

Hamad International Airport

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Passenger growth in line with a fast- growing economy

If proof was ever needed of the growing global importance of Qatar, it came at the end of 2015, as it was announced that Doha's Hamad International Airport (HIA) welcomed over 30 million passengers during the calendar year.



The airport, formerly known as New Doha International Airport (NDIA), was officially opened on April 30, 2014 with a ceremonial Qatar Airways flight landing from Doha International. National carrier Qatar Airways, and all other carriers formally relocated to the new airport on May 27, 2014.

Up to 60 per cent of the airport's site was reclaimed from the Arabian Gulf; and from the ocean has risen an extraordinary feat of construction which includes 22,000 square metres of retail, 15,000 square metres of dining, and 80,000 square metres dedicated to the 16 lounges within the airport.

"Our aim is simple. To provide you with a

world-class airport experience. We redefine what passengers can expect from an airport. Qualities such as comfort and ease; facilities such as check-in and entertainment; aspects such as culture and elegance – we want to surprise and delight you at every turn," the corporate website states.

"That's why our airport is an architectural masterpiece where innovation and beauty combine. Why our systems are efficient yet simple, and our service thoughtful and generous.

"In all these we're proud to represent our nation. Qatar embodies opportunity, ambition, inspiration – and a new era for society. Hamad International Airport is at the forefront of this vision.

"OUR AIM IS SIMPLE. TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A WORLD-CLASS AIRPORT EXPERIENCE. WE REDEFINE WHAT PASSENGERS CAN EXPECT FROM AN AIRPORT"

"We are, therefore, a gateway to the world in more than one sense. Located exactly where east meets west we can connect you to countless cities around the globe – swiftly, smoothly and seamlessly. But we can also connect you to a new way of travelling, to a new kind of airport experience. Welcome world," the site continues.

News of the 30 million passenger mark being reached must have made for great reading for the airport's stakeholders, although perhaps it was to be anticipated, following hot on the heels of the 26.3 million people who passed through Hamad International Airport in a truncated 2014, given the airport only became fully functional at the end of May.

In its first full year of operations (from June 2014 until May 2015), HIA saw 28 million passengers use its facilities, according to government site Hukoomi.

In its latest statement, the airport did not give exact passenger numbers or a breakdown of

arrivals, departures and transits during the year.

However, an official with airport operator Qatar Airways attributed the increase in passenger numbers to the addition of new destinations and aircraft, as well as "world class facilities and services we offer."

Badr Al Meer, HIA's chief operating officer, added: "I am happy to report the significant increase in passenger numbers that Hamad International Airport has seen this year. Having served over 30 million passengers in one year which is significantly more than the previous year is no small feat."

Figures from Qatar's Ministry of Development, Planning and Statistics (MDPS) for November 2015, indicate that just over 3.3 million passengers made their way through the airport, compared to nearly 2.8 million for the corresponding month in 2014, with a 15.3 per cent increase in arrivals and a 17.5 per cent increase in departures, while transfers increased by 19.1 per cent.





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Hamad International Airport, Qatar



MIA Park

Nakheel Landscapes making a mark in Qatar

Nakheel Landscapes is a fully integrated construction and maintenance company with a total value of projects exceeding QAR 2.74 billion, employing over 3,400 permanent staff, owning a large fleet consisting of 840 specialized equipment, 125 units of heavy construction machinery and trucks, 200 vehicles, two large production nurseries and modern facilities.

During the past few years Nakheel Landscapes has gained an advanced expertise and unique experience in construction and maintenance of football pitches to international standards, procurement and planting of large specimen trees, relocation/restoration of mangrove, collection and production of native desert plants, establishment and operation of plants nurseries, development of sustainable materials for landscaping and more...



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landscaping starts here

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The Landscape Way at Hamad International Airport

The Landscape Way design provides a welcoming image for the public, while screening the less visually desirable aspects associated with the functional operations. This Landscape Way includes soft and hard landscape, landscape lighting, irrigation systems, urban furniture and street lighting elements. The new Landscaped area is located on both the Ras Abu Aboud Road and the new Terminal access road and includes 3 interchanges.

Nakheel Landscapes, working with the NDIA Steering Committee and Consultants, has been responsible for the construction of over 190 hectares of Landscape at Hamad International Airport and access roads.

Few key figures will illustrate the exceptional importance of works done by Nakheel Landscapes at Hamad International Airport: 545,000 m³ excavation work; 15 kms masonry low walls and stone features; 57 kms aluminium edging; 337,000 m² stone paving; 405,000 m³ planting soil mix; 277 kms irrigation PVC lines; 2,734 kms irrigation drip lines; 6,400 trees & palm trees; 1.88 million shrubs & various plants; 77,500 m³ recycled wood mulch; 4,050 landscape lighting fixtures; erection of 1,560 street lighting poles (5m to 28m height).

The "Sidra" tree (*Ziziphus spina-christi*) is the National tree of Qatar. The design uses the tree in areas of high importance to reflect its significance. The terminal interchange features rows of Sidra organized along the north south axis. More than 1,400 Sidra trees have been planted.

Rough quantities of appropriate plants were determined based on calculations of available irrigation volume and daily water needs. The irrigation system is supplied through waste water re-use, produced by the Airport sewage treatment plant.

The top surface of tree pits and planted beds is covered by a layer of organic mulch, locally made of recycled wood waste, in order to minimize the water evaporation and avoid weeds.

"OUR GOVERNMENT SEES THIS EVOLUTION AS A COMPLETE EQUATION: TO GROW THE ECONOMY, YOU ALSO NEED TO GROW THE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE. HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT EQUATION, AND WAS CREATED IN LINE WITH THE QATAR NATIONAL VISION 2030"

The new airport was designed to handle up to 30 million passengers per year and it is remarkable that this figure has been achieved in its first full calendar year.

Indeed, the airport management has already announced plans to create more space as it eyes a capacity of 53 million passengers by 2020, ahead of the 2022 World Cup.

Plans include doubling the size of the current passenger terminal by adding new check-in counters, lounges, restaurants and boarding gates, as well as building a connection to the Doha Metro. This work is expected to be completed in the next 5 years.

Hamad International Airport also recently revealed that it intends to spend a further QR277 million on work to reclaim land to build new taxiways on the northwest tip of the property so that the airport can handle more flights. That project is due for completion in 2017.

With Qatar's ongoing a rapid process of development helping to create one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, the onus on an efficient airport comes under close scrutiny. In December 2015, Al Meer commented:

"Our government sees this evolution as a complete equation: to grow the economy, you also need to grow the facilities and infrastructure. Hamad International Airport is an important part of that equation, and was created in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.



"The airport was also built to support the continuing growth of Qatar Airways, which has introduced 8 new destinations in 2015 and has already announced 6 for next year," he continued.

"It is one of the world's fastest-growing airlines and has added multiple new aircraft over the past 18 months, including the A350 for which it was the global launch customer, and its bespoke A380.

"HIA is not just a travel hub, but offers an overall travel experience with our core focus being on passenger engagement. We aim to redefine the passenger experience with high levels of investment in facilities and services," he concluded.