estimated number of 1.6m visitors a month. This one-of-a-kind development is ideally equipped to adapt to the local market. 

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With the Arab Games 2011 in Doha, Qatar has taken this sporting event to a new level, not only by the high standards of sport venues or exhibitions. Qatar built a complete village for the international athletes and sport officials outside of Doha with the best environmental commodities and luxuries for the athletes to prepare and rest during the Games. The Arab Games Doha 2011 were also the first Arab Games to be broadcasted live in high definition in all Arab countries via its official broadcasting partner Al Jazeera Sport.

With the successful experiences of hosting international sport events, like the Asian Games, IAAF World Indoor Championships, Diamond League, Asian Cup, World Volleyball Championships and Women's Tennis Association Championship Qatar was once again able to demonstrate its leading role as sporting host in the region.

With a great farewell show, including a Doha skyline lit by a firework display, the 12th Arab Games were closed at the Al Sadd Stadium on 23rd December

with the attendance of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, who is also Chairman of Qatar Olympic Committee, and H.E. Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chairman of the Arab Games Organising Committee and General-Secretary of the QOC. The ceremony was held after the final of the football competition with the handing over of the flag of the Union of Arab National Olympic Committees to Lebanon, the host of the next Arab Games in 2015. 

News in brief

18th Climate Change Conference to take place in Qatar

The State of Qatar will host the 18th edition of its climate change conference in 2012. Additionally, the 8th session of the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will also take place in Doha from 26th November to 7th December 2012. The State of Qatar has been increasingly improving its efforts to fight global warming and climate change within the last years. Within this context, it is not only committed to the reduction of the emission of carbon dioxide, but also intends to meet the needs of the people which are most affected by climate change impacts, such as hunger, droughts, natural disasters, and poverty. This further includes the transfer of technology and expertise as well as financial aid to the developing countries in order to improve their carbon footprint. H.E. Abdullah bin Mubarak bin Aabboud Al-Ma'dhadi, Minister of Environment of the State of Qatar, emphasised that his country will provide everything necessary for a successful conference and sustainable solutions for climate protection.

SolarWorld AG invests in silicon factory in Qatar

The joint venture Qatar Solar Technologies (QSTec) was launched in March 2010 between Qatar Foundation, SolarWorld AG and the Qatar Development Bank. Now QSTec has commissioned the construction of a solar silicon factory. The plant will produce 8,000 metric tons of polysilicon per year after completion. Located in Ras Laffan Industrial City, stage one of the plant is scheduled to be operational by autumn 2013. The general contractor for factory is India's Punj Lloyd Group and the machinery will be delivered by Centrotherm.

Qatar sets milestone with organ transplantation centre

The official inauguration of the Qatar Centre for Organ Transplantation (QCOT) was held by H.E. Abdullah bin Khalid Al Qahtani, Minister of Health and Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Health of the State of Qatar. The QCOT is an innovation to the country's medical care facilities and aims to raise the awareness of the importance of organ donation and transplantation.

Hamad Hospital Chief of Staff and Organ Transplantation Committee Chairman Dr. Yousuf al-Maslamani highlighted the lack of organ donors which makes it even more important to set an example and lead to a change in the society.

Previously, H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned has already drawn attention to organ transplantation by launching the Doha Donation Accord which aims to honour organ donors.

Besides the moral reasons, financial aspects also must be taken into account due to the increasing treatment of Qatari patients abroad which has already lead to government expenditures of QR 3.5m so far. In addition, the centre is also intended to ensure the appropriate continued treatment for Qatari patients who underwent transplantation abroad as well as extending transplantations and treatment locally. Morally, financially as well as in the field of research, the QCOT seeks to establish its presence in the country.

Qatar ranked 2nd most beneficial tax system for businesses

'Paying Taxes 2012' is an annual report issued by PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC), the World Bank and IFC. The report compares tax

systems from 183 countries from a business perspective.

According to the sixth edition of 'Paying Taxes 2012', all six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) fall within the top 15 of the ranking. The report reveals that the member countries of the GCC have the fewest and least complex tax laws in the world. Led by the State of Qatar in 2nd place, the ranking is as follows: the United Arab Emirates - 6th, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - 7th, the Sultanate of Oman - 8th, the State of Kuwait - 12th, and Bahrain -13th.

The report reveals that the average taxes levied in the Middle East are almost half those compared to the global average, as well as the completion of tax obligations being less time consuming than in the rest of the world. Clearly, the findings support the enormous growth prospects of the region and its growing importance on the global stage.

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- Industrial development in Qatar
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Network Engineer
Senior Technical Support Engineer
Business Analyst
Database Engineer
Senior IT Technician
IT Technician
For more Information please refer to:
<http://www.qp.com.qa>

Exhibitions

Qatar Motor Show
Date: 25. - 28. January 2012
Venue: Qatar Exhibition Centre

Middle East Rail
Date: 30. Jan – 02. Feb 2012
Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

Passenger Terminals World Middle East
Date: 31. Jan – 1. Feb 2012
Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

Tunnelling World Middle East
Date: 31. Jan – 1. Feb 2012
Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

Gulf Expo 2012
Date: 25. February
Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

QITCOM
Date: 5. - 7 March 2012
Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

Doha International Maritime Defense Exhibition & Conference
Date: 26. – 28. March 2012
Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

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Tenders

Preparation and extensions works for Al Wakrah Municipality new building for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture
CD: 23. January 2012

Data base project and e-system for Housing Department for the Ministry of Social Affairs
CD: 29. January 2012

Supply of central servers, data base and central storage system for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture
CD: 29. January 2012

Maintenance and preparation of control stations of GIS centre for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture
CD: 29. January 2012

Supply of data base storage units equipments for the Ministry of Environment
CD: 5. February 2012

The Provision of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture
CD: 27. February 2012

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