



# QATAR IN CUBA

Embassy of the State of Qatar-Havana

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## Amir Opened National Museum of Qatar: The Desert Rose Has Bloomed!

On the edge of the Doha Corniche, a 40,000-square-meter “desert rose” has bloomed. The new National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) finally opened on March 28, with the presence of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and it is another stunning new architectural highlight along Doha’s already spectacular waterfront.

Designed by Jean Nouvel, the Pritzker Prize-winning French architect, the structure resembling a giant desert rose aims to showcase Qatari history. The exhibits are organised in three “chapters” —Beginnings, Life in Qatar, and Building the Nation—, which tells the story of Qatar’s past, present and future.

In a speech at a glittering ceremony, the Amir said, “The National Museum tells the story of our people. Our goal is to build a knowledge-based economy and promote human development.”

The event was attended by Personal Representative of the Amir H.H. Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani. A number of sheikhs, ministers and heads of diplomatic missions, prominent figures from politics, culture, media, and celebrities interested in heritage sites from around the world came to the opening as well. More information on: <https://nmoq.org.qa/>.



H.H. the Amir at the opening ceremony of NMoQ in Doha.

QATAR INTERNATIONAL

## Qatar Rejects US Recognition of Israel’s Sovereignty over Golan



Last March, US President recognized Israel’s claim to sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Qatar expressed its rejection of the US recognition of Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The Ministry of Foreign affairs delivered a statement in which it was reiterated Qatar’s firm position on the principle that the Golan Heights is occupied Arab land.

The statement stressed that helping the Israeli occupation to disdain UN resolutions related to the occupied Golan Heights, especially Security Council resolution 497 (1981), will not alter the fact that Golan is occupied

Arab land and that Israel’s imposition of its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Golan is without any legal effect.

It also emphasized the need for Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights. The statement finalized by adding that any unilateral decisions to recognize the sovereignty of Israel over the area will be a major obstacle to the peace desired in the region.

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## Qatar Hosted the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

On 6-10 April, Qatar hosted the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani attended the event and gave a speech at the opening ceremony.

The theme of the general debate was "Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law", considering the importance of education and its effective role in achieving these goals. Addressing the gathering, H. H. high-lighted: *Qatar has paid special attention to international cooperation in the field of education and provided support to some developing countries in various regions of the world, as well as international organisations operating in this field. Our country has also launched numerous initiatives in the field of supporting and promoting education in collaboration with*



His Highness attended the opening of IPU Assembly last April.

*national and global partners such as Educate a Child, and the World Innovation Summit for Education.*

The IPU is a global inter-parliamentary institution established in 1889, and has permanent observer status at the United Nations General Assembly.

More info on: <https://www.ipu.org>.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



After the inauguration, the Amir was given a tour around the facility.

## Umm Al-Houl Power Plant Inaugurated

H.H. the Amir patronised the inauguration ceremony of Umm Al-Houl Power Plant that can generate 2,520 MW of electricity and 136.5mn gallons of drinking water per day.

Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony, H.E. the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida Al-Kaabbi, said this Power Plant is considered one of the most important power projects in Qatar, and an addition to the long list of projects that the country has

implemented to provide the necessary infrastructure for development.

Referring to the importance of this plant, H.E. focused on the value it provides to the Qatari economy along with its sophisticated reverse osmosis technology, which would support the efforts to reduce gas emission and raise the efficiency of performance.

Umm Al-Houl is now one of the largest water desalination and power generation plants in the region.

## Qatar Rolls Out First-Ever 'Landmark' Metro for Public

Qataris can now take the subway in Doha after the first section of its new underground transport system was inaugurated last May, a futuristic metro that only costs 50 euro cents a trip, a bargain in the oil emirate.

Its opening has arrived a year ahead of schedule, as it was supposed to start working in 2020. Travelling at a speed of 80 to 100 kilometres per hour, the state-of-the-art driverless trains

imported from Japan are revolutionizing Qatar's transport network as this is not only a cheaper way to move around the country; it also reduces the estimated time of a journey by 50%, which will contribute to avoid traffic during peak hours.

With a futuristic design that looks like a spacecraft, the use of the subway will decrease the environmental impact produced by cars in Qatar.



Qatar's train network will provide an agile connection between stadiums where the World Cup 2022 will be played.





PM and Minister of Interior H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani at the inauguration of AgriteQ 2019 in Doha.

## Qatar's 7<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural Exhibition 2019: A Great Success!

Last March, Qatar organized the seventh edition of AgriteQ 2019, the International Agricultural Exhibition, and the First International Environmental Exhibition (EnviroteQ) at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center.

The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who also opened a project to plant one million trees as part of the efforts of Qatar to support the global initiative on climate change and sustainable environment. The project aims at reusing

treated sewage water for irrigation, reducing the wastage of water, enhancing biological diversity, improving air quality, increasing greenery to reduce carbon footprint.

A number of ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and companies attended the exhibition.

The event, a success for Qatar, has been considered especially important as a strategic platform for exploring new horizons, which will contribute to upgrade the Qatari agricultural sector and guarantee food security.

QATAR & CUBA

## Qatar & Cuba: Celebrating 30 Years of Friendship

This year, the State of Qatar and the Republic of Cuba celebrate 30 years of friendship and commercial relationship. The Embassy of the State of Qatar did not want to let the date pass un-noticed and for this reason, H.E. Ambassador Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla has given an interview to the local channel Cubavision Internacional, in which he summarizes the nature and the scope of the bilateral relations.

H.E. assessed the impact of these 30

years of a close relationship, which has been possible thanks to the leadership and deep friendship of/between H.H. Father Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Commander Fidel Castro Ruz.

He covered overtly important aspects of the cooperation between the two countries, such as the creation of a successful hospital with Cuban staff in Qatar. Also, H.E. referred that the bilateral relations and friendship have been reinforced after the visit of H.H. the Emir in 2015.



H.E. Ambassador Al-Mulla during the interview given to the local channel "Cubavision Internacional" at the embassy.



Mr. Ghanem E. Al-Ghanim, Third Secretary of the Embassy, attended the event. At the end, he posed with the students and Elvia Perez.

## The Embassy Joined 4 April Celebrations

The Embassy of the State of Qatar sponsored the celebration of the Day of the Pioneer at the secondary school "Manuel Bisbe" on 3 April.

Canal Habana, a TV local channel, covered the story, highlighting the significance of the date for the Cuban students, and welcoming the initiative of the Embassy.

The activity, organized by our Mission

along with the school staff and the Cuban theatre director Elvia Perez, was a performance that combined successfully acting, music and Cuban rhythms. Besides, some of the students recited poems written by the National Hero "Jose Marti".

This celebration, also known as the Celebration of 4 April, takes place annually and aims to emphasize the importance of education for the younger generations in Cuba. The school chosen is considered one of the most important educational centres in Havana.

## Qatar & Cuba Strengthening Ties at International Levels

It is well known the interest of the State of Qatar and Cuba in maintaining international peace and security, supporting the development process, and promoting human rights. Because of this, both nations are putting many efforts in getting actively involved in most of the United Nations activities and bodies, so that their presence helps reaching solutions to the existing and emerging challenges in the world.

In this spirit, Qatar and Cuba have not only become members of international organizations, but they have shown their keenness in reinforcing their roles in such institutions. In fact, both countries have traditionally endorsed each other's candidacies to some of these overtly important international bodies; for instance, Cuba's support to Qatar's



The relationship between Cuba and Qatar, which was officially established in 1989, has shown signs of deepening in recent years.

bids for the OPCW Executive Council, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and UNESCO. Cuba, on its side, have enjoyed Qatar's support as well, e.g. its decision to submit its candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council for 2021-2023.

### SPORTS



## First World Cup 2022 Stadium Is Ready!

On 16 May, Qatar inaugurated Al-Wakrah, the first of seven new World Cup 2022 stadiums. Fans packed into the 40,000

venue made to resemble the sail of a dhow, or traditional wooden sailboat, to cheer on Qatari teams playing in the final of the Emir Cup 2019, a local tournament for the country's club sides.

Al-Wakrah is not only the first stadium built from scratch, but the installation of the pitch was finished in a world record time of just 9 hours 15 minutes. With a retractable roof made out of 1,400 pieces, the stadium includes facilities as cycling and running tracks, a multipurpose indoor arena, mosque, wedding hall and a market. Visitors and fans be able to spend their time in these facilities before and after matches. All stadiums will have air conditioning, a necessity despite the event being moved to the cooler months in Qatar.

### TRADITIONS

## Ramadan Kareem!

Ramadan is regarded as the best month of the year for Muslims as this was the time in which the Quran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad. During Ramadan, Muslims practice self-discipline, sacrifice, and empathy for those less fortunate, which leads to encourage generosity and charity.

Greet people by saying "Ramadan Kareem"; this roughly translates into "Happy Ramadan!".



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*Eid  
Mubarak*