



## FBQ Community – Interview with H.E. Bahia Tahzib-Lie, Dutch Ambassador to Qatar

"I've seen already so many wonderful developments over the course of the past year, starting from the very moment you step into the museum"

**H.E. Bahia Tahzib-Lie**

***Dutch Ambassador to Qatar***



### **How did you come to hear of FBQ Museum, through whom, where or when?**

Years before we even knew that we would move one day to Doha, a Dutch friend of mine already told me about the FBQ Museum. She used to come to Qatar for her work at Stenden University Qatar. H.E. Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani is Patron of this University. My friend instilled a great interest in me and my family for the amazing and unique FBQ museum collection. So, when we moved to Doha, we were thrilled to finally visit the museum.

### **Could you describe your first visit to the museum?**

The Dutch Director of FBQ Museum, Mr. Kees Wieringa, invited me in October last year for a guided tour. It was a very special time, since I had just had the honor to present my credentials to H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The FBQ Museum Director and his staff took me and my Embassy colleague on a phenomenal travel through arts and times. The museum collection enriched our understanding of Qatari people, their customs, their traditions, their sense of identity, their heritage, and their way of life. I was infatuated, also with the stunning location in Qatar's desert. Altogether, an unforgettable experience...



### **How has your experience with the museum programming been? Events and tours?**

Always inspiring and enriching. Let me share two recent experiences.

First, in October 2017, H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani and his family graciously received the resident EU Ambassadors and our families to the museum. It



was an honor to be guided by Sheikh Faisal himself. We were left in awe after witnessing the Sheikh's very personal devotion for Qatari cultural identity and his profound interest for global cultural heritage. During an open exchange with the Sheikh and his family, we learned more about the envisaged European tour in 2018 of part of his museum collection called 'Cultures in Dialogue'. The Netherlands will be part of this tour.

Second, recently my family and I enjoyed the premiere concert at the stunning, open-air FBQ Amphitheater. The winners of the Qatar National Music Competition performed, including the winner of the Dutch Music for Peace Prize. H.E. Sheikh Faisal and his family were present. All attendees were moved. I can't wait for the next concert at the FBQ Amphitheater on 9 December, the MAqam Ensemble with To Doha With Love.

**What would you consider your favorite aspect of the museum? Perhaps a museum artefact or a specific experience?**

H.E. Sheikh Faisal's passion and his decades-long, ceaseless endeavors to painstakingly build this museum and to make his vast, diverse collection available to the world. What I always enjoy is when H.E. Sheikh Faisal invites us to experience wearing traditional, beautifully embroidered clothing for women. A moment to personally experience the rich cultural heritage. Always an inspirational moment for many pictures. It is moving to see that his beloved children are working with their father and the Dutch Director to further upgrade FBQ Museum. I've seen already so many wonderful developments over the course of the past year, starting from the very moment you step into the museum.

