

## QATAR-TURKEY 2015 YEAR OF CULTURE LAUNCHED

# 'Ties between Arabs and Turks historical, cultural'

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THE Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al Kuwari underlined the deep cultural and historical ties between Arabs and the Turks on the occasion of the official launch of Qatar-Turkey 2015 Year of Culture held at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha on Tuesday.

Kuwari together with the Turkish Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Professor Ahmet Haluk Dursun, Qatar's Ambassador to Turkey HE Salem al Shafi and Ambassador of Turkey to Qatar HE Ahmet Demirok led the launch of the fourth consecutive year of culture, following the Qatar-Japan 2012, the Qatar-UK 2013 and the Qatar-Brazil 2014.

Speaking at the event, the minister stressed the significance of the celebrations especially in view of Turkey's rich culture.

"Having successfully held the event for the last three years, we look



Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al Kuwari speaks at the official launch at the MIA on Tuesday. (JALAL PATHIYOOR)

forward to Qatar Turkey 2015 that will feature cultural events between the Qatari and Turkish people. This platform of communication opens many doors in the cultural, sports and business arenas which in turn will pave way for long-term relationships

between institutions and individuals in both countries," said Kuwari.

The Qatar-Turkey Year of Culture will be grouped under four main categories: art and culture, community and education, sports and business and trade.

Turkish Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Professor Ahmet Haluk Dursun said the celebration is deemed to further strengthen and deepen the historical ties between the two countries. He said some of the activities to expect include exhibitions, live entertainment, and movie screenings in both countries.

Commenting on the event, Cultural Diplomacy Project Manager at Qatar Museums Aisha Ghanem al Attiya said the goal behind organising the years of culture is paving the way for cultural exchange through world-class art exhibitions, individual artist programmes, concerts, cultural festivals and educational workshops.

Also present at the opening was Alistair Routledge, president and general manager for ExxonMobil Qatar Inc.