



Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari

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Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari (born January 1, 1948 in Al-Gharyyah, Qatar) is a Qatari diplomat, statesman, and intellectual. He is Adviser at the Amiri Diwan, and has been the Minister for Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar from July 2008 to January 2016. He was previously the Ambassador of Qatar for France, the United States, the UNESCO and the UN. He is married and the father of three children.

Biography

Education

Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari holds a Bachelor's degree in Arabic and Islamic studies from Cairo University (Faculty of Dar al-Ulum), which he obtained in 1970. He also holds a Master's Degree Diploma from Saint Joseph Jesuit University in Beirut, which he attended between 1974 and 1977. He then studied Political philosophy at La Sorbonne in Paris in 1980 and completed a PhD in Political science at the Stony Brook University (New York) in 1990. He speaks Arabic, English and French.

Career

Early career and diplomacy

Between 1972 and 1974, he started his diplomatic career as chargé d'affaires in Lebanon. He was appointed ambassador of Qatar in Syria from 1974 to 1979 then in France (1979–84). During that time he was also non-resident ambassador in Greece, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. From 1984 to 1990, he was Qatar's ambassador to the United Nations while also running the non-resident embassies to Argentina, Brazil and Canada. He was then appointed ambassador to the United States (1990–92) and non-resident ambassador to Mexico and Venezuela.

Ministerial functions

Dr Hamad Al-Kawari became Minister for Information and Culture in Qatar in 1992. Between 1992 and 1996 he acted in favor of freedom of information and the press by ending the censorship regulations on newspapers and publications, and in 1997 by closing the doors of the Ministry of Information.

This initiative for freedom of information would eventually lead to the creation of the Doha Centre for Media Freedom in 2007.

He was appointed Minister for Culture, Arts and Heritage from July, 2008 to January, 2016. He was the first person to ever hold this position. In 2010, he presided at the 17th Conference of Arab Ministers of Culture.

Whilst in office, Doha was named the 2010 Arab Capital of Culture.

2012 marked the launch of the "cultural years" initiative fostering cooperation and exchanges between Qatar and other partner countries. Partners include the United Kingdom (2012), Japan (2013), Brazil (2014), Turkey (2015), China (2016) and Germany (2017). This project involves the main Qatari cultural institutions, including the Qatar Museums Authority and the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage. The board is co-chaired by Sheikha Al-Mayassa Al Thani and Dr Hamad Al-Kawari.

Functions in International Organizations

From 1979 to 1984, he was the Ambassador to France as well as the representant for Qatar at UNESCO.

Whilst acting as Ambassador to the United Nations from 1984 to 1990, Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari also represented Qatar as official delegate to the UN for the country. During that time, he was simultaneously elected Deputy Chairman of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fortieth session and Chairman of the Special Political Committee (4th Committee) at its 42nd session.

In 1987, he was elected Vice President of the Committee Against Apartheid and Member of the Trustee board of directors of the "Dag Hammarskjöld" Commemoration. He has also represented his country at the conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement. From 1997 to 2014, he was member of the Advisory Board of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).

In 2012, he presided at the UNCTAD XIII 2012 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development). In September 2012, Dr Hamad Al-Kawari was elected Honorary Chairman of the 25th Universal Postal Congress.

Passionate about the French language and culture, he presided over Qatar's delegation to l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2012, which accepted Qatar as an associated member in the Organisation.

Other functions

- Member of the Consultative Authority for the High Council of GCC.
- Member of the board of directors of the Rand-Qatar Policy Institute.
- Founder and chairperson of the board of Governors of the Doha Center for Media Freedom.
- President of Higher Committee for 2010 Arab Capital of Culture.
- Head of the committee of State Awards, Qatar.
- Head of the committee of Qatar Award for Child Literature.
- Co-founder of the Arab World Institute in Paris in 1980.
- In 2008, he became Chairman of the Qatar Businessmen Association.

Distinctions

- Decorated with the French honorific Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2014).
- Decorated with the French "Légion d'Honneur", title of Commandeur, in 1984.
- Presented with National Order of Merit by the President of the French Republic in 1980.
- Presented with Badges of Honour by Italy, Spain, Syria and Jordan.
- Decorated with a medal from the Queen of The Netherlands.
- Decorated with a medal from the Republic of Poland.
- Doctorate Honoris Causa (for achievements in the field of culture and heritage) University Rome 2 Tor Vergata.

Publications

- **Dialectics of Conflicts and Settlements** (*Jadal Al-Maarik Wa Al-Teswiyat*): Cairo: Dar Al-Moustaqbal Al-Arabi, 2001 (Arabic)
- **The Deficient Knowledge** (*Al-Maarifa Al-Naqisa*): Beirut: Reyadh Al-Rayes, 2005. (Arabic)
- **Ala Kadri Ahl Al-Azm**. HBKU Press, 2015. (Arabic)
- **Vision**. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, Doha, 2016 (Arabic, English, French, Spanish)
- **Global Majlis**. HBKU Press, 2016. (English)
- **Majlis Mondial**. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari. Odile Jacob Paris, 2016. (French)
