

## **PRESS RELEASE: Silk Road Exhibition**

Qatar is a peninsula located in the middle of the western coast of the Arabian Gulf with an area of 11,525 square km and population of approximately 2.8 million according to statistics taken in April 2018. Qatar is currently experiencing an unprecedented economic boom under the leadership of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as the country continues its efforts to implement its policies of diversifying its sources of income, developing the infrastructure of the economy and taking full advantage of its natural resources, which depend on oil, gas and petrochemicals.

### **Introduction:**

The Silk Road is one of the oldest commercial road networks that have played a central role in cultural interaction. It has contributed greatly to the exchange of political, economic and cultural experiences between China, Central Asia, Western Asia, India and Europe.

The Silk Road is defined as a 12,000-kilometer road and land route linking Asia, the Middle East and Europe for hundreds of years with trade, cultural, religious and philosophical links through which there has been exchange of goods and products such as silk, perfumes, incense, spices, as well as exchange of cultures and sciences.

The name of the “Silk Road” dates back to the mid-19th century when German geologist, Ferdinand von Richthofen, named the trade and transportation network “de Seidenstrasse” (German for “the Silk Road”) because Chinese silk represented the largest proportion of trade through it.

The Silk Road extends from commercial centers in northern China, divided into two northern and southern branches. The northern branch passes through Eastern Europe and the Crimea to the Black Sea and down to Venice. The southern branch passes through Iraq and Turkey to the Mediterranean Sea or through Syria to Egypt and North Africa.

The Silk Road ceased to operate as a navigational line of silk with Ottoman rule in Constantinople. But in the early 1990s, attempts were made to construct the new Silk Road, including the so-called European-Asian land bridge, which connects China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia and reaches Germany by rail.

### **Exhibition Objectives:**

The exhibition aims at presenting the state-of-the-art technologies which are included in the ***Shipping Services of All-Types, Transport, Logistics and Port Management*** in the participating countries. Provides an opportunity for direct meeting between exhibitors and many decision makers from local authorities, delegations, public & private institutions of both participants and visitors.

Also, it will provide an ideal structure to establish business ties between participants to attract investments and specialized modern technology to the State of Qatar.

The exhibition is sponsored by the **Ministry of Transport and Communications**, which will be held from **3-5 November 2019** at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Center on an area of **5000 square meters** initially and which we have invited 50 countries to participate.