

## Ram Remembers Doha DFC Days

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Thank you very much for your warm message and for remembering me so fondly in your feature on the Dynamic Friends Circle. Reading the article brought back a flood of memories from my long and fulfilling years in Doha — years that shaped me both professionally and personally in ways I will always cherish.

My journey in Qatar was deeply enriching. Professionally, I had the privilege of serving as a Learning and Development Specialist at Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO), where I contributed extensively to the development of learning and training solutions for more than 1500 employees. My work covered the entire training cycle — from training needs analysis and programme design to implementation, evaluation, impact assessment, and return on investment. It was a role that not only challenged me but also gave me immense satisfaction, as I could directly contribute to organizational growth and employee

development. I was also deeply honoured to receive the Best Employee Award in recognition of my contributions, which remains one of the most memorable milestones of my professional journey.

Beyond my professional responsibilities, Qatar offered me tremendous opportunities for personal growth and leadership development. One of the most transformative experiences of my life was my introduction to Toastmasters during my stay in Doha. What initially began as an effort to improve communication skills gradually evolved into a deep passion for leadership, mentoring, and public speaking. In 2008, I was recognized as a Distinguished Toastmaster, one of the highest honours in the organization. I was also awarded Best Speaker at the Division level and later recognized as the Best Division Governor across the GCC region, Jordan, and Lebanon. These achievements were not just personal milestones but opportunities that allowed me to mentor aspiring speakers, conduct educational workshops, and host several prestigious events. Toastmasters gave me not only confidence but also lifelong friendships and the joy of helping others realize their potential. Alongside my professional and Toastmasters journey, I remained actively engaged in several socio-cultural and educational initiatives in Qatar. These activities allowed me to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and contribute to community development beyond the workplace. Whether it was participating in cultural programs, supporting educational initiatives, or engaging in community-building activities, these experiences enriched my life and gave me a strong sense of belonging in a multicultural environment.

As a family, our years in Qatar were equally meaningful and memorable. My daughters spent their formative years in Doha, where they excelled academically and participated actively in cultural and leadership activities. Watching them grow into confident and accomplished individuals remains one of the greatest joys of our lives. My wife also made a remarkable contribution by successfully establishing and running a school that earned an excellent reputation for quality education. Together, as a family, we experienced immense growth, happiness, and a strong sense of community that made our time in Qatar truly special.

Among all these beautiful experiences, my association with the Dynamic Friends Circle holds a uniquely emotional place in my heart. DFC was never just a breakfast gathering — it was a family away from home. Every Thursday morning was something we eagerly looked

forward to. People from different professions and walks of life came together not as executives or professionals, but simply as friends. We shared laughter, ideas, support, encouragement, and genuine human connection. What made DFC truly special was its sincerity, consistency, and warmth. In a world where relationships often become fleeting, DFC stood as a rare example of enduring friendship and mutual respect. Even after returning to India, the emotional bond with the group remains strong. Whenever I think of Doha, memories of those wonderful Thursday mornings naturally come rushing back.

I consider myself truly fortunate and deeply grateful to have been part of such an extraordinary circle of friends and such a meaningful chapter of life in Qatar. The memories of Doha, and especially DFC, will always remain close to my heart as one of the most beautiful phases of my journey.

With warm regards and heartfelt gratitude,  
Ram Mohan M. Rai

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