



Address by Mr Edouard Dayan, Secretary General  
at the opening ceremony  
Doha, 24 September 2012, at 10 a.m.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, صباح الخير

Your Highness Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani (to be confirmed)

Dr Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of  
Qatar and Honorary Chairman of the 25th Universal Postal Congress

Mr Abdul Rahman bin Ali Al-Aqaily, Chairman of the General Postal  
Corporation of Qatar and Chairman Designate of the 25th UPU Congress

Excellence Mohammed ben Jamil ben Ahmed Mulla, Minister of  
Telecommunications and information Technology of the Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia,

Your Excellencies,

Delegates and observers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

*[In Arabic]*

*Today marks the opening of the 25th Universal Postal Congress. On behalf of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to Doha and to the magnificent Qatar National Convention Centre. We could not dream of better conditions for our Congress, and I would like to thank our host, the State of Qatar, on behalf of the entire world postal community.*

I believe that – after having entered this spectacular building this morning – you will all agree that we could not imagine a better venue or better conditions for our 25th Congress. The impressive façade is inspired by the Sidra, the symbolic tree of Qatar, under which scholars and poets traditionally gather to share and exchange their knowledge. What a perfect symbol, then, both for our Congress and for the Qatar Foundation, with its three pillars for action – education, science and research, and community development. The QNCC, a member of the Qatar Foundation, promotes these objectives as the new international hub for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and innovation.

In the words of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation, **"With its roots bound in the soil of this world, and its branches reaching upwards toward perfection, the Sidra tree is also a symbol of solidarity and determination"**.

**I am certain that, in such an environment, beneath the branches of the Sidra tree, the delegates to the 25th UPU Congress will be inspired and will exchange ideas, knowledge and opinions in a spirit of solidarity, in order to enable the postal sector and our organization to make determined progress towards the future.**

When I first visited this building in May 2010, I wore a hard-hat and had to climb through the scaffolding. It is so impressive to see this same room today, and I can only congratulate our host country on its achievement.

Since its opening last year, the QNCC has already welcomed thousands of visitors during international conferences, including the 13th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. And right after the UPU Congress, the QNCC will host the UN Climate Change Conference.

Your Highness,  
Mr Minister,  
Mr Congress Chairman,

It is an immense honour and a great pleasure to be here in Doha. On behalf of everyone here, I would like to personally thank you and, through you, Qatar, for its extraordinary welcome. We all know that Qatar and the Gulf region countries are renowned for being great hosts. Today, Doha is an international centre bringing together international organizations, businesses, decision makers and – soon – the world's best footballers. It therefore gives great pride to the Universal Postal Union, to all its member countries, and to their thousands of delegates, to meet beneath the branches of the "Great Tree".

On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank Qatar and Q-Post for all their efforts and support in organizing the 25th Congress. Having visited Qatar frequently, I am not surprised by the quality of the welcome we have received. We will no doubt have a memorable Congress here in Doha, where everything has been done to enable us to work in the best conditions, and to make this a stay we will remember. Thank you to the Qatari authorities and to Qatar Post for their support and their commitment to the UPU.

Thank you for your attention      شُكْرًا جَزِيلًا