



Qatar

Year Book 2009



HAPTER ONE

Land and People

- **Location, Topography and Climate**
- **The Ruling Family**
- **Main Cities**
- **Qatar in History**

Location, Topography and Climate

Location

The State of Qatar is located halfway along the west coast of the Arabian Gulf, east of the Arabian Peninsula between 24,27 and 26,10 north and 50,45 and 51,40 east . It is a peninsula that extends northward covering an area of 11,521 sq. km.

Topography

The topography of the Qatari peninsula generally consists of a flat rocky surface. However, it includes some hills and sand dunes that reach an altitude of 40 meters above sea level in the areas of Dukhan and Jebel Fuwairit in the eastern and northern parts of the country. The surface of Qatar is characterized by a number of geographical features which are peculiar to the East Coast of the Arabian Gulf. Such features include coves, inlets, depressions and surface rainwater-draining basins known as “al-riyad” (gardens) found mainly in the northern and central parts of the peninsula, the most important of which are al-Majida, al-Shahabniya and al-Sulaimi. The northern and central regions are the most fertile where vegetation grows in abundance.

Climate

Qatar has a desert climate with a hot summer and a relatively warm winter. In summer, the temperature ranges between 25 and 46 degrees centigrade. Rainfall in winter is minimal with an average that does not exceed 75.2 mm. annually.

People

The people of Qatar are the descendents of Arabian lines of kinship due to the close proximity of the country to the Arabian Peninsula and to the deep-rooted cultural background they share with the people of Arabia. As a result of such factors, the present composition of the Qatari people was formed by a major migration wave from the neighboring regions of Najd, al-Ihsa and the Omani mainland in different periods in the 17th and 18th centuries. Tribal migration to Qatar went on until the early 19th century.

Population

The population of Qatar is estimated to be about 1,5 million according to the 2008 Census. 83% of the population lives in Doha the capital and its suburbs.

Religion and Language

Islam is the official religion of the Sate of Qatar and “Sharia” (Islamic law) is the main source of legislation. Arabic is the official language; and English is widely used.

The Ruling Family

The Al Thani family was a tribal group that settled for a long time at Jebrin oasis in southern Najd before it arrived in Qatar during the 18th century. Initially it stayed in the north of the peninsula before moving to Doha in the mid 19th century under the leadership of Mohammed Bin Thani. The family is a branch of the Arab tribe Tamim whose descent can be traced back to Mudar Bin Nizar, and who inhabited the eastern parts of the Arabian Peninsula. The name Al Thani is derived from that of the family’s ancestor Thani Bin Mohammed, father of Mohammed Bin Thani, who was the first sheikh to rule the Qatari peninsula during the mid 20th century.

Succession of the Qatari Rulers

- **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Thani** (1850-1878)
- **Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Al Thani** (1878-1913)
- **Sheikh Abdullah Bin Jassim Al Thani** (1913-1949)
- **Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Al Thani** (1949-1960)
- **Sheikh Ahmed Bin Ali Al Thani** (1960-1972)
- **Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani** (1972-1995)

H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar (1995)

H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani assumed power on the 27th of June 1995, recognized and supported by members of the ruling family and the Qatari people.

A Short Biography of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar

Born in Doha in 1952, His Highness had his primary, preparatory and secondary education in Qatar. After graduating from the Royal Saint Hearst Military Academy in the United Kingdom in July 1971, he joined the Qatari Armed Forces with the rank of lieutenant colonel and was appointed Commander of the First Mobile Regiment, known as Hamad Mobile Regiment. He was then promoted to the rank of major general in February 1972 and was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and thus became the first Qatari national ever to hold this position.

He played a major role in developing the Qatari Armed Forces, modernizing existing units, increasing the number of troops and military units and providing them with the most advanced weapons and training.

On the 31st of May 1977 he was appointed Heir Apparent and Minister of Defense. In those capacities and as Chairman of the Supreme Council for Planning, he managed the affairs of the State during the years before he assumed power. He was also Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth Welfare since its inception in 1979 and held that position until 1991. Being the patron of civilian and military sports in Qatar, he established the first Military Sporting Association, which had become a member of the International Military Sports Federation; and gave considerable support to the youth and sports sector out of his belief in the importance of the role played by this vital sector in the process of building and developing the society. He has sponsored several conferences in various fields, attended many Arab and Gulf gatherings, and visited many countries. He has been awarded decorations by a number of Arab and foreign countries in appreciation of his efforts to boost bilateral relations and promote cooperation with these countries.

Main Cities

Doha

Doha is the capital city, the seat of government and the location of the main commercial and financial institutions. Situated halfway along the eastern coast of the peninsula, the city is an important cultural and commercial center with a vast trading seaport and a modern international airport connecting the country with the rest of the world. More than half of the population lives in Doha, which is full of public parks, grand hotels and vast shopping malls. Qatar National Museum, the Islamic Art Museum, al-Kout Fort and popular souks (market places) with their old traditional style are some of the most outstanding landmarks of Doha. The city also has well-stocked libraries, the county's most important of which is the Qatari Public Library (Dar al-Kutub).

Mesaieed

Mesaieed, the main industrial city in Qatar, emerged following the discovery of oil in the country. It is situated on the southeastern coast about 45 km south of Doha and has a major seaport for oil exportation and a commercial seaport. It houses iron and steel, gas liquefaction, petrochemical, fertilizers and oil refining industries. Its splendid beaches and sand dunes are also among the most charming tourist attractions in Qatar.

Ras Laffan

This 40 sq. km. estate, which lies 85 km north of Doha, is the second largest industrial city in Qatar. With the largest gas exportation seaport in the Arabian Gulf region and natural gas liquefaction plants, Ras Laffan is considered to be one of largest industrial cities in the world.

Al-Khor

Situated about 57 km from Doha, al-Khor is a coastal town well-known for its fine beaches, old mosques and towers and a harbor for small fishing boats. Its has a local museum displaying archeological and historical antiquities.

Al-Wakra

Al-Wakra is situated half way between Doha and Mesaieed and 15 km from Doha. It is a booming town with a number of archeological sites such as houses and mosques reflecting traditional architecture, a harbor for fishing boats and a museum displaying archeological and environmental antiquities.

Dukhan

Situated on the western coast of Qatar about 84 km from the capital, this town was developed following the discovery of oil in the surrounding fields. It is known for its popular fine beaches.

Madinat Al-Shamal

Situated about 107 km from Doha on the northernmost coast of the peninsula, this town is built to

function as an administrative center for a number of coastal villages north of Qatar.

Al-Zubara

Al-Zubara lies in the north of the country 105 km from Doha. It is one of the most important archeological sites in Qatar with the historical Al-Zubara fort.

Qatar in History

Qatar in Early History

Evidence of early settlement in the Qatar peninsula that can be traced as far back as the 4th Millennium B.C. appears in numerous artifacts such as inscriptions, rock carvings, flint spearheads and samples of fine pottery, which were discovered at various sites in Qatar by the Danish (1965), British (1973) and French (1976) expeditions.

About 200 prehistoric archeological sites were discovered by the Danish expedition between 1965 and 1975.

Several sites dating to various periods in the Stone Age were discovered east of Um Bab; and others were found in the southernmost area near Soudanthil. To the southeast of Dukhan a large site for making flint tools was discovered at Um Taqa, probably dating to the Middle Mesolithic Stone Age. Several other sites were discovered to the southwest of Mesaed. Archeological excavations have revealed that the Ubeid civilization, which flourished in southern Iraq and the northern parts of the Arabian Gulf, also reached the Qatar peninsula.

In the 5th century B.C., the Greek historian Herodotus referred to the seafaring Canaanites as the original inhabitants of Qatar. The Greek geographer Ptolemy mentioned "qatara" in his map of Arabia in reference to al-Zubara, believed to be an ancient trading port in the Gulf region.

Qatar in Islamic History

In the Islamic history the Qatar peninsula and the surrounding region in the middle of the 7th century A.D. were under the rule of Al Munthir Arabs. Their king, al-Munthir Ibn Sawi Altimimi, embraced Islam. Since then, Qatar has joined the march of the successive periods of the Islamic civilization.

The presence of Qatar in Arabic and Islamic literature and history was quite noticeable. Poets expressed their admiration of Qatar, its famous breed of horses and camels as well as its well-known garments. References were made that Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used such garments. His wife Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, had a Qatari-woven shawl and the Caliph Omar Bin Alkhatib, may Allah be pleased with him, had a leather Qatari loincloth.

Sources of Arab Islamic history report numerous evidences of the presence of the skilled seafaring Qataris and their participation in the building and provision of the first naval fleet that

was assembled to transport the Islamic army under the command of Abu al-Ala' al-Hadhrami.

Arab historians and travelers lauded the bravery of the Qatari poet Qatari Bin al-Fujaa. In his book "Mu'jam al-Buldan", Yaqut al-Mamawi, a renowned Arab geographer, referred to the Qatari skills in making striped woven cloaks known as "burood" as well as Qatari remarkable skills in making spears known then as "alkhattiya" spears.

During the Abbasid Period in the 8th century AH (14th century AD), Qatar witnessed considerable economic prosperity enabling it to pledge a great deal of financial support for the caliphate in Baghdad. This is indicated by the inscriptions discovered at Merowb fort situated on the western coast and bearing the marks of the Abbasid architectural style.

During the 10th century AH (16th century AD) Qataris and Ottomans joined forces to drive out the Portuguese. While the whole Arab world came under Ottoman rule for about four centuries, Qatar was nominally part of the Ottoman Empire, yet the real power and control were in the hands of the sheiks and princes of local tribes. In 1893 the Ottomans attacked Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed's headquarters at al-Wajba fort, but they were defeated by the Qataris who bravely resisted them and forced them to withdraw to Doha fort.

Qatar in the 20th Century

Qatar maintained its links to the Ottoman Islamic Caliphate and recognized its nominal sovereignty in the early years of the 20th century, although the Ottoman rule in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula was constantly diminishing. Under those circumstances, Qatar chose not to commit itself to a protection treaty other than the 1868 treaty with Britain signed by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Thani. However, later in 1916, Britain managed to conclude with Qatar a protection treaty, which was finally ratified on March 23, 1918 after Sheikh Abdullah Bin Jassim had signed the original and translated versions.

Britain then moved to the phase of actual presence after the ratification of the amended treaty in 1935 securing the cancellation of the "frozen" provisions dealing with the British political representation in Qatar in the old treaty and providing for the establishment of postal and telegraphic services, airports and other facilities, but no political representative came to Doha until 1949.

Oil exploration operations continued for about 14 years (1935-1949). Although oil was discovered in Dukhan at the end of 1939, exploration operations were stopped for four years (1942-1946) because of the Second World War and its repercussions. In 1949 oil was discovered in commercial quantities and in December 1949 the first shipment of crude oil left the shores of Qatar.

The period between 1939 and 1949 was a hard period as a result of the negative consequences of the Second World War on the Qatari society. Economic conditions deteriorated following the

termination of oil exploration in 1942 and the recession of pearl trade which had led to shortages and soaring prices of goods.

Although Qatar was not an independent country, it tried since the 1960s to engage in some international activities such as joining UN specialized agencies including the UNESCO and the WHO. It also participated in conferences of oil-producing countries and the 14th Session of the Arab League Cultural Committee in Cairo on January 21, 1961.

After Britain decided to withdraw from the entire region in 1968, Law No. 11 of 1969 was enacted establishing the Foreign Affairs Department, later becoming the present Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The first Qatari constitution, enacted in the form of a provisional statute in April 1970, provided for the formation of the first council of ministers in the history of Qatar. Accordingly, Decree No. (35) was issued on May 29, 1970 on the formation of the council of ministers. Numerous laws designating the authorities and responsibilities of ministers and government departments followed.

The first council of ministers in the history of Qatar met on June 2, 1970 and was composed of ten portfolios. Following this, and on September 3, 1971 the political independence of Qatar was declared.

CHAPTER TWO

Government

- **The Constitution**
- **The Advisory Council**
- **The Judiciary**
- **The Armed Forces**
- **Internal Security**
- **The Audit Bureau**
- **General Secretariat for Development Planning**
- **National Committee for Human Rights**
- **Statistics Authority**

The Constitution

Qatar is an independent Arab state. Islam is the official religion and Sharia (Islamic law) is the major source of legislation. It has a democratic system. Arabic is the official language and the people of Qatar are part of the Arab nation.

The state of Qatar preserves its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, safety and stability and defends itself against aggression. It respects international charters and conventions and complies with all agreements and international conventions to which it has acceded.

The state's foreign policy is based on the principle of strengthening international peace and security through promoting the recourse to peaceful means to resolve international disputes, supporting the peoples' right to self-determination, abstaining from the intervention in the internal affairs of other states and cooperating with peace-loving nations.

Government System

The rule in the state is hereditary in Al Thani family and in the line of the male descendants of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Bin Abdullah Bin Jassim Al Thani.

The rule is inherited by the son named as the Heir Apparent by the Emir. If there is no son, the prerogative of the rule passes to a male member of the family named by the Emir as Heir Apparent. Provisions regulating the rule of the state and succession of the rule are contained in a special law which has a constitutional status.

The Emir may delegate some of his powers and functions to the Heir Apparent by an Emiri decree. The Heir Apparent presides over the sessions of the council of ministers whenever he is in attendance.

Without prejudice to the previous provisions and where it is not possible to delegate powers to the Heir Apparent, the Emir may designate by an Emiri decree a deputy from the members of the ruling family to discharge some of his powers and functions. If the designated appointee occupies a government post or performs an official function, he shall cease to discharge his functions during the period in which he deputizes for the Emir. Upon his designation, the Deputy Emir takes before the Emir the same oath as that taken by the Heir Apparent.

The Ruling Family Council whose members are appointed from the members of the ruling family is set up by an Emiri decision.

The council proclaims the position of the Emir as vacant in the event of the Emir's demise or when he becomes totally incapacitated to discharge his functions. The council of ministers and the advisory council shall, after a secret joint session, announce the vacancy and declare the Heir Apparent as the Emir of the state of Qatar. If the age of the Heir Apparent at the time he is named Emir of the state is less than eighteen according to the Gregorian calendar, reins of government is conferred upon a regency council to be appointed by the ruling family council.

The regency council is composed of a chairman and 3 to 5 members. The chairman and the majority of members are members of the ruling family.

The Emir's financial emoluments as well as funds allocated for gifts and assistance are determined by an Emiri decision each year.

Basic Pillars of the Society

The Qatari society is based on justice, benevolence, freedom, equality and noble disposition. The state safeguards the pillars of society and guarantees security, stability and equal opportunities for citizens and consolidates the spirit of national unity, solidarity and fraternity among all citizens.

The family is the basic unit of society and its pillars are true faith, morality and patriotism. Laws organize means of protecting the family, supporting its structure, bolstering as well as protecting motherhood, childhood and old age under the family umbrella.

The state cares for the young and protects them against delinquency and exploitation, and physical, mental and spiritual neglect; and provides them with conditions conducive to promoting their skills in various domains through sound education.

The state cares for public health, provides means of protection from and treatment of diseases and epidemics in accordance with the law. It promotes sciences, arts and national cultural heritage; preserves and helps propagate them; and encourages scientific research. Education is a basic tenet of society's progress sponsored and developed by the state, which endeavors to disseminate and propagate it.

Private ownership, capital and work are essential pillars of the state's social structure and are all personal rights having a social function regulated by law.

Private ownership is safeguarded, and no individual is deprived of his own property except in the public interest and under circumstances set by law in a legal manner, provided that the concerned individual is fairly compensated.

The state guarantees economic activity on the basis of social justice and balanced cooperation between the public sector and private sector to achieve economic and social development, raise production, ensure welfare of citizens, improve living standards and provide job opportunities pursuant to the provisions of the law.

Natural wealth and resources are owned by the state, which preserves and wisely utilizes them in accordance with the provisions of the law. Relations between employees and employers are based on social justice and are regulated by law.

The state encourages, guarantees and facilitates investment; and protects the environment and the natural balance of the ecology for the purpose of achieving comprehensive and sustainable development for all generations.

Public Rights and Duties

Citizens are equal in rights and public duties and people are equal before the law with no discrimination between them because of gender, race, language or faith.

Personal freedom is guaranteed and no individual may be arrested, imprisoned or searched. His residence may not be restricted and his freedom to reside or move may not be restricted except by law.

No individual may be subjected to torture or humiliating treatment.

Torture is a crime punishable by law.

Privacy of individuals shall be respected. No one shall be subjected to interference in his or her privacy or family affairs or residence or correspondence or any interference affecting his or her honor or reputation, unless according to the provisions of the law and in a way to be stipulated by it. No citizen may be deported from the country or denied coming back to it. An individual is innocent until he has been proved guilty by a court of justice that endures necessary guarantees for him to exercise the right of defense.

No crime and no punishment unless stipulated by the law. No punishment except on the consequences of an act after it is committed. Punishment is personal. Terms and provision for granting the Qatari citizenship are defined by law and have constitutional power.

The right to vote and stand for election for all citizens is guaranteed by the state, subject to the law.

Taxation is based on social justice and taxes may only be levied by a law. The right of assembly is guaranteed for all citizens in accordance with the provisions of the law. Freedom of association is also guaranteed pursuant to the terms and conditions set by the law. Every citizen is entitled to address the public authorities and the freedom of expression and scientific research is guaranteed in accordance with the terms and circumstances set by the law. Freedom of the press, printing and publishing is also guaranteed in accordance with the law.

Every citizen is entitled to education and the state endeavors to achieve compulsory and free general education in accordance with the laws applied in Qatar. The freedom of worship is guaranteed for all in accordance with the law and the requirements of protecting public order and ethics. The right to inheritance is secured and is governed by the Islamic Sharia. Every legal resident in the State of Qatar is entitled to protection of himself as well as his property in accordance with the provisions of the law. To defend the homeland is the duty of all citizens.

To hold a public post is a national service; and the public employee, when carrying out the exigencies of his job, solely upholds the public interests. Public property is safeguarded and its protection is the duty of all pursuant to the law. It is prohibited to confiscate an individual's property except by a judicial verdict and in the circumstances set by the law.

Respect of the constitution, compliance with legislations enacted by the public authorities, observance of public order and public ethics, and regard for national traditions and established customs are the duty of all residents in or guests of Qatar. Extradition of political refugees is prohibited and conditions of granting political asylum are set by the law.

Organization of Authorities

People are the source of authority and they practice it according to the provisions of this constitution. The system of governance is based on the principle of separation and cooperation between the authorities in accordance with the way stipulated by the constitution. The legislative authority is handled by the advisory council as stipulated in the constitution. The executive authority is handled by the Emir assisted by the council of ministers as stipulated in the constitution. The judicial authority is handled by the courts of law as stipulated in the constitution. All verdicts are issued in the name of the Emir.

His Highness the Emir

The Emir is the head of the state. His person is totally immune and inviolable. He is the supreme commander of the armed forces. He supervises them, assisted by the defense council which operates under his direct supervision. An Emiri decision is issued to form the defense council and define its powers. The Emir represents the state of Qatar within and outside the country and in all international relations.

The Emir exercises the following powers:

1. To formulate the general policy of the state with the assistance of the council of ministers.
2. To endorse and issue laws. No law comes into force unless endorsed by the Emir.
3. To call the council of ministers to meet whenever public interests so require, and chair the sessions he attends.
4. To appoint civil and military officials and terminate their service in accordance with the law.
5. To accept credentials of heads of diplomatic and consular missions.
6. To grant pardon from or mitigate a punishment in accordance with the law.
7. To bestow civil and military decorations in accordance with the law.
8. To establish and organize the ministries and other governmental institutions and define their powers.
9. To set up and organize agencies that provide him with opinions and consultancy to direct the higher policies of the state, supervise them and define their powers.
10. Any other powers in accordance with the constitution or legislations.

The Emir, by an Emiri decree, endorses treaties and agreements and submits them to the advisory council with relevant descriptions. A treaty or agreement has the force of law once endorsed and published in the official gazette, while reconciliation treaties and other such pacts related to the territories of the state, the rights of sovereignty, general or special rights of the citizens, or those that include amendments of the law shall not be valid unless being issued by a law. In any case, treaties shall not include secret conditions contrary to those made public.

The Emir may, by an Emiri decree, declare a state of national emergency in the state under exceptional circumstances defined by the law. He has the right to take all the necessary urgent measures to confront any danger threatening the safety, territorial integrity or security of the state,

or the interests of its people; or impeding the institutions of the state from performing their duties. The decree shall include the nature of such exceptional circumstances for which the state of emergency has been declared and describe the measures being taken to confront the emergency. The advisory council shall be notified within 15 days following the issuance of the decree. In case of the absence of the council for any reason, it should be notified of the decree in its first meeting. The declaration of the emergency provisions shall have a limited period of validity and shall not be extendable unless approved by the advisory council.

The Emir has the right, in the exceptional circumstances that require urgent measures and the issuance of laws when the advisory council is not in session, to issue relevant decrees having the power of law. These decree-laws shall be put before the advisory council in its first meeting. The council has the right, within 40 days and by two-thirds majority, to reject any of these decree-laws or ask for amendments within a specific period of time. The effect of these decree-laws shall be cancelled from the date of the council's rejection or after the expiry of the period specified for their amendment. A war of defense is declared by an Emiri decree. A war of offense is prohibited.

The Emir appoints the prime minister, accepts his resignation and relieves him from his post with an Emiri order. The acceptance of the resignation or the dismissal of the prime minister will amount to the dissolution of the entire council of ministers. In case of acceptance of the resignation or dismissal of the prime minister from his post the ministries shall continue to perform urgent functions until a new council of ministers is appointed. The Emir appoints ministers by an Emiri order and in accordance with the nominations made by the prime minister, and accepts their resignation or dismisses them with the same tool. In case of acceptance of the resignation of a minister, the Emir may ask him to perform urgent functions until the appointment of a successor.

The Emir may call for a citizens' referendum on crucial issues related to national interests. The referendum issue shall be accepted if approved by the majority of voters. The result of the referendum shall be valid and binding from the date of its announcement and shall be published in the official gazette.

The Council of Ministers

The formation of the council of ministers shall be in accordance with an Emiri order, as per a proposal from the prime minister. The Emir has the right to assign the prime minister or any of the ministers with one or more portfolios. The law shall define the authorities of the ministers.

The council of ministers assists the Emir to carry out his tasks and exercise his powers in accordance with the constitution and provisions of the law.

The council of ministers, as the highest executive authority, undertakes the administration of all internal and external affairs under the council's jurisdiction in accordance with the constitution and the provisions of the law.

The council of ministers specifically performs the following functions:

1. To propose draft laws and decrees, which are submitted to the advisory council for deliberation. In the event of their approval, they are submitted to the Emir for sanctioning and shall be issued pursuant to the constitution.

2. To approve regulations and decisions prepared by the ministries and other government institutions, each within their jurisdiction, for the implementation of laws in conformity with their provisions.
3. To supervise the implementation of laws, decrees, regulations and decisions.
4. To propose the establishment and organization of governmental departments and public institutions and organizations in accordance with the law.
5. To oversee the operation of government financial and administrative system.
6. To appoint and dismiss employees when appointment and dismissal are not within the power of the Emir and ministers in accordance with the law.
7. To work out the general rules to ensure internal security and maintain order throughout the country pursuant to the law.
8. To manage the state finances and prepare the general budget proposals, according to the provisions of this Constitution and the law.
9. To approve economic projects and means to implement them.
10. To supervise the means of promoting the interests of the state abroad and the means of promoting international relations and external affairs.
11. To prepare a report in the beginning of every fiscal year, including a detailed presentation on the significant achievements within and outside the country, alongside with a plan outlining the best means to achieve comprehensive development of the state. To provide the means of development, progress and welfare. To consolidate the country's security and stability according to the core principles guiding the state policy stipulated in the constitution. This report shall be submitted to the Emir for approval.
12. Any other powers authorized by the constitution or other laws. Ministers implement the government's general policies, each within their own jurisdictions. The Emir may ask the prime minister and Ministers to submit reports on any issues within their jurisdictions.

The prime minister and ministers are collectively responsible before the Emir for the implementation of the general policies of the government; and each is individually responsible before the Emir for the performance of their functions and exercise of their powers.

The prime minister presides over the sessions of the council of ministers and guides its deliberations. He also supervises the coordination between different ministries to achieve the unity of government departments and the integration of their activities. He signs all the decisions of the council, and submits to the Emir, for endorsement and issuance, all the decisions relating to the affairs that require to be declared or defined by Emiri decisions in accordance with the provisions of the constitutions.

The meetings of the council of ministers are considered legal if the majority of its members are attending alongside with the prime minister or his deputy. The deliberations of the council are confidential and the decisions are taken by a majority vote of the present members. In a case of a tie, the Prime Minister has a casting vote and the minority is committed to the decisions of the majority.

The council of ministers prepares the internal regulations that organize its functions. It has a general secretariat to assist it in performing its tasks.

Besides the ministers, the council of ministers includes a number of ministers of state without portfolio.

The council of ministers acts on the basis of the principle of bearing collective responsibility before the Emir. Ministers are concerned with implementing the policy of the state and achieving the highest possible degree of social, cultural and administrative development in the country.

Ministers recommend draft laws, regulations and statutes prepared by their respective ministries, each within their respective jurisdictions; monitor the application of laws, regulations, decisions, statutes and court decisions as well as government expenditure and civil service and the performance of the ministries; prepare the draft general budget; and lay out the system to ensure the protection of the state's security and public order. The Ministers, each within their respective jurisdictions, act to secure the state's best interests abroad including establishing international relations and implementing foreign policy in accordance with the law.

The general secretariat of the council of ministers is composed of the following main departments:

1. Public Relations and Communication Unit
2. Legislation Department
3. Government Human Resources Department
4. Government Organization and Development Department
5. Government Planning and Policies Department
6. Sessions Affairs and Follow-Up Department
7. Legal Researches and Studies Department
8. Human Resources Department
9. Administrative and Financial Affairs Department
10. Information Systems Department

The council of ministers is composed of the following ministers:

- H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

- H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry

- H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalid Al Thani
Minister of Interior

- H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalid Al Thani
Minister of State and cabinet member

- H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and cabinet member

- H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Marri
Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

- H.E. Yousef Hussein Kamal
Minister of Economy and Finance

- H.E. Hassan Abdullah Al Ghanim
Minister of Justice

- H.E. Saad Bin Ibrahim Al Mahmoud
Minister of Education and Higher Education

- H.E. Dr. Sultan Bin Hassan Al Dhabit Al Dousari

Minister of Labor

- H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Minister of State for Interior Affairs and cabinet member

- H.E. Sheikh Abdurrahman Bin Khalifa Bin Abdulaziz Al Thani
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning

- H.E. Dr. Mohammed Saleh Al Sada
Minister of State for Energy and Industrial Affairs and cabinet member

- H.E. Abdullah Khalid Al Gahtani
Minister of Public Health

- H.E. Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari
Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage

- H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Al Thani
Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and cabinet member

- H.E. Abdullah Bin Mubarak Bin I'boud Al Midadi
Minister of the Environment

- H.E. Dr. Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah
Minister of State for International Cooperation, Acting Minister of
Business and Trade and cabinet member

- H.E. Nasser Bin Abdullah Al Hameedi
Minister of Social Affairs

The Advisory Council

Set up in 1972 in accordance with the provisions of the amended provisional basic statute, the advisory council is considered to be the first step on the country's march towards democratization. The unconditional support that the government, led by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, has been pledging for the council has finally borne fruit, as can be seen most notably in the massive development the council has been witnessing in recent years. In addition, the scope of the council's responsibilities has been expanded, its discussions and deliberations gained more moral and concrete weight in political practice, and the recommendations it makes on subjects referred to it by the council of ministers or initiated by its members are taken into high consideration. Another sign of the support that the advisory council gets from the government is the participation of cabinet members in the council's meetings and committees to respond to the questions addressed by the council's members.

Formation and Membership

The advisory council is composed of 35 members appointed by an Emiri decree. Selected members are those with competence, experience and sound opinion and who represent all population sectors and regions. Membership term is four years.

The council is responsible for the following functions:

1. To discuss the state's general policies in political, economic and administrative fields submitted by the government
2. To discuss the country's affairs in social and cultural domains
3. To discuss draft laws proposed and submitted by the council of ministers before they are submitted to H.H. the Emir for approval and enactment
4. To discuss the draft budget of major public projects
5. To ask for information and data from the council of ministers on any issue within the powers of the Advisory council and related to the government's general policies as well as ask for information and data from the minister concerned on issues within the jurisdiction of his ministry.
6. To make recommendations and express wishes on such issues. The advisory council may not interfere in issues within the powers of the executive authority or judicial authority.

Terms of Session

The advisory council holds an ordinary session for at least eight months a year at an invitation from the Emir through an Emiri decree which sets the date of convening. Another Emiri decree is issued on the termination of the session.

The extraordinary session is held at the invitation from the Emir during the council's vacation in case of the need for the council to debate an important issue or if a request for its convention is signed by the majority of its members.

The council had discussed a number of laws and draft laws during its 2007 / 2008 session as follows:

Decree-Laws

1. Decree law No (18) for 2006 amending some provisions of public authorities and establishments law issued by law No (26) for 2004
2. Decree law No (21) on public utility private establishments
3. Decree law No (23) for 2006 amending some provisions of decree law No. (38) for 2002 on the establishment of Qatar national human rights committee
4. Decree law No (30) for 2006 on the issuance of the patents law
5. Decree law No (31) for 2006 on the issuance of military service law
6. Decree law No (32) for 2006 excepting some commodities from customs tax
7. Decree law (33) for 2006 on Qatar central bank
8. Decree law No (34) for 2006 on the issuance of the communications law
9. Decree law No (35) for 2006 amending some provisions of law No (8) for 1966 on endowments
10. Decree law No (14) for 2007 amending some provisions of law No (33) for 2005 on Qatar financial markets authority and Doha securities market company
11. Decree law No (15) for 2007 on the organization, marketing and sale of the products subject to government control outside the country
12. Decree law No (19) for 2007 on the issuance of traffic law
13. Decree law No (16) for 2007 on the amendment of some provisions of law No. (21) for 2006 on public utility private establishment
14. Decree law No (24) for 2007 amending some provisions of law No (6) for 1997 on the establishment of the administrative development institute
15. Decree law No (25) for 2007 amending some provisions of civil service law issued by law No (1) for 2001

Draft Laws

1. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (33) for 2006 on Qatar central bank
2. A draft law amending some provisions of commercial companies law issued by law No (5) for 2002
3. A draft law on the contribution of some shareholding companies to support social and sports activities
4. A draft law on the establishment of loan funds for the staff of military establishments
5. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (6) for 2000 on practicing educational services
6. A draft law on the protection of consumers
7. A draft law amending some provisions of Decree law No (38) for 2002 on the establishment of Qatar National Human Rights Committee
8. A draft law on property lease
9. A draft law on veterinary quarantine
10. A draft law on the election of the Advisory council's members
11. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (5) for 2003 on the establishment of the state security apparatus
12. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (11) for 2003 on the establishment of the two state appreciation and encouragement awards for science, arts and literature
13. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (11) for 1997 on the establishment of Qatar general radio and TV corporation
14. A draft law emending some provisions of law No (4) for 1983 on the utilization and protection of life marine resources in Qatar
15. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (34) for 2002 on retirement and pensions
16. A draft law on the organization of entry, exit, residence and sponsorship of expatriates
17. A draft law on domestic workers
18. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (2) for 2002 on the organization of ownership of property by the nationals of the GCC countries
19. A draft law on the establishment of the constitutional court
20. A draft law amending some provisions of Qatar financial centre law No. (7) for 2005
21. A draft law on the exemption of non-Qatari investors share in the profits of some shareholding companies from the income tax
22. A draft law on the designation of the blood money for manslaughter
23. A draft law on the organization of punishment and disciplinary institutions
24. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (23) for 2005 on the organization of the ministry of municipal affairs and agriculture and the designation of its responsibilities
25. A draft law on the rationalization of electricity and water consumption
26. A draft law amending some provisions of the commercial companies' law issued by law No (5) for 2002
27. A draft law on permitting the nationals of the GCC countries to practice new economic activities in Qatar
28. A draft law on the taxation of the gulf international digging company limited
29. A draft law on the amendment of some of the provisions of the decree law No. (14) for 1993 on passports
30. A draft law on the issue of the unified system of extending insurance protection to cover the GCC nationals working in other GCC countries
31. A draft law on the amendment of some provisions of the decree law No (17) for 2001 on the establishment of the general authority of customs and ports
32. A draft law on the amendment of some provisions of the decree law No (10) for 1974 on the establishment of Qatar Petroleum
33. A draft law on the control of the ozone layer depleting materials

34. A draft law assigning the anniversary of the accession of Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani as the national day for the country
35. A draft law amending some provisions of law No (5) for 1982 on organizing births and deaths
36. A draft law on the issuance of the trade marks system law
37. A draft law on the exception of some commodities from customs duties
38. A draft law on chemical weapons

General Debate Proposals

1. A general debate proposal on the phenomenon of rising prices of commodities and services in the country
2. A general debate proposal on the phenomenon of fleeing expatriate workforce
3. A general debate proposal on facilitating the transfer of retired civilian or military employees to their new government departments through the ministry of civil service affairs and housing

Special Debate Proposals

A special debate proposal on the villages of Qatar and the services they need

Other Issues:

The budget of the advisory council for the fiscal year 2008/2009

The budget of the major projects of the state for the fiscal year 2008/2009.

The Judiciary

Supremacy of law is the basis of governance in the state of Qatar. The integrity of the judiciary and the honesty of the judges guarantee the rights and freedoms.

The judicial authority is independent and is discharged by courts of justice of various types and degrees which pass their verdicts in accordance with the law. Judges are independent and there is no higher authority than the law, and no interference with cases or course of justice is accommodated.

Types and degrees of courts are classified by law, which defines their powers. Military courts, apart from the case of emergency, have jurisdiction on military crimes perpetrated by members of the armed forces and security forces, subject to the limits set by law.

Court sessions are open unless the court decides otherwise for consideration of public order or public morals. In all cases, pronouncement of verdicts is made in an open session.

Judges may not be dismissed, except when prescribed by the law, which also defines the provisions related to their affairs and regulates the disciplinary actions that may taken against them.

The public prosecution undertakes litigation on behalf of society, oversees judicial seizure and monitors the implementation of criminal laws. The law regulates the public prosecution and its powers and defines the conditions and requirements of holding public prosecution posts.

The supreme judiciary council oversees work progress at the courts of law and their supporting organs. The law outlines the formation and authorities of the council.

The law defines the judicial institution authorized to settle disputes on the constitutionality of laws and statutes as well as their powers and the procedures of appeal to be followed against these laws and statutes. The law also defines the effect of a sentence declaring the unconstitutionality of a law or an act.

Ever since it gained its political independence and embarked onto its era of constitutional and political development, Qatar has been supporting and organizing the judiciary along contemporary constitutional lines in light of its recognition that progress, security and peace in any society is best measured by the scope and extent of justice and law supremacy provided for by the existing law system in that society.

The judicial authority law, issued in 2003, designates how courts of law should play their role in the society. It stipulates that judges are independent and shall not be subject to removal from office save in cases specified by the law; and the independence of the judiciary is inviolable and is protected by law against interference from other authorities.

Courts are divided into the following types:

1. Court of Cassation hears and decides on appeals for cassation with regard to verdicts passed in accordance with procedures defined by law.
2. Court of Appeals hears and decides on the appeals filed against the sentences issued on doctrinal provisions (hudood), punishments (qisas), criminal, civil and commercial cases; personal affairs, inheritance, administrative disputes and other cases.
3. Preliminary court has chambers to decide on doctrinal provisions (hudood), punishments (qisas), criminal, civil and commercial, personal affairs, inheritance, administrative disputes and other cases.

Each court decides on the cases referred to it in accordance with the law. Other chambers of preliminary courts can be formed in other towns as per a decision from the supreme judiciary council.

Supreme Judiciary Council

The supreme judiciary council is responsible for the following:

1. To give its opinion on issues related to the judiciary and studying and proposing the special legislation to develop the judicial system.
2. To give its opinion on the appointment, promotion, transference, secondment and retirement of judges in accordance with the law.
3. To decide on the grievances related to judges affairs, where the council's decision shall be final.
4. To discharge other functions assigned to it by any other law or the tasks raised to its attention by the president of the judiciary supreme council.

President of Courts of Justice

A president is appointed for the courts of justice to discharge the following functions:

1. To organize judiciary work at courts of law and distribute work duties between the judges.
2. To assign any of the judges of the courts of justice to undertake the duties of any other judge

of these courts on a temporary basis.

3. To take the decision on disciplinary actions to be taken against the employees of the courts of justice in accordance with the general civil service law.

The president of courts of justice is the only official to report to the minister of justice on the organizational aspects of the courts of law regarding administrative, financial, supervision and inspection affairs, in addition to supervising the behavior of judges and managing and inspecting their financial and administrative affairs.

The achievements of the supreme judiciary council in 2007 and 2008:

- * 53603 lawsuits were brought before courts of law of all chambers and degrees including expeditious judiciary.
- * Launching the website of courts of law in French.
- Starting the judiciary enquiry system which helps improve the performance at the courts of law.
- * Establishing a comprehensive electronic legal library.
- * Modernizing the infrastructure including the networks and data centers, and developing the buildings of the courts of law and equipping them with the internet service.
- * Participating in a number of judiciary-related regional, Arab and international meetings and conferences.
- * Participating in preparing unified statutes (laws) separately for judiciary inspection, judiciary authority and testimony of experts before the courts of law in the GCC countries.

Public Prosecution

The public prosecution is an independent judicial authority responsible for performing the functions of investigation and indictment before courts of law. It has the appropriate and advanced organizational structure that fits the requirements of the Qatari society and the development witnessed by Qatar in all domains. The State of Qatar adopts an independent judicial system which is unique in the Arab world.

The public prosecutor has set up, in accordance with the law, the following new specialized public prosecution divisions: Family Affairs that cares for all family issues such as guardianship, trusteeship, capacity and probate; Cassation, Appeals, Public Funds, State's Security, Narcotics, the Environment, Traffic, Juveniles as well as general prosecution divisions with their sub-sections.

The achievements of public prosecution in 2007 and 2008:

First: in the field of organization:

As the guiding principles of the constitution prescribe that women and men are equal in rights and obligations being in the field of employment in public posts, public prosecution has become a regional and Arab forerunner in this field. It appointed a female staff as the head of juvenile prosecution and a male staff as the head of family affairs prosecution.

Second: in the field of criminal law:

Public prosecution is playing its role of taking legal actions on behalf of the society with regard to the lawsuits and cases it receives, which amounted to 52752 in the judicial year 2008/2009. In addition, public prosecution is responsible for supervising judicial seizure and investigation and the application of law thereof.

Third: in the field of international cooperation:

Public prosecution organized the following conferences during 2008 and 2009:

- a) The second regional conference on justice
- b) The second meeting of public prosecutors and the heads of investigation authorities and public prosecution in the GCC countries in Doha

Public prosecution participated in the following conferences:

- 1st international conference on private security and criminal justice sector in Abu Dhabi
- Antiterrorism officers forum in Washington
- The 31st annual conference of the international association of public prosecutors in Singapore
- The 6th session of the international criminal court member countries assembly in New York
- The 6th international conference on the environment, wildlife and pollution crimes in France
- Public prosecution is in the process of establishing a specialized prosecution division for the crimes defined by the laws concerning the organization of entry, residence, sponsorship and exit of some categories of non-Qataris in Qatar.
- It is also developing information systems to secure the most accurate and up to date criminal statistics.

Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice carries out the following functions:

1. Supervising, inspecting and regulating the administrative and financial aspects of the work at the courts of justice.
2. Supervising the behavior of judges and managing and inspecting their financial and administrative affairs.
3. Conducting studies, issuing legal opinion and discharging all legal affairs that are required for work at various ministries in accordance with the declared regulations.
4. Supervising the documentation of paper work regarding real estate matters.

The Ministry of Justice comprises the following departments:

1. The Technical Office
2. Public Relations and Communication Unit
3. Internal Audit Unit
4. Human Resources Department
5. Administrative and Financial Affairs Department
6. Information Systems Department
7. Fatwa and Contracts Department
8. The State's Cases Department
9. International Agreements and Cooperation Department
10. Real Estate Registration Department
11. Documentation Department

The achievements of the ministry of justice in 2007 and 2008:

- Gave 46 legal opinions in various issues for other ministries and public departments and authorities, and indexed and printed the legal opinions issued from 1997 to 2008 and saved them on CD.
- Revised 205 international agreements in various matters.
- Prepared, studied and replied to 9 reports on the special participations of the ministry, which reached in total 20 Gulf, 21 Arab and 3 international participations.
- Represented the ministries and public establishments in 569 legal cases filed by or against these bodies. Some of these cases are still under consideration at the courts of law.
- Issued the bi-annual legal and judicial magazine since 2006.

Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

The ministry is responsible for the endowment, Islam propagation and Islamic affairs; and is charged with the following functions:

1. To utilize all means of promotion and information to propagate Islam and spread the knowledge thereof.
2. To utilize all means of awareness, guidance and advice to highlight the influence of Islamic values on the wellbeing of mankind.
3. To establish and supervise mosques and ensure that they fulfill their role as best as required.
4. To set up centers, institutions and units; broadcast programs and hold seminars, conferences and propagation circles.
5. To establish cultural and charitable projects abroad and provide assistance to the poor and destitute as well as exchange visits.
6. To supervise and manage endowments' affairs and invest their revenue.
7. To set up Qur'an memorization centers and organize memorization contests among males and females.
8. To establish and manage Islamic libraries and mosque libraries as well as provide them with publications.

The ministry comprises the following administrative units:

1. Public Relations and Communication Unit
2. Internal Auditing Unit
3. Zakat Fund Department
4. Endowments Department
5. Investment Department
6. Endowments Funds Affairs Department
7. Endowments Expenditure Department
8. Islamic Affairs Department
9. Islamic Research And Studies Department
10. Haj and Umrah Affairs Department
11. Religious Dawa and Guidance Department
12. Mosques Affairs Department
13. Human Resources Department
14. Administrative and Financial Affairs Department
15. Information Systems Department
16. Legal Affairs Department

The achievements of the ministry of endowments and Islamic affairs in 2007 and 2008:

- Issuing and distributing 10 issues of Al Minbar magazine, 329 daily local newsletters, Kitab Al Ummah book series by the endowment of Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Al Thani, and the Qatari calendar.
- Preparing the fifteenth Qu'ran memorization contest of Sheikh Jassim, in which 1561 male and female contestants participated.
- The number of mosques reached 459 Jum'a (congregation) mosques, 1064 non-Jum'a mosques and 40 Eid prayer yards. 22 new mosques were inaugurated.
- Holding several scientific courses, religious education programs and lectures; and producing CD copies of these activities.
- Appointing 97 Qatari memorizer of Qur'an and imams.

The Armed Forces

The objectives and missions of the armed forces of Qatar originate from the strategic military vision of their supreme commander His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Bin Khalifa Al Thani the Emir of Qatar and His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani the Heir Apparent. His Excellency the Chief of The General Staff Major General Hamad Bin Ali Al Atiyyah, assisted by his assistants and the commanders of the armed forces, translates this progressive vision into reality through regular basic and advanced annual training courses to enhance the efficiency of the armed forces staff.

1-Qatari Emiri Land Force

The Qatari Emiri Land Force has realized remarkable achievements in various military fields though participation in GCC joint military exercises and joint exercises with foreign and friendly forces at which the Qatari Emiri Land Force has demonstrated high fighting capabilities, outstanding competence and specialized skills in the use of weapons and equipment as well as ability to handle the latest weaponry and technologies as demonstrated through participation in major annual exercises of the Qatari Armed Forces, most important of which are Al'uqban Exercise and Gulf Falcon Exercise, as reflected on the land force's fighting readiness to carry out any duty.

2-Qatari Emiri Air Force

The Qatari Emiri Air Force has developed into a modern air force with regard to weaponry and organization thanks to the modern military aircraft and equipment with which the force effectively monitors and guards Qatar's airspace; and the scientifically and technically qualified Qatari staff who are enable it to carry out their duties efficiently and conscientiously. During the past few years the air force participated in joint air exercises with GCC and friendly foreign air forces. The efficiency of the Qatari air force has been commended at those joint exercises.

3- Qatari Emiri Marine Force

During past few years, the Qatari Emiri Sea Force has gained a good international reputation for its outstanding efforts either in the participation in military exercises or its role in protecting navigation safety in the Qatari waters and strengthening ties of cooperation and good relations with various naval forces in the world in the field of training such as annual joint exercises with GCC naval forces and other exercises with foreign and friendly naval forces. With such involvement, the Qatari naval force meant to raise its fighting competence, gain combat experience, become acquainted with various types of marine equipment and weapons available to the other naval forces and increase the chances of technical and field competence of its staff.

4- Information Systems

Information systems at the Qatari armed forces are seeking to develop all services sectors and formations. Information technology services have achieved a remarkable feat by expanding to cover all departments and sections and developing to attract the qualified Qatar cadres so that they can meet all the requirements for information technology at all sectors of the armed forces.

5- Qualification and Training

To qualify a new generation of young men to serve the country, H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, has decided to set up a qualification and military training center for Qatari school students during summer vacations, positively leading to transforming the trainees into effective elements in society. Monthly allowances are paid and drop-outs from schools are also admitted to such training. Trainees may join the armed forces after graduation from school. Qatari legislations and international conventions, especially the convention of the rights of the child are strictly observed in these centers. Registration in the students' training center started this summer and the experiment will be repeated in response to

the satisfaction shown by the students and their parents. The center aims to encourage young men to join the Qatari armed forces following the field experiment they had during their regular education.

Internal Security

The establishment of the ministry of interior coincided with the independence of Qatar. Since then, the ministry's security departments have acted 24 hours a day to uphold security and stability in the country.

The ministry of interior was able to build its security apparatus and assign their responsibilities in a record time. Security forces proved their capability of carrying out their missions and their competence to uphold security and protect the society from crime and perversion. Besides, the state of Qatar within its effort to build a modern state, invest its national resources and its remarkable geographical location in the region and the world, and to avoid being a pit for crime and perversion, has made the country a haven for traders, investors, workers and a melting pot for diverse cultures, nationalities, trends and aspirations. The ministry of interior is able through its qualified units to maintain an environment of an open door to the world to achieve development, prosperity and wellbeing for all the members of the society nationals and expatriates alike.

The ministry has adopted new work systems and mechanisms based on the following principles:

- Decentralization performance through giving departments powers to carry out their tasks and missions in accordance with the regulating legislations.
- Follow-up of departments' performance through field visits to monitor work progress and ensure optimum implementation of tasks and responsibilities.
- Qualification officers to prepare a second-line leadership.
- Introduction of systems and mechanism that are compatible with the state's visions in various fields.
- Provision of material and moral incentives to upgrade performance.
- Participation of the ministry in all occasions to maintain direct contact with its personnel to reflect its concern with human relations.
- Creation of communication channels between security departments and all sectors of society according to the geographical division to implement the principle of "The police is in the service of society".
- Promotion of bilateral cooperation with sisterly and friendly countries in security and police fields through meetings with the security officials in these countries and representatives of diplomatic missions to the state of Qatar.

Main Achievements in the security field in 2007 and 2008:

- Security departments made many successes in terms of security efforts exerted to combat the crime and apprehend criminals.
- Enhancing the technical patrols to apprehend the vehicles that are not roadworthy and those whose registration has expired.
- Apprehending 3325 violators of the law and expelling from the country 6407 persons of various nationalities for violating various laws and regulations.
- Apprehending 85 violations of local marine vessels laws and 42 violations of foreign marine

- vessel laws; and dealing with 16 cases of marine piracy and 35 search and rescue operations.
- Consolidating security and supervising the procedures and field arrangements of security and safety in a number of government buildings during occasions and championships.
 - Implementing al adheed program, one of the pioneering programs in the field of social partnership, which aims primarily to increase contact channels with the public by addressing various issues and problems confidentially especially with regard to those who don't wish to go to police stations to raise their problems. The program works to uphold positive values in the society and activate the role of prevention.
 - Appointing 305 Qatari male and female employees in various departments of the ministry within the qatarization plan.
 - Obtaining ISO: 9001 – 2000 certification for the provision and management of medical services at the specialized clinics, emergency clinics, diagnostic X-Ray sections, pharmacy and lab.
 - Building and inaugurating a number of the offices of the departments, sections and branches of the ministry including the new capital police headquarters.
 - Implementing automated finger printing system at the service centers in various geographical locations in the country.
 - Implementing the electronic archives system at the criminal information section.
 - Coordinating with the supreme council for communications and information technology to operate the government portal (hukoomi).
 - Issuing travel permits electronically through e-government.
 - Preparing a new draft law on the organization of entry and exit of foreigners.
 - Preparing a comprehensive, anti-human trafficking Qatari draft law.
 - Participating in several conferences and meetings as part of the program of the general secretariat of the Arab ministers of interior and the general secretariat of the GCC, and consultation and coordination meetings with sisterly and friendly countries and the relevant international and regional organizations.

The Audit Bureau

The law stipulates that the Audi Bureau is an independent body that reports directly to the Emir and has a legal entity and a special budget annexed to the budget of the Emiri Diwan.

It audits the accounts of all ministries, departments and institutions affiliated to them in addition to the accounts of public establishments, national companies and other government institutions.

The bureau functions under the provisions of the law according to which it has been established, and which defines its responsibilities and authorities as to mainly ensure that financial actions and accounting procedures regarding funds collection and spending are done in an orderly manner in conformity with the declared financial, accounting and administrative regulations, and within the framework of the general rules of the budget.

The bureau carries out preceding audits on tenders and contracts before they are offered or signed. Its representatives participate in the work of existing tender committees, which deal either with public sector establishments or with the companies under its scrutiny jurisdiction. It also takes part in the work of other government committees to oversee the application of financial and accounting rules and notify these committees of the violations of such rules.

The audit bureau is formed of the following administrative units:

1. Government Sector Audit Department.
2. Economic Sector Audit Department.
3. Department Tenders and Contracts Audit Department.
4. Legal Affairs Department.
5. Administrative and Financial Affairs Department.

Major Achievements of the audit bureau in 2007-2008:

In the field of government sector audit:

The government sector audit department executed 27 audit jobs at the ministries and various government establishments on public spending, salaries, public revenue and the state's final statement; reported the findings of its audit to the concerned authorities; and followed up the implementation of the audit recommendations.

In the field of economic sector audit:

The economic sector department issued 37 audit reports from its three sections: oil and gas audit section, companies audit section and establishments audit section. The reports included the results of reviewing the accounts, operations, financial statements, income registers and cash flow at the economic units under its scrutiny. The bureau also sent the periodical and final reports to the chairmen of the concerned companies and establishments of this sector and sent copies of the same to the concerned higher government authorities.

Within its work in this sector the bureau reviewed the accounts and operations performance of some public companies. This has added more value to the reports and highlighted the discrepancies to the officials at those companies.

In the field of tenders and contracts audit:

The department of tenders and contracts audit at the audit bureau reviews tenders and contracts at the ministries. In the pre-audit stage tenders and contracts reviewed were worth about 2.2 Qatari riyals and more than 2.4 billion Qatari riyals, respectively. Within the comprehensive audit, the department reviewed more than 15 major projects including several main road and water pumping projects, in addition to the first phase of Doha new international airport project.

In the field of investigations and violations:

The year 2007/2008 witnessed close cooperation between the audit bureau and public prosecution department in investigating the cases involving public money. 26 of such cases are under the consideration of the general prosecution department. The government won 5 of these worth about 24 million Qatari riyals.

In the field of training:

- The audit bureau continued to take care of its human resources and develop their potential through several local and external training programs, specialized workshops and English courses at the administrative development institute.
- It commissioned the GCC accounting and auditing authority to prepare 21 employees for the fellowship degree of the authority. The program was completed during the period from 28.10.2007 to 7.2.2008.

On the regional and international levels:

- Participating in the meeting of the training and development committee of the GCC accounting and financial control bureaus, held in Riyadh.
- Participating in training and scientific research committee meeting, held in Kuwait.
- Participating human potential building committee meeting, held in Tunisia.
- Participating in the meeting of the team charged with following up the strategic plan of the Arab group, held in Kuwait.
- Participating in training and scientific research committee extraordinary meeting, held in Cairo.
- Participating in the second session of the conference of signatory countries of the UN anticorruption convention, held in Bali in Indonesia during the period from 28 January to 1 February 2008.
- Organizing the international anticorruption conference in Asia, held during the period from 9 to 11 June 2008.

General Secretariat for Development Planning

The general secretariat for development planning draws out the comprehensive development plans of the state of Qatar.

It is formed of the following units:

Administrative and Financial Affairs Department

Economic Affairs Department

Government Establishments Department

Social Affairs Department
Information Technology Department

The achievements and projects of the general secretariat in 2007 and 2008:

- Preparing Qatar national vision -2030 which outlines the long term vision of the state of Qatar and the framework through which to develop national strategies and executive plans. By 2030 Qatar shall be a developed country with full potential to continue growing and secure high level living conditions for its people. The four cornerstones of Qatar national vision are human, social, economic and environmental development.

Major implemented projects:

Work market strategy

- The second national human development report on sustainable development of the state of Qatar
- International competitiveness report project
- Economic follow up
- Potential building strategy
- Services improvement initiative
- Legal and legislative management reform strategy
- Human resources management strategy at government sector

National Human Rights Committee

The committee aims to protect human rights through the following functions:

1. To achieve objectives stipulated by international conventions and agreements on human rights to which the state of Qatar is a party
2. To provide consultancy to competent institutions in Qatar on issues related to human rights and freedoms.
3. To study violations of human rights and freedoms and propose means of addressing and preventing such violations.
4. To monitor observations made by international and non-governmental organizations in connection with human rights in Qatar and reply to them in cooperation with competent institutions.
5. To participate in preparing the reports on human rights and freedoms in Qatar.
6. To cooperate with international and regional organizations concerned with human rights and freedoms.
7. To raise the awareness of human rights and freedoms among the population.

Statistics Authority

The statistics authority is the official source of statistical data and information in the state of Qatar. It prepares, analyses and publishes demographic, social, economic and environmental official statistics and other data pertaining to the state.

The authority plays an important role in the country's national development process by providing the statistical information required for formulating the policies based on facts. It coordinates the integration and compatibility of the statistics produced by other government departments; and coordinates its work with the international and regional organizations regarding statistical concepts and definitions.

The authority issued several newsletters and pamphlets containing statistics on various sectors in Qatar for 2007 and 2008.

Future projects

Conducting the workforce survey for 2009 and analyzing the results of the workforce survey for 2008 and 2009.

Conducting a field survey on scientific research, knowledge and training data.

Preparing for the general population, houses and establishments census in 2010.

Issuing the digital atlas of Qatar.

Qatar educational database project for 2009 and external trade database publication project in march 2009.

Electronic archives project for censuses and field surveys conducted in 2009.

Introduction of hand computer systems project in population and houses general census in October 2010.

CHAPTER THREE

Foreign Policy

- **Guidelines of the Foreign Policy**
- **Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **The Qatari Diplomacy March**
- **Diplomatic Missions**
 - Accredited to Qatar
- **Qatar's Diplomatic Missions and Consulates Abroad**

Guidelines of Foreign Policy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a major part in strengthening the relations between the State of Qatar and other countries at the regional, Arab, Islamic and international levels through its various departments. The Qatari foreign policy is based on well-established pillars, foremost seeking to uphold security, stability and peace in the world, and observe the UN principles aiming to reinforce the peoples' right to self-determination.

Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs performs numerous functions. Its hierarchical structure is headed by the offices of H.E. the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani, H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Assistant Minister and H.E. Assistant Minister for Follow-up Affairs. The ministry is formed of the following departments:

Research, Analysis and Information Technology; Protocol; International Organizations, Treaties and Conferences; Legal Affairs; Consular Affairs; GCC affairs; Arab Affairs; Asian and African Affairs; European and American Affairs; Administrative and Financial Affairs; International Development; and International Technical Cooperation; in addition to the Financial and Administrative Inspection Office, Technical Affairs Office, Duty Office, Human Rights Office, Development and Training of Human Resources Office; and Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences;

The Qatari Diplomatic March

The contributions of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar are particularly evident in enhancing regional and international politics and promoting political and economic cooperation between Qatar and its Gulf and Arab neighbors, and further a field between Qatar and all countries of the world. Since his accession to power in June 1995, visits by scores of influential international dignitaries to Doha as well as the tours that took him to almost all corners of the world have been gaining Qatar a position of eminence among the nations and qualifying it to play a positive and influential role based on a political vision marked by transparency, realism, good judgment and political balance.

Qatar has gone a long way down the road of international interaction since the dawn of its independence in 1971. Its emergence as a modern state started with acquiring its independence and continued to see Qatar transform into a dynamic element in the international community, undertaking a full and responsible role on the regional and international arenas.

The initial phase of Qatar's foreign relations started with the establishment of the country's presence in the international forums through diplomatic representation with various countries of the world and membership in major international and regional organizations, such as the United Nations, Arab League and the Non-Alignment Movement.

The state of Qatar has provided a lot of assistance to Arab and third world countries. Assistance has not been limited to states and governments, but has also been given to numerous non-governmental organizations such as those involved in calling for Islam, spreading the Arabic language and supporting the educational institutions at all levels.

The preparation phase of Qatar's foreign relations activities involved a breakthrough in the field of administrative modernization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its missions all over the world as well as in the field of developing the competence of diplomats, consular personnel and other support staff abroad through programmed training and orientation courses.

The outstanding success of the Qatari diplomacy is mainly attributed to the wise directives of H.H. the Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, then to the energetic activities of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani, who continues to intensify contact with officials in various countries through his repeated international visits, and to expand the scope of relations with the African, Asian and Latin American countries, besides strengthening the relations with the Arab and European countries and the USA.

Keen observers of the Qatari diplomacy must admire the speed at which a newly-independent country was able to confirm its position in the international arena and become a prominent actor with a leading role recognized by all.

Regional Issues

Qatar had a leading role in the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council for Arab Gulf States on June 25, 1981. Since then and thanks to the efforts exerted by all its members, GCC has served the GCC region's objective of achieving stability, progress and comprehensive development.

Promotion of Qatar's relations with its sisterly GCC states and cementing fraternal ties and integration with them has been a priority of the Qatari foreign policy. Indeed, Qatar seeks to contribute to the efforts aiming to bring about integration and cohesion between the GCC states and realize the ambitions and aspirations of their peoples to foster security, stability and development and confirm their common destiny.

Numerous important strategic resolutions and actions in the fields of political cooperation, military defense coordination and economic integration have been adopted at GCC summits.

H.H. the Emir participates with his brothers the leaders of GCC states in the meetings of the supreme council of the GCC.

The 28th session of the GCC supreme council summit meeting was held in Doha in December 2007. The summit expressed in its final statement the satisfaction of the leaders at the common Gulf market preparations, declaring that the market would be launched in January 2008. It also provided for allowing the citizens of the GCC to practice the activities of real estate investment and social services in all the GCC member states and endorsed the clever identity card and its use in the movement between the GCC countries.

The supreme council viewed the steps taken to implement its decisions regarding the comprehensive development of general and higher education; and expressed its satisfaction at the results of the secretary general report on the initial study on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The supreme council also viewed the message addressed to H.H. the Emir of Qatar the chairman of the council from H.H. Sheikha Mouza Bint Nasser Al Misnad the president of the supreme council for family affairs in Qatar on the negative effects of some media on the younger generation. The council directed the concerned authorities in each country to prepare the required programs and plans whereby to face this danger.

The last GCC summit, the 29th session, was held in Muscat in December 2008 with the participation of H.H. the Emir of Qatar and his brothers the leaders of the other GCC countries. The final statement of this session praised the establishment of the joint Saudi-Qatari coordination council which aims to strengthen and upgrade the relations between the two countries in various domains; endorsed the updated comprehensive security strategy of the GCC; confirmed the firm position of the member states against all forms of terrorism regardless of the underlying means, motives, objectives and sources, and piracy activities in the international marine routes, calling for more regional and international cooperation and coordination to combat

them by all possible means.

Arab Issues

Qatar is keen to deepen its fraternal ties with all sisterly Arab countries, calling for the unification of the Arab front, reconciliation of positions and consolidation of Arab solidarity.

With regard to the Palestinian issue, Qatar considers that Israel's practices against the Palestinian people, and its policies to undermine any opportunity to achieve peace as well as abort the Road Map initiative and avert the requirements of the peace process constitute a serious escalation and a threat to the region's security and stability. The State of Qatar has always supported the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to attain their national rights and establish their independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

Qatar took an honorable stance that had amazed the world when H.H. the Emir of Qatar proposed the right remedy for the Arab disintegration by calling for defending the residents of Gaza strip against the Israeli aggression and for holding an emergency Arab summit with the aim to stop the aggression, force the Israeli troops to withdraw from the strip, lift the blockade, and open the crossings. H.H. then decided to establish a special fund for the support of Gaza to which he pledged \$250 million to this fund, and called the Arab states to launch a marine helpline to transport aid to the impoverished people in Gaza, besides stopping the normalization policies with Israel.

Qatar has played a vital role through the efforts of its wise leadership in resolving the Lebanese problem by gathering the Lebanese leaders in Doha and brokering a reconciliation between them. Qatar was confident it would stand up to this challenge; and thus succeeded in preventing an unnecessary bloodshed and an eminent civil war.

Qatar confirms its support and solidarity with the Iraqi people in their worst time, difficulty and hardship; and takes all the steps that can enhance the restoration of security and stability in Iraq.

Qatar has also played a vital role in brokering the conclusion of a "good will and confidence building" agreement between the Sudanese government and Justice and Equality movement in February 2009. the agreement confirmed the wish of the two parties to continue the direct and serious negotiations so as to finally close up this file through peaceful means.

Qatar welcomed the election of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Mohammed as president of Somalia as a positive step taken in the right direction to rebuild the state and achieve national reconciliation; and expressed its support of all the efforts exerted to establish security and stability in Somalia and maintain the unity and territorial integrity of this sisterly country.

Qatar hosted the ordinary 21st session of the Arab League Council on the 30th of September 2009

in which the Arab leaders confirmed that just and lasting peace shall not be achieved without ending the Israeli occupation and the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories; rejected all kinds of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with eastern al-Quds as its capital.

The Arab leaders expressed their solidarity with the Sudan and rejected the decision of the first preliminary session of the international criminal court against H.E. president Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Basher of the Sudan which tried to undermine his legitimacy as an elected leader of the Sudan and the efforts made by Qatar within the framework of the ministerial Arab African committee and in coordination with the joint UN-African Union to further the peace process and the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in Darfur. The summit also expressed its support of the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the republic of Comoro Islands and welcomed the new developments in Somalia and the steps taken to implement Djibouti reconciliation agreement between the Somali factions, including the formation of an interim government and parliament and electing a new president.

Islamic Issues

Qatar has always expressed, through actions rather than words, its deep concern for consolidating the ties of fraternity and cooperation with Islamic peoples and countries through extending all forms of material and moral assistance, and supporting the common causes of the Arab and Islamic nation.

The Qatari diplomacy has made landmark achievements that testifies to its effective role and presence in the Islamic, regional and international arenas.

International Issues

Qatar works very hard to establish close ties of cooperation with all peace loving countries and peoples. It extends generous financial aid to many developing countries in Asia and Africa, and contributes to various regional and international aid funds to create the widest possible avenues of international cooperation. Qatar rejects and condemns all forms of terrorism regardless of the underlying means, motives and objectives, reiterating the need, however, to differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of the peoples to attain their rights of freedom and self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the international law. It welcomes all agreements concluded to solve such problems and supports the efforts exerted by regional and international organizations to uphold peace in numerous countries and regions and to achieve security and stability all over the world.

On the international policy arena, the Qatari diplomacy has achieved a lot of successes at various gulf, Arab and international levels. These successes were culminated in the convention in Doha of the Arab-South American summit in march 2009, in which the participants confirmed the importance of regional and international cooperation in enhancing the efforts to control narcotics

and human trafficking, illegal trade in small arms, international organized crime, and nuclear arms and the arms of mass destruction proliferation; rejected all forms of terrorism and foreign occupation which -they recognized - that the states and peoples have the right to resist with the strict abidance by the principles of human rights and the principles of the international law; and called upon the countries with nuclear arms arsenals to honor their commitments towards nuclear arms disarmament. Besides, Qatar hosted several regional and international conferences and gatherings including Doha inter-Islamic dialogue conference, Arab thought forum, the international symposium of support of the Palestinian people – 2007, follow up meeting on funding the millennium development goals, 8th conference for religious dialogue, Monaco club conference, NATO conference, democracy conference, and the international follow up conference on funding the millennium development goals - November 2008, which is concerned with the implementation of Monterey consensus.

Qatar's Membership in International Organizations and Institutions

Regional Organizations

- Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
- Arab Center for Educational Research
- Higher Education Council
- Arab Educational Bureau for Gulf States
- GCC Joint TV Program Production Establishment
- Arabian Gulf University
- Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting
- Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs
- Gulfvision
- Arabian Gulf Program for United Nations Development (AGFUND)
- Follow-up Bureau of the GCC Council of Minister of Health
- GCC Standards and Specifications Authority

Arab Organizations

- Arab League
- Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)
- Arab Maritime Academy
- Arab States Civil Aviation Council
- Arab Industrial Development Organization
- Council of Arab Ministers of Health
- Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction
- Council of Arab Ministers of Interior
- Council of Arab Ministers of Justice
- Council of Arab Ministers of Transport
- Council of Arab Ministers of Sports and Youth

- Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs
- Arab Labor Organization
- Arab Monetary Fund
- Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
- Arab Organization for Standards and Specifications
- Arab Planning Institute
- Arab Postal Union
- Arab States Broadcasting Union
- Arab Satellite Communications Organization (ARABSAT)
- Arab Cities Organization
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
- Arab Organization for Social Defense against Crime
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

International Organizations and Institutions

- United Nations (UN)
- Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
- Non-alignment Movement
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- International Court of Justice
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- Universal Postal Union
- World Meteorological Organization
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Islamic Development Bank
- Islamic News Agency
- Al Quds Fund
- Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities
- Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
- International Atomic Emergency Agency (IAEA)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)

CHAPTER FOUR

Economic Development

- **The Components of the Economic Infrastructure**
- **Energy and Industry**
- **Financial and Banking Sector**
- **Commercial and Investment Sector**
- **Qatar Financial Markets
Authority (QFMA)**
- **Qatar Exchange**
- **Agricultural and Fish Wealth**
- **Insurance Sector**

The Components of the Economic Infrastructure

Qatar continues its policies to diversify its sources of income; develop the infrastructure and the economy; optimize the utilization of its hydrocarbon resources including oil, gas and petrochemicals; develop and promote its giant gas projects; liberalize the economy; enhance the role of the private sector; issue the necessary legislations to facilitate and simplify investment procedures; and attract foreign investments. The country continues to rationalize spending and work to increase the sources of non-oil returns. Thanks to this policy, the economy registered positive results in recent years, budget deficit was cut down, the current account surplus of balance of payments was improved and inflation and the Qatari Riyal exchange rates were stable.

Statistics indicate increasing economic growth during 2007. Gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 25.1% or 51.9 billion Qatari Riyals to reach 258.6 billion Qatari Riyals by the current prices compared to an increase of 33.7% registered in 2006. This upturn in growth rate is attributed to increasing gas and oil production.

The State continues its efforts to diversify sources of income; develop human resources; enhance the role of the private sector; and achieve a surplus in the balance of payments by increasing the

exports, decreasing the imports and curbing the deficit of the general budget, which had entailed the application of necessary financial and monetary policies and reform programs. It has also established a modern industrial base that depends on local raw materials, workforce and capitals; extended incentives for the investors in the industrial sector; and encouraged stock companies such as Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company and Qatar Electricity and Water Company to increase productivity.

Energy and Industry

The energy sector, with its two upstream and downstream segments, which is the main source of national income and investment in Qatar is managed with a vision to diversify the economy and develop the infrastructure. The country has opted to establishing the industries that can use the available raw materials and optimize the utilization of associated petroleum gases with due consideration of the potential of these projects to grow and compete in the international markets.

Qatar's industrialization strategy is export oriented. It aims to supply the commodities that otherwise are to be imported; lift the pressure from the balance of payments; curb drawing on its foreign currencies resources; maintain the continuous expansion of the industrial base; and raise saving and investment rates at the national level. Export-oriented industrialization strategy aims to fulfill the requirements of the international markets.

Some of the most important mainstays of industrialization in the state of Qatar include the abundant hydrocarbon raw materials such as oil and gas as well as agricultural, livestock and fish resources; the required sound infrastructure; industrial incentives including favorable foreign capital legislations; and social services such as health, education and training facilities, all of which are geared to motivate the economic activity in general.

In this context the ministry of energy and industry is shouldering the responsibility of utilizing the country's natural resources; insuring a regular and constant supply of local requirements for energy, electricity and water; exploring the possible supply alternatives for such requirements; preparing the general industrial development policy; supervising industrial activities; developing and managing industrial estates; proposing the establishment of small and medium-scale industrial estates and managing the allocation of strips of land to investors to include designating lease conditions and fees of allotment.

Qatar Petroleum (QP)

QP, alongside with its partners and subsidiaries are responsible for all sectors of Qatar's oil and gas industry in the country and abroad, including exploration and drilling operations for oil, natural gas and other hydrocarbon substances, their production, refining, transport and storage; as well as the sale, distribution and export of crude oil, natural gas, liquefied natural gas, refined petroleum products, petrochemicals and chemical fertilizers.

The strategy of QP for exploration, implementation of new projects and development of existing ones is based on product sharing agreements with major international oil and gas companies.

QP operates at various onshore locations such as Doha, Mesaieed, Dukhan and Ras Laffan; and offshore locations such as Haloul island, production and drilling installations, and north gas field.

Besides its operations, QP operates through its subsidiaries, joint venture and other projects.

QP's most important achievements in 2007:

- Holding the 6th annual conference on the technologies of gas-to liquid industry and their commercial applications.
- Inaugurating the Linear Alkyl Benzene production project (Seef Company LTD) in Mesaieed industrial city.
- Hosting the annual 12th Middle East gas summit in Doha.
- Hosting the 6th gas exporting countries forum in Doha.
- Signing a contract with Tunisia to establish a \$2 billion refinery.
- Holding the 3rd annual load forum for LNG and liquefied petroleum gas transport in the Middle East.
- Holding the forum on liquefied petroleum gas marketing in the Middle East.
- Holding Doha 6th natural gas forum.
- Laying the corner stone for Qatalum Qatar complex in Mesaieed industrial city.
- Hosting the annual meeting of the council of ministers of the organization of Arab petroleum exporting countries.
- Production from Al Shaheen field surpassed 300 thousand barrels a day.
- Opening Ras Gas fifth train which has confirmed the position of Qatar as being the largest LNG producer in the world.
- Building the 56-strong LNG tankers fleet.
- Gas production at Dolphin project of Qatar and UAE reached 2 million cubic feet per day. The production of this project is earmarked for exportation to UAE.
- Laying the foundation stone for Pearl Gas-To-Liquids which is considered to be the world's largest gas-to-liquids integrated project. The plant is expected to produce about 140 thousand barrels a day of naphtha, diesel and basic lubrication oils.

Training and preparing national cadres

QP continues to attract national cadres and encourage them to continue working with it. 37 nationals were directly employed and 814 secondary school graduates were admitted in the various vocational training programs and scholarships.

The 5-year strategic qatarization plan which is being implemented in close collaboration between the energy and industrial sector, other ministries and the educational institutions and establishments in the country was successful. The Qatari workforce in QP reached the total of 1890 employees at the end of 2007.

Training department continued to expand its specialized training programs and activities to include instructors' training and technical and non-technical training. The number of Qatari trainees and employees under development in various training programs at the central training department reached 3157, of which 2334 trainees are divided among the vocational training programs, and 823 trainees and employees under development are sent for undergraduate scholarship inside the country and overseas.

Fields and Operations Sites

Onshore Operations

Dukhan Oil Field

Production capacity of Dukhan oil field is 335 thousand barrels per day. The field comprises 173 oil wells, 176 water injection wells and 57 combined oil and water injection wells. The products are distributed locally and exported to overseas customers through Mesaieed port.

Offshore Fields

Qatar Petroleum has been running two offshore fields in the north east of the Qatari waters. These are: production station No 2 in Maydan Mahzam and production station No 3 in Bul Hanin. Both stations produce crude oil with associated gas and condensate which are pumped through pipelines to Halul island for storage and subsequent exportation.

Maydan Mahzam Field

This field is formed of a range of hydrocarbon reservoirs which were discovered in 1963. Production from this field started in 1965; and oil is transported from it to Halul island while associated gas is pumped to the production station at Idd El Sharqi and then from there to Mesaieed.

Bul Hnain field

Bul Hnain field is a range of hydrocarbon reservoirs which were discovered in 1965. Production from this field started in 1972; and oil is transported from it to Halul island while associated gas is pumped to the production station at Idd El Sharqi and then from there to Mesaieed.

Exploration and development of production sharing fields

Qatar Petroleum continued to adopt the policy of developing hydrocarbon resources through Exploration and Production Sharing Agreements (EPSA) and Development Production Sharing Agreements (DPSA) with major international oil and gas companies.

North Gas Field (NGF)

Discovered in 1971, this field lies mainly offshore to the northeast of the Qatar peninsula and covers about 6000 square kilometers which is equivalent to the half area of mainland Qatar. NGF is the largest single concentration of non-associated natural gas in the world with total proven reserves of more than 900 trillion cubic feet. It represents a major catalyst to the economic

development in the country, and makes Qatar one of the world's five countries with the largest natural gas reserves..

The project started production at the end of 1991; and in 2007 its daily production reached 800 million cubic feet of gas and about 25000 barrels of condensate. Gas produced at the field is mainly used in the local market while the condensate is sent to Mesaieed refinery for treatment and export. Part of the gas produced from the field is re-injected to augment the emergency strategic reserve in Dukhan area.

During 2007 production of the north gas field (Alpha project) reached 281 billion cubic feet of gas and 9.1 million barrels of condensate.

Al Khaleej Gas Project

This project aims to develop the resources of the reserves of north gas field to produce 2 billion cubic feet per day of gas for local consumption. The project also produces condensate, ethane, liquefied petroleum gas and sulfur. It supports the policy of diversifying the utilization of the field in such a way as to optimize the potential of the existing gas industry infrastructure. It will also support the LNG production trains 4 and 5 at Ras Gas Company.

Work has started in the second phase of Al Khaleej gas project which is designed to produce 1250 million cubic feet of natural gas per day for local consumption and power stations. The project is scheduled to start production in the third quarter of 2009.

Burzan Gas Project

An agreement was signed with Exxon Mobil company to develop about 17 billion cubic feet of gas from the north gas field, and produce 15 billion cubic feet per day of treated gas to meet the requirements of the local market, in addition to producing condensate, ethane, liquefied petroleum gas and sulfur.

Dolphin Gas Project

This project aims to develop the reserves of the north gas field and produce enough gas to export 2 billion cubic feet per day of treated gas to the UAE.

Qatar Gas 1

Qatar gas 1 operates 3 trains to produce liquefied natural gas. The initial output capacity of each train was 2 million metric tons per year. In 2005 the output capacity of each train increased to 3.3 million metric tons per year.

Qatar Gas produced a record 9.81 million metric tons of liquefied natural gas, not very far from its 2006 production level., while its total number of shipments of liquefied natural gas to Japan, Spain and India reached about 160.

The company maintained its high productivity of by-products such as condensate, sulfur and helium at about 17.94 million barrels per day, all exported alongside with 121.11 million cubic

feet of liquid helium.

Qatar Gas 2

This project aims to build two trains to produce liquefied natural gas at 7.8 million metric tons output capacity per year from each train for export to the UK.

2.8 billion cubic feet per day of gas and associated condensate is to be produced from 33 wells and transported to the plant facility in Ras Laffan industrial city.

Qatar Gas 3

This project aims to produce 1.4 billion cubic feet per day of gas from the north gas field, and build a production train with an output capacity of 7.8 million metric tons of liquefied natural gas at Qatar Gas site.

Qatar Gas 4

This project aims to produce 1.4 billion cubic feet per day of gas from the north gas field, and build an LNG production train with an output capacity of 7.8 million metric tons per year at the company's site. The project is scheduled to be commissioned in the second quarter of 2010.

Ras Laffan LNG company (Ras Gas Limited)

Ras Gas is one of the pioneering and integrated LNG companies in the world. Since its establishment in 1993, it succeeded in establishing world-standard installations for LNG extraction, storage, processing and exportation. It concluded long-term agreements to export its products to Korea, India, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Taiwan and USA.

Presently Ras Gas produces about 20 million metric tons per year from its 5 trains. Its production is expected to reach about 37 million metric tons per year by the end of the current decade after the completion and operation of all its 7 production trains.

Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company

Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company was established in 1993 to produce liquefied natural gas and by-products from its first and second trains with a combined output capacity of 6.86 million metric tons per year, in addition to about 45000 barrels of associated condensate per day. The plant has gas reception, condensate processing, gas liquefaction, sulfur production and loading facilities in addition to the other required onshore installations and systems.

Ras Laffan 2

This project aims to produce liquefied natural gas and by-products from the 3rd, 4th and 5th production trains at an output capacity of 4.7 million metric tons per year from each train, in addition to about 28000 barrels per day of associated condensate.

Ras Laffan 3

This project aims to produce liquefied natural gas and by-products from the 6th and 7th production trains, which are under construction, at an output capacity of 7.08 million tons per year from each train, in addition to about 50000 barrels of associated condensate per day.

Ras Gas will start in the few coming years exporting the liquefied natural gas to new clients around the world. A large quantity of this amount will be exported to the USA after the commissioning of the 6th train, and to the Asian markets after the commissioning of the 7th train.

Ras Gas 5th Train

The 5th production train at Ras Gas was inaugurated in March 2007. Since then, production of liquefied natural gas at Ras Gas increased to 30.7 million metric tons per year, making the company one of the major liquefied natural gas producers in the world. The largest part of the production of this train will be exported to a growing number of customers in Europe.

QP Refinery

QP refinery started production with a diesel producing unit in 1958. It started to grow to a large scale refinery which was able to meet the local requirements for oil refined products and produce surplus for export. The refinery produces butane, naphtha, regular benzene, super benzene, jet fuel, diesel and watercraft fuel.

The total amount of oil products exported during 2007 reached 2,766,220 metric tons.

Ras Laffan Refinery

Ras Laffan refinery was established in 2007 with a processing capacity of 146,000 barrels per day of gas condensate coming from Qatar Gas, Ras Gas and Gulf Gas to produce liquefied oil gas, naphtha, jet fuel and gas oil.

Seef Limited Company

SEEF Limited was established in July 2004 as a joint stock company between QP (80%) and United Development Company (UDC) (20%). The Company is a materialization of the vision of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani the Emir of Qatar to enhance and promote the role of the private sector in the economic development through participating in such projects. The company's plant is based in Mesaieed.

The company produces 100,000 metric tons of Linear Alkyl Benzene per annum which is an intermediate in the production of environmentally-friendly household detergents. It also produces 3,600 metric tons per year of heavy Alkyl Benzene in addition to normal paraffin and benzene.

The company exports its products to its present clients spread in a wide geographical area including the Far East, South East Asia, GCC region, southern Africa, Europe and USA.

Oryx Gas-To-Liquids Company (Oryx GTL)

Oryx GTL started production in the second quarter of 2007 at a design output capacity of 32,400 barrels per day. Its products of diesel and naphtha are sold in the international markets by Sasol Synfuel International which solely owned by Sasol.

The company's plant uses about 330 million cubic feet per day of light methane-rich gas brought from the north gas field as feedstock to produce 34,000 barrels per day of liquids including 24,000 barrels per day of diesel, 9000 barrels per day of naphtha and 1000 barrels per day of liquefied petroleum gas.

Pearl GTL Project

A world-scale integrated Gas-To-Liquid project, PEARL GTL aims to produce 1.6 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from the north gas field, and process them to extract 140,000 barrels per day of clean fuel and lubricant oils. The project will be implemented in two phases, each with a production capacity of about 70,000 barrels per day. The first phase will start production during 2010; and development and production-sharing agreement was signed by QP and Shell in July 2004.

Qatar International Petroleum Company

This company is meant to have diverse activities in the field of oil and gas industries. In the few coming years the company is going to invest in exploration, drilling, intermediate operations and processing, production and exportation activities to materialize its vision of becoming a comprehensive energy company. Qatar International Petroleum Company signed a number of contracts in the field of petroleum, gas and petrochemicals development and production.

Gulf Drilling International Company

Gulf Drilling International was established to provide onshore and offshore drilling services in the state of Qatar. With a shareholding divided between QP (70%) and Japan Drilling Company (30%), and a paid up capital of \$103.2 million, the company is specialized in implementing onshore and offshore drilling contracts and providing exploration services for natural gas and petroleum sector.

Major Industries

Qatar Fertilizer Company (QAFCO)

Qafco, the first major investment in the field of petrochemicals in Qatar, was established in 1969. It is jointly owned by Qatar Industries (75%) and Yara International (30%).

The company produces 2 million metric tons of ammonia and 3 million metric tons of urea per year, a world record from a single producer. Presently the company exports urea and ammonia to more than 35 countries around the world. Its main markets, however, are South East Asia, North America, Australia and Africa.

In 2007 the company started the first practical step to build the expansion project Qafco-5 which is intended to make a qualitative and quantitative transformation in terms of production and used technologies. This project which is scheduled to be completed in 2011 will raise Qafco's output capacity to 3.8 million metric tons of ammonia and 4.3 million metric tons of urea.

Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO)

Qapco was established in 1974 as a shareholding company between Qatar Industries (80%) and Total Petrochemicals (former French Atofina) (20%). The company produces 525 thousand metric tons of ethylene, 360 thousand metric tons of low density polyethylene and 70 thousand metric tons of sulfur per year.

In 2007 the company produced about 550 thousand metric tons, and with the production of a surplus amount for Ethylene-2 plant, its daily design production capacity was raised to 2,200 metric tons. Sulfur production reached 32 thousand metric tons; low density polyethylene production was over 359 thousand tons, and polyethylene-1 and 2 produced 173 and 187 respectively.

Ethylene-2 expansion increased the production capacity of the company from 535 thousand to 720 thousand metric tons.

Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC)

Qafac is jointly owned by Qatar Industries (50%), OPEC Middle East (20%), International Octane Limited (15%) and LCY Middle East (15%).

Qatar Vinyl Company (QVC)

QVC was established in 1997 and inaugurated in 2001. Its shareholding is divided between QP (25.5%), Qapco (31.9%), Norsk Hydro (29.7%) and Arkema (12.9%). Production of the company reached 212,000 metric tons of ethylene dichloride, 280,000 metric tons of vinyl chloride monomer and 348,000 metric tons of caustic soda in 2007.

Qatar Chemical Company (Q-Chem)

Q-Chem was founded in 1997 as a joint venture between QP (51%) and Vheron Philips Chemical International Qatar Holdings (49%). Q-Chem produces world standard high density polyethylene and hexane (Alfa Olefin) and other associated products.

Qatar National Cement Company

The company started production in 1969 with an output capacity of 100 thousand tons per year. After the commissioning of the 4th train production capacity increased to about 11,900 tons per day of clinker and about 15,500 tons per day of cement to meet the increasing local requirements for these materials.

Qatar Iron and Steel Company (Qatar Steel)

Qatar Steel, the first integrated iron and steel plant in the Arabian Gulf region, was established in 1974; and it started its commercial activities in 1978. The company has a branch, Qatar Steel Company Dubai (FZE-Dubai), which produces rebar and iron billets in Dubai free zone. It also has large shareholdings in three companies working in the same field i.e. United Stainless Steel Company (USCO) and Gulf Industrial Investment Company (GIIC) in Bahrain and Qatar Metals Coating Company (Q-Coat) in Qatar.

Qatar Plastics Products Company (QPPC)

QPPC was established in 1998, and it started production in August 2000. 90% of the company's production is sold locally and the rest is exported to the GCC countries and Europe. The shareholding of the company is divided between Qapco, Qatar Manufacturing Company and Fibo of Italy.

Qatar Aluminum Company

Qatar Aluminum Company is a joint venture equally shared by QP and Norsk Hydro of Norway. The company aims to build an aluminum smelter in Mesaieed industrial city with an output capacity of 585,000 tons of high quality aluminum annually.

Industrial Estates

Mesaieed Industrial City (MIC)

MIC is a pioneering industrial estate in the country and the main centre for the major industrial projects. Its administration was formed in 1996 as the only body directly responsible for supplying all services and facilities for the existing and future industrial projects in Mesaieed. It is also responsible for developing light and medium-scale industries which support the requirements of the existing and planned heavy industries, and for providing all municipal, environmental, health and entertainment services for the community of Mesaieed.

MIC is one of the major economic centre's that play a vital role in the national economy. It contributes 60% to the general national income through the operations of its port. The city has a diverse industrial base including crude oil refinery and liquids and natural gas by-products extraction plants, in addition to chemical fertilizers, petrochemical, steel, light and supporting industries and a modern port that operates round the clock to meet the requirement for exporting and importing various products and materials.

Ras Laffan Industrial City (RLC)

RLC, which is managed by QP, was inaugurated in February 1997. It is considered the backbone of existing and future offshore industries that depend on the gas produced from the north gas field whose proven reserves amount to 900 trillion cubic feet. The industries based in the city include liquefied natural gas, gas-to-liquid, condensate, sulfur and supporting industries.

The city represents one of the major strategic development projects in the county. The

management of the city is responsible for preparing and implementing development, organization and operation plans of the city, besides providing the infrastructure facilities and the services to enhance the efficiency of the existing and future industries.

Qatar Development Bank

Qatar Development Bank was established by the government in association with the national banks in 1997 under the name Qatar Industrial Development Bank with a view to finance small and medium-scale industrial projects, develop the industrial sector and encourage the introduction of modern techniques in industry.

In 2006 the bank became totally owned by the government. It raised its declared capital to 5 billion Qatari Riyals and expanded its scope to cover educational, health, housing, agricultural, and animal and fish resources investments, besides the industrial sector.

Financial and Banking Sector

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The GDP in current prices grew by 25.14% in 2007 against 33.7% in the previous year, while oil and non-oil sectors grew by 33.67% and 26.84% respectively. This growth was accompanied by a surplus in the internal and external balances alike. The general budget and the current account realized a surplus for the eighth consecutive year, and 14.7% surplus to GDP ratio compared to about 16.7% in 2006.

Money supply continued to grow as a result of the Central Bank's commitment to fix the exchange rate of the Riyal against the Dollar to connect the interest rates on the Riyal to those on the Dollar. In the backdrop of the continuous expansion of government spending on development and infrastructure projects, and despite the recession in money supply in its wider sense from 43.3% in 2005 to 37.9% in 2006 and 32.7% in 2007, money supply growth continued to surpass the 25.14% growth rate of the GDP in current prices, which caused the inflation, at 13.76% annually, and put more pressure on the Qatari economy.

The GDP in current prices grew in 2007 by 51.9 billion Qatari Riyals (25.1%) to reach about 258.6 billion Qatari Riyals compared to a 33.7% increase in 2006. This increase was a result of the upturn of 23.7% in the oil sector production and 26.8% in the non-oil sectors production.

The productivity of manufacturing industries sector in 2007 increased by 3.6 billion Qatari Riyals (22.9%) to account for about 19.5 billion Qatari Riyals.

Construction sector value in 2007 increased by 2.6 billion Qatari Riyals (22%) against the value of 2006 to reach 14.6 billion Qatari Riyals.

Electricity and water production increased in 2007 by 23.2% to reach 4.3 billion Qatari Riyals, maintaining its share in the GDP at 1.7% of the previous year.

Agriculture and fishing productivity increased in 2007 by 7.3% to stand at 250 million Qatari Riyals.

Government services product increased in 2007 by 8.1% to reach 20.8 billion Qatari Riyals, which is a very low growth rate.

Insurance and financial services sector production grew in 2007 by 50.2% and 5.1 billion Qatari Riyals.

Trade and hospitality services production increased in 2007 by 27% and about 2.5 billion Qatari Riyals compared to 2006.

Real estate and business services production increased in 2007 by 5.3 billion Qatari Riyals to stand at 16.5 billion Qatari Riyals.

Transport sector production increased in 2007 by 2.6 billion Qatari Riyals (36.9%) compared to 39.9% realized in 2006, to reach 9.8 billion Qatari Riyals in 2007 compared to 7.2 billion Qatari Riyals in 2006.

Ministry of Economy and Finance

The ministry is responsible for supervising the economic activities in the country; guiding and proposing the objectives, instruments and programs of the overall economic and financial policies; and revising these in line with the requirements of the national development process. It is also responsible for supplying the financial resources; arranging public lending; collecting public income; keeping the accounts of the state; implementing customs policies and regulations; preparing the draft of the general budget and supervising its implementation; preparing the final statement of the state; auditing spending through payment orders and special settlements with government departments; and providing the required government housing units and supervising and maintaining them.

Some of the achievements of the ministry in 2007 and 2008:

- Collecting the financial sector's data of the total public spending and income; and conducting surveys on the financial contributions and participations of the state in the international organizations, authorities and regional establishments, security agreements with other governments, in addition to the assistance, grants and financial support extended to the international organizations and authorities, individuals and public establishments.
- Conducting economic and financial studies pertaining to inflation, public spending in the educational sector, the repercussions of international hike of the prices of basic food commodities, the reasons of international financial crisis, and the economic statistics of the GCC countries.
- Signing tax duplication and tax evasion prevention agreements with Greece, Cyprus, Poland, Switzerland, the Philippines, Portugal, Kazakhstan and Croatia.
- Participating in symposia and conferences dealing with taxation in the GCC, Arab, Islamic and other countries.
- Supervising and revising payment orders, settlements and bonds coming from various government departments based on contracts and purchase orders.

- Preparing the bills of legislative instruments of the ministry including laws and draft laws.

Public Revenues

Public revenues continued to grow during 2007/2008 in line with the sustainable growth Qatar has been witnessing for several years recently. This is due to several factors, foremost, the continuing improvement of oil prices in the international markets and the substantial growth of all of the components of public income during that year. The income from oil and gas, which represent the main source of income in Qatar, increased by 15.2 billion Qatari Riyals (27.7%) to stand at 70.1 billion Qatari Riyals. It is noted that in spite of this strong growth in oil and gas income the ratio of this sector to the total income have receded in the budget of the financial year 2007/2008 to count for only 60.7% compared to 64.6% in the budget of 2006/2007, which, however refers to the success of the government's policy of diversifying the economy as much as possible away from oil and gas.

On the other hand, investment income which represents the second basic source of government revenue in Qatar increased by 9.7 billion Qatari Riyals (47.1%) to stand in total at about 30.4 billion Qatari Riyals compared to about 20.6 billion Qatari Riyals in the budget of 2007/2008, thus raising the relative importance in the total government income to 26.3% compared to 24.3% in the previous year. The third public income source, which includes various fees and taxes, also registered a strong growth rate of 58.7% to stand in total at about 15 billion Qatari Riyals compared to 9.4 billion Qatari Riyals in 2006/2007 budget, raising the ratio to the total government income by about 13% in 2007/2008 budget compared to 11.1% in 2006/2007 budget.

Commercial and Investment Sector

The Ministry of Business and Trade is concerned with preparing the required programs to implement the policies of developing business and trade sector; supervising and guiding commercial activities in line with the requirements of the national development process; proposing and implementing the policies and programs aiming to attract investments, support and increase exports, and develop the procedures and techniques of securing public services for business and investment sector; supervising commercial trades practices; registering commercial and investment establishments; issuing the required licenses to protect consumers and control commercial fraud; protecting competitiveness; preventing monopoly; and supervising the implementation of tourist, exhibition, transport and communications policies.

The most important achievements of the Ministry of Business and Trade:

Economic Affairs Department:

- Issuing booklets on the Qatari economy and investment opportunities and laws.
- Preparing and following up a number of bilateral economic agreements signed between Qatar and other countries; and signing a number of economic cooperation and investment

encouragement agreements.

- Endorsing 1051 Arab certificates of origin and 1181 European certificates of origin.

Commercial Affairs Department:

- Establishing 10 private and 4 public shareholding companies.
- Transforming 4 private shareholding companies into public shareholding companies.
- Establishing 1814 companies with limited liabilities and companies of individual owners.
- Making 3275 commercial registers (companies / establishments).
- Registering 21 new agencies, introducing 31 agencies and renewing 11 agencies.
- Registering 4110 trade marks, inquiring about 1538 trade marks, endorsing 10361 trade marks and renewing 1212 trade marks.

Economic and Commercial Promotion Department:

- Preparing foreign investment draft law and developing some of its provisions by adding some services activities to the sectors in which the foreign investor can own 100% of the project's capital.
- Allowing non-Qatari investors to practice in the strategic sectors and ensuring the accuracy and transparency in regard to economic figures and data.
- Exempting foreign companies of services from the requirement to have a local agent.
- Establishing a commercial disputes settlement body.
- Arranging entry visas for foreign investors.

Consumer Protection Department:

- Issuing law No (8) for 2008 on the protection of consumers.
- Launching 1183 inspection campaigns on 26751 shops and commercial outlets.

Economic and Commercial Organizations Departments:

- Presenting Qatar's briefs for 2008 to the world trade organization.
- Preparing a report on the competitiveness of Qatar.
- Following up the negotiations to conclude bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements with other countries and economic blocs such as the GCC and the European Union.

Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI)

QCCI is one of the oldest chambers of commerce in the GCC countries. As a government department, it was established in 1963 by law No (4) for 1963 issued in 16.2.1963. On 6.5.1990 law No (11) for 1990 was issued to reorganize the chamber and make it an independent public utility body representing the commercial and industrial interests of its various private sector members. In spite of this law the members of the board of directors were still appointed by the government by an Emiri decree which stipulates that the members in the first meeting of the board choose a chairman, deputy chairman and an honorary treasurer from among themselves for a 5-year term.

In 1996 and in a first democratic experiment in the country law No (11) for 1996 was issued to amend some provision of law No (11) for 1990, especially its 13th article, and stipulate that the members of the board of directors of the chamber be chosen by direct ballot by the general assembly of the chamber in such a way as to represent various economic sectors in the country. The representation ratios of these sectors are to be decided by a decision from the minister of economy and finance after consulting with the concerned ministers. The term of membership of the board of directors was reduced to 4 instead of 5 years; and the internal regulations of the chamber define the way in which to hold the elections.

The achievements of the chamber of commerce and industry:

Forming the 350-member business council which liaises between the chamber and the business community.

Establishing Qatar international centre for reconciliation through which the chamber mediates and settles the disputes arising between Qatari businessmen and their foreign counterparts. The centre resolved more than 15 disputes.

Establishing a Qatari-Bahraini insurance company with a capital of 250 million Qatari Riyals.

Domestic Liquidity

The vigorous growth of the domestic liquidity achieved for the past several years started to slow down during 2007, and continued in 2008. As a result, the growth rate of the broad measure of liquidity declined from 37.9% in 2006 to 32.7% in 2007 and to 20.0% in 2008. In actual terms, the broad measure witnessed an increase of 32.3 billion Qatari Riyals in 2008, compared to 30.0 billion Qatari Riyals in 2007. At the end of 2008, the broad measure was stocked at 140.0 billion Qatari Riyals compared to 117.6 billion Qatari Riyals stocked at the end of 2007. Consequently domestic liquidity ratio to GDP declined from 45.4% in 2007 to 38.6% in 2008. As such, velocity of money circulation increased from 2.21 in 2007 to 2.59 in 2008

Money Supply

Money supply, in terms of its narrow definition, continued its strong growth rate for several years to increase by 7.5 billion Qatari Riyals (26.9%) to reach 35.4 billion Qatari Riyals, representing 31.5% of the total GDP of non-oil sectors at the end of 2007.

Quasi Money

Quasi money continued its strong growth rate for several years to increase in the report year by 21.5 billion Qatari Riyals (35.4%) to reach 83.2 billion Qatari Riyals at the end of 2007 compared to 60.8 billion Qatari Riyals at the end of 2006.

Time deposits in Qatari riyal reached 60,245.8 in 2007 against 26,748.0 in 2006.

Qatar Central Bank (QCB)

Established in 1993, QCB aims to achieve monetary, financial and price stability and maintain

trust in the banking sector – a mission that requires it to supervise the markets to explore and control the risks that threaten the financial system as a whole. These risks can be curbed by augmenting the basic financial infrastructure and other operations inside and outside the country including, in exceptional cases, playing the role the final lender.

The bank is concerned with managing the Qatari Riyal exchange policy; implementing the relevant operations; formulating, managing, following up and evaluating the state's monetary policy; issuing currency; organizing money circulation; preventing counterfeit; supervising the banks, exchange houses, investment companies and representation offices; managing public debt operations including local bonds and guarantees; contributing to financial stability policies; operating as a bank of the banks in Qatar with the exception of the banks operating under the umbrella of Qatar financial centre; investing the state's financial reserves in foreign currencies; managing clearance operations, payments and settlement systems; and conducting researches and studies on the local and international economy.

The bank continues to pursue its main goals of maintaining the exchange rate of the Qatari Riyal; and managing the interest rates in such a way as to enhance monetary and financial stability through contributing to the effort of absorbing the surplus liquidity and combating inflation. The bank decided to raise the compulsory reserve ratio from 2.75% to 3.25% since November 2007 to limit the ability of banks to expand their loan portfolio. This ratio was raised more than once in the first half of 2008 to stay at 4.75%.

The bank continued its efforts to maintain the safety and stability of the banking system through taking precautionary measures and supervising the banks. The growth rate of total assets increased at the end of 2007 to 55.3% compared to 45.9% at the end of 2006. In addition, the banking system realized high growth rates in its main activities especially in the field of customers' deposits which grew by 38.8% at the end of 2007 compared to 41.1% at the end of the previous year. The banks increased their total credit facilities by 42% at the end of 2007 compared to 44.5% at the end of the previous year.

The increase in the consolidated budget of commercial banks was concentrated on the assets of their main activities especially in the field of credit facilities and financial investments. Credit facilities extended to customers grew by 58 billion Qatari Riyals (56.6%) at the end of 2007 against 32.9 billion Qatari Riyals (47.3%) at the end of the previous year.

Local Credit Facilities

Local credit facilities increased by 51.6 billion Qatari Riyals (54.4%) at the end of 2007 compared to 27.5 billion Qatari Riyals (40.9%) in the previous year to reach 146.3 billion Qatari Riyals.

Local credit facilities in local currency extended inside Qatar increased by 28.4 billion Qatari Riyals (42.0%) to stand at 95.8 billion Qatari Riyals at the end of 2007 against 20.8 billion Qatari Riyals (44.5%) at the end of the previous year.

While local credit facilities offered for the private sector stood at 29.2 billion Qatari Riyals at the end of 2007, increasing by 19.1 billion Qatari Riyals from the level of the end of the previous year, the credit facilities in the local currency offered for the public sector receded causing their relative importance to decline to 65.5% of the total credit facilities offered at the end of 2007 against 71.3% at the end of the previous year.

The local credit facilities extended in foreign currencies to the public and private sectors increased by 23.2 billion Qatari Riyals (85.1%) at the end of 2007 to stand at 50.5 billion Qatari Riyals against an increase of 6.7 billion Qatari Riyals (32.7%) at the end of the previous year.

Credit facilities divided by sector

The private sector still has the biggest share of local credit facilities accounting for 110.4 billion Qatari Riyals (75.5%) of total local credit facilities at the end of 2007 against 73.2 billion Qatari Riyals (77.4%) at the end of the previous year.

Credit facilities divided by economic activity in 2006 - 2007

QR million

Particulars	2006	2007
Public sector	21536.8	35902.4
Private sector	73236.3	110426.6
Total credit facilities	94773.1	146329.0

Source: QCB report - 2007

Banks increased their credit facilities for individuals by 11.9 billion Qatari Riyals (34.0%) at the end of 2007 against 10.4 billion Qatari Riyals (42.2%) at the end of the previous year.

In spite of the 4.7 billion Qatari Riyals (23.9%) increase in the value of securities fund owned by the commercial banks operating in Qatar against the balance of 19.7 billion Qatari Riyals and increase of 3.0 billion Qatari Riyals, the ratio of this increase to the total assets of the banks declined from 10.4% at the end of the previous year to 8.3% at the end of 2007 as a result of higher growth rate of the banks' activities in other fields (especially credit facilities) than those of their securities fund.

Cash Assets

Cash assets at the commercial banks operating in Qatar including both cash and balances at Qatar Central Bank registered an unprecedented increase of 19.9 billion Qatari Riyals (317.8%) at the

end of 2007 to reach 26.2 billion Qatari Riyals at the end of 2007 against 6.3 billion Qatari Riyals.

The position of commercial banks in net foreign assets receded at the end of 2007 compared to their position at the end of the previous year when they stood at 20.6 billion Qatari Riyals against 41.6 billion Qatari Riyals at the end of the previous year.

Foreign Liabilities

The commercial banks' foreign liabilities increased by 37.4 billion Qatari Riyals (151.3%) at the end of 2007 compared to 14.4 billion Qatari Riyals (138.7%) at the end of the previous year.

Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)

QFC was established to attract the investments of international companies and establishments working in the field of banking operations, financial services and insurance; and to act as the main centre for those institutions besides discharging other business activities. The centre's authority reports to an authority whose board of directors is chaired by the minister of economy and finance and to the chief executive officer and the general manager of the centre. 104 companies are registered and operating under the umbrella of the centre.

QFC Regulatory Authority

QFC regulatory authority is the body legally responsible for developing, operating and managing QFC. It works to attract major multinational services companies to establish long-term partnerships with common benefits in Qatar; and aims to organize the establishments of financial services in QFC. The authority enjoys vast organizational authorities that allow it to supervise the companies and, when required, levy sanctions on them. It organizes the companies in line with international standard legislations and the laws observed in renowned world financial centers.

The most outstanding achievements of QFC in 2007 and 2008

Signing an memorandum of understanding with Paris Europlace on identifying the fields of cooperation between the two institutions to help develop the growth of financial services in the two countries in the field of joint marketing and promotion activities; building strong relations between the two institutions; and encouraging the cooperation between the financial companies in Qatar and France, besides promoting the economic development in both countries.

Offering about 25 financial licenses in 2009.

Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA)

QFMA aims to organize and supervise the financial markets, conduct surveys and compile data on the stocks in circulation. QFMA also works to establish connections and relations and exchange the information with overseas markets and regional and international authorities, institutions and organizations; supervise the basics of dealing with stock exchange and other

activities; license and supervise the brokers and professional financial markets players; and prevent the crimes related to the financial markets' activities.

The achievements of QFMA:

- Utilizing the electronic and information systems and following up all functions.
- Preparing the draft legislations pertaining to the progress of work at the authority.
- Taking the required actions to discharge its supervisory functions parallel with Qatar securities market.
- Licensing the listing of securities and brokerage and other activities subjected to its supervision.

Qatar Exchange

Qatar Exchange was established by law No (14) for 1995 and started operating on 26 May 1997. Before that, the stocks of shareholding companies were exchanged through a number of unspecialized or unlicensed brokerage offices, whose unprofessional practices and lack of information, caused inequitable stock pricing and made it difficult to liquidate the stocks at the time of need.

The market aims to provide the opportunity for the citizens to invest their savings in securities and ensure the conclusion of securities' purchase or sale transactions in an atmosphere of integrity and impartiality; develop the financial market in service of the economic development efforts and to help achieve the goals of the national economic policy; rationalize and develop the techniques and procedures of dealing with securities in the market; encourage the establishment of new companies; develop and organize the issue of securities in the primary market; register the new securities in the market; facilitate the liquidation of the funds invested in securities with a guarantee for a suitable interaction between offer and demand; issue the newsletters and reports containing all the information about the daily, weekly, monthly and annual prices of stocks, besides other information that can explain to the investor the real financial positions of the listed companies.

Listed Companies

43 companies were listed in the market by December 2008.

Qatar Exchange price indicator reflected a decline of 2.694.33 points or 28.12% to close at the end of the year at 6.886.12 points.

Exchange movement in the market

The total value of the circulated shares increased by 61.16% to stand at 175.351.734.80 Qatari Riyals compared to 108.929.466.178.75 Qatari Riyals in 2007. The number of shares in circulation increased by 14.14% to reach 3.893.519.719 compared to 3.411.256.739 shares; and the number of implemented contracts increased by 30.32% to reach 2.179.861 compared to

1.811.779 contracts in 2007.

Market Value

The market value of the listed companies declined by 19.75% to 279.038.216.441.60 Qatari Riyals at the end of 2008 against 347.695.032.467.90 Qatari Riyals at the end of 2007.

The prices of the shares of 7 listed companies increased while the prices of the shares of 36 listed companies decreased.

Money Exchange Companies

The number of money exchange companies in the country has increased to 20 at the end of 2007. The total consolidated balance sheet of these companies increased by 343.5 million Qatari Riyals (5.7%) to stand at 635.5 million Qatari Riyals at the end of the reported year against 601.0 million Qatari Riyals in the previous year. Financial investments of money exchange companies declined at the end of 2007 by 5.4 million Qatari Riyals (4.0%), less than the decline rate in the previous year.

Agricultural and Fish Wealth

Agricultural production in Qatar as in other Arabian gulf states contributes a very low percentage in the gross domestic product (GDP) and in the effort to achieve food self sufficiency due to the lack of water resources and unfavorable weather conditions which severely limit the agricultural development. Despite these obstacles the state of Qatar works very hard to develop this sector through providing technical assistance for farmers and introducing modern irrigation systems technologies to the agricultural sector including extensive protected farming. The state also encourages national workforce to engage this sector and supports agricultural investment to help increase agricultural production.

The total cultivated area in the country is about 68 thousand dunams, representing almost 10.7% of the total arable land of 650 thousand dunams in Qatar. Green fodder occupies 36.7%, fruits and date palms 24.6%, vegetables 19.4% and serials (19.3%) of the cultivated land.

Meat group still occupies the first position in animal production with 25.5% of the total size, followed by fish group (23.5%), milk products group ((19.7%), vegetable group (11.8%), green fodder (8.27%), fruits and dates (6.1%) and eggs (4.3%).

The statistics of animal resources indicate that the number of cows, sheep, camels, horses and deer increased to 284,590 heads in 2005 as a result of the effort exerted by the state to develop animal resources through promoting government purchases and protecting the national herd from diseases.

The state cares a lot for fish resources through enacting the legislations that organize fishing and the laws that rationalize the utilization of this important wealth in which Qatar is about to achieve self sufficiency.

Insurance Sector

Insurance sector is one of the vital avenues of saving and investment in the national economy. Due to the need for economic and social development in the country the state issued the decree law No (1) for 1996 on the supervision over insurance companies and insurance agents; and issued the required laws to amend some of the provisions of the decree law in order to organize work in this sector.

According to this decree law there are 8 insurance companies: 5 national and 3 branches of Arab insurance companies.

National insurance companies continued to expand during 2007 by providing various insurance services.

The financial position of national insurance companies according to their consolidated balance sheet was higher by 2.6 billion Qatari Riyals (37.15%) at the end of 2007 compared to a decline of 219.8 million Qatari Riyals (3.1%) in the previous year. The decline is attributed to the decline in the value of the financial investment funds at these companies resulting from the recession of stock prices at Qatar Exchange.

Cash assets of the national insurance companies increased by 668.6 million Qatari Riyals (37.1%) against 7.5% in the previous year to stand at 1.65 billion Qatari Riyals.

CHAPTER FIV

Social Development

- **Education and Higher Education**
- **Qatar foundation for Education, Science & Community Development (QF)**
- **Health Care**
- **Information**
- **Culture, Arts and Heritage**
- **Qatar Museums Authority**
- **Social Services**
- **Youth and Sports**
- **Qatar Tourism & Exhibitions Authority**
- **The Environment & Natural Reserves**

Education and Higher Education

The comprehensive educational policy is based on firm principles of preserving the nation's Islamic heritage and identifying to the discrete nature of the people, while continuing to enhance the development of school curricula and the educational system, and benefiting from the achievements of the times and the latest technological innovations.

The first thing the keen observer of the educational march in the state of Qatar can notice is the qualitative and quantitative development of the process to build the potential of national human resources so as to contribute in the comprehensive development process of the country. In this context, the ministry of education and higher education achieved many successes during the two years 2007 and 2008; and these include:

- Introducing the "distinguished teacher award" to develop the educational process, reward and honor distinguished teachers and encourage sound, positive and quality teaching practices.
- Sending, for the third consecutive year, a group of third grade preparatory school students on a 6-week summer vacation to study English in order to upgrade their standard in this

language, prepare them early for TOFIL certificate and train them in verbal communication skills besides enhancing their religious and patriotic sentiments.

- Integrating the students with special needs in the educational system by providing them with special schools.
- Introducing "the educational excellence day award" with which to honor the students with outstanding achievements in various educational disciplines and activities. The award is divided into 6 categories: secondary school students; university graduates; PhD holders; the distinguished teacher; the distinguished school; and scientific research.
- Preparing a number of training programs for the staff of independent schools to develop their work skills and upgrade their performance.
- Introducing the secondary school program for independent schools with which to involve the students in all aspects of the educational process.

The achievements in the field of education for all in the educational year 2007/2008:

- Kindergartens and primary education occupancy rates were 56.4% and 99.9% respectively.
- Preparatory and secondary school enrolment rates were 96.4% and 96.7% respectively.
- Preparing a training program for kindergarten female teachers and helping them in collaboration and coordination with the supreme education council and Qatar University.
- Establishing 30 kindergartens and supply them with all advanced and world-class services and facilities.
- Opening 41 new school buildings.

Literacy and Adult Education

The state has realized in an early stage the dangers of illiteracy. The first literacy and adult education centre attracted a huge turnout from enthusiastic citizens. This had encouraged the opening of 7 night schools, and in a later stage, the opening of many others including women's centers which were opened in 1976. This confirms the early awareness of the importance of eradicating illiteracy and spreading knowledge and education. The turnout of women, in particular, for night classes was so high that there were 33 centers for women in Doha and other areas with 811 students, and 38 centers for men with 1684 students. The ministry of education and higher education is exerting a lot of efforts to eradicate and prevent illiteracy in line with ambitious plans.

The state has gone a long way in this field. Illiteracy declined to only 7.5%; and the students in adult education centers reached 3048 males and females.

Supreme Education Council

Supreme education council is the higher authority responsible for drawing out and supervising the implementation of the educational policies and higher education development plan. The council functions through the following three executive authorities:

- The education institute: oversees and supports the independent schools.
- The evaluation institute: develops and conducts testing of students, monitors student learning and evaluates school performance.
- The higher education institute: advises individuals about career options and opportunities for higher education in Qatar and abroad, and administers scholarships and grants.

Education for a new era depends on the following main principles:

- **Autonomy:** Allowing schools and teachers to be innovative in their approach to meeting the needs of individual students and parents, within a framework of international curriculum standards.

- Accountability: Implementing an objective and transparent assessment system to hold all school leaders, teachers and parents responsible for the success of students.
- Variety: Encouraging different kinds of schools and instructional programs.
- Choice: Allowing parents to select the school that best fits their children's needs.

Major achievements of the supreme education council during 2008:

- Conducting a study on internal and overseas scholarships and completing a study on the proposed universities divided by specialty for 2009.
- Preparing expanded databases for reports and updating the electronic information folder.
- Increasing the number of students on scholarship by 27% in the years 2007 and 2008.

The achievements of the evaluation institute:

- Introducing electronic suitcase and knowledge network projects in 14 schools.
- Starting the procedures of national examinations for the academic year 2008/2009.
- Continuing the general secondary school certificate program at the independent schools for the second year.
- Conducting training courses on how to use the educational national data network and modern applications programs for school evaluation staff and data analysts.
- Subjecting foreign schools and foreign communities schools to the evaluation of the institute.
- Continuing to develop the national professional standards and upgrading the performance of the teachers of independent schools and the ministry of education and higher education.
- Establishing a centre for learning sources within the education institute and teacher's network.
- Implementing a new program on the development of the teachers' capacity in academic English language.

Educational Vouchers Program

Educational vouchers program aims to upgrade the standard of education in private and international schools. On their turn, these schools have developed their curriculums and teaching methods to meet the criteria of the education supreme council. The program provides several educational options for fathers. The special criteria of the educational vouchers system were prepared and the second phase of the program was launched after the completion of the first phase during 2008 at three schools including Qatar Academy, International London school and Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions, in all of which nearly 100 students benefited from the program.

Private Education

The ministry of education and higher education supports private schools by providing them with educational guidance, health care and free water and electricity services.

The private education is divided into the following sections:

The first section: regular education provided by Arab and foreign schools and kindergartens.

The second section: the private sub-education (the irregular education) provided by what is known as educational and training services centers which offer programs such as computer, secretarial work, administration, and refresher classes, in addition to university services centers whose mission is confined to facilitating the enrolment of the students in distant undergraduate programs outside the country.

University Education

Qatar University

University education in Qatar was started in the beginning of 1973 by an Emiri decision to establish two faculties of education, which consisted of two separate campuses for boys and girls. The two faculties continued to expand and diversify in the next five years in line with the accelerated pace of development and growth witnessed by the country at the time. Further development in the country called for more expansion at the college to cater for new areas of specialization. As a result, law No 2 of 1977 was issued to establish Qatar University with the specific aim of providing education, training and research opportunities in various fields of specialization needed to enhance the potential of the people and advance the welfare of the nation.

In 2004, a law was issued to organize Qatar University. This law stipulated that Qatar University is a financially independent establishment that has a council of trustees comprising 10 to 15 members representing businesspersons, diplomats and personalities with experience and good judgment. The council of trustees represents the supreme authority of the university and it is responsible for undertaking the overall supervision over the university and all the affairs pertaining to drawing up the plans; providing all the requirements whereby to reach the university's goals; following up the agreed plan on university education and researches; endorsing the general policy of admission, the regulatory rules, degree awarding and organizational structure of the university; and approving the introduction of study programs.

In the academic year 2007/2008 Qatar University has witnessed a noticeable development in all academic and administrative fields as follows:

- The number students enrolled in the academic year 2007/2008 reached 8672, of which 2253 were males (25.9%) and 6419 females (74.1), with Qataris representing 59.6% of the total number of students. The number of graduates reached 1282; and the total number of teaching staff members reached 301 including 132 Qataris (43.85%), in addition to 336 assistant teaching staff members including 106 Qataris (31.54%), up by 13.5% compared to the previous year.
- Introducing secondary education diploma, special education masters, social service, Islamic studies, electric engineering (for girls) and computer masters programs.
- Applying the banner unified digital admission system encompassing all data on marks, schedules and tuition fees.
- Providing 423 scholarships for Islamic and Arab states.
- Conducting surveys aiming to serve the society in all domains and the required field studies in preparation for the establishment of the institute of social and economic studies.
- Completing the preliminary courses program aiming to prepare the students and upgrade their competence in the field of English language, computer and mathematics.
- The environmental studies centre conducted many studies on a wide range of aspects of marine environment for the benefit of various government and international establishments.
- The central laboratories unit conducted several tests and activities and organized a number of training courses on air varieties, pollution; quality control, and the use of measurement equipments and air pollution monitoring stations.
- Allocating 2,047.80 million Qatari Riyals as a special budget for research work.

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF)

QF is a private, nonprofit, chartered organization founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani the Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mouza Bint Naser Al Misnad the Emir's wife who is personally steering the organization towards

attaining its objectives of unlocking the potential of the people of Qatar through a network of centers devoted to world-class education, cutting edge research and social progress.

Education City

Education city is a pioneering project that aims to prepare the qualified cadres, invest in human resources, enhance the futuristic thinking and produce creative solutions.

The city encompasses scientific specialties and educational disciplines of higher priority for Qatar and the region, with more emphasis on oil and gas-related sciences, engineering and business administration; in addition to the integration of administrative researches and educational programs based on science and technology. The city hosts a number of world class university branches specializing in technology, administration, economics, engineering and international politics.

University branches at the city work to prepare the students for careers in the administration, researches and new products development in the energy sector; and to qualify them to engage other vital sectors that can help the country maintain its economic boom in the future.

The Academic Bridge Program

The program was established in coordination with Texas University with the aim of preparing graduates from secondary schools in Qatar and the Gulf region to join the undergraduate programs in science, mathematics, computer and multimedia skills which are given in English instruction at prominent world universities.

Qatar Leadership Academy

Qatar leadership academy is based on a unique partnership between Qatar Foundation and the Qatari armed forces with the aim of developing the potential of the students, enhance their self confidence and teach them self discipline and self control. The Islamic studies program of the academy focuses on instructing the students in Islamic values and familiarizing them with the Arab heritage and culture while encouraging them to explore other cultures and qualifying them to join international universities at home or abroad, the Qatari armed forces or any other international military academy.

English is the medium of instruction of the program of the international baccalaureate obtained at the end of the 11th and 12th classes. This diploma qualifies the students for admission in higher education institutes in Qatar and overseas.

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q)

WCMC-Q is the first American medical college that offers its medical programs outside the US. It adopts the message of distinguished education while providing health care services and researches; and has an integrated program that combines pre-med and medicine studies. The teaching staff of the college is composed of American professors; and the college adopts separate admission criteria for pre-med and medicine programs.

WCMC-Q cooperates with the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Hamad Medical Corporation and Qatar Foundation to upgrade health services in the society and plan the establishment of Sidra Medical and Research Centre of Qatar Foundation. The centre is intended to be the main educational hospital for WCMC-Q and form, alongside with the medical college, a world class academic medical centre.

The college is going to try its biomedical research program with its partners in Qatar to enhance research and training capabilities in the country and implement some special projects with a special emphasis on hereditary medicine, molecular medicine, gynecology and pediatrics.

Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Arts in Qatar (VCU-Q)

VCU-Q is the first college to open in the education city, and that was in 1998. It graduated its seventh batch of students in 2008.

The college offers bachelor of fine arts in fashion design, graphic design and interior design.

Carnegie Mellon University In Qatar

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar offers its students a bachelor of science degree in business administration, computer science and information systems. It provides the required knowledge and skills to design efficient data management systems. Through cooperation with science and technology park it also offers a degree in projects executive management for the directors and staff of major and small companies, government departments and individuals. The fully equipped campus was inaugurated in 2009.

Texas A & M university (TAMU-Q)

TAMU-Q offers a world class undergraduate education in chemical engineering, electrical engineering and petroleum engineering. Its first batch of students graduated in 2007, and it launched in 2008 two masters programs in engineering and science.

Georgetown University – Qatar

Georgetown university international affairs college – Qatar is the branch of Edmond A. Welsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington.

The college offers a 4-year arts bachelors degree program on international politics, and prepares its graduates to hold leading positions in diplomatic and political circles and non-profit sector. Qatar branch graduated its first batch of students in 2009.

The university opened a centre for international affairs studies and researches which is mainly concerned with Arabian Gulf and Middle East affairs. The centre conducts academic studies on regional and international issues through dialogue, exchange of opinions, networking with intellectuals, and participating in relevant activists alongside with organizing a number of functions in service of the society.

Northwestern University

North Western University in Qatar, the newest in the education city, offers undergraduate programs in journalism and information. Journalism programs trains the students on basic journalism skills within an integrated arts program, while the information program prepares them to take up creative and administrative roles in the field of information and entertainment.

Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies

Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies offers a general diploma in Islamic studies, a masters degree in contemporary Islamic jurisprudence and a masters degree in general politics. The faculty represents an international forum of Islamic thought and dialogue aiming to enhance research on Islamic culture. It adopts both English and Arabic as mediums of instruction and upholds the message of Qatar Foundation of providing education, conducting researches and conserving the most important aspects the Islamic culture through highlighting the contemporary role of Islam.

Other Establishments and Institutions

Qatar Academy

Established in 1996 in the educating city of Qatar Foundation, Qatar Academy offers a K-12 comprehensive and integrated educational program through which to fulfill the students' requirements for knowledge and physical, social and cultural education. The academy aims to develop the sense of critical thinking, love of learning and sense of responsibility among the students and help them enter first class world universities and higher education institutions.

Rand-Qatar Policy Institute

Established in 2003, Rand-Qatar policy institute is the most recent addition to research and educational initiatives of QF, and a very important part of the education city. The institute is a distinguished regional center for advanced education, researches, and technological advancement where scientific affiliations are being created for medicine, design arts, engineering and educational study programs that the city is going to include. The institute trains policy analysts in the region in the methods of research that will help the leaders take sound political decisions based on a reliable information base. Rand-Qatar Policy Institute supports Qatar as a Middle East center for analysis and research. It helps build national and regional potential for political analysis especially after Qatar has become among the foremost Middle East countries committed to strict observance of the results of objective analysis. The institute provides qualitative analyses to the society as well as strategic advice inside and outside the country in most sectors of human activities, and plans to develop education.

The Learning Centre

Established in 1996, the Learning Centre aims to provide the students with the chances to learn independently and utilize their optimum potential. It provides diagnostic consultation and educational and medical treatment services for the students who are suffering from learning difficulties. The centre was transformed into a K-12 school.

The first batch of students of the centre was graduated in 2006; and the graduates joined Georgetown University – Qatar, North Atlantic-Qatar, the Academic Bridge Program and higher education institutes abroad.

Science and Technology Park

Science and Technology Park is home for technology companies worldwide and a cradle for emerging technological projects. The park has offices and laboratories equipped with all scientific means, installations and required supporting programs all of which help facilitate commercial operations. It acts as a "free zone", attracting the international technology companies to work in Qatar.

The achievements of Qatar Foundation in 2007 and 2008:

- Launching Qur'an park project which is intended to showcase all the plants and trees mentioned in the holy Qur'an. Each plant or tree will be highlighted with the Qur'anic verse in which they were mentioned. Quran memorization centers, in which to teach the history of the prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to the local community, will also be opened.
- Forming Qatar harmonic orchestra.
- Opening the second branch of Qatar Academy in Al Khor to extend the best educational services to the local community and surrounding areas.
- Introducing research instruction for undergraduate students to involve them in conducting researches in various fields and specialties related to the needs and interests of the state under the supervision of the teaching staff members of all the universities in the country.
- Concluding agreements and partnerships with Imperial College and Oxford University to establish a robot surgery centre.
- Introducing a professorship in Islamic studies in Oxford University.
- Inaugurating "Meezha" company which provides technological solutions in the field of information technology and networking for all government sectors and abroad, besides opening high standard information centers.
- Organizing workshops and introducing "Science Stars" program which is an interactive TV show aired by more than 20 Arab TV channels.

Private Universities

North Atlantic College

North Atlantic College is designed to the top standards of flexibility to meet all the possible requirements for quality education. It has a 1-year and a 2-year programs, after the completion of which the student gets an internationally recognized proficiency certificate; and a 3-year program which qualifies the student to obtain the college's diploma. Holders of higher education degrees including diploma, bachelor's, master's and PhD can join the college's programs to obtain proficiency certificates that they can use to seek employment in various fields. The college allows its graduates to pursue their higher or postgraduate education in the Canadian universities.

Stenden Institute Qatar

The Dutch Stenden Institute Qatar, formerly known as C.H.N. University in Qatar, was established in 2000 to be the first university with a specialized faculty for hospitality and tourism management. The university offers a bachelor's degree in business administration within hospitality and tourism management program, and a diploma in hotel management.

**Students divided by type of education, gender, class and stage
2007 – 2008**

Stage	Government Schools		Independent Schools		Private Schools		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Primary	9032	10545	8955	9669	21539	17792	39526	38006
Preparatory	3224	5371	6860	5369	8069	6454	18153	17194
General and specialized secondary	4398	6545	5033	3634	5953	4699	15384	14878
Grand total	16654	22461	20848	18672	35561	28945	73063	70078

Source: Annual Report – Statistical Bureau – 2007

**The students of private universities and colleges in Qatar
2007 -2008**

University	Qataris		Non-Qataris				Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Texas	70	75	98	28	168	103	271
Virginia	4	108	1	80	5	188	193
Georgetown	17	34	23	32	40	66	106
Carnegie Mellon	10	55	52	46	62	101	163
Weill Cornell	8	29	83	83	91	112	203
North Atlantic	1137	429	341	288	1478	717	2195
Stenden (1)	78	95	122	130	200	225	425
Qatar Aeronautical College	217	37	132	9	349	46	395
Grand Total	1541	862	852	696	2393	1558	3951

Source: Annual Abstract – 2007, Statistics Authority

**Qatar university students divided by gender and faculty
2006 – 2007**

Faculty	2006 – 2007	
	Males	Females
Foundation program	513	1281
Education	89	413
Arts and science	203	2255
Sharia	126	364
Engineering	401	466
Administration and economics	186	412
Law	149	102
Technology	0	0
Parallel education	476	623
Unspecialized education	0	0
Syllabus studies	9	20
Post graduate	46	50
Total	2198	5986

Annual Abstract – 2007, Statistics Authority

Health Care

Supreme Health Council which is the specialized higher authority of health care in the country provides the best standard of health care services including preventive and treatment health services for citizens and residents of Qatar through the following functions:

1. Preparing the national strategic health services based on Qatar national vision 2030; and formulating health services policies, programs and plans and the required supervision and

- follow-up systems to implement the national health services strategy.
2. Endorsing the plans to prepare the required medical, health and administrative cadres and training the national workforce and developing and supporting scientific researches and studies in health fields in coordination with the concerned government departments.
 3. Organizing the establishment of private health institutions such as hospitals, clinics, health labs, pharmacies and supporting medical professions centers.
 4. Concluding agreements with regard to general health, researches, health management and health education with similar authorities and establishments in collaboration with the concerned authorities.
 5. Endorsing the agreements and partnerships with authorities and companies that help the council achieve its objectives; holding shares in or establishing partnerships with such parties.
 6. Preparing the required strategies to upgrade health awareness and spread health culture in the country.

The Supreme Health Council supervises the following health institutions:

1. Hamad Medical Corporation
2. General hospitals, primary health centers and other general health facilities
3. Private medical institutions including hospitals, clinics, medical labs, pharmacies and supporting medical profession centers.

General Preventive Health Services

The Supreme Health Council prepares the contagious diseases prevention plans; supervises their implementation; proposes the accepted ratio of pollution in the environment, food and manufactured materials in cooperation with other concerned authorities; supervises drinking water, waste disposal operations and food commodities before they are offered for human consumption; registers births and deaths and issues relevant certificates; conducts periodical medical check on food industry workers; and follows up the work of international organizations in the field of preventive health services. Preventive health department discharges its duties through the following sections: environmental health; vital statistics; central laboratories; contagious diseases monitoring and controlling; vaccination; emergencies management; non-contagious diseases; ports health; food stuffs supervision; occupational health; health awareness; and health information on diseases transmitted through sexual contact and food stuffs.

Medical Commission

Medical commission department shoulders a huge responsibility of assessing the health conditions of the holders of civilian general posts; conducting medical checks; issuing the relevant certificates; and checking the inbound foreign workforce to ensure that they are not infected with contagious diseases.

Medical licenses department issues the licenses for the medical, health and pharmaceutical professions and facilities, including many licenses to practice in the field of human medicine and dentistry, and for assistant technicians of all specialties, pharmacists and nurses. The department

issued 102 human medicine licenses, 60 dentistry licenses, 169 supporting medical professions licenses, 71 pharmaceutical licenses and 241 nursing licenses.

Pharmacy and Drug Control Department

Pharmacy and drug control department is responsible for proposing drug policy; organizing the work of pharmacies; supervising drug prices; ensuring that pharmacies and drug stores abide by the current laws and regulations; coordinating and cooperating with the concerned departments in regard to counterfeit medications; setting drug dispensation controls; issuing importation licenses of drugs, pharmaceutical materials and insecticides; registering drugs companies and their products; and supervising the use of medicinal herbs and traditional drugs.

Drugs registration and pricing unit registered and priced 19 pharmaceutical drugs, registered 5 drugs companies and priced 317 drugs in 2008. Drug preparation unit manufactured and prepared 60 pharmaceutical drugs and issued 37895 production units to government health facilities.

Overseas medical offices department follows up the cases chosen by overseas medical committee and overseas medical consultative committee. 613 cases were sent for treatment in a number of Gulf, Arab, Asian and European countries.

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)

Established in 1979, HMC is the first institution to provide health care services on non-profit basis in the country. The corporation is composed of 5 high quality hospitals. These are: Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital, Al Rumailah Hospital, Al Amal Hospital, and Al Khor Hospital, in addition to the rehabilitation centers and psychiatric hospital. The total number of beds in these hospital is 1235.

Hamad General Hospital (HGH)

Inaugurated in 1982, HGH has 621 beds in internal patients section and 65 specialized clinics in the outpatient section. The hospital also has a full range of basic specializations divided between the following sections: heart surgery; diagnostic X-Ray; general surgery; pediatrics; and internal medicine. These sections provide comprehensive general health service. The hospital has 4 intensive care units each at the internal medicine, heart diseases, general surgery and pediatric sections.

The pediatric section is one of the largest sections in Hamad General Hospital. It has 134 doctors who provide comprehensive medical services in various medical specializations.

Urgent medical services are provided for children from various areas of the country at Al Sadd Pediatric Emergency Centre in Doha, which was opened in 1986. It has 22 doctors and works round the clock. Other children emergency health care centers were opened in primary health care centers of Al Khor, Al Wakrah, Al Rayyan, and Au Bakr Al Siddiq.

Hamad General Hospital has a molecular genetic laboratory and an X-Ray section, both of which render their services in the field of modern diagnostic facilities in addition to laboratory

management, pathology, X-Ray, and ultrasound and new digital heart scan to other hospitals and clinics. The hospital provides a wide range of specialized services at its 63 outpatient sections and 12 subordinate clinics. An evening consultancy clinic of various specializations was opened to enable patients consult their doctors after normal work hours. Hamad General Hospital auxiliary outpatient centre include orthopedic, specialized school health, dentistry and pediatric clinics in addition to other specializations and a dialysis unit.

Emergency and ambulance section at Hamad General Hospital is the main medical emergency services provider in the country to receive all kinds of traumas resulting from various accidents.

Women's Hospital

Opened in 1988, the Women's Hospital has 334 beds divided between 5 floors including the exclusive wing (31 rooms), 4 newborn wings and an intensive care unit for premature births. Birth giving and orthopedics section provides a wide range of services and is equipped with the following facilities: ultrasound imaging, magnetic resonance imaging, laboratory, and blood bank.

The newborn intensive care unit has room for 71 newborns, and has over 25 doctors and 176 specialized nurses. The unit is equipped with the latest international technologies including respirators, advanced incubators and monitoring systems for breathing, heart functions and blood gases.

Rumailah General Hospital

Inaugurated in 1957, Rumailah General Hospital is one of the oldest health facilities in the country. It has 200 beds in addition to ambulance services; outpatient clinics; a rehabilitation centre for disabled adults, handicapped children, and aging people; physical therapy services; plastic surgery; ENT surgery; ophthalmology; day care surgery; a stroke unit; dermatology surgery; psychiatric section; a special education section; contagious diseases unit; artificial limbs unit; household care unit; aging people care sections; 7 operating theatres; and a laboratory and a diagnostic imaging facility with an MRI, ultrasound and bone densitometry equipment.

Al Amal Hospital

Al Amal Hospital is a specialized cancer hospital. It has all the required facilities and medical services including radiation treatment; outpatient clinics; a pharmacy; radio diagnosis facilities; radiotherapy centre; a laboratory section; nuclear radiation unit; minor operations rooms; and a 14-bed short stay unit for chemical treatment.

The hospital succeeded in adopting the continuous education system, providing a specialized clinic for the treatment of cancer pains and caring for the psychological and spiritual aspects of the patient, in addition to providing physical therapy specialists. Some of the future projects of the hospital include the installation of advanced and highly sterilized diagnostic equipments for early detection of cancer to prepare marrow cells to be implanted in the patient.

Al Khor Hospital

Built in 2004, the hospital is located in the northern region between Al Khor and Al Dhakheera. It is equipped with all the required facilities and systems and a complete and highly qualified medical, nursing and administrative team to provide distinguished and extensive diagnostic and treatment services in all medical specialties from emergency to outpatient and inpatient for the inhabitants of the northern region.

The hospital extends general emergency, orthopedics emergency, and children's emergency services round the clock. The outpatients section provides its services through three sections: general clinics, orthopedic clinics and dentistry clinics.

Primary Health Centers

There are 21 primary health centers inside and outside Doha city. Recently a number of clinics including healthy woman clinics, motherhood and childhood clinics were opened at the primary health centers. Family healthcare, emergency and ambulance programs, chronic diseases programs, mouth and teeth health programs, specialized ENT clinics, ophthalmology clinics, heart and diabetes clinics were also added recently to a number of primary healthcare centers.

Primary health centers provide preventive, treatment, and emergency services in addition to diagnostic and school health services.

The achievements of Hamad Medical Corporation:

- Using the surgical robot at Hamad General Hospital in some types of surgeries.
- Opening the first laboratory of limb transplants.
- Introducing intensity-modulated radiation therapy technology that can safely pinpoint tumors and improve dose uniformity.
- Applying health card system.
- Developing children emergency services at Al Rayyan health centre and improving its capacity to receive 150 annually.

There are a number of private hospitals such as Al Ahli hospital, Doha hospital and Al Imadi hospital, all of which have outpatient pediatric, internal diseases, dentistry, orthopedics and ophthalmology clinics in addition to laboratory, X-Ray, physiotherapy, and pharmacy.

**Hospitals, health centers, clinics and pharmacies
2007 – 2008**

Particulars	Year	
	2007	2008
Government hospitals	5	5
Private hospitals	4	4
Health centers	23	23
Children emergency centers	5	5
Hamad corporation outpatient clinics	6	6
Medical commission	1	1
Military hospital	1	1
Police hospital	1	1
Sports medical centre	1	1
Qatar Petroleum clinics	5	5
Private clinics	219	177
Private pharmacies	185	188
Private laboratories	22	22

Annual Abstract – 2007, Statistics Authority

Information

The Qatari information march is gaining a new momentum marked by free expression and abolishment of censorship, leading to enhance its role in building the society. Efforts are continuing by various media to uphold the message of information in line with the responsibilities dictated by this healthy atmosphere. Qatar Media Corporation is one of the pioneering information establishments. It is working hard to modernize its infrastructure and play an effective role in highlighting the images of continuous development and growth that the country is witnessing in all fields, while paying careful attention to further the national, Gulf, Arab and Islamic causes.

Qatar Media Corporation aims to realize, effectively and with high professionalism, the constructive message of audio and audiovisual information media through the following functions:

1. Radio and TV broadcast inside and outside the country; and supporting and developing the installations and facilities of the corporation in line with the most up to date techniques.
2. Planning, developing, producing, recording, documenting, preparing, providing and presenting local and international radio and TV programs, materials, works and services; and marketing them through sale or rental inside and outside the country.
3. Owning all moveable and unmovable financial resources to establish and operate affiliate radio and TV stations.
4. Buying, renting and marketing radio and TV materials, works and services through digital and other technological mediums.
5. Broadcasting, rebroadcasting, receiving, and conveying radio and TV news, information, programs and services through terrestrial and satellite transmission.
6. Holding copyrights on the performance, writing, publication and commercial names of radio and TV programs that the corporation produces or uses; and holding transmission rights of artistic festivals, sports events, contests and relevant functions inside and outside the country.

The corporation is composed of the following departments:

First: The administrative units reporting to the chairman:

1. Planning Unit
2. Internal Audit Unit
3. Public Relations Unit

Second: Administrative units reporting to the chief executive officer:

1. Qatar Radio
2. Qatar TV
3. Sout Al Khaleej (the voice of the Gulf)

4. Al Dowri Wal-Kas Channel (league and cup channel)
5. Marketing Department
6. Technical Affairs Department
7. Information Technology Department
8. Joint Services Department

Qatar Radio

Qatar radio prepares, produces, records and transmits radio programs and services, and develops them effectively and with high professionalism through upgrading the technical and professional standards of the employees of the station, keeping pace with and benefiting from modern technological developments in the field of radio transmission works.

The general program is the backbone of the services of Qatar radio. It started with the official launch of radio transmission for the first time on 25 June, 1968. It took most of the burden of seeking to realize the general goals and introducing the identity of Qatar in terms of its culture, history, civilization and its economic, social and urban development at the local, Arab and international levels.

Qatar Radio presents the following programs:

- The General Program
- The English Program
- The Urdu Program
- The French Program
- The Holy Qur'an Radio

Qatar Radio played an important role in highlighting activities and events in Qatar through its programs and reports as well as attracting listeners at the local, GCC and Arab levels.

The following are some achievements of Qatar Radio in 2007 and 2008:

- Installing and operating 2 digital studios and equipping them with the most advanced technologies at the Holy Qur'an Radio and the theatre of Qatar Radio.
- Providing transmission and recording studio No (7) with modern digital equipments.
- Installing and operating a DJ studio which is used by the announcer for recording and direct transmission without the need for an executive technician or a studio technician.
- Receiving an outdoor transmission vehicle which is equipped with the latest digital equipments.
- Installing and operating microwave equipments for transmitting the programs from the studios of the main radio station to Al Kheesa transmission station; and operating a microwave connection between Al Jimailiya and Al Areesh transmission stations.

Future projects include installing a microwave connection between the main radio station studios and Al Jimailiya transmission station with a view to connect the general program to Al Areesh transmission station.

Sout Al Khaleej Radio (voice of the Gulf radio)

Sout Al Khaleej Radio prepares, produces and presents literary, poetry, entertainment, sports, and Gulf and Arab music programs. It also covers and transmits the literary, artistic and sports activities organized in the country in coordination with Qatar Radio; and transmits round the clock.

Qatar TV

Qatar TV prepares, produces, records and transmits TV programs and services; and works to develop these professionally and with high competence through upgrading the artistic and professional standards of the TV staff. It also follows up and seeks to benefit from the latest technological developments in this field.

The first stage of TV transmission started in 1970. Color transmission started in 1974 while the second program, which transmits in English, started transmission in 1982. Satellite transmission in Qatar started in 1998. Qatar TV department continues to develop and modernize its equipments so that it can play a major role in highlighting the bright image of Qatar.

Qatar TV has recently witnessed a tremendous development in terms of news items preparation, presentation and direction. A master control room, the first of its kind in Qatar TV, was procured, installed and operated; the infrastructure of electronic video archive was installed; server video network was operated; new and modern equipments were installed and operated in the central equipments section; an outdoor transmission vehicle was procured; and the video electronic library project was completed.

Al Dowri Wal-Kas Channel (league and cup channel)

Al Dawri Wal-Kas channel is specialized in covering local, Arab and international sports events; and is concerned with upgrading the sports awareness among the public.

Al Jazeera Satellite Network

Al Jazeera channel was established in 1996. Later it transformed into a network comprising the following institutions:

1. Al Jazeera Channel and Aljazeera Direct (Arabic)
2. Al Jazeera Sports
3. Al Jazeera International (English)
4. Al Jazeera Documentary
5. Al Jazeera Net
6. Al Jazeera Training and Development Centre

Al Jazeera Centre for Studies

Al Jazeera Centre for Studies aims to prepare studies and provide the chance for researchers to participate in the forums that the centre organizes on monthly basis.

Department of Publications

Press and publications law assigned a number of functions for the department of publications including supervising and organizing the press and publication activities in the country; facilitating the publication of newspapers and other publications in accordance with the controls of the law; and facilitating the work of the local media workers and establishments in the country. Press and publications law No (8) for 1979 is presently being updated in line with the atmosphere of political and information openness prevailing in the country since the accession of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Kahlifa Al Thani to power in 1995.

The department is responsible for the following functions:

1. Supervising and organizing press and publication activities in the country; facilitating the publication of newspapers and other publications in accordance with the procedures defined by the law; and issuing ID cards for journalists and media workers to help them perform their information missions.
2. Issuing the required licenses for advertisement, publicity, artistic production, libraries, printing presses, and artistic materials production; and supervising and following up these activities in accordance with the provisions of the press and publications law.
3. Preparing the studies and researches pertaining to media establishments.
4. Contributing with other bodies in the country in the supervision and follow up of Doha international book fair.

Qatar News Agency (QNA)

QNA was established in 1975 as a first specialized Arab news agency in the Gulf region and a landmark achievement in the field of information in Qatar.

QNA started with half an hour transmission per day. Later, daily transmission was raised to 18, and when required to 24 hours per day through its worldwide transmission network.

The agency works to achieve the national and Arab strategic information objectives through covering the news and activities of public and private sectors, and highlighting development milestones in the country in all fields through all possible information media.

The agency seeks to reach authentic news from various internal and external sources; distribute and market such news internally and externally; analyze information; prepare commentaries and studies; and contribute to spreading information awareness with a view to enhance and upgrade professionalism in the field of information in the country.

It introduces the country through information channels in various circles throughout the world; works to establish strong relations with various information institutions and personalities abroad; organizes the visits of media personalities to the country; exchanges the services; cooperates with local, Arab and international information media; photographs local and international events; prepares news items on these events for distribution, documentation and marketing; extends information services for various government departments via its local and overseas correspondents; presents photographed and text news; monitors, compiles and documents the information from various Arab and international media and the internet; keeps pace with and utilizes the latest professional and technical developments and innovations in the fields of its work; participates in information fairs and press conferences; and covers conferences and functions inside and outside the country.

The Qatari Press

The Qatari press started early in the 1970s in response to the accelerating developments witnessed at the time by the Qatari society in various cultural, economic and social fields. The initiative came from the government when it issued in 1961 the first official gazette, in which laws and Emiri decrees were published. Towards the end of 1969 the phenomenon of issuing government publications started to become widespread.

The Qatari press is independent and private. There are four daily Arabic newspapers: Al Watan, Al Raya, Al Arab and Al Sharq. Other publications include the English dailies: Gulf Times, The Peninsula and Qatar Tribune; Doha magazine, which is issued by the ministry of culture, arts and

heritage; and various monthly and quarterly periodicals issuing from various government departments.

Culture, Arts and Heritage

The state sponsors cultural activities of all kinds. The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage organizes cultural functions including the festivals; symposia; lectures; evenings; arts exhibitions; book fairs; workshops; and training courses in cultural, arts and heritage fields; besides organizing the cultural and artistic weeks abroad.

Department of Culture and Arts

The department of culture and arts is responsible for the following functions:

1. Sponsoring the intellectual, literary and artistic movement in the country.
2. Stimulating the cultural movement by holding lectures and symposia on various intellectual, literary and artistic fields.
3. Sponsoring the cultural relations between Qatar and other countries; organizing cultural weeks abroad; and holding poetry evenings for poets from Qatar and abroad.
4. Organizing various theatrical and musical artistic shows presented by local and overseas troupes at Qatar national theatre.
5. Encouraging the theatrical movement through supporting the theatrical troupes and participating in the theatrical festivals held abroad.
6. Contributing in the publication and distribution of the works of Qatari writers and poets.
7. Sponsoring women and children culture and working to prepare the suitable programs thereof.

The department of culture and arts issued 8 books. It sponsors the theatre and folklore and organizes cultural weeks and activities in a number of countries including Syria, Kazakhstan, Turkey, India, China and others.

The achievements of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage in 2008:

- Announcing the names of the winners of the State's appreciation and encouragement awards in the field of Islamic studies, medicine, humanities, social studies, pure science, applied science, arts, and literature.
- Presenting material and moral support to the intellectuals; publishing their works to introduce them to the readers; offering them valuable awards; sending them to participate in cultural weeks held outside the country.
- Opening Doha cultural festival - 2008.
- Holding about 20 symposia and evenings in which about 70 intellectuals, researchers and talented participated.
- Visual Arts Centre organized 49 artistic workshops and a number of arts exhibitions and symposia.
- Holding Doha 9th book fair in which 440 publishers from 21 Arab and foreign countries participated.
- Organizing a symposium on folklore in which 21 lecturers participated.

- Organizing the first stage of the national program for traditional handcraft and trades between April 2008 and March 2009.
- Issuing 15 editions of Doha magazine which is full of articles written by renowned intellectuals from various Arab countries.

Cultural Neighborhood Establishment

Cultural Neighborhood Establishment has an artificial personality and an independent budget. It aims to utilize its premises in upgrading the cultural movement and encouraging and highlighting the creative potential through the following measures:

1. Creating a suitable environment to stimulate the cultural, creative, intellectual and artistic activities.
2. Providing a suitable forum for the talented and intellectuals.
3. Contributing to the propagation of cultural awareness by organizing festivals and fairs and other activities of cultural nature.
4. Conducting researches and studies and issuing publications and periodicals.

The achievements of Cultural Neighborhood Establishment in 2007 and 2008:

- Housing the premises of a number of existing private cultural and artistic societies such as theatrical and poetry societies, Visual Arts Centre, Qatar Photographic Society, Qatar Plastic Arts Society, Cultural Childhood Centre, Qatar Book and Writers Society and Al Qannas Society, including those still under foundation.
- Providing a world class building for the music academy; and another for Sout Al Khaleej Radio.
- Establishing cultural contact channels with a number of cultural institutions and Arab and international artistic and cinema festivals.
- Preparing a database containing the information about the cultural and artistic production of the Arab intellectuals and talented.

Qatar Museums Authority

Established in 2005 and based in Doha, Qatar Museums Authority aims to upgrade, manage, compile, register and protect the museums and archeology; prepare them for public use; and preserve the archeological items and sites and the acquisitions of the museums.

The authority is responsible for the following functions:

1. Establishing museums and formulating the general policy of the organization and management of museums and archeology.
2. Endorsing the projects of upgrading, developing and maintaining the museums and their contents.
3. Preparing and endorsing the scientific systems and basics for the protection of archeology throughout the stages of excavation, compilation, registration, transportation, storing, showcasing and utilization.

The authority is responsible for the museums under the supervision of the department of museums and archeology at the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, and for any other museums approved or established by a decision from the council of trustees.

The following are some achievements of Qatar museums authority in 2008:

- Opening Souq Waqif Artistic Centre.

- Holding the Gulf gathering on archeology during the period from 25 to 27 August 2008.
- Providing the photographic exhibition with more than 10.000 additional pieces.
- Participating in Qatar heritage and modernism exhibition held at the Arab World Institute in Paris.
- Providing the coinage museum with rare gold, silver and copper coins.
- Obtaining the platinum award for engineering excellence from the American Council for Engineering Companies in New York.

Future Projects

- Preparing a strategic plan for the museums and cultural activities.
- Cooperating with international educational institutions and museums in the field of arabicization for the benefit of the Qatari students of museums and archeology.
- Developing a work plan for archeological excavation in collaboration with international major universities and research institutions.

Social Services

The Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for implementing family welfare policies adopted by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs; providing social care services for citizens; organizing voluntary social work; stimulating private involvement in social work; formulating, developing and following up the implementation of social development programs; providing social security services; providing care programs and services for the handicapped, and rehabilitating and integrating them in the society; caring for, accommodating and rehabilitating the juvenile; registering, endorsing and supervising the private societies and establishments; and formulating and implementing housing policies.

Housing Department

Housing Department is concerned with conducting the studies and researches for the housing policies of the country; coordinating and cooperating with all government departments and banks; preparing periodical reports on housing status in the country; preparing and developing a comprehensive database on housing; reviewing the applications for housing services; and implementing housing laws, regulations and decisions.

In 2007/2008 Housing Department completed 10114 transactions; referred to the municipalities 500 transactions to issue construction licenses, including 448 for the construction of new houses and 52 for demolishing and rebuilding existing houses; and delivered 22 new and rebuilt houses.

Private Societies and Establishments Department

This department is concerned with registering, endorsing and supervising the private societies and establishments; conducting studies on support programs whereby to help private societies and establishments upgrade their performance and reach their objectives; reviewing the annual draft budget and final balance sheet of private societies and establishments; and studying the applications of private societies and establishments for approval of their membership in or affiliation to societies, authorities or clubs based outside the country. The department reviewed 60 public utility societies from which it approved 19 by the end of September 2008. 18 societies are under review, 5 were tentatively approved and 3 were referred to the council of ministers.

Department of Juvenile Care

This department is responsible for providing social care services for the juveniles whose social, psychological and environmental circumstances prevent them from integrating in the society. The department provides security, reassurance and suitable care for them, and works to improve their family conditions, stimulate them to lead normal and productive lives and depend on themselves so that they can rejoin the society as normal individuals.

Social Affairs Department

This department is responsible for formulating and implementing social care and social development programs and plans; providing social care and social security services; organizing the distribution of social assistance; and supervising Women's Training Centre.

10260 cases of social affairs were registered at the department. In 2008 there were 400 beneficiaries including 164 females representing 66%, and 136 males representing 34%. 408 cases were reviewed; 164 are still under review; 142 were accepted; 102 were rejected; 186 were adjusted; and 326 social security cases under permanent care were suspended including 200 female cases representing 61%, and 126 male cases representing 39%.

Labor Affairs

The Ministry of Labor continues to develop its performance and discharge its duties to serve vast sectors of citizens and residents. It intensifies its activities and functions to accomplish its mission of developing the national workforce and upgrading its efficiency in the field of foreign workforce, work relations and information management.

Labor department achieved the following accomplishments in the years 2007 and 2008:

- Labor department received 12266 applications to employ foreign workforce; 8362 applications for stay permit renewal and 3904 applications for stay permit.
- Employing 1839 citizens including 617 in the government sector.
- Workforce development department registered 3791 work applications.
- The permanent foreign workforce importation committee approved 14221 applications for new workforce of which 34382 workers were brought to the country.

National Workforce

- Females account for 54.58% and males for 45.42% of the total population. 37.60% of the female population and 50.19% of male are holders of secondary school certificates.
- 1298 registered unemployed Qataris were employed during the period from 1.7.2008 to 30.9.2008. The total number of Qataris employed in the public sector reached 277, representing 21% of the total number of employed Qataris. The total number of Qataris employed in the public sector amounted to 1021, representing 79% of the total government workforce.
- The total number of labor complaints filed in the third quarter of 2008 reached 1093.
- 3 reports on stray workforce and torture control were prepared; 17 agreements between Qatar and a number of countries on workforce organization were concluded; 8 law amendment projects were issued during the period from 1.7.2008 to 30.9.2008; and the ministry participated in 8 projects dealing with a wide range of issues including researches organization, opinion exchanging, report draft writing; and participated in a number of committees in the third quarter of 2008.

Public Utility Social Establishments

Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Supreme Council for Family affairs was established under the leadership of H.H. Sheikha Mouza Bint Naser Al Misnad the wife of H.H. the Emir of Qatar by the Emiri decision No (53) for 1998 to realize the political leadership aspiration for a national authority concerned with supervising family affairs and assessing family conditions, needs and future aspirations.

In its capacity as the supreme authority concerned with all family affairs, the council aims to confirm the position and role of the family in the society; upgrade the family and its members; and maintain family cohesion and family ability to guide and protect family members and uphold the lofty moral and religious values. In order to reach these objectives, the council discharges all the functions assigned to it including formulating a national strategy for the family in line with Qatar vision 2030; preparing the strategies, policies and programs that can contribute in upgrading the quality of life of the family; working to reach the objectives of the international conventions dealing with family affairs; following up the march towards achieving the objectives pertaining to family and the rights of children, women and the handicapped in the national development strategies and the international conventions in which the state is a member; working to enhance the potential of the Qatari women, enable them to participate in the economic and political activities especially in the field of decision making, increase employment opportunities for them, and support them in the workplace; proposing draft legislations with regard to the family and family members; cooperating with the international and regional organizations concerned with family affairs; representing the state in the international and regional conferences and committees concerned with the affairs of the family, children and the handicapped; holding conferences, symposia and discussion circles; conducting the researches on the issues pertaining to family and family members; and developing an accurate database on family affairs to facilitate access of all the sectors of the society to the right information.

The general secretariat of the council is formed of the following administrative units:

1. Legal Affairs Department
2. Communication Office
3. Human Resources and Financial Affairs Department
4. Studies and Researches Department
5. Family Policies Department
6. International Relations Department

The council started implementing 76 projects including:

- The information strategy for the family and the general strategy for the child
- The national strategy for the empowerment of the Qatari woman and the cultural workshop on the family
- The national strategy for the elderly
- The national strategy for the persons with special needs
- The implementation phase of the national strategy for the youth
- The draft law of legal accountability of child molesters and abusers (the first phase)
- Child protection program; anti-violence against children; the draft law of the child; the state's award for child literature; and the awareness and education program on the rights of children
- 16 studies on the family, women and children

Future projects of the council:

- The information strategy for the family and an awareness program on family law.

- The second phase of legal accountability of child molesters and abusers and the state's award for child literature.
- Awareness program for the youth on human rights and Qatar for all program.
- Programs and workshops on women, children, youth and the deaf.
- Various studies on the family, children, women and persons with special needs.
- Functions concerning women, the family, the elderly and the youth.

National Society for Rehabilitation and Special Needs

Established in 1992, the society is formed of the following three divisions: the cultural and social centre for the persons with special needs, the educational centre and mothers awareness centre. The society works to establish and provide suitable accommodation for the persons with special needs where to provide care and educational services for them and prepare them for future careers. It also manufactures and imports all educational means and artificial limbs for the persons under its care.

Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children

The foundation was established in 2002 by a decision from Sheikha Mouza Bint Nasser Al Misnad in her capacity as the president of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs. The foundation is meant to embody the society's care for the woman and the child, and of the society's protection of women and children against perverted practices in the family and the society; tackle the problems resulting from such practices; create an awareness in the society of the need of both categories for care; and ensure indiscrimination against women in terms of rights and everyday life, and economic, social, political and work obligations. The statute of the foundation is regarded as a declaration and a central pillar of protection of children and women in the state of Qatar.

Qatar Orphan Foundation (Dhreima)

Established in 2003, this foundation cares for the orphans and provides them with honorable living inside or outside the family; follows up their situations inside the surrogate families; works to find alternative families for those living in the families suffering from disintegration due to the death, disability or imprisonment of the head of the family; provide guidance; spread awareness; and utilize theoretical and field research to solve their problems.

The foundation aims to uphold the spirit of reciprocal social responsibility and solidarity in the society for the benefit of the orphans in line with the lofty teachings of Islam, and become the first care provider for orphans in all age groups in the state of Qatar. Care extended by the foundation includes serving the orphans in their natural and surrogate families or in the special accommodation the foundation prepares for them; and finding surrogate families for the orphans. The foundation considers caring for orphans to be vital a element in the support and development of the society.

General Retirement and Pension Authority

The authority is a public utility establishment with independent management and budget. It seeks to be a safe haven for the Qataris through enhancing social and economic protection for them, confirming solidarity and reciprocal responsibility in the society, and securing human and technical resources and material capabilities whereby to achieve optimum efficiency in pursuing its objectives, and assuming a prominent position among other local establishments.

Retirement umbrella covers all Qataris and GCC nationals working in the state of Qatar. The General Retirement and Pension Authority ensures retirees a honorable living and protects them against poverty through a modern retirement system that takes into account social and economic

considerations. It protects retirement benefits in a responsible and cordial manner in line with the basic values according to which the foundation discharges its duties.

The authority is responsible for the following functions:

1. Applying retirement and pension law and its executive regulations in such a way as to ensure the protection of retirement benefits of the retired Qataris and provide distinguished services for them.
2. Managing the resources of the pensions fund and doing its best to invest them in an ideal way to realize the most equitable returns in line with the highest standards of security, liquidity and guarantee.
3. Proposing the necessary legislative amendments based on the results of application of the existing regulations and new developments.
4. Conducting the required studies to define the financial position of the pensions fund in relation to its future obligations.

The Pensions Fund

The pensions fund was established in accordance with the article No (45) of the retirement and pensions law to manage and invests its financial resources, which are formed of the following components:

1. Membership fees, accounting for 5% of the basic salary and social allowance of the employee.
2. Membership fee of employers, accounting for double the membership fees of their workers.
3. The amounts and allocations assigned by the state.
4. The returns of the investments of the resources of the fund.

Qatar Authority for Charitable Activities

The authority aims to upgrade, organize and automate charitable and humanitarian work, and support the culture of philanthropic and humanitarian work in the society.

Family Counseling Centre

The centre works to preserve the Qatari family as a cohesive and stable unit and define its rights and responsibilities through the following functions:

- Extending free guidance to individuals and families of all nationalities on the problems of marital affairs and family rights.
- Upgrading the awareness of the families on the various rights and obligations and various family, Shari'a, legal, psychological and social issues.
- Preparing and educating the youth on the importance of observing the right criteria of choosing spouses, and familiarizing them with their rights and obligations in both cases of marriage and divorce.
- Supporting and caring for the families with special problems such as having children suffering from autism, the divorced and widows through the efforts of support groups and by conducting field studies and surveys to further the objectives of the centre.
- Reconciling the spouses through awareness and guidance on the best ways of creating a stable marriage life.

Qatar Foundation for Elderly People Care

The foundation accommodates the elderly whom their families fail to care for or who don't have families. It also provides suitable health, social and psychological care for the elderly in their homes and among their families; and organizes awareness campaigns for the families on how best to keep and care for the elderly. At the same time it rehabilitates the elderly to cope with old age problems and tries to integrate them in the society.

Shafallah Centre for Children with Special Needs

The centre was established at the directives of H.H. Sheikha Mouza Bint Naser Al Misnad the wife of H.H. the Emir of Qatar to meet the requirements of the Qatari society for a pioneering, integrated and nonprofit care centre for the children with various disabilities from 3 to 21 years of age. The centre extends specialized and supporting services in the fields of education, special education, rehabilitation, social services, psychiatric services for children and adults, pediatric services, perception assessment, behavior diagnostic and analytic services, guidance, music treatment, functional treatment, physiotherapy and impaired linguistic capabilities treatment.

The centre aims to provide the following services:

1. Educational, rehabilitation, social, health, entertainment, and vocational services for the children with special needs.
2. Providing the chances for training, conducting researches and establishing an international league specializing in disability.
3. Working to introduce and develop legislations and laws to confirm the necessity of providing suitable educational services for the children with special needs.

Youth and Sports

Qatar has known sports since the 1940s. Ever since, youth and sports departments and installations continued to evolve until they rested in their present form topped by Qatar National Olympic Committee, which is charged with vital responsibilities in this field. These include formulating the general youth and sports policy; preparing the leaders and cadres charged with creating the good citizen through youth empowerment programs; establishing sports clubs and associations, and youth and sports installations; preparing the plans for representing Qatar overseas in the field of youth activities; supervising sports associations; sponsoring the sports movement; preparing the sports teams participating in the Arab, Olympic and international sports events; and undertaking the administrative supervision over the sports associations.

Qatar National Olympic Committee

There are 25 sports establishments; 4 sports societies and committees; 10 premier league sports clubs; 6 second league sports clubs; and 3 supporting development committees, for which the state has provided all human, technical and material support.

Qatar National Olympic Committee supervises girls sports committee; promotes sports and amateur exercise for entertainment inside the country; sponsors and develops the Olympic movement and sports performance in line with the Olympic charter and spirit; promotes and upholds the Olympic principles in the country; organizes awareness courses of the Olympic principles; form sports teams and delegations participating in Olympic games and regional and international championships and training camps; supports the regional and international sports events held inside the country; and provides the requirements of sports installations and facilities in line with the latest international standards.

Qatar National Olympic Committee is formed of the following administrative units: sports affairs department; public relations and information department; sports installation department; administrative and financial affairs department; planning and training department; Khalifa Sports City department; and information systems department.

The committee provided 162 sports facilities in the country, the most important of which are the following:

Khalifa Sports City

Established in 1976 to the latest international specifications, this facility comprises a main football stadium with seating for 50 thousand spectators; an Olympic-size athletic track; an indoor sports hall with a capacity of 1800 spectators; a combination of courts for basketball, handball, volleyball, tennis; and a sports medical center.

Khalifa International Complex for Tennis and Squash

Established in 1992, this world-class sports complex hosts international tennis and squash championships on annual basis, the best known of which is Qatar Mobil international tennis championship.

Sports Medical Center

This center was established in 1995 at Khalifa Sports City.

Doha Golf Club

Established in 1997, this club belongs to Qatar National Hotel Company. It hosts all the activities of Qatar Golf Federation and has international high-standard facilities, which have gained it the prestige of hosting on annual basis international professional golf championships such as Qatar Masters tournament.

Hamad International Complex for Water Sports

This complex was designed in accordance with the latest international and Olympic standards, and it contains the most up-to-date equipments and installations that make it suitable to host all local and international swimming championships and events.

Ladies Tennis Hall

This facility, with two new courts and terraces, is one of the most modern sports installations in Qatar where ladies can practice tennis.

Al-Wajbah Center for Girls Sports

This facility is equipped with advanced training systems to coach girls in various sports.

The affiliate centers of the girls sports committee

Al-Wajbah Sports Center, Asmaa Bint Abi Bakr Sports Center, Aamna Mahmoud Al-Jaidah Sports Center and Jaw'an sports center. There are 600 female players in all age groups and 26 Qatari female coaches for various sports in addition to female coaches of other nationalities.

The girls sports committee works to promote and upgrade various sports such as handball, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, chess, athletics, gymnastics and shooting.

The achievements of Qatar National Olympic Committee in 2007 and 2008:

- Sports federations organized 359 local championships for various age groups.
- Qatari sportspersons participated in 332 regional and international championships.
- Organizing Qatar classic squash championship.
- Organizing international Qatar gold body building championship.
- Hosting the Gulf athletics championship for the persons with special needs.

- Organizing 141 training camps for national teams.
- Qatari teams and clubs won many gold, silver and bronze medals in various championships.
- Qatar sports for all committee organized 11 championships and sports festivals in which more than 6000 citizens and residents participated.
- Hosting the Asian football championship qualifying matches.
- Organizing 17 religious, cultural and social functions and artistic camps.
- Organizing the artistic gymnastics world cup tournament.
- Organizing Qatar 7th international bowling championship.
- Organizing 40 local, regional and international championships in various sports.

Future projects:

- Establishing and developing several sports facilities.
- Continuing to highlight the role of Qatar through participating in Arab and international championships and matches.
- Continuing to host regional and international sports functions.
- Continuing to implement Qatar Olympic sports museum project.
- Starting to implement Qatar sports information centre.

Traditional Sports

Camel Racing

Camel racing is one of the favorite sports in Qatar. No sight is more vivid in the memory than a fast running group of racing camels on sand tracks with young riders fast stuck to their backs shouting frantically to push them to go faster all the time.

Horse Racing

Horsereading is one of the old sports most favored in this country. There are a number of seasonal horse race meetings, in which competition becomes more intense with hefty financial prizes offered for winners. The Equestrian Club organizes these events, as well as international horse beauty contests held in the country, which have become the focus of attention and appreciation locally, regionally and internationally.

Modern Sports

Golf

Qatar masters golf tournament is held at Doha Golf Club, which boasts international fame and state-of-the-art facilities.

Tennis

Qatar open tennis tournament is a prestigious international event that annually attracts scores of world first class players.

Squash

Qatar Tennis and Squash Federation organizes Qatar squash international tournament every year. This tournament attracts the best world well-known players.

Qatar Rally

Qatar international rally is one of the best well-known events of its kind in the Middle East, by virtue of the highest-level participation it gets from all over the world.

International Regatta

The international regatta attracts the participation of competitors from many countries.

Athletics

Qatar international athletics championship is organized on annual basis, attracting the participation of the best world athletes. Qatar is distinguished by being the only Arab country to allow the participation of women in athletics competitions.

Desert Horseracing Marathon

Qatar international desert marathon is a real test for both man and beast, where competitors do the standard marathon distance of 42 km and 200 meters.

Swimming

The State cares a lot for swimming since the establishment of the Swimming Committee by a decision from Youth General Authority in 1992. The committee was the nucleus for Qatar Swimming Federation, which was established in 1993. The first swimming school was opened in 1993. Qatar national swimming team participated in all Gulf, Arab, Asian and international swimming competitions.

In the year 2000, Hamad International Complex for Water Sports was established. It has training, instruction and competition programs and facilities for swimming and diving.

Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence

Aspire received its first batch of students and started its activities in 2004. Its integrated sports facility includes miscellaneous, high quality and state-of-the-art installations. The cadres of Aspire, who came from more than 57 countries in various part of the world, are of diverse specialties, all working hard to realize the vision and mission of the academy. Aspire has 6 departments: sports department; quality and educational and social affairs department; information technology department; marketing and public relations department; financial and administrative affairs department; and human resources department.

Aspire works to confirm its position as a cultural and sporting excellence beacon, and to discover and polish the sporting skills of the youth with a view to bring forth international champions in all sports activities.

Aspire has a homogeneous blend of distinguished promising Qatari and non-Qatari students who are taken care of by an elite staff of international instructors and academicians.

In order to reach its goals of preparing sports professionals, Aspire has provided all the required facilities and human resources. It has an indoor FIFA standard football field; 7 outdoor football fields; athletics tracks; an Olympic size swimming pool; a diving pool; martial sports halls;

gymnastics halls; lecture halls; students hostels; and laboratories to assess physical development of students.

The academy of sports excellence (Aspire) provides a favorable and distinguished environment where the students can have a comprehensive and integrated sports and academic education.

The academy is committed to augment the culture of sports in the country through encouraging the participation of families in various sports activities.

The academy offers "Aspire Active" physical fitness program for people in all age groups in Qatar. The program was very well received since its inception in 2006. In addition, there are 18 sites of Aspire centers for the gifted distributed in various areas in Qatar to offer advanced physical fitness activities for hundreds of citizens and residents alike.

The number of students in Aspire Academy is 200 in various sports segments; and the first batch was graduated in June 2008.

The academy provides the national clubs and teams with the most gifted players under 18 years of age in all sports.

The academy supports all international sports events with either material or logistic assistance or with both. It introduced the "Best Sports Youth" special award to be offered for the youth champions who excel in the international sports events, while its "Blue Shirt Award for the Best Bicyclist" was introduced in Qatar Tour bicycle marathon, the 8th for males and the first for females. About 24 sports teams from various countries and continents visit Aspire annually.

The academy offers "Football Dreams" program through which it explores football talents in Africa. This world largest talent exploration program aims to help the African countries by offering the African children the chance to display their skills in front of a panel of first class world instructors.

Youth Department

Youth department is responsible for studying the applications for licensing the establishment of youth centers; supporting, supervising and following up the activities of youth centers; exploring and developing the cultural, scientific and religious skills of the youth; preparing youth programs and supporting them by qualified technical cadres in coordination with the concerned authorities; supervising Qatar scouts society; holding cultural, scientific and religious symposia and contests and festivals; participating in external youth festivals; organizing public service camps; and supervising the formation of scouting teams.

The most important youth centers

Some of the most important youth centers that belong to Youth General Authority include Doha youth center, Al Jimailiyya youth centre and Burzan youth centre.

Some of the most important specialized youth establishments include Qatar Scientific Club, Qatar Philatelic Club, Friends of the Environment Center, Youth Center for Artistic Creativity, Qatar Photographic Society, Qatar Amateurs Radio Society, and Youth Hostels Society.

Youth Center for Artistic Creativity

Affiliated to the department of youth at Youth General Authority, this center is specialized in coaching children in the field of artistic creativity; and its task covers three dimensions: education, grooming and documentation.

Qatar Scientific Club

With 4100 members, this club aims to prepare the suitable atmosphere wherein to practice scientific hobbies; stimulate children; ingrain the spirit of scientific creativity and exploration; encourage scientific activities among the youth; and develop their interest in science, modern technology and scientific research.

Qatar Philatelic Club

Established in December 1995, this club aims to comprehensively develop social, cultural and knowledge aspects of good character among the youth through providing them with the chance and means to spend leisure time in a productive and useful manner.

Al Jasra Cultural and Social Club

This club offers cultural and social activities inside the country and abroad. It aims to spread cultural and social awareness, support and encourage young talents and conserve the heritage and traditional customs.

Qatar Photographic Society

Established in 1995, this society has 230 male and female members. It sponsors the photography movement in the state of Qatar and supports the outstanding talents in this field through several means including holding lectures and seminars to discuss photography matters with experts hosted by the society.

Qatar Amateur Radio Society

Established in 1991, this society aims to develop radio amateur practice among the citizens, establish human relations between international radio amateurs and organize local and regional contests for amateurs, besides training them on the operation of radio equipments.

Qatar Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

Qatar Tourism and Exhibitions Authority is concerned with formulating Qatar's general policy in the field of tourism and exhibitions; organizing and promoting this sector inside and outside the country; supervising all tourist and exhibitions activities; and highlighting the cultural and artistic characteristics of the country.

In order to reach these goals the authority is assigned the following functions:

1. To take all the required measures to develop and stimulate tourism.
2. To prepare tourism development plans and programs; develop and upgrade the efficiency of the departments concerned with tourism affairs; and to propose the methods whereby to preserve and develop tourist sites in coordination with the concerned authorities.
3. To issue licenses for hotels and the activities practiced inside them, tourist offices, tourist services, tourist transportation, tourist guides, and tourist functions and festivals; and to license and categorize other tourist activities in coordination with the concerned authorities.
4. To supervise places of interest, hotels, offices, facilities and associated activities, and tourist guides; and train tourists workers.
5. To issue the licenses for holding exhibitions and conferences in the country; and to license, categorize, supervise and train the organizers of exhibitions.

6. To hold conferences, seasons and symposia dealing with tourism affairs.
7. To cooperate with regional and international organizations, unions and authorities concerned with tourism affairs.
8. To upgrade and stimulate tourism awareness among the citizens and propose and supervise the implementation of the general policy with regard to exhibitions inside and outside the country.
9. To hold, sponsor and participate in local, regional and international exhibitions inside and outside the country.
10. To contract national or foreign companies and authorities practicing similar businesses and to establish tourist companies individually or in association with other parties; or, after securing the approval of the council of ministers, procure or have a shareholding in existing companies inside or outside the country.
11. To propose the required legislations to develop and stimulate the tourist movement and exhibition industry.

The Environment and Natural Reserves

Qatar is committed to achieving the highest standards of environmental protection and conservation; and has become one of the leading countries to enact environmental legislations. Its environmental concerns were highlighted by the creation of the Ministry of the Environment and the mobilization of all public, private and individual efforts to protect the environment. The ministry implements several environmental projects and programs that aim to preserve natural resources, combat pollution and protect the health and safety of the society. Several such projects and programs have been completed, while others are still underway.

Environmental Media and Education Center

This centre plays a vital role in achieving the objectives of the ministry, conveying its message to various sectors and members of the society and promoting its role in protecting the Qatari environment. It plays this role through organizing audio, video and print media coverage for various environmental programs, activities and functions, and participating in all local, regional and international environmental functions.

National Center for Environmental Information

This centre networks and coordinates with geographical information systems and environmental information systems inside and outside the country to secure all the required information, develop electronic environmental applications, and designate the technical specifications and standards of information systems and peripherals, in addition to providing technical support for the users of computers and various electronic applications at the centre.

The centre has achieved many accomplishments including preparing the internet infrastructure at Al Udeid tower, providing the solutions to recover from disasters, implementing the early warning network project, launching the mobile phone electronic mail system project, completing - in collaboration with the ministry of interior - Tetra project which aims to provide the supervisors and inspectors of the ministry of interior with secure and efficient contact channels, upgrading the applications development platform, and designing and adopting the national project for mercury control database.

General Inspection and Environment Maintenance Center

This centre has implemented many projects including turtles multiplication, piers, southern region and Al Khor cleaning, Brouq, Zikreet, and small jetties removal projects.

Wildlife Protection Department

This department has achieved several successes in the field of preserving and developing wildlife and protecting the components of the ecology against extinction through a number of specialized programs and plans.

Khor Al Udeid, Al Reem and the north eastern region of Qatar were accorded the status of natural sanctuaries by legislation.

Pollution Control and Radiation Prevention Section

This section issues the requests for transportation and disposal of hazardous and safe waste materials inside the country; maintains data on hazardous and safe local industrial waste; issues the official licenses for the establishments that deal with radioactive sources; and monitors the level of exposure of the supervisory workers to radioactivity. About 1845 licenses were issued by the section for the industrial, health, research and training sectors; about 170 inspection visits were paid by the inspectors of the section to all of the establishments that deal with ionic radiation; and there were about 310 radioactive sources imported in 2007 and about 341 imported in 2008 to 67 destinations.

The Central Environmental Laboratory

The central environmental laboratory conducts chemical, biological and physical tests to assess the situation of the Qatari environment; ensures the quality and accuracy of tests at the laboratory individually and through participation in assessment exchange programs conducted by regional and international organizations; and cooperates with concerned institutions in the field of environmental testing.

The laboratory made many accomplishments: The biological tests section carried out several biological tests on the waters of the Qatari shores in 2007 and 2008 to ascertain their fertility and productivity, discover the biological diversity of marine life, and assess the environmental effects of pollutants and microbiological tests on drinking water. The micro chemical tests section conducted several qualitative tests on organic and nonorganic pollutants in the environmental samples.

The central environmental laboratory is in the process of implementing a marine life monitoring project; conducting a qualitative and quantitative tests on drinking water pollutants; and issuing marine mollusks atlas in the state of Qatar, and an atlas of roaming marine animals in the Qatari environment.

CHAPTER SIX

Infrastructure Services

- **Communications and Transportation**
- **Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning**
- **Public Works Authority**
- **Electricity and Water Services**

Communications and Transportation

The Supreme Council for Communications and Information Technology

The council was established by the Emiri decree No (36) for 2004 with a view to organize the communications sector in the country; open the communications market for competition; develop information technology market so that it can contribute to diversifying the economy and sources of national income; prepare the policies and strategies of information technology and communications that can contribute to developing various sectors of education, health and business; develop an integrated system for information and government transactions; and enhance the awareness of the importance of information technology in building an information oriented society capable of contributing in the knowledge economy.

The achievements of communications organization authority:

- Publishing the general consultancy document on communications policy; and registering 17 requests from various companies to have the second license of mobile communications service. 13 companies were short listed from which Vodafone company and Qatar Foundation for Mobile Education and Science were awarded the license.
- Granting Qatar Telecom Company (Q-Tel) the licenses to offer landline and mobile communications networks and services in accordance with the provisions of the communications law No (34) for 2006.

The achievements of government information technology department:

- Launching the e-government program within which 52 projects, being developed at various government departments, are expected to be completed in 2011.
- Starting the electronic exit permits service in cooperation with the ministry of interior.
- Launching the standard government specifications and measurements project for information technology and communications services.
- Launching services base project in Qatar alongside with 7 electronic registration services.

Information Technology Development Department

Electronic education is a new school instruction program in 37 independent schools, which represent 50% of the total number of independent schools. An educational environment was developed to provide the bases for the best techniques of integrating technology in the educational process in order to transform schools into nucleuses for full fledged training centers. So far there are 4 developed schools; and by 2010 the number will rise to 6. The project includes, besides the electronic component, the interaction sides in the subjects of English, science and mathematics. The project, which is implemented under the supervision of the supreme education council, provides teachers and students with the best scientific methods of teaching and learning.

Electronic Health Project

Electronic health project aims to establish an integrated national network of health information with a view to upgrade the efficiency of emergency management and audio registration of health information. Over 500 physicians were trained to utilize this system.

Qatar Telecom (Q-Tel)

Q-Tel is licensed by the supreme council for communications and information technology in Qatar to provide fixed line and mobile communications services in the state of Qatar.

The company has investments in 17 countries and is still expanding in the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia. 560 million people are benefiting from its various services including 57.5 million subscribers.

It provides quality products and miscellaneous services, besides enjoying partnerships with major international players in the communications sector.

Since its establishment in 1978, Q-Tel has been working to keep pace with the development witnessed by the country in various fields, and in particular, to continue implementing distinguished strategic plans in the field of operating, maintaining and developing a quality system of wire and wireless communications services.

In 1998 the company was transformed into a shareholding company after offering 54% of its stocks for public subscription.

Q-Tel has the exclusive rights of providing all communications services in the country including fixed and mobile telephone lines, international communications and cable TV services. Qatar is the first GCC country to have introduced the commercial GSM mobile service in the region.

Q-Tel introduced many services including the automatic pager service in 1991; the prepaid service of cable TV in 1993; radio communications exchange in 1994; and the internet service in 1996. It has invested \$50 million (a 10% shareholding) in Al-Thurayya communications project and expanded its general network to cater for the hitherto more than 2.750 million lines, which were transformed from analogical to digital dialing system.

The most important achievements of Q-Tel in 2007 and 2008:

- Obtaining the fixed lines telephone operation license in Oman.
- Establishing a long term technical partnership with Qatar Airways Company.
- Signing a memorandum of understanding with San Migel company for a joint venture to operate the broadband project.
- Launching new products including the mobile broadband and the first wireless broadband and Blackberry services in Qatar.

- Launching the internet wireless broadband service for the first time in Jordan.
- Completing, in June 2008, the \$1.8 billion procurement deal of Indonesia Communication Limited Company and Indonesia Communication Company which together represent 40.8% shareholding in Indosat, thus raising the number of Q-Tel customers to nearly 44 million people in 16 countries, and opening new horizons for its investments in Indonesia, the fourth most densely populated country in the world.
- Winning the Year's Deal Award after procuring 51% shareholding in the National Company for Mobile Communications (Al Watania) based in Kuwait.
- Expanding its presence in four countries after procuring about 25% of Asia Mobile Communication Holding Company (AMH), one of S. T Telemedia companies.
- Expanding mobile services subscribers base from 1.3 million to 14.2 million.
- Opening Doha shore maritime wireless communications station which will play a vital role in securing maritime and ship traffic safety on the waters surrounding the state of Qatar, and provide a number of frequencies to cover wider areas.

Customs and Ports General Authority

The authority aims to develop the operation and services of customs, ports and land transport facilities in line with the best international standards.

The authority monitors all commodities and materials including postal parcels exported or imported through the customs points of the state; checks, evaluates and clears the commodities that are permitted to enter the country; collects the fees and taxes levied on the entry of these commodities; issues the required clearances; manages ports, wharves, biers and civilian sea border points; provides pilotage and anchoring services; controls the traffic of vessels of all kinds and sizes; and discharges the operations of loading and unloading.

The achievements of the authority during 2007 and 2008:

- Obtaining several ISO quality certifications.
- Developing Al Khor port; deepening its channel alongside with the marine basin; and developing the wooden boats jetty.
- Establishing a facility for civil defense at Doha port.
- Establishing the administrative complex of government departments working with sea customs and the containers station.
- Developing Al Wakrah wharf and deepening its channel alongside with the marine basin.
- Starting work on the One Window project for customs clearance services in collaboration with the supreme council for communications.

General Postal Corporation (Q-Post)

Q-Post is concerned with collecting and distributing all kinds of post and sending it to all destinations through various means; levying and amending postal fees and charges; providing all postal services; establishing, managing and maintaining the facilities and equipments of postal services; having full or partial shareholding in existing companies; and participating in managing and investing the financial resources of these companies.

There are 23 branch post offices in Doha and other cities.

The general postal corporation provides high quality postal services to its customers including the owners of the private companies and establishments, banks and businesses, supported by the latest technologies which add more value to postal services in the state of Qatar. These services include:

- e-Government
- Letter Posting Service

- Parcel Posting Service
- Mumtaz Post (ESM)
- Money Order
- Q-Post Premium (QPP)
- e-Resident
- Street Letter Posting Boxes
- Post Box Subscription
- Follow Me
- Customer Service
- Qatar Telecom Counter
- Kahrama Counter
- Postage Stamps - Philatelic
- International Reply Coupon
- Stationary Provision Contracts
- Enquiry
- Health Card Renewal
- Delivery Of Driving License
- Brochure Distribution Price List
- Khazaz Service
- Starlink Service

The achievements of the general postal corporation in 2007 and 2008:

The corporation obtained several international quality certifications including:

- Commendation for development of electronic postal services for 2003
- Commendation for development of electronic postal services for 2004
- Postal service quality certificate from Tri Angel Company for 2006
- The second position award in the best postal services contest among 140 countries
- Membership in control for 2007

Civil Aviation Authority

Civil aviation authority is responsible for upgrading civil aviation and meteorology; implementing the international agreements and conventions in the field of civil aviation; strengthening its ties with the international organizations and foreign countries; operating and managing civil airports in the country; discharging the duties of air traffic control; maintaining navigation equipments and systems and runways; providing security, firefighting and rescue services at the airport; formulating the basics for flying in the airspace of the state, landing on or taking off from the airports of the state, transporting passengers, cargo and mail, and registering airplanes in the country; issuing the licenses for and supervising air transport companies; proposing the fees for landing, crossing and departure of various aircrafts; managing, maintaining and developing weather forecast stations including platforms, buoys and earthquake monitoring stations; preparing weather forecast bulletin for the departments concerned with air traffic; establishing a weather forecast databank; contracting companies or establishments that can help the authority reach its goals; and establishing or owning the companies inside or outside the country individually or in association with other parties after securing the approval of the council of ministers.

The most important achievements of civil aviation authority in 2007 and 2008:

- Approving the establishment of private business aircraft hire companies, ambulance aircraft companies and airfreight companies for big size cargo.

- ❑ Issuing law No (21) for 2008 amending some provisions of law No (15) for 2002 on civil aviation. The amendment bans the use of laser rays and sharp exterior lights that can pose a possible threat to airspace traffic safety.
- ❑ Applying the electronic ticketing system.
- ❑ Developing and modernizing meteorological systems and equipments in collaboration with the international French metrology.
- ❑ Installing a new radar system, an integrated new radar simulator, and communications systems; and establishing an integrated building for emergency operations.
- ❑ Including 9 new aircrafts in the air operator certificate of Qatar Airways company and endorsing the Boeing 777 aircraft as a new aircraft type in the fleet of Qatar Airways company.
- ❑ Granting 32 licenses for new travel bureaus to practice in the field of travel and tourism.
- ❑ Signing memorandums of understanding on cooperation in the field of air transport with some countries; and signing the final agreement of air transport with Oman, Azerbaijan and Mauritania.
- ❑ Starting the project of new Doha international airport which will have the capacity of a 50 million travelers and a million tons of cargo annually. The airport shall have 40 gates.
- ❑ Establishing a new earthquake monitoring station which is geared to cater for the new nature of earthquake activity.

Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways is the national carrier of the state of Qatar; and one of the fastest developing airline companies in the world. It provides its services to more than 85 destinations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and Australia.

Since it was re-launched in 1997, Qatar Airways has been working to offer the best and highest quality services. It was the only airline in the middle east and among a few in the world to be rated by Skytrax as one of "The World's 5-Star Airline" for its quality services. The hospitality crew of Qatar Airways was conferred the title of "The Best Hospitality Crew in the Middle East" for the fifth year in a row this year.

Qatar Airways presently operates a modern fleet of 69 airplanes from Doha to 85 destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, the Far East, North America and Australia. Qatar Airways intends to almost double the size of its fleet to 110 airplanes by 2013. It ordered the purchase of 80 Airbus A350 airplanes of the new generation as part of a \$16 billion deal, alongside with 60 Boeing 787 and 32 Boeing 777 airplanes. Qatar Airways is one of the first clients of the two-story super Jumbo Airbus A380 from which it bought 5, and they are expected to be delivered in 2010.

Besides its ambitious projects to modernize its air fleet, Qatar Airways continues its effort to establish the \$2.5 billion new Doha international airport to set a standard for quality international airports in the future. The last phase of the airport is expected to be completed in 2015; and the company intends to move its operations to it after the inauguration of the first phase.

Qatar Airways comprises the following branch companies:

- ❑ United Media International Company
- ❑ Doha International Airport
- ❑ Qatar Aviation Services
- ❑ Qatar Duty Free Company
- ❑ Qatar Distribution Company
- ❑ Qatar Aircraft Catering Company

□ Qatar Airways Holidays

In 2009 Qatar Airways concluded two \$700 million deals to finance the purchase of 4 new Boeing 777 airplanes. The deal is considered to be another sign of the support and commitment of the international financial community to one of the fastest growing airlines in the world.

Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning is responsible for proposing and preparing the country's urban development projects; supervising the implementation of these projects in coordination with the concerned departments; conducting land surveys; distributing lands; preparing survey maps; managing the properties of the state; providing and assigning the lands required for government agencies; studying the recommendations of the central municipal council and taking the appropriate decisions with regard to them; appropriating the properties temporarily in the public interests; supervising the establishment of and maintaining public facilities and internal roads in cities and villages; proposing and implementing municipal projects involving buildings, parks and landscaping plants; supervising the establishment and organization of buildings; preparing and implementing public sanitation systems and programs; supervising the practice of engineering careers; supervising the graveyards; and providing burial services for the dead.

The achievements of the ministry in 2007 and 2008:

- Distributing the most advanced equipments for testing food stuffs and measuring air and water pollution and food stuffs temperature.
- Preparing an economic feasibility study to establish a recycled asphalt plant, and completing the designation of fine and coarse sand quarry sites.
- Implementing the law dealing with the ownership and utilization of non-Qataris of real estate properties and residential units.
- Developing the central fish market.
- Issuing 2525 building licenses, 847 maintenance licenses, 625 demolition licenses, and 739 violation records made by Doha municipality.
- Issuing 1016 commercial licenses and 1617 advertisement licenses.
- Sowing 3450 square meters of lawn; and planting 1348 miscellaneous trees, 23143 bushes, and 195 date palm trees.
- Establishing properties and residential units registration office for non-Qataris, and property lease contract registration office at Doha municipality.
- Establishing a football playground, a children play park on Al Khor corniche; opening Al Zakheera park for families; and implementing Al Ruwais park project in Madinat Al Shamal; and building an annex for Al Shamal municipality premises.

Public Works Authority

The state directs a special attention to the infrastructure sector of the country. The Emiri decision No (1) for 2004 to establish public works authority was issued as a declaration of the beginning of a new era of quality and efficiency in line with the recognized international standards in the field

of the infrastructure and public utility facilities, and as a good example of care for a better life for citizens and residents in Qatar.

The most important achievements of public works authority in 2007 and 2008:

- Completing the infrastructure projects in Al Hilal, Aslata Al Jadeeda, Umm Slal Mohammed, Al Murrah Al Gharbiyya, and Al Manaseer areas. Building Mohammed Bin Jassim street in Umm Slal; and Ras Mlajji road, Al Ahamal road, and Bani Hajir road; and developing Al Kahor corniche.
- Establishing 17 kindergartens, 30 schools in Doha and other villages, and 3 sports halls, health centers and an emergency centre in Ain Khalid and Al Murrah.
- Establishing a sanitary drainage network in Abu Sidra, and treatment station main drainage reservoir north of Doha.
- Establishing treated water pumping station, the main pumping network and subterranean water drainage network for Ain Kahlid.
- Starting the second and third phases of Al Shamal road and developing Al Wakra and West Meaizir roads.

Electricity and Water Services

Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa)

Kahramaa sells electricity and water to consumers, and supplies the country's requirements for electricity and water on a permanent basis. The corporation operates on commercial basis and has the right to own, establish, operate and maintain power generation and water desalination stations, and electricity and water supply and distribution networks. It prepares the required development plans and programs for its stations, installations and networks; organizes and supervises electrical connections and water lines to various buildings, facilities and installations; proposes the specifications and measurements of electrical and water materials and equipments; and provides consultancy and other services in its field of activities.

Electricity Sector

Electricity supply network include about 100 high voltage transmission primary substations extending to about 660 km, in addition to a 600 km underground cable line covering the whole geographical area of the country and used to transform the voltage and transmit power to the distribution network comprising over 6500 low and medium voltage substations.

The main electricity transmission network is monitored and managed by Kahramaa's national control center; and the distribution network is monitored and managed by the distribution control center. These centers are equipped with the state-of-the art technology and automated systems to control the components and equipments of the networks and collect the data from generation stations and transmission substations.

Water Sector

Water networks in Qatar have witnessed noticeable development and growth in recent years. Urban development and industrial and agricultural expansion made it essential to have a corresponding expansion in the existing water network. The total daily storage capacity at the stations is 259 million gallons of water.

The achievements in the field of electricity and water in 2007 and 2008:

- Electricity and water company purchased additional 500 megawatt of electricity load and 20 million gallons of water.

- Signing a contract to produce 1612 megawatt of electricity and 63 gallons of water from Ras Laffan project by the year 2010.
- Completing the formulation of the 5-year development plan to develop the networks in the period 2009 – 2012.
- Extending water networks to a number of areas; replacing water lines in other areas; and extending a main water line to Ras Laffan, Doha airport and Bani Hajir.
- Establishing 800 11/415 KV distribution stations and extending 11KV cables.
- Extending Ras Laffan pipeline and expanding water networks in Al Khor, Al Gharrafa and the West Bay.
- Replacing distribution lines in various areas in Doha, Mesaieed, Madinat Al Ka'ban and Umm Slal.

Qatar Electricity and Water Company

Qatar electricity and water company is one of the first companies of the private sector in the region to work in the field of electricity and water production, and own and manage power generation and water desalination stations. Established in 1990, it is a Qatari shareholding company with 42.74% shareholding held by the government and 57.26% held by private investors; and it sells electricity and water production under a renewable 50-year license.

Ras Qirtas Electricity and Water Project

This project, which is established by Abu Funtas Energy Company, aims to meet the country's requirements for energy sources through selling its production. It shall be commissioned in phases in 2010 and 2011. The planned total daily output capacity of the station is 2700 megawatt of electricity and 63 million gallons of desalinated water.

The project is a joint venture between QP (15%), Qatar Electricity and Water Company (45%), and GDF Suez Energy International of France and Mitsui, Yonden and Chubu of Japan (40%). The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.9 billion, and it is considered to be the largest energy project in the state of Qatar so far, and one of the largest in the Middle East.

General Information

Entry Regulations

Qatar grants tourist and visit visas at border points for the nationals of more than 33 countries including USA, Canada, Iceland, West European countries, and some East European countries, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Brunei, Australia and New Zealand, besides the nationals of the GCC countries.

Entry visas for the foreign residents of the GCC countries and their companions are offered at border points, while visit visas for businesspersons coming from places other than the countries mentioned above need to be arranged beforehand.

Tourist visas are issued in 24 hours from the passport section at Doha international airport. They are valid for two weeks and are renewable. Visitors who wish to be granted these visas are required to use Qatar Airways to enter the country. With the exception of all travel documents holders, persons of all nationalities whose immediate next of kin are living in Qatar are eligible to have such visas. They are not required to have residence permits in one the GCC countries. This visa policy goes in line with the policy of openness currently observed in the country in various fields.

For more information, please refer to the website of the Ministry of Interior:
<http://www.moi.gov.qa>

• Points of entry and exit

Land: through the two main border points at Abu Samra and Suda Nathil.

Air: through Doha International Airport.

Sea: through Doha and Mesaieed ports.

Some taxes are levied for some goods at the points of entry.

• National day

18th of December, the anniversary of accession of H.H. Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani the founder of the state of Qatar.

• 27th of June

The anniversary of accession of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani to power in the state of Qatar in 1995.

- **The Flag of Qatar**

Maroon with a broad white serrated band with nine points on the hoist side.

- **Work Hours**

Government offices: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday are the weekend holidays.

Private establishments: 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Public Holidays**

National Day: 18th of December.

Eid Al-Fitr: 4 days from the 1st of Shawwal of al-Hijrah.

Eid Al- Adha: 5 days from Arafat day on the 9th of Zilhijjah of al-Hijrah.

- **Local Time**

3 hours + Greenwich Mean Time.

- **Electricity**

240 volts + 6% with frequency of 50 hertz

- **Currency Exchange**

The monetary unit in Qatar is the Qatari Riyal, which is divided into (100) Dirhams. The currency is issued by Qatar Central Bank and is available in the following denominations:

(1) Riyal, (5) Riyals, (10) Riyals, (50) Riyals, (100) Riyals and (500) Riyals.

Coinage denomination is (5), (10), (25) and (50) Dirhams.

(1) US Dollar equals (3.65) Qatari Riyals.

Foreign currency can be exchanged without any restrictions at any bank, Doha International Airport and exchange houses.

- **Postal Services**

The General Post Office in the West Bay area provides all modern postal services. Other post office branches are spread throughout Doha, Doha outskirts and other towns.

Postage denominations for ordinary letters

50 Dirhams for local mail

150 Dirhams for GCC and Arab countries mail

250 Dirhams for post dispatched to Asia

300 Dirhams for post dispatched to Europe and Japan

350 Dirhams for post dispatched to East Asia, America and Australia

Additional fee is charged for guaranteed and registered mail.

• **Courier Services**

DHL	4621202
Fedex	4434409
Aramex	4506611

• **Newspapers and Periodicals**

Al Arab Newspaper	4997333
Al-Raya Newspaper	4466555
Gulf Times Newspaper (English)	4466555
Al-Sharq Newspaper	4557777
The Peninsula Newspaper (English)	4557707
Al-Watan Newspaper	4652244
Qatar Tribune Newspaper (English)	4422077
Doha magazine	4678864

• **Cinema Houses and Theatres**

Al Khaleej Cinema	4671811
Doha Cinema	4671811
City Center Cinema	4934934
The Mall Cinema	4678666
Land Mark Cinema	4881675
Villaggio Cinema	4135222
Qatar National Theatre	4859870

• **Limousine service**

Limousine firms provide all types of passenger vehicles with professional and bilingual drivers .
limousine services ar extended alllover the country. The following are some limousine firms:

Al Watan Limousine	4477999
Mustafawi Limousine	4671007
Qatar Limousine	4868688

• **Car Rental**

Avis	4667744
Budget	4622678
Hertz	4677329
Europcar	4660677

• Karwa Taxi Fares

There are two types of taxi services in Doha: Karwah and Limousine. In Karwah metering starts at QR4 and then runs at QR1.20 per kilometer inside Doha by day and QR1.80 in and out of Doha by night. An hour's rental is for QR30.

The Limousine "airport taxi" metering starts at QR18 and then runs at QR1.20 per kilometer inside Doha by day and QR1.8 inside and outside Doha by night. An hour's rental is for QR40. Tel: 4588888.

• Karwa Bus Services

Public transport buses "Karwah" charges QR3 for trips within city boundaries, and various rates for different trips between Doha and other cities as follows: Al Khor, Al Zakheera and Ras Laffan: QR5; Dukhan and Al Shamal: QR7; Messaieed: QR4; and Al Wakrah: QR3. Tel: 4588684.

Useful Public Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire and Ambulance	999
Telephone Directory	180
International Calls	150
Mobile Telephone Service	111
Electricity Emergency	991
Water Emergency	4325959
Abu Samra Passports Inquiries	4714444
Al Jazeera Channel	4890890
Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence	4136000
Border Points, Passports and Aliens Affairs Department	4890333
Customs And Ports Authority	4457457
Department of Publications	4427373
Doha Airport – Exchange	4629999
Doha Airport (Instant Visas)	4622105
Doha Airport (Prearranged Visas)	4621751
Doha Airport Customs	4621104
Doha Port Customs	4457246
Doha Port Passports	4457457
General Secretariat for Development Planning	4958888
Hamad General Hospital	4394444
Ministry of Culture, Arts & Heritage	4668777

Public Relations at The Ministry Of Interior	4849444
Qatar Bourse	4333666
Qatar Chamber Of Commerce And Industry	4559111
Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development	4927000
Qatar General Tourism & Exhibitions Authority	4628555
Qatar Media Corporation	4894444
Qatar Medical Commission	4679111
Qatar Meteorology Department	4656590
Qatar Museums Authority	4859888
Qatar National Hotel Company	4957777
Qatar National Human Rights Committee	4444012
Qatar National Olympic Committee	4444012
Qatar National Olympic Committee	4944444
Qatar News Agency	4450333
Qatar Photographic Society	4677793
Qatar Postal Authority	4464000
Qatar Public Library (Dar Al Kutub)	4389888
Qatar Red Crescent Society	4435111
Qatar University	4852222
Qatar Visual Arts Centre	4676251
Supreme Council for Family Affairs	4628444
Supreme Council for The Environment and Natural Sanctuaries	4437171
Traffic and Patrol Police	4890666

Distances between cities and villages of Qatar

Distances between Doha and some cities and villages of Qatar (in kilometers)

Al Khiraitiyyat	18
Umm Slal Mohammed	21
Umm Slal Ali	27
Sumaismah	39
Al Khor	57
Al Dhakheera	64
Al Mishrab	76
Al Zuubara	105
Al Ghiwairiyya	91

Fuwairit	91
Al Shamal	107
Al Ruwais	108
Abuz- Zuloof	113
Al Wakrah	15
Al Wikair	23
Mesaieed	36
Al Shahaniyya	39
Al Jimailiyya	52
Dukhan	84
Rawdat Rashid	40
Umm Bab	85
Al Kar'ana	58
Abu Samra	97
Soudanthi	115