

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Your Excellency Mr. John Bruton
Chairman of the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)
Your Excellency Mr. Ciaran Madden Ambassador of Ireland, to
United Arab Emirates
The representatives of the Government and the Industrial Sector of
the Republic of Ireland

God's Peace, Mercy and Blessings Be Upon You,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. John Bruton for the kind invitation he extended to me to join you today and for giving me the opportunity to speak to you at the opening of this Conference. This Conference comes at a time when the global economy is starting to recover from the impact of the global financial crisis, despite some concerns relating to the emergence of new crises and the feelings of uncertainty prevailing in many financial markets worldwide.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

This conference is of particular importance in view of the current conditions and circumstances of the global economy characterized by a lack of clarity relating to the capability to recover from the repercussions of the global financial crisis that rocked the world during the past two years.

The State of Qatar was relatively less impacted by the crisis and its repercussions as GDP growth at fixed prices is also expected to reach 16% in 2010.

Distinguished Guests,

This Conference indeed constitutes a great opportunity to identify the opportunities and advantages, which characterize the international financial services sector in Ireland. We do hope that the Conference will achieve its objectives and, at the same time, contribute to strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, especially in the fields of economy and investment.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again Mr. John Bruton for his invitation. I wish you all a very pleasant stay in Doha, and I wish the Conference every success to achieve its desired goals.

God's Peace, Mercy and Blessings Be Upon You,