

# Society, Economy and Urban Spatial Practices

## *Reflections on Greening and Sustainability of Development in Qatar*

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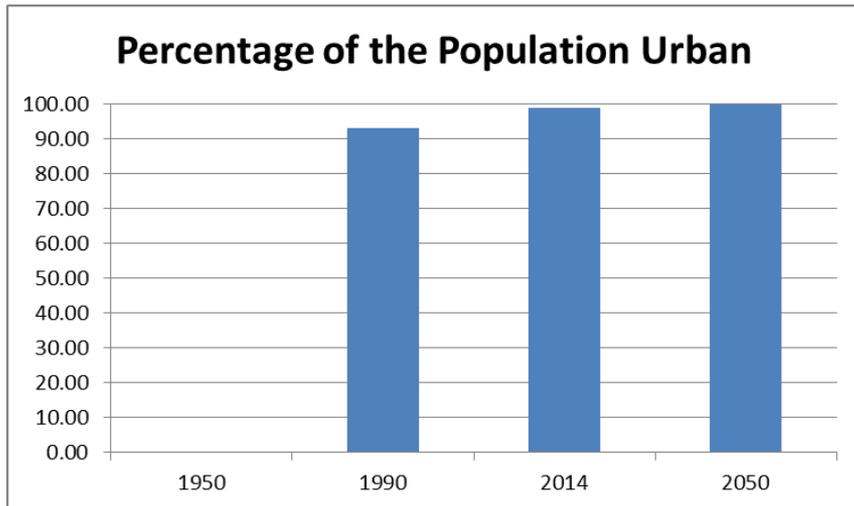
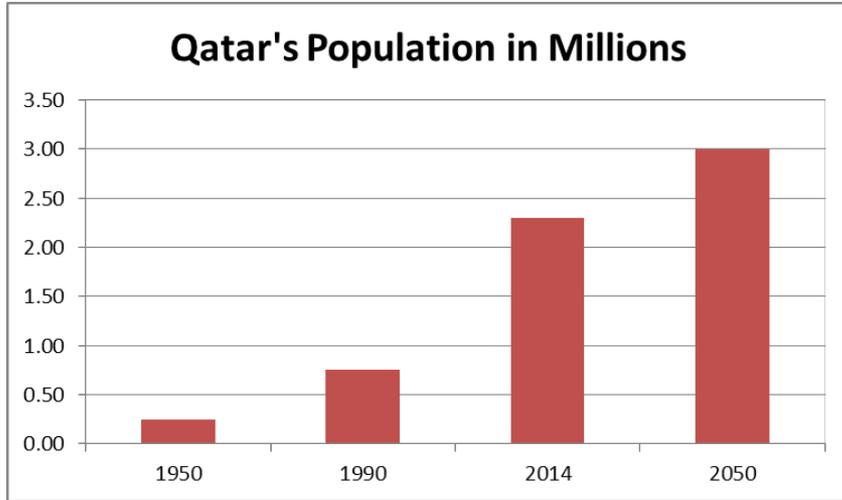
# Introduction

- Sustainability as premier challenge
  - development that meets needs of the present without compromising ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Principal areas of challenge include;
  - Society
  - Economy
  - Ecology (Resources, Processes and Spatiality)
- Premier Question is how do we promote sustainable and green Development in Qatar with respect to these

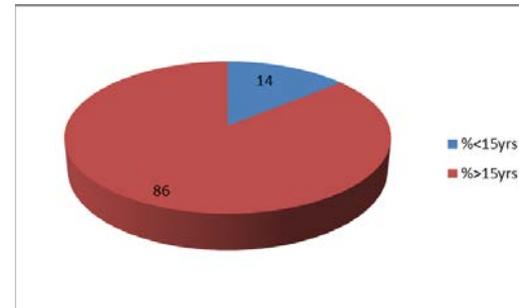
# A Little Bit of History

- Arrived in Qatar in 2013
- 3 issues stand out in my experience
  - Difficulty of finding school for children
  - Level of traffic Congestion
  - Structure of Population (From Student Research)
    - Population of about 2.4 Million (Medium size City)
    - Size of Non-national Component
    - Size of Construction Labor (60%)
- Issues raise questions of resilience and sustainability of development

# Qatar Social and Spatial Profile



Population Rank	City	Population 2010 Census	Proportion of Total (%)
1	Doha	796,947	46
2	Al-Rayyan	415,623	26.8
3	Al-Khor	193,983	11.4
4	Wakrah	141,222	8.3
5	Umm Slal	60,509	3.6
6	Al-Daayen	43,176	2.5
7	Al Shamal	7,975	0.5



2014 Demographic Structure

Forces shaping growth;

- Oil income
- Investment in services & Inf
- Migration
- Natural Increase

# Spatiality

- Qatar is growing fairly fast
- Population mainly concentrated in Doha region with service orientation
- This is creating an economic and spatial concentration that is not enabling other cities to grow and expand
- While acknowledging provisions of QNV, appears there is a need to revisit the National Spatial Strategy, with focus on expanding activities into a national sphere

# Economy

- Qatar has a very strong economy and robust GDP characterized by surplus
- Economic Activity is however limited by size of population, robustness of business activities and production
- Limitation to economies of scale and agglomeration
- The net result is importation of goods and services
- This raises a critical issue of sustainability that is linked to social security and resilience
- The recent siege on Qatar brought this issue to the fore

# Economy

- Huge emphasis on Construction of facilities and housing in economy
- No adequate research on demand and supply interactions and how they create optimal market conditions
- Appears that there is an oversupply of development with potential to depress markets and create vacancies
- There is a need to leverage this supply to support economic activity expansion by thinking outside the box (use what you have to get what you want)

# Natural Resource management

- Qatar is a coastal country and subject to impact from global climate change
- Impact of climate change on sea level rise as it relates to Qatar
- Expanding resource consumption that is placing vital resources at risk;
  - Water- desalination: impact on Gulf Salinity and fish population and production
- Need for long term assessment and emergency plans to address issue of Natural Resource Management

# Exploiting Qatar's Potential

- Many countries & cities are exploring opportunities to attract investment and economic activities
- Focus on activities that give leverage within a global setting- *Information technology, high end medical research, medical tourism* etc
- Such industries attracted by quality of bundle of goods and services (*Voting with feet*)
- Need for a robust society that can support production  
Using Economic Activity as leverage to promote importance, security and resilience

# Suggestions on Direction of Development

- Expand and develop a systems of cities that complement each other and focus on society, economic activities and growth
- Leverage Existing infrastructure and housing to attract specific global industries (finance, High End genetic research- sidra, natural resource development to Qatar to generate an active and robust society to support a robust economy (contributes to security)
- Planning cities with focus on multiple centers, public transportation, walkability and greening (livable)



# Thank you for Listening

