

Issue 2, August 2009

Special Edition on Qatar's Second Human Development Report



## In the Spotlight

### GSDP advances environment agenda with Qatar's Second Human Development Report

In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, GSDP launched Qatar's Second Human Development Report (HDR), Advancing Sustainable Development, on July 8 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Doha.

The 2009 HDR focuses on the challenges of sustainable development in Qatar, including the interactions between water security, marine environment and climate change, and their implications for human development in Qatar.

Hosted by H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Ibrahim, GSDP's Secretary-General, the event brought together some 200 representatives from ministries, government agencies, the private sector and civil society to discuss the recommendations of the HDR and formulate action plans in support of the QNV 2030 environmental development outcomes. The event was well received by the English and Arabic media, with TV coverage and interviews that evening and the following day, as well as extensive press coverage in the days following the launch.

Dr Ibrahim reiterated the importance of ensuring a sustainable development path in advancing towards the Qatar National Vision 2030, especially in tackling the challenges of water security, climate change and threats to the marine environment. Having a coordinated response to this is essential to ensure that Qatar's unique environment is both preserved and protected. Qatar's Second HDR is thus an important milestone in the achievement of the Vision.

During the seminar, Dr. Ibrahim Ibrahim, Mr. Rashid Ahmed Al-Kuwari representing H.E. Abdullah bin Mubarak bin Aboud Al Meadadi, Minister of Environment, and Dr. Khaled Alloush, Regional Representative, UNDP Abu Dhabi, officially launched the Report and Qatar's vision for sustainable development.

The 2009 report was prepared in partnership with relevant ministries and government agencies, the private sector, civil society and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Abu Dhabi Office. The recommendations in the Report will provide a framework for further reflection and incorporation into Qatar's National Development Strategy 2010-2015.

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*Dr. Ibrahim Ibrahim, GSDP's Secretary-General*



*Mr. Rashid Ahmed Al-Kuwari representing Minister of Environment*



*HDR Report.*

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## Frank Pinto on Sustainable Development in Qatar

“Qatar is blessed with oil and gas resources. However, growth that ignores environmental sustainability could worsen water shortages, air, and marine pollution. Both the HDR Report and discussions during the Seminar showed that Qatar is increasing its public awareness and is committed to dealing with these issues through effective water demand management; increased energy efficiency; promotion of solar and wind energy; and protection of the marine environment and its biodiversity. The discussions also showed that civil society and the private sector are committed to playing their part in the process. This is an excellent start and Qatar has to be commended for its excellent report. The next step will be implementation of these recommendations including, amongst others, developing national skills and capacities, setting up an inter-ministerial committee to help integrate climate change and environmental issues into the development planning process, and hopefully positioning Qatar as a leader in the Gulf region in reducing its carbon footprint.”



*(Frank Pinto delivered the Keynote Address on “Integrating Environmental Sustainability into Development Policy in Qatar” at the Seminar that launched Qatar’s Second Human Development Report on “Advancing Sustainable Development”).*

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## Sustainable Development in Qatar

### Advancing Sustainable Development: Towards a New Horizon



The goal of sustainable development is to try to ensure intergenerational fairness. A report by UNDP in 2008, placed Qatar 34th out of 179 in the Human Development Index, compared to a ranking of 57th a decade earlier. With huge investments in infrastructure and the social sectors, Qatar has made remarkable progress in human development including major gains in income without creating a large income disparity and in health outcomes. [Read more](#)

### Water Security: Sustaining a Basic Necessity



Qatar, with low rainfall, is water resource-poor. Water resources are under significant stress for many reasons, especially as a result of the country’s rapid development and exceptionally high population growth. Conventional water resources have become seriously depleted and non-conventional alternatives, such as desalinated water and, to a lesser extent treated sewage effluent, now have an increasing role in the planning and development of an expanded water supply. [Read more](#)

### Marine Environment: Preserving and Protecting Ecosystems



Besides being a natural source of food, water and wealth, Qatar's marine environment provides a unique habitat for its diverse marine life. However, human activities are threatening the health, productivity and biodiversity of the country's marine environments. In recent years, a number of alarming incidents have been recorded in Qatar's waters such as, inter alia, the mortality of certain marine life, the destruction and bleaching of corals, the increased erosion of shores and associated habitats and increased coastal flooding. [Read more](#)

### Climate Change: Reducing the Carbon Footprint



Qatar, with its large hydrocarbon industries, is vulnerable to climate change impacts. The nation's total carbon emissions from fossil fuels have recorded a substantial increase over the last two decades. Climate change has been identified as the most pressing global environmental problem with potentially catastrophic consequences for human development. Addressing climate change is not only a cross-border phenomenon, but also a cross-generational challenge. [Read more](#)

### Towards a Sustainable Future

The achievement of intergenerational equity with high human development necessitates that Qatar improves its environmental management, and promotes sustainable production and consumption of its natural resources. The 2009 HDR calls for policies and structural changes that build institutional and human resource capacities and address knowledge and data gaps. It also calls for the use of monitorable indicators of sustainable development for evidence-based policy-making. [Read more](#)

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## HDR in the Media

### Official urges 'right water management'

A senior Environment Ministry official yesterday said the trend of developing coastal cities can harm the maritime environment. He said this following the launch of Qatar's Second National Human Development Report (HDR). [Read more...](#)

### Second HDR call to develop local talent

Qatar's Second National Human Development Report (HDR), on 'Advancing Sustainable Development,' has called for policies and structural changes that reduce the flow of low-skilled foreign workers while developing local talent supported by higher skilled expatriates. [Read more...](#)

### Planning chief urges Qatar to meet challenges

The extent to which Qatar can sustain a rapidly-growing population with all the implications for housing, basic social services and water, as well as energy consumption, ought to be considered, General Secretariat for Development Planning (GSDP) secretary general Dr Ibrahim Ibrahim has said. [Read more...](#)

### Energy demand to rise 35pc in '30: Expert

Despite the current economic downturn, the demand for energy worldwide is expected to be 35 percent higher in the year 2030 than it was in the year 2005. [Read more...](#)

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