



The Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister Cities was honored to play the role of main organizer and sponsor of the annual Houston Sister Cities Soccer Tournament 2023.

The tournament's primary goal was to use sports as a means to foster international understanding, cultural exchange, and friendship between participating cities.

There were a total of 9 teams involved, each representing a Houston sister city, country, or a local organization. The teams were: Abu Dhabi, UAE; Baku, Azerbaijan; Basra, Iraq; Istanbul, Turkey; Kabul, Afghanistan; Luanda, Angola; Perth, Australia; Amaanah Refugee Services; and World Affairs Council of Greater Houston.

The teams competed in friendly matches, showcasing the spirit of healthy competition and sportsmanship. Participants had the opportunity to display their culture, heritage, and traditions. There were food stalls and team Australia was accompanied by its Koala mascot.

It was a great turn out and hundreds of Houstonians from different backgrounds including families and kids showed up showcasing Houston as one of the most diverse cities in America.

The Sister Cities Soccer Tournament was a resounding success in achieving its objectives of promoting international friendship, cultural exchange, and cooperation between the participating cities. It highlighted the power of sports as a tool for diplomacy and fostering global understanding.

The participating cities have expressed their support to building on this success by exploring further collaborative projects and cultural programs. The positive impact of this event will undoubtedly be felt in the continued growth of the relationships between sister cities and the strengthening of international ties.

<https://abudhabihouston.org/>

