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"The most important legacy of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar is what it means for the dynamic of the relationship between 'East' and 'West'"

Interview with H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of Qatar 2022, by Helene Rang, NUMOV



H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of Qatar 2022

Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup after you personally presented the successful bid to FIFA. The preparations have been a key component to most of Qatar's projects in recent years. Now on the home stretch, what can you tell us about the state of the planning?

We are in a good place. Hosting the FIFA Arab Cup demonstrated the significant efforts we have exerted to be as ready as early as possible for 2022. It was a perfect test event for us in terms of preparation, in terms of trialling fan experience,

logistics, the national infrastructure, security, the tournament workforce and all of the various components that comprise hosting a seamless, successful event. We will analyse the lessons learned and adjust and tweak our plans for the 2022 FIFA World Cup to ensure that our plans are as best laid as possible. We have one further stadium to launch in early 2022 – Lusail – which will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup final. Our other seven stadiums are fully operational.

There are obviously numerous other issues to consider in our planning, such as the pandemic.

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NAH- UND MITTELOST-VEREIN E.V.
GERMAN NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION

Kronenstraße 1, D-10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0)30 - 206410-0
Fax: +49 (0)30 - 206410-10
E-mail: numov@numov.de
Internet: www.numov.de