

QATAR IN CUBA

Embassy of the State of Qatar-Havana



OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | 2019

Commemorative Mail Stamp Issued to Celebrate Cuba-Qatar Relations

This year the State of Qatar and Republic of Cuba are celebrating 30 years of friendship and commercial relationship.

The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a commemorative mail stamp to honor such important date for both countries. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Anayansi Rodriguez and H.E. Ambassador Abdulla Al-Derbasti attended the event and gave a speech on the occasion.

Havana and Doha relations are based on mutual respect and focused on developing economic ties, particularly in the health sector. The Cuban Hospital of Dukhan, inaugurated in 2012, is an example of the existing cooperation. There are approximately 500 Cuban health professionals currently working at this institution, offering 21 different specialties and guaranteeing an excellent service to a growing number of Qatari citizens, expatriates and residents. Recently, a Cuban delegation travelled to Doha, where they met with local authorities to explore investment opportunities in Cuba's agricultural sector, as food security is a priority to Qatar and the private sector is eager to learn about these opportunities in the island.

The bilateral relations, which started thanks to the friendship between the late Commander Fidel Castro and H.H. Father Emir, were boosted and diversified with the visit of H.H. the Amir in 2015.

H.E. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Anayansi Rodriguez, H.E. Ambassador Al-Derbasti and Mr. Ascencio, President of the Postal Service.

Warm Welcome to New AMBASSADOR

It is with great pleasure that we welcome H.E. Mr. Abdulla Al-Derbasti as the new Head of the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Cuba.

H.E. Mr. Al-Derbasti is delighted to be here and proud of being appointed as the new ambassador of his country to Cuba. Furthermore, he is eager to work on the projects both countries will be focusing on in the near future.

QATAR & CUBA



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Abdulla Al-Derbasti.

Likewise, H.E. would like to express his commitment to continue strengthening the bilateral relations and to seize every opportunity to develop even more these relations and the ties among our peoples.

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Al-Derbasti has previously worked as Ambassador of the State of Qatar in the Republic of Paraguay.

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Cuban children and teachers walking alongside a replica of the Granma yacht at the Revolution Square.

Qatar Congratulates Cuban People on 61st Anniversary of the Revolution

The State of Qatar would like to congratulate the Cuban government and the people on 61st Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution.

Qatar joins the celebration of such important date, which marked the beginning of an era of great achievements and social progress in the island, despite the challenges posed by a blockade that has lasted more than five decades.

Likewise, Qatar takes this opportunity to highlight the importance of the relations between our countries, and reiterates its commitment to reinforce the links forged 30 years ago.

H.H. Reiterated Call for Stability in the Gulf

H.H. the Amir reiterated his call for stability in the Gulf region amid rising tensions in the area. This took place during the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Addressing UNGA, H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani stated that the stability in this part of the world is a 'regional and international need'. He added,

QATAR INTERNATIONAL



H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

We stress our firm position to keep the region clear of risks by resolving differences through dialogue based on common interests and respect for the sovereignty of its states. Stirring up tension and dictating the will by blockading and using sanctions are not in the interest of any of these states.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have enforced a sea, air and land blockade against Qatar since 2017.

During his speech, H.H. also denounced the 'continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and the Arab territories'. Likewise, H.H. criticised the countries backing Libyan armed groups fighting the internationally-backed government, which Qatar supports.

H.H. the Amir Pledges \$100 Million to Tackle Climate Change

H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has announced Qatar's contribution \$100 million to support small developing island states and the least developed states to deal with climate change, natural hazards, environmental challenges and to counter their

destructive effects. The announcement was made during the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019, which was held by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York, last September.

Delivering a speech, H.H. pointed out that Qatar Sovereign Wealth Fund assumes an active role in combating climate change through Qatar Investment Authority, a founding member of the "One Planet" Global Sovereign Wealth Fund, which has been established in accordance with the initiative of French President Macron to promote green investments.

The Summit, held in conjunction with the convening of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, saw the attendance of several heads and leaders of the world and representatives of civil society organizations.



Doha Opened its Doors to the Global Security Forum 2019

The Global Security Forum 2019, an event where convene a network of security experts, officials, and policymakers from around the world, was held from 15-16 October in Qatar. Being organized under the patronage of Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Interior



H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani was one of the key speakers at the Global Security Forum 2019.

H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani, the Global Security Forum highlighted some of the world's most pressing security issues and looked at ways in which these could be solved. Particularly, the two-day forum focused on misinformation and its implications in today's increasingly interconnected world. Established in 2018, this Forum is an international gathering that takes place annually and aims at encouraging open dialogue, this time about the relevance of combined efforts by different stakeholders such as academia, think-tanks, media, and technology platforms to tackle the phenomenon of misinformation with comprehensive solutions. More information on <https://globalsecurityforum.com/>.



H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser along with Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Silatech, EAA, OHCHR Signed Agreement to Promote Rights of Young People

H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All (EAA) and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Silatech, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Ms. Michelle Bachelet, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EAA, Silatech and the OHCHR in Geneva, last October.

Under the MoU, the three entities will work together to promote and protect the human rights of young people. The emphasis of the agreement is to support young people's economic and social empowerment, strengthen coordination and share expertise on the human rights to education, and explore possibilities of cooperation in areas of mutual interest between these organizations.

Qatar to Build Large CO2 Storage Plant

Qatar has commissioned a carbon capture-and-storage plant, which aims to sequester five million tonnes of carbon dioxide from its liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities by 2025.

H.E. Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Mr. Said Al-Kaabi, stated the existence of the plant had not been announced before, adding it had a 2.1 million tonnes per year capacity.

For years, Qatar has been the world's largest LNG producer and exporter. It aims to build a large extension to its sprawling LNG facilities to increase production by 40%.

H.E. Al-Kaabi, also the chief executive of Qatar Petroleum (QP), said the design of the expansion has taken into account carbon capture and storage. Besides, he said QP was looking into using carbon in Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), which it has been piloting in its oilfields.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT



Qatar's Energy Minister described the plant as the largest carbon recovery and sequestration facility in the region.

H.H. the Amir Inaugurated QITCOM 2019

His Highness the Amir attended the opening ceremony of Qatar Information Technology Conference and Exhibition (QITCOM 2019) at the Qatar National Convention Center.

Under the theme "Safe and Smart Cities", the ICT event --which gathers more than 400 local and international exhibitors, 300 innovators and entrepreneurs--, showcases the latest smart technologies and innovations, locally and internationally. Top officials and dignitaries were present at the event, such as President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame; Sultanate of Oman's Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yusuf bin Abdullah; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, and the Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Mr. Wolfgang Ischinger.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



H.H. along with H.E. President of Rwanda touring the Exhibition after the opening ceremony.

Qatar's Tourism Sector Witnesses Growth Rate of 11 percent

Over the past few years, Qatar has focused on promoting tourism, particularly since the Gulf state began preparations to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the Secretary-General of Qatar National Tourism Council and Group Chief Executive, Qatar Airways, Mr. Akbar Al-Baker called Qatar's tourism sector a promising market for investors and businesses. 'The sector has witnessed an 11% growth rate from January to August, in contrast to the same period in 2018', he said. Qatar has been recently ranked #1 in the Middle East and #8 globally in Business Environment by the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019.



Magnificent view of Doha City from the Four Seasons Hotel.

THE GULF'S PULSE



Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the UAE severed political and economic ties with Qatar in 2017.

40th GCC Summit amid Ongoing Gulf Dispute

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders held their 40th Summit on December 10th, in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Qatar's Prime Minister attended the gathering, in the most concrete sign yet of a possible thaw in a regional dispute, but the meeting ended without public mention of the row.

Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al Thani's presence, the most senior Qatari to attend the annual gathering since 2017, followed an intensification of efforts to resolve the Gulf dispute.

A closed-door meeting lasted less than 20 minutes before a final communique echoed the need to boost military and security cooperation and pledged to create a financial and monetary bloc by 2025.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and non-GCC member Egypt imposed a political and economic boycott on Qatar in June 2017 over allegations that Doha backs terrorism.

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Havana, 2019

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