



No. 1 – January 2012  
C 46321

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## 'Intercultural Dialogue Boosts Development' United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha

by Alina Mambrey



*H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar meets H.E. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations in Doha*

This year's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) themed: 'Intercultural Dialogue Boosts Development' and took place in Doha, Qatar. The three-day Forum from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 opened at the Qatar National Convention Centre. In total the forum attracted around 2,000 visitors including political and corporate leaders, mayors, civil society and youth representatives, journalists, academics, foundations and intercultural organizations and religious leaders. All of them met in Qatar to improve intercultural relations between diverse nations and communities.

The main objective of the Alliance of Civilizations is to put intercultural dialogue at the heart of the world's development agenda. Therefore world leaders and civil society organizations joined their efforts in Doha, helping to make this year's Forum a turning point. For the very first time since the establishment of the UNAOC in 2005 the civil society could actively contribute to the debates and outcomes of the Forum. With this in mind, a pre-Forum for civil society brought together 190 participants from 80 countries in Doha May 2011. The UNAOC Forum in Qatar strongly promoted peace and development within and between societies through

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