

Society, Economy and Urban Spatial Practices

Reflections on Greening and Sustainability of Development in Qatar

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Introduction

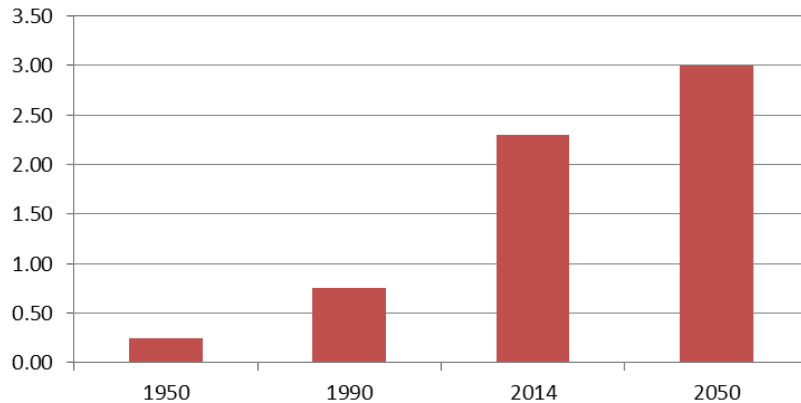
- Sustainability as premier challenge
 - development that meets needs of the present without compromising ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Principal areas of challenge include;
 - Society
 - Economy
 - Ecology (Resources, Processes and Spatiality)
- Premier Question is how do we promote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

A Little Bit of History

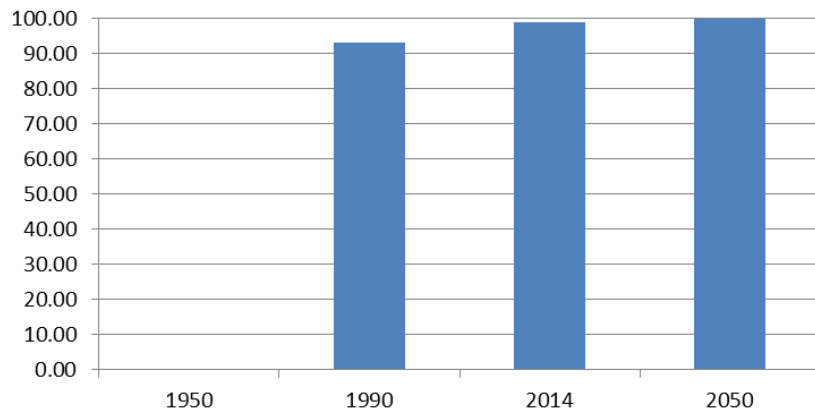
- Arrived in Qatar in 2013
- 3 issues stand out in my experience
 - Difficulty of finding school for children
 - Level of traffic Congestion
 - Structure of Population (From Student Research)
 - Population of about 2.4 Million (Medium size City)
 - Size of Non-national Component
 - Size of Construction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

Qatar Social and Spatial Profile

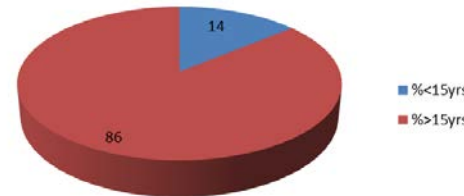
Qatar's Population in Millions



Percentage of the Population Urban



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



Forces shaping growth;

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

2014 Demographic Structure

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

