

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Unofficial Translation

The Speech of His Highness

**Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar**

At

**The Official Dinner for the Ministerial
Meeting of the 5th Asian Cooperation Dialogue**

**Doha
23 May 2006**

**In the Name of God,
The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me pleasure to welcome you in Doha on the occasion of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue which is given by us in Qatar all backing and support since it represents a proper framework for enhancing understanding and cooperation for the development of our continent and maintaining peace and security in the world.

Thus the Asian-Asian partnership is an important means for realizing our peoples hopes and aspirations.

Excellencies,

Our pride in belonging to the continent of Asia makes our ambition for progress and development limitless. Is the work we have achieved till now, and the results we have realized, match the economic, political, civilizational and human capabilities of our continent?

We have, undoubtedly, made strides in realizing our various ambitions. However, there remain before us tasks which require determination and persistence to be accomplished.

As you know, our continent is the biggest producer and consumer of energy in the world. It also has a lot of leading and promising development patterns. It is also home for a number of important blocs such as the South-East Asian Countries Association, The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

We have, then, all opportunities for forming a gradual economic integration that would ultimately make Asia a leading economic zone, especially since it has all the geographic, human and civilizational capabilities for success.

However, we are not making optimum use of these potentials because, up to now, we could not utilize them to overcome the difficulties and wipe out focuses of tension. This calls upon us to employ them in a better way with the will and resolve that we have. It is our duty or rather our responsibility to help establish security and stability in Palestine, Iraq and the Gulf region being an inseparable part of Asian security. We have to be keen on keeping the Gulf and the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, as we always call for in Qatar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These are challenges we have to face up to with a political will based on overall internal reforms that realize the rule of law and respect of human rights and secure popular participation in decision making alongside equality in rights and obligations. It is also necessary that we give the issue of development of human resources paramount importance through the updating of educational curricula and enhancing scientific research plans to provide for our economic and social programs the human cadres that are capable of shouldering the burdens of developing our societies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you once again at the Asian Cooperation Dialogue and assure you that our determination on achieving our desired objectives will enable us to make our continent, Asia, a living example of cooperation and understanding between peoples and civilizations.

May the peace, the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.
