

Qatar: 35 new hotels to open this year

DOHA: Qatar will see the opening of 35 new hotels and hotel apartments this year with a total of 6,369 rooms, the **Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA)** disclosed yesterday.

The National Convention Center at Education City is also slated to open this year, which together will meet the large demand of MICE (Meetings and Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions) events coming to Qatar including the World Petroleum Congress, **QTA** said on the sidelines of the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) exhibition in Dubai. During the event, **QTA** Chairman, Ahmed Al Nuaimi met with Carlos Enrique Meyer, Minister of Tourism of Argentina and Argentinean ambassador to Dubai, Ruben Eduardo Caro.

Both sides discussed details regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Qatar and Argentina as well the opportunities to exchange tourists and mutual participation in travel and tourism events in the two countries.

Following the meeting between H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and Argentinean President, Cristina Kirchner in January this year, Qatar and Argentina are working together to further collaborate in the interests of economic, business and tourism opportunities between the two countries.

"We are very keen to further build on our relationship with Argentina and to develop greater opportunities between the two countries to enhance our business, economic and tourism markets across the two nations," said Ahmed Al Nuaimi. **QTA** is accompanied at ATM by a distinguished delegation from the hospitality, culture, sports and leisure sectors in Qatar, including representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Qatar Marine Festival Committee, Museum of Islamic Art, and Cultural Village.

Major hotels and top travel and tourism companies in Qatar are also participating in the event.

In recognition of its commitment to embrace the MICE and business sector, Qatar was awarded as the Middle East's Leading Business Destination at the World Travel Awards Ceremony in Dubai on Monday.

The award was received by Ahmed Al Darwish, International Relations Specialist, on behalf of **Qatar Tourism Authority**.