



# Qatar's Emir Consort

## 卡塔尔埃米尔夫人在北京

◎ WEI LIANG  
位亮

## in Beijing

**In October the women's delegation of Qatar headed by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Nasser Abdullah Al-Misnad, Consort of the Emir of the State of Qatar and President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, successfully paid a formal visit to China.**

今年10月，以卡塔尔埃米尔夫人、卡塔尔家庭事务最高委员会主席谢哈穆萨·本特·纳赛尔·马斯纳德殿下为团长的卡塔尔妇女代表团，成功地对中国进行了正式访问。

“The most important thing is that I've come here and seen the achievements of Chinese women with my own eyes,” Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Nasser Abdullah Al-Misnad, Consort of the Emir of the State of Qatar and President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA), said in Beijing.

At the invitation of the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) a 38-person women's delegation from Qatar, led by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah, paid a formal visit to China from October 15 to 20. During their six-day stay in Beijing the delegation was received with great courtesy and a warm welcome.

### Meeting Leaders and Having Exchanges on Women's Issues

#### 拜会领导人，就妇女问题交换看法

The delegation met with Hu Jintao, Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Gu Xiulian, Vice President and First Member of the Secretariat of the ACWF, and Zhu Lin, wife of Li Peng, Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC). The two sides exchanged their views and experiences on the role of women in the family and society.

During the meeting with Qatar

women's delegation, Hu Jintao said that since China and Qatar set up diplomatic ties more than 10 years ago bilateral relations have developed smoothly.

In his remarks, Hu Jintao held that women play an irreplaceable role in China's reform and opening up to the outside world. “With equality between both sexes as a basic state policy,” he continued, “the Chinese Government pays much attention to give full play to women's talent. Here in China women's work has been not only supported by over 600 million women, but also supported by more than 600 million men.”

Hu Jintao concluded by expressing that China would further Sino-Qatari friendly cooperation in various fields and make efforts for the establishment of a long-term and stable bilateral friendship in the new century. “At the same time we fully support Chinese women enlarging their exchanges and cooperation with women around the world,” he said.

“Just as what the ACWF does in China, our SCFA also gives much concern to women and children, who are the important part of the family,” said Her Highness Sheikha Mozah at the meeting with Gu Xiulian. Then she asked: “As I know, the sense of family is very strong in China, would you please tell me how to safeguard the family sense today? Have you ever met such challenges and

what have you done to deal with them?”

“Indeed, family affairs are very important, because the stability of a society depends much on how stable the family is,” Gu Xiulian answered. She told the delegation that in the past Chinese people preferred a big family where grandparents, parents and children all lived together. However, nowadays the family in China tends to be small, while the elderly people like to live separate from their children so as not to interfere with each other, because the habits are often different between the old and young people. To promote the good sense of family, the ACWF launched a program called Example Families With Five Virtues, which has brought home to people what is good and should be encouraged.

“My opinion,” Gu Xiulian concluded, “is that while maintaining the excellent things we already have, we should also develop our sense of family.”

Zhu Lin met the delegation in the Hong Kong Room of the Great Hall of the People. In her introduction of the NPC, Zhu Lin further emphasized the important role women play in the political field by saying that one fifth of the NPC deputies were women. Both sides agreed that men and women make up the world, and that without either of them, the world would not exist.





"Sometimes women can do much better than men," Zhu Lin added. She then gave an example of the very big embroidery work hanging on the wall of the Hong Kong Room: "It was knitted in over 1,000 colors and was completed in only two months by nine women to celebrate Hong Kong's return to China in 1997. I believe men could hardly do that."

"It is really very nice and much like an oil painting," exclaimed Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah, who expressed her wish for further cooperation between both countries on how to improve women's status.

### Going Sightseeing and Promoting Mutual Understanding

#### 参观游览, 增进彼此了解

Besides meetings with leaders, the delegation was also introduced to Beijing. With great interest, they visited the Forbidden City, the Ministry of Education, the Asian Games Community, the China Children's Activity Center, the Guang'anmen Hospital of Chinese Medicine, the Hi-Tech Zone in Zhongguancun, the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs.

On the afternoon of the 19th, Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah delivered a heartwarming speech at China Women's College. Besides Qatar's political and economic situation and women status in general, she also introduced her delegation members to the audience, saying: "All of my female members are well educated, some of them even take high-level positions in Qatar." Her speech was well received by the teachers and students of the college.

Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah kindly gave an interview to a reporter from *Women of China* English Monthly, described how deeply she was impressed by China and the Chinese people during the visit:

"To come to China had been my dream since I was a child. China is a big silk country, which stands for thought and culture. Just as the Prophet says, 'China is the first choice for one to seek true knowledge and wisdom.' With her enchanting charm, China has always held

an important position in my heart. Calm, self-possessed, patient and wise, Chinese people have the typical characteristics of oriental culture.

"Through this visit I have found that China and the Chinese people are just as what I had imagined before. The Chinese people are doing their best to build their country and have made great progress. I was deeply impressed that men and women in China work in harmony and help each other, which is very good. When I visited the Asian Games Community, I was also very happy to see that both children and old people live very happily. The Great Wall's grandness comes from an immense human spirit. To me, the Great Wall is also a symbol that men and women work together to create history. Even though it was built by men in ancient times, without women's support I believe it could not have been a success.

"During these days, I have been to several places of Beijing. I am fully convinced that Beijing is a very beautiful city and has developed very fast."

In the interview, Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah also talked about some similarities and differences between Qatar women and women in China:

"We women share many things in common in both Qatar and China. I am sure it is the same case for women around the world. Your ACWF attaches great importance to the work on family and our SCFA does the same, because family is the basic unit in the society and any reform starts from the family. Whether the family is harmonious or not has a direct influence on the stability of society. I appreciate a lot that the ACWF has launched programs on the promotion of a good sense of family by setting examples.

"The differences between us lie in women's education. In China you have many programs on how to promote girls' education in poor and remote areas. This shows that girls' education lags behind boys' in those places. But in Qatar the problem is to promote boys' education rather than girls'. You know, in our country 66 percent of university graduates are women. Over 50 percent of students in junior and senior middle schools are fe-

male ones. While some boys at the school age get married early, work or join the army, thus their study has been delayed. This has become our focus of attention.

"So from our experience, I think that, while paying attention to one side's education, the other side's should not be neglected."

Finally, Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah expressed her good wishes for Chinese women's future: "Chinese women have many high aspirations. I wish all your aspirations to become true."

### Signing an Agreement and Contributing to the ACWF

#### 签订友好交流协议, 向全国妇联捐款

On October 16 a friendly exchange agreement between the ACWF and SCFA was signed in Beijing by Gu Xiulian and Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah. The agreement states:

Both sides shall promote women's cooperation between China and Qatar through exchange visits.

Both sides shall jointly advance women's participation in development through cooperation in related fields.

Both sides shall support each other in international affairs.

At the end of the visit Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah announced a donation of 500,000 US dollars to the ACWF. Gu Xiulian expressed her sincere thanks on behalf of the ACWF and promised that the donated money would go to women and children in the poorest areas in China.

### The Supreme Council for Family Affairs

#### 卡塔尔家庭事务最高委员会

The Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA) of Qatar was established in December 1998 and is presided over by Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah. It is affiliated to the Council of Ministers and has its independent budget. One of the most important objectives of the SCFA is



## Introduction and Background

### 简介与背景

#### The State of Qatar

##### 卡塔尔国

The State of Qatar is a peninsula, 11,532.5 square kilometers in area, situated at the western coast of the Arabian Gulf and the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Qatar gained its independence in 1971 and became a member of the United Nations. The system of government is based on the provisional amended constitution, which specifies citizens' rights and duties and the State's responsibilities, as well as the relationship between the legislative, executive and judiciary bodies in the country. Islam is the country's official religion, and Islamic Law is the main source of legislation. Arabic is the official language.




The population of the State of Qatar reached 522,023, with an annual growth rate of 3.2 percent, according to the 1986 and the 1997 censuses. About half of the population is concentrated in Doha City, the capital. Large numbers of foreign laborers, from the five continents, work in Qatar. Non-Qataris constitute 71.6 percent of the total population, according to the 1997 census; most of them are males. This situation has led to a gender imbalance in the population structure: 66 percent of the total population are males and 34 percent are females. Children under 18 constitute 31.28 percent of the total population.

Oil and natural gas constitute the backbone of the economy of Qatar. The gross domestic product is estimated at 44 billion Qatari Riyals, equivalent to US \$12 billion.

#### Family Affairs of Qatar

to enhance the role of the family in society, study the problems that the family encounters and recommend solutions for such problems.

The SCFA was also entrusted with the advancement and promotion of childhood affairs by ensuring that other organizations involved carry out their assigned tasks in the area of child survival, protection and development. 

## Frenchman Lifts the Red Veil of a Chinese Rural Woman

### 法国男子揭了中国农家女的红盖头

◎ ZHU MINGHONG and CHE SHIPING

朱名洪 车世平

Photos Supplied by ZHU MINGHONG and CHE SHIPING

图片提供：朱名洪 车世平

Being together always  
形影不离



**Transnational marriages are not unusual in Yangshuo. But the story of a French man falling in love with a divorced Chinese rural woman is out of the ordinary. "They love each other deeply, like glue and varnish," described their Chinese friends.**

在阳朔，跨国婚姻已不是新鲜事。可是，一个法国男子与当地一名离了婚的农村妇女的恋情却很寻常。朋友们说，他们爱得很深，如胶似漆。

**P**ierre Rambaud, 40 years old, is a food merchant from France. He is 1.8 meters tall, walks in a stately manner with a gentleman's style and smiles often. The impression he gives people is that he is nice to get along.

Xu Xiaoying, 32 years old, is an ordinary rural woman from Licun Village, Yangshuo of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Xu, 1.63 meters tall, is a hearty woman. She blinks her big eyes and her ruddy face glows with happiness. Mature and confident, Xu is a person who can decide her own fate.