

**Opening Speech.**

**By**

**H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim  
Bin Jabr Al Thani,  
Prime Minister and Minister of  
Foreign Affairs,  
State of Qatar**

**At the 8<sup>th</sup> Doha Forum on Democracy,  
Development and Free Trade**

**Doha**

**13 – 15 April 2008**

**H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of  
the State of Qatar,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Audience,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**With much pleasure I welcome you to the 8<sup>th</sup> Doha  
Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade.  
The high level of participation from countries,  
institutions, universities and think tanks suggests in  
advance rich discussions and dialogue that will, no  
doubt, help in adopting healthy measures in our  
modern life and securing better a life.**

**Your Highness the Emir,  
By virtue of Your kind and continued support to the  
goals of this Forum for achieving progress and  
development in human life, justice and stability, it  
gained feasibility as an international forum for  
interaction of ideas and specifying results in a way  
that provides us a common base for collective and  
fruitful work depending on intellectual initiative and  
responsible freedom.**

**The sessions of this forum, since their onset, testify to  
the fact that we have continued our discussions and  
debates with the aim to diagnose the ailments and  
obstacles and prescribe the suitable solutions thereto.**

The discussions in this session revolve around various political, economic, financial, commercial and information issues that have a bearing on life at various national, regional and international levels. These issues are interconnected and have reciprocal effects on each other. Thus, it is hoped that they would be discussed and analyzed more comprehensively, accurately and objectively.

We hope that we all succeed in elucidating the road and establishing the right bases through which to reach the designated goals of this gathering in service of the best interests and common good for all humanity.

I am now honored to kindly invite His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar and the patron of this forum to deliver the opening speech of the session.