



QATAR IN CUBA

Embassy of the State of Qatar-Havana

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2018
Qatar National Day

H.H. the Amir Inaugurated the 18th Doha Forum under the Theme “Shaping Policy in an Interconnected World”

H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani inaugurated the 18th edition of Doha Forum, which took place last December. H.E. President of UN General Assembly, Maria F. Espinosa Garces, and H.E. Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, attended as well.

In his opening speech, the Amir affirmed that Qatar’s position regarding the ongoing crisis in inter-Gulf Arab relations “has remained unchanged” and he reiterated calls to end the “siege” imposed on Qatar. Further, H.H. stated that repression, tyranny and rights violations have become a threat to human security, and that regional stability “should not

be based on repression and injustice”. Established in 2000, the Doha Forum is a platform for global dialogue on critical challenges facing our world. It brings together participants with different political, intellectual and academic backgrounds, such as decision and policy makers, head of states and governments, representatives from the private sector, civil society, and non-governmental organizations, to build innovative and action driven networks. Aimed at promoting the interchange of ideas, it also highlights the modern success models and discusses how we can expand on them and replicate them. (More info on <https://dohaforum.org/>).



H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani during the opening of the 18th Doha Forum on 15 December.

QATAR INTERNATIONAL

H.H. the Amir Visited Latin America amid Ongoing Blockade



H.H. the Amir and H.E. Jose Valencia, Ecuador’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Last October, H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani visited South America to work on building new alliances with some countries of the region. The Amir was accompanied by an official delegation.

In a tweet, H.H. said:

I have started a tour in Latin America to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Argentina, preceded by two tours in 2015 and 2016. New partnership agreements will be signed in vital fields for the interests of our countries.

Qatar seeks to bolster its economic ties with Latin America as part of its 2030 vision, which has been designed to create a sustainable and modern country in the next 10 years.

Doha has been working to build new alliances since a diplomatic crisis broke out in June 2017, pitting it against a bloc led by Riyadh. The bloc accuses Qatar of supporting terrorism and being too closely allied to regional rival Iran. Doha has categorically denied the accusations, adding that the dispute is an attack on its sovereignty.

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فيما لما قد زينها أفعالنا
المؤسس
قطر ستبقى حرة

Qatar Spares No Effort to Build Regional, International Partnerships to Address Disasters

H.E. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi expressed Qatar's will to continue efforts to effectively address the disasters facing humanity and to prepare appropriately to anticipate situations that would negatively affect the people and the planet.

In a statement before the Arab-African Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, HE re-affirmed Qatar's support for the platform's final declaration, and said Qatar will spare no efforts to build regional and international partnerships to confront what threatens the peoples, now and in the future. He also added that the State of Qatar has established the standing committee for rescue and relief operations, and humanitarian aids for the



H.E. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Tunisia in October.

regions afflicted by catastrophes in brotherly and friendly countries. Likewise, it has enacted the laws of humanitarian and non-governmental organizations and donor institutions, which direct support and relief to all countries affected by natural disasters or conflict-stricken and civil wars areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the Shura Council's opening session.

H.H. the Amir Opened the 47th Ordinary Session of the Advisory Council

H.H. the Amir opened the 47th ordinary session of the Advisory Council at its premises in November.

H.H. gave a speech on the occasion praising Qataris' ethics and their awareness of the country's accomplishments, as well as the importance of national sovereignty and independence under which these achievements have been made possible. Likewise, the Amir referred that despite of the current circumstances, "Qatar's

economic invulnerability against external tremors has been boosted, and the country's self-reliance has increased". In fact, he referred that the World Bank expects Qatar's economic growth rate to reach 2.8% in 2018, and will rise to around 3% in the following years.

The Advisory Council (Shura Council) is the chief legislative body, approves the general policy of the government and the budget.

Qatar Is Pulling Out of OPEC to Focus on Gas

Qatar is leaving OPEC on January 1 after nearly 60 years. The country's state oil company, Qatar Petroleum, made the announcement in a series of tweets. H.E. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the country's recently-appointed Minister of State for Energy Affairs, stated:

The withdrawal decision reflects Qatar's desire to focus its efforts on plans to develop and increase its natural gas production.

Doha has been under a diplomatic and economic embargo for the past 19 months. In response, the Gulf country has been increasing gas production, the mainstay of its economy.

Qatar made no reference to the dispute with other Arab States in its announcement, emphasizing plans to cement its position as the world's leading supplier of gas. Its exports currently account for about 30% of global demand.



H.E. Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs.



After the opening, H.H. the Amir was given a tour around the water reservoirs.

World's Largest Water Reservoirs Completed in Qatar

The Amir H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani inaugurated the Water Security Mega Reservoirs Project, which is the largest of its kind in the world, in Umm Salal Ali.

The \$ 4 billion project has a total water storage capacity of about 1,500 million gallons, and was implemented by Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa).

These reservoirs will ensure water security for the State until 2026, followed by future stages that will

meet water demand even after the year 2036 by adding more tanks. Needless to say, this is a key project within Qatar's water security strategy, which also includes the increase of desalinated water storage to 2,400 million gallons per day, enough to meet the basic needs of the State for several months. After the inauguration, H.H. the Amir visited the reservoirs and the operation room.

QATAR & CUBA

Qatar National Day 2018

In an atmosphere filled with pride and loyalty, Qatar National Day (QND) was celebrated in Havana on 18 December.

As usually, H.E. Ambassador Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla gave a speech on the occasion, in which he highlighted the achievements of the Qatari leadership, the circumstances of the embargo imposed on Doha, and the bilateral relations between the two countries. H. E. Dr. Jose Angel Portal Miranda, Minister of

"As long as it was proven by our deeds, Qatar will remain free", was this year's slogan.

Public Health, H. E. Mr. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as H.E. Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez Davila, Deputy Minister for Transport, H.E. Mr. Armando Vergara, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Affairs (MINREX), and H.E. Mr. Hector Igarza, Director of North Africa and Middle East Department (MINREX), attended the event. Ambassadors, together with leading figures from politics and culture joined us too.



H.E. Ambassador Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla giving his speech on QND celebration.



H.E. Mr. Rogelio Sierra, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, with members of the medical staff of the Cuban Hospital in Dukhan.

Cuban Hospital in Qatar Awarded for the Second Time by Press Ganey

The Cuban Hospital of Dukhan, Qatar, has been awarded for the second time in its history -the first time was in 2015- with the 2018 Press Ganey National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) Award for Nursing Excellence.

Selected from over 1,900 hospitals affiliated with the NDNQI, the Hospital was the only award recipient

located outside of the United States. The award, received by Mr. Mohamed Al-Marri, Executive Director of the Institution, acknowledges the dedication and commitment of Cuban health professionals to providing excellence care, and the high levels of acceptance among the Qatari and expatriate population increasingly seeking their services.

Press Ganey was founded in the late 1970s and is a leading industry in helping health care providers to understand and improve the entire patient experience.

State of Qatar Recognised by its Humanitarian Work

Mr. Ghanem Essa Al-Ghanim, the Third Secretary of the Embassy, attended to the opening ceremony of the Psycho Pedagogical Medical Centre for the disabled in Cerro, Havana. The center, known as *La Edad de Oro*, was built from scratch thanks to the economic support from different sources, particularly from H.H. the Father Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who donated € 1 million. The Cuban Minister of Health, the President of the Provincial Government, as well as the President of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, the director of the Institution, and doctors were present at the ceremony. The facility will be serving as both a medical and educational centre. Therefore, it will provide a range of services



Mr. Ghanem Essa Al-Ghanim receiving the certificate that acknowledges Qatar's support and commitment to such noble cause.

such as rehabilitation, dental care, podiatry and psycho pedagogical assistance to the patients. The aim is to offer comprehensive care to people with severe and profound intellectual disability.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Qatar Empowers Women!

The State of Qatar affirmed its commitment to empowering women and providing support, which will enhance women's political, social, economic and cultural rights.

THE GULF'S PULSE

GCC Fails to Discuss Qatar Blockade

The 39th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit ended last December, in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, without any major breakthroughs to resolve a diplomatic crisis that continues to grip the region. Actually, the crisis was not brought up at the annual summit. A delegation headed by Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, represented Doha at the event.



This came in a statement at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

It also said they are committed to implement the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Further, it referred to the announcement made by H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, in which he expresses Qatar's commitment to providing education to one million girls by 2021, in support of the Charlevoix declaration released by the G7 in June 2017.

The capability of Qatar to accomplish many achievements in the field of prevention and protection against domestic violence was stressed as well.

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