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## China celebrates Spring Festival in Doha with Vibrant Festivities



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RKI Network Doha

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Doha hosted a vibrant celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival, marking the start of the Chinese New Year, at the Grand Sheraton Hotel on Sunday evening. The program began with a documentary highlighting the origins of the Chinese Spring Festival. The highlight of the evening

was a series of colorful cultural performances by Chinese children, which captivated the audience and brought joy to everyone.

His Excellency Cao Xiolin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Qatar, highlighted the enduring friendship and collaboration between the two nations in his address.

Ambassador Xiolin reflected on the flourishing strategic partnership under the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. He emphasized China's role as Qatar's largest trading partner, noting a significant rise in cultural and economic exchanges. In 2024, Qatar welcomed 97,000 Chinese visitors, a testament to the growing ties. He also expressed excitement for Qatar's participation in the Asian Winter Games in China next month.

Recognizing the contributions of the Chinese community in Qatar, the ambassador applauded their dedication to strengthening bilateral ties and encouraged them to continue fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

Ambassador Xiolin elaborated on the cultural significance of the Spring Festival, which symbolizes family reunions, the transition to a new year, and the spirit of harmony. Customs such as cleaning homes, decorating with Chunlian, honoring ancestors, and sharing meals highlight the essence of the celebration. Recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, the festival is

celebrated globally in nearly 200 countries, bridging cultures and showcasing the richness of Chinese traditions.

This year's celebrations in Qatar include cultural events at Vendôme Mall and light displays at iconic landmarks. Ambassador Xiolin warmly invited Qatari citizens and residents to join the festivities and experience the vibrancy of Chinese culture.

Concluding his speech, the ambassador reaffirmed the Chinese Embassy's commitment to strengthening China-Qatar relations and supporting the local Chinese community. He extended heartfelt wishes for a harmonious, prosperous year, filled with blessings and happiness for Qatar's leadership and its people.

This colorful celebration not only marked the beginning of the Year of the Golden Snake but also reinforced the shared aspirations of unity and cooperation between the two nations.