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## China and Qatar celebrate cultural Exchange to strengthen ties



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Chinese Ambassador to Qatar, Cao Xiaolin, highlighted the enduring historical and cultural connections between China and Arab civilizations, emphasizing their pivotal role in fostering global heritage and mutual cooperation. Speaking at a youth cultural exchange event held at the St. Regis Hotel in The Pearl-Qatar, Ambassador Cao underscored the importance of cross-cultural

dialogue in building stronger bilateral relationships.

The event, organized to encourage interaction between Chinese and Qatari youth, saw participation from Maryem Al Hammadi, Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at Qatar's Ministry of Culture; Jian Zhao, Chinese Program Coordinator at HBKU; and students from both nations. The gathering featured performances, discussions, and exchanges of ideas, all designed to deepen mutual understanding.

Ambassador Cao stressed the critical role of language in cultural exchange, describing it as a bridge for cooperation. "The exchange of ideas between our two ancient civilizations will not only strengthen Sino-Arab ties but also contribute to global civilization and social progress," he stated.

He reflected on the historic connections between China and the Arab world, referencing the 2016 *China's Policy Paper on Arab Countries* and the legacy of the Silk Road, which has connected these regions for over 2,000 years. Ambassador Cao also quoted Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) saying about seeking knowledge in China, underscoring the value of history in shaping relationships and guiding future cooperation.

Highlighting milestones in China-Qatar relations, he noted the elevation of ties to a strategic partnership in 2014 and the significant trade and energy collaborations, with China now being

Qatar's largest trading partner. The ambassador also acknowledged both nations' shared achievements in economic growth and social stability, which he said provide a strong foundation for future cooperation.

Addressing global issues, including the Gaza conflict, Ambassador Cao reiterated China's dedication to global peace and prosperity through initiatives like the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative.

Jian Zhao shared insights into HBKU's language program, which has expanded from five to 12 languages since its inception in 2014. The event also featured speeches from Chinese and Qatari students showcasing their language skills, symbolizing the event's spirit of cultural unity and collaboration.

This cultural exchange reinforced the historic bond between China and Qatar, setting the stage for enhanced ties in trade, culture, and diplomacy.