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**About the Diplomatic Academy
of the Foreign Ministry of the
Russian Federation**

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the Organizing Committee for the invitation to take part in the work of the 10-th Doha Forum held under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of Qatar.

I am glad to be in Doha again since I spent more than 4 years as the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the State of Qatar in 1996-2000.

For the last 10 years Qatar has achieved tremendous success in political, economic and social areas, in the field of education and culture, in development of civil society and democracy. Qatar has great authority on the international arena. We all know of the efforts of the leadership of Qatar together with the UN, AU, Arab States League and some states including Russia and the USA made efforts to achieve understanding between the leadership of the Sudan and Sudanese opposition groups in Darfur.

At the present Forum I represent the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian

Foreign Ministry. Last year the Academy marked the 75-th anniversary of its foundation. In 1934 the USSR Foreign Ministry created the Institute for training its diplomatic and consular officials. Such famous persons and diplomats as Ms. Alexandra Kolontay, and Mr. Ivan Maysky lectured in the Institute. In 1939 the Institute was reorganized into the Higher Diplomatic School. And in 1974 it was called the Diplomatic Academy which became an important factor of training highly qualified specialists in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy.

Nowadays the Diplomatic Academy is a federal state establishment of higher education, founded by the Government of the Russian Federation with the powers of the founder belonging to the Foreign Ministry of Russia.

The Principal heads the Academy. As a rule, this position is given to diplomats with great international experience and the rank of Ambassador. At present the Principal is Ambassador Alexander Panov, former Deputy Foreign Minister and former Russian Ambassador to Japan, the Republic of Korea and Norway.

The Academy carries out diverse activities in different directions: education, scientific work, retraining of the staff, promoting of relations with foreign partners and so on.

The professional retraining and upgrading of the diplomatic staff of the Foreign Ministry is the priority of the Diplomatic Academy. For this purpose the Foreign Ministry decided in 1987 to set up the Faculty for upgrading diplomats in the Academy which I head since 2003. At present the Faculty worked out and introduced 36 courses for all categories of diplomats including junior, medium and senior levels as well as beginners accepted to the Ministry in the current year.

The professional retraining and upgrading of diplomats goes in the field of international relations, diplomacy, world economy, international law, in multilateral diplomacy, peace-keeping operations, preparation for the work in the international

organizations (the UN, OSCE, UNESCO etc.). The courses are arranged for the diplomats who will work in consular sections, as a press-attaché, or as a diplomats responsible for the cultural ties of the diplomatic missions.

Since 1996 the Higher Diplomatic Courses are regularly arranged in the Diplomatic Academy for the newly appointed Ambassadors, Ministers Plenipotentiary and Consuls General.

According to the Decree of the President “On additional professional education of the state civil servants of the Russian Federation” of 2006 the Diplomatic Academy provides educational services to state civil servants of the Federal Ministries and regional organizations involved in the spheres of international relations.

Starting from this academic year we introduced a 500 hours course training of simultaneous English interpreters.

Within the framework of the Faculty, we also introduced short term courses for 12 - 20 hours on some special problems of international law, world policy, economy etc.

Diplomats of the FM are encouraged to do the general courses endorsed by the First Deputy Minister and aiming at upgrading their qualification at least once every three years, which is taken into account when diplomats get promoted to the higher rank.

The Faculty of professional training and upgrading once a year organizes International Diplomatic Courses for foreign diplomats speaking Russian. Such courses became very popular with the foreign diplomats.

The course outlines are being constantly improved and updated. New lectures have been introduced on psychology of public communication, language stylistics in business letter writing, the analysis of modern political processes.

The following programmes have been developed on the basis of theoretical and practical knowledge and the unique expert potential of the Diplomatic Academy. “Management of international ties”, “Protocol and Etiquette: diplomatic, business, civil”, “The art of conducting negotiations”, “Concluding Agreements, Treaties and Contracts”, “ International and Foreign Economic Ties of the Subjects of the Russian Federation”, “Comprehensive training for working abroad” and so on.

There are courses in business English, such as “The role of a foreign language interpreter”.

Beside the Faculty for diplomats upgrading there are other faculties in the Diplomatic Academy: **the Faculty of International Relations** and **the Faculty of World Economy and Foreign Economic Relations**. They provide the second higher education in international relations and world economy/foreign economic relations to all the citizens on paid basis. The students can study international law (public international law or private international law. The study of foreign languages are also very popular among the students of the second education (English, German, French, Spanish, Portugal, Polish, Check, Bulgarian, Serbian, Arab, Persian, Japanese, Turkish.

Since 2008 the Academy has been running special master’s courses within the framework of Russia’s entry into the Bolognese educational system and integration into the European educational system.

Both Russian and Foreign citizens can go to the Academy.

Highly qualified professors many of whom are world known teach at the Academy Faculties. Every school year around 550 new students enter the Academy. Altogether around 1650 students study each year at the Academy and around 500 graduate the Academy early.

There are the following chairs at the Academy: international relations, diplomacy, world economy and international economic relations, international public law, international private law, philosophy, history and culture, state management and national security, foreign policy and topical international problems, political science, international business.

Diplomatic Academy is a major scientific centre of fundamental and applied researches. It prepares scientific and teaching staff. In 2003-2008 the Academy published 176 text books which are used in Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute for International Relations, Russian Friendship University and other institutions.

The Institute of topical international problems of the Academy prepares analytical notes on topical problems of the Russian foreign policy, on the contemporary international relations, analytical materials by the request of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, the Security Council, the State Duma and the Council of the Federation. More than 500 research papers were prepared in 2003-2008.

The Diplomatic Academy is co-operating with 67 Russian and Foreign educational establishments and research centers and has partners all over 100 countries, among them the leaders, prime-ministers, ministers, high-ranking army officials, well-known journalists, scientists and people of art.

The Academy regularly holds scientific forums. During the last 5 years more than 200 such forums were held with participation of scientists from the Republic of Korean, Bulgaria, Japan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Romania.

The Academy representatives participate in international conferences, symposiums, seminars in many countries.

There is a regular exchange of lectures, teachers, and probationers with the centers in China, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, George Marshal Center on Security Problems in Germany, Texas, and Hawaii.

The well-known politicians, including leader of the countries, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors, accredited in Russia, visit and speak at the Academy. Among them were: the Palestinian leader Mr. Jassir Arafat, Zgibnev Bzezinsky, Israel's Foreign Minister Jzipi Livni, Britain's First Deputy State Secretary Mr. P. Rikkats, Secretary General of the Mongolian People's-Revolutionary Party Mr. Ottanbayar, Foreign Minister of the United States of Mexico Mr. Patricio Espinosa Kanbeliana, of the Republic of Cuba Mr. Philippe Peresa Rocke, Advisor to the Foreign Minister's Cabinet of Angola, Mr. E. Beni, the Principal of the Brazilian Diplomatic Institute Mr. F. Reis and others.

All students of the Academy have access to the Internet free of charge. There are over 100 electronic handouts in the mediatheque. The results of research work are tested at scientific conferences, so-called "Round tables", find their way to collection of articles in the "Diplomatic Annual" journal.

A lot of progress has been made in the Academy in arranging lectures and short-term courses for foreign students.

Besides traditional international diplomatic courses for representatives of different countries there have been special courses for officials of Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry, students of the Chinese Academy for senior officials, Malaysia's Institute for Diplomacy and International Relations, Iran's Diplomatic Institute, Special courses are now being prepared for the political and economic elite of the Republic of Korea, workers of Japanese "Mitsui" Corporation etc.

There is a growing practice of giving lectures in the Academy by prominent politicians, diplomats, scientists and businessmen from foreign countries. For the last 2 years there have been over 20 events of this kind.

The DA has contacts with a number of Foreign Academies and Institutes. We would be happy to establish such mutually advantageous ties with Qatar University with the help of the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar.

Thank you for your kind attention.