



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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اضغط هنا للنسخة العربية



QATAR AIRWAYS OPENS 3 NEW NON-STOP ROUTES TO THE USA

New Destinations – Philadelphia, Miami, and Dallas – Will Generate Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Business, Creating Thousands of New U.S. Jobs

***NUSACC “Doing Business in Qatar” Seminar
Draws Upwards of 150 Companies in Philadelphia***

Qatar Airways is launching new non-stop service to three destinations in the United States this year, and the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) is pleased to support all three launches. In April, Qatar Airways inaugurated non-stop flights to Philadelphia, and this past week, the Doha-based airline launched new service to Miami. Next up: Dallas in July, which will be Qatar Airways’ seventh destination in the United States.

Qatar Airways “provides passengers with unprecedented access to a new schedule of convenient connections to our entire global network,” said H.E. Akbar Al Baker, Chief Executive Officer, recently. “Our five-star service begins by forging a connection with the communities that we serve.”

In Philadelphia and Miami, that included a musical connection to those communities. The launch event in Philadelphia featured home



H.E. Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways CEO: “Our five-star service begins by forging a connection with the communities that we serve.”



town band Boyz II Men, crooners famous for their sonorous harmonies of the early 1990s, and in Florida, crowds at the launch were entertained by Gloria Estefan, the versatile voice behind the Miami Sound Machine, one of the most successful bands of the 1980s disco era. The decision by Qatar Airways to bring these musicians to center stage is a reflection of the baby boomer demographic that is likely to fill many of the Boeing 777 seats from Philly and Miami.

Qatar's Ambassador Supports Launches

The State of Qatar's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Mohamed Jaham Al Kuwari, traveled to both cities to help inaugurate the new routes. "I am proud to be here on the happy occasion when Qatar Airways is witnessing unprecedented growth in travel volumes," noted Ambassador Al Kuwari. "A national airline is often like an embassy for a country – a symbol of its culture, commerce, and goodwill," he said, and Qatar Airways "is a reflection of those values. From its humble origins, Qatar Airways is now an international five-star airline with an incredible global reach."



H.E. Mohamed Jaham Al Kuwari, Qatar's Ambassador to the United States (right) discusses Qatar's National Vision 2030 with David Hamod, NUSACC President and CEO (left).

The expansion of Qatar Airways, the ambassador suggested, "parallels the exceptional growth of Qatar's national economy. Under National Vision 2030, we are diversifying away from a reliance on hydrocarbons, so that we can instead develop a knowledge-based economy."

With Qatar hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Ambassador Al Kuwari said, "We intend to spend up to \$200 billion on infrastructure." In short, he concluded, "Qatar seeks to be the region's business hub with economic policies that allow our institutions to be sustainable and adaptable."



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While in Philadelphia, Ambassador Al Kuwari paid tribute to the City of Brotherly Love, the “first capital of the United States and the only American city considered for UNESCO World Heritage status. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were both signed here, just down the street, and the Penn Treaty of Peace and Friendship was made here between William Penn and the Lenape Indians, establishing peaceful co-existence between two different cultures.”



The "Doing Business in Qatar" seminar in Philadelphia was hosted by NUSACC in partnership with a number of Philadelphia-based entities.

First Row (left to right): Bart Vos, Senior Vice President for the Americas, Qatar Airways; Hon. Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia; H.E. Mohamed Al Kuwari, Ambassador of the State of Qatar; David Hamod, President & CEO, NUSACC

Back row (left to right): Thomas Morr, President & CEO, Select Greater Philadelphia; Ambassador Patrick Theros, President, U.S.-Qatar Business Council; Debbie Buchwald, Drexel University; Mark Gale, CEO, Philadelphia Airport Authority; Linda Conlin, President & CEO, World Trade Center Philadelphia; Jack Ferguson, President & CEO, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau; Meryl Levitz, President & CEO, Visit Philadelphia; Jasmin Navarro, Director, NUSACC; Hon. Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development & Director of Commerce.

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Ambassador Al Kuwari also participated in a “Doing Business in Qatar” seminar, organized by the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce. He was joined at that event by the Mayor of Philadelphia, the Honorable Michael A. Nutter, and David Hamod, President & CEO of the Chamber.

Philadelphia Mayor on “Doing Business With Qatar”



Hon. Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia: "This is the start of a beautiful relationship."

foreign flag carrier to start service at Philadelphia International Airport in more than a decade," he said, and he characterized the occasion as the “start of a beautiful relationship.” The inaugural flight from Doha, he noted, “signified international recognition of the strength of Greater Philadelphia as a global travel destination. In today’s global marketplace, convenient international air service is essential to the economic vitality of a region.”

As a result of this new non-stop service, Mayor Nutter suggested, the City of Philadelphia anticipates annual growth of 27,000 new visitors and an economic impact of \$95 million annually. Greater Philadelphia is home to home to six and a half million people, Mayor Nutter said, “and thousands of businesses . . . businesses that want international investment and want to expand internationally.”

At NUSACC’s “Doing Business With Qatar” seminar, Mayor Nutter said, “It is exciting to be here with you this morning before such a distinguished audience. This is a recognition of the appreciation that we have for the National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce . . . and the great work that they are doing here.”

Mayor Nutter highlighted Philadelphia’s economic renaissance, of which Qatar Airways is a part. “This is the first



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Growing Qatar's presence in Philadelphia, the mayor noted, paves the way for new opportunities to promote "economic development and investment in such areas as education, infrastructure, capital investment and, of course, medicine and research." With over one hundred colleges and universities in Philadelphia, Mayor Nutter said, "We educate three hundred thousand young people in the tri-state area . . . one of the strongest education, medicine, research and pharmaceutical areas not only of the United States, but of the world."



Philadelphia's launch event featured hometown band Boyz II Men, crooners famous for their sonorous harmonies of the early 1990s.

Launch Events in Miami



Attending the Miami launch event (from left to right): Amin Salam, NUSACC Vice President of Business Development; H.E. Mohamed Al Kuwari, Ambassador of the State of Qatar; Hon. Carlos Gimenez, Mayor of Miami - Dade County; Emilio Gonzalez, Director of Miami - Dade County Aviation Department; H.E. Akbar Al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways.

With the opening of a new route to Florida, Qatar Airways is the only airline to offer non-stop service between the Middle East and Miami.

"Miami is an essential destination in our expanding global network," noted Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker. "We look forward to working with local governments and businesses and are pleased to announce that this new route is expected to generate 536 new jobs and \$78.3 million in additional revenue for Miami and the surrounding community."



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Joining Al Baker on the maiden flight from Doha were Emilio González, Director of Miami-Dade Aviation, Bruce Orosz, Chairman-Elect of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, and other dignitaries.

“Attracting a premier international carrier like Qatar is in line with our strategic plan to establish new routes in underserved international markets,” said Director González. “We proudly celebrate Qatar Airways’ launch at MIA, which is without a doubt another major milestone in our airport’s long history.”

Miami International Airport (MIA) is one of the largest in the United States, handling over 40.5 million passengers in 2013. It is America’s second busiest airport for international travel and the busiest for international freight.

Amin Salam, NUSACC’s Vice President for Business Development, represented the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce at the Miami launch celebration at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort. Salam joined such dignitaries as: William Talbert, President and CEO of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau; Barry Johnson, President and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Eduardo Torres, Director of the U.S. Commercial Service in South Florida; and Jose Sotolongo, Executive Director of the Miami Sports Commission.



Mayor of Miami - Dade, Hon. Carlos Gimenez (left), in conversation with NUSACC's Vice President of Business Development, Amin Salam (right), during the opening reception of the Qatar Airways launching event at the St. Regis Hotel Bal Harbour.

The Honorable Carlos Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, participated actively in the Qatar Airways launch events. He noted, “Miami-Dade County is very encouraged by the interest that investors from the Middle East, and specifically from countries like Qatar, are expressing in our community. We look forward to continuing



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to work with partners, like the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce, who appreciate the very promising developments and business opportunities that Miami-Dade County offers to investors.”

Miami is known for year-round sunshine, shopping, and beautiful beaches. It features numerous museums and art galleries, and Art Basel in Miami Beach attracts over 50,000 visitors every year. Miami is one of the few cities in America that boasts four professional sports teams: the Miami Heat (NBA), the Miami Dolphins (NFL), the Miami Marlins (MLB), and the Florida Panthers (NHL).



International superstar Gloria Estefan performs during the Qatar Airways Miami Gala celebrating the new service between Doha and Miami.

Qatar Airways Reaches Another Milestone

Qatar Airways is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, operating one of the youngest fleets, now numbering more than 130 aircraft. In its 17th year of operations, Qatar Airways flies to over 140 business and leisure destinations across six continents.

Last year, Qatar Airways joined the **oneworld** Alliance, becoming the first Gulf carrier to join a global airline alliance, enabling its customers to benefit from almost 1,000 airports in more than 150 countries.

Qatar Airways was presented with three honors at the annual Skytrax 2013 World Airline Awards held during the Paris Air Show last year: World’s Best Business Class, World’s Best Business Class Lounge and, for the second consecutive year, Best Airline Staff Service in the Middle East.



During the 2013 Dubai Air Show, the airline placed orders for more than 60 new aircraft, including Boeing 777X aircraft. In total, the airline has 300 aircraft on order worth more than \$50 billion.

In recent months, Qatar Airways has begun operating from its new home, Hamad International Airport, the newest airport in the Middle East and North Africa.

Qatar: The Importance of Partnerships

The “Doing Business With Qatar” seminar attracted upwards of 150 Philadelphia-based business leaders thanks, in large part, to NUSACC’s co-organizers: City of Philadelphia, Drexel University, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania State Department of Community & Economic Development, Philadelphia Department of Commerce, Philadelphia Export Assistance Center, Select Greater Philadelphia, Visit Philadelphia, and World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia.



Ambassador Al Kuwari concluded: "NUSACC has done wonderful work in helping U.S. companies to navigate the Qatari market."

Linda Conlin, President of the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia, noted, “Expanding global opportunities for companies is the mission of our World Trade Center . . . and we look forward to sending many of our companies to Doha.”

Qatar’s Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Mohamed Jaham Al Kuwari, summed up business opportunities in his nation this way: “Qatar has undergone major transformations over the last decades to create an open and dynamic business environment. Over the next few years, it will invest up to \$200 billion on infrastructure across all sectors. These mega-projects will focus



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on partnerships, primarily with American businesses. NUSACC has done wonderful work in helping U.S. companies to navigate the Qatari market.”

“The Embassy of the State of Qatar and Qatar Airways are very important partners of the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce,” noted David Hamod, the Chamber’s President & CEO. “Each, in its own way, plays an instrumental role in attracting significant numbers of U.S. companies to Doha every year, generating billions of dollars in trade and investment and helping to create thousands of U.S. – based jobs. We are very grateful for this longstanding – and expanding – partnership.”



Representing the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce at the Philadelphia launch, David Hamod, President and CEO (right) and Jasmin Silva Navarro, Director of External Affairs (left).

The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.