

Qatar national day

World Cup vote recognizes Qatar's advances

Yousef Mohamed Bilal
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF QATAR

Dec. 18 marks the National Day of the State of Qatar, commemorating the rise of Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammad Bin Thani as the father, founder and ruler who led the country toward unity. It is a very special day to honor the heroes, leaders and people who built this country, and an opportunity to renew the pledge of allegiance and loyalty to our country and its wise leadership. On this auspicious occasion I am honored and privileged to express, on behalf of the government and people of the State of Qatar, my deepest reverence and warmest greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and members of the Imperial family. I also would like to make use of this opportunity to extend my sincerest greetings and best wishes to the government and friendly people of Japan.

This day affords all Qatari nationals and expatriates a shared opportunity to recognize and celebrate what it means to live in modern-day Qatar, a charming, small country, but one with outstanding achievements and great ambitions. We can be justifiably proud of the country's commendable advances in every

field, under the vision and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the emir of the State of Qatar, and the strenuous efforts of H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the heir apparent.

The celebration of Qatar's National Day this year carries a special significance with a unique flavor because it coincides with the country's celebrations for winning the right to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, as the first country in the Middle East, and the first from the Arab and Islamic worlds to host the world's most important sporting event.

This historic accomplishment emphasizes the significant strides made by the State of Qatar in the economic, political and sports spheres to establish itself as a shining star in the sky of the region and the world. Organizing soccer's showpiece event for the first time in the Middle East will make Qatar a gate of hope for the region, which has long been suffering from chronic tensions, and burning with many crises and wars. Qatar sincerely hopes that this prestigious event will contribute to enhance the culture of peace in the region, and deepen understanding and interaction between the different cultures and civilizations. It is certain also that this opportunity will yield huge economic benefits for many countries throughout the region and will



Emir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

secure job opportunities for many young people.

We are looking forward to the contributions of our Japanese partners and friends to share with us their high-technology capabilities to make the 2022 World Cup one of the most amazing and memorable events ever.

The National Day celebrations this year are intertwined with the country's rejoicing and

jubilation for reaching the target of producing 77 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per annum, this month, which places Qatar at the forefront of the world's LNG producing and exporting countries. Qatar's diplomacy has been successful in extinguishing the fuse in many of the region's crises, and the country has proven its growing influence and constructive role in attempts to achieve a convergence of views among many conflicting parties, to bridge the rift and restore stability in many areas of tension in the Middle East.

Bilateral relations between Qatar and Japan have been traditionally strong and friendly, and are steadily developing, characterized by fruitful energy, trade and economic cooperation, and the two sides' desire and commitment to transform them into a multifaceted and mutually rewarding partner-

ship encompassing all fields of interest. The re-establishment of the Japan Parliamentary Friendship League with the State of Qatar last September, with many prominent and influential political figures, including two Cabinet members, joining it as board members, demonstrates the political will and keen interest of the Japanese leadership to work for nurturing excellent relations between the two countries. Starting in April, Qatar Airways has four flights a week to Narita airport near Tokyo, in addition to the existing daily flights to Kansai airport, thus facilitating better connectivity, and invigorating better business and trade activities between our two countries.

We are convinced that there are vast opportunities for cooperation and great potential to propel Qatari-Japanese relations to an even higher level and broader scope.

To conclude, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to The Japan Times for giving me this opportunity to celebrate our National Day with its distinguished readers, and as this occasion coincides with the approaching new year, I want to extend my sincere and heartfelt wishes to all for a very happy, peaceful and prosperous 2011.

Energy trade can fuel growth of true friendship

Fumio Kawaguchi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-QATAR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association (JQFA), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the heir apparent, and the people of Qatar on their 39th National Day.



First, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to Qatar for being chosen to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. I trust that worldwide eyes will be focused on Qatar as the first country to host the World Cup in the Middle East and that this event will contribute much to its future development.

On Dec. 13, a grand official event was held at Ras Laffan Industrial City to celebrate Qatar's LNG production capacity reaching 77 million tons per annum.

Qatar has been the world's biggest LNG exporter since 2006 and will reinforce its position as the leading LNG supplier. We

would like to express our heartfelt respect for the foresight and leadership of Qatar to take a premier role in the world's energy industry in just less than 15 years since it first exported LNG to Japan, its first importer.

In the near future, world energy demand is expected to increase rapidly, especially in emerging countries, and natural gas, an environment friendly resource, will play a more significant role. In July, the biggest LNG carrier in the world, Q-MAX, successfully delivered its first cargo to Japan. Because Japan is the biggest LNG importer in the world, I believe its relationship with Qatar will be even more significant.

2011 will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of Qatar and 2012 will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. During these 40 years, Qatar has achieved tremendous economic development and its international presence has increased remarkably. Its relationship with Japan has deepened accordingly, and for Qatar Japan has become its largest trading partner in exports and third largest in imports.

To strengthen our bilateral friendship in the long run, it is

necessary to enhance interchange in not just energy but various fields, and so it is important for the peoples of the two countries to deepen mutual understanding. In April, Qatar Airways started operating new flights between Doha and Narita, therefore connecting the Tokyo and Osaka areas directly with Qatar's capital.

The grass-roots friendship with Japanese local governments such as Chita City and the Asa community has progressed steadily. In September, Chita held an exhibition introducing Qatar that was visited by many citizens. In October, the JQFA participated in the Interactive Fair for Biodiversity held in conjunction with the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya and showcased the attractions of Qatar to many visitors.

We the JQFA will continuously contribute to strengthening and developing bilateral ties through such activities, maintaining close cooperation with the Qatar Embassy.

I sincerely hope that Qatar will continue its prosperity and development under the superior leadership of the emir, and our mutual relationship will continue to develop.



Traditional market: The newly restored Souq Waqif is one of the top tourist destinations in Doha. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Congratulations on the National Day to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani the Emir of the State of Qatar, and H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani the Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar

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Foreign policy

The State of Qatar, since its establishment, has pursued the prevalence of peace, security and stability in all corners of the globe, based on the conviction that they are closely tied to political and economic stability. To achieve these goals, Qatar sanctions the United Nations' efforts to uphold peace in the world, and maintains close ties of collaboration with peace-loving nations and individuals.

Qatar has adhered to the principle of good relations with its neighbors and all countries, and has contributed to international peace, stability, security and prosperity. It extends generous financial assistance to developing countries in Asia and Africa, and contributes financially to various regional and international charities, and aid funds.

Qatar adopts a set of principles as a basis for peace and security in the Middle East, and the World at large. Foremost among these principles is the abstention from using or threatening to use military force by one country against the territorial integrity of another. Instead, Qatar always

advocates settling disputes by peaceful means, including regional or international arbitration and dialogue.

Economy

The Qatari economy is one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world. The real gross domestic product grew at an impressive rate of 19.8 percent during the last five years (2005-2009). The rate was 8.7 percent in 2009 and is projected to rise to 14.5 percent in the current year 2010.

The rapid economic growth is made possible by the expansion in the production and export of liquefied natural gas, petroleum, petrochemicals and related products.

The government has continued to develop Qatar's massive hydrocarbon reserves, and at the same time implementing a program with the aim of diversifying the economy through the development and promotion of private-sector industries, financial services and tourism.

Increases in export earnings in recent years due to the expansion of oil and natural gas production capacity, has given Qatar a per capita GDP

that ranks among the highest in the world. GDP per capita in 2009 was \$60,000, the sixth highest in the world according to the World Development Indicators of the World Bank. The figure is projected to top \$70,000 in 2010.

The government strategy is to use the vast oil and gas wealth to create opportunities for all. It has committed over \$140 billion for investment in infrastructure expansion in a variety of sectors, including energy, health, education, transport and tourism.

Qatar Financial Center

Qatar Financial Center (QFC) is a financial and business center established by the government of Qatar in 2005 to attract international financial services and multinational corporations to grow and develop the market for financial services in the region. QFC provides access to over \$140 billion of investment in Qatar over the next five years as well as to over \$1 trillion planned investment across the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The center aims to help all QFC-licensed firms generate new and sustainable revenue streams. It provides access to local and regional investment opportunities. Business can be transacted inside or outside Qatar, in local or foreign currency. Uniquely, this allows businesses to operate locally and internationally. Furthermore, QFC allows 100 percent ownership by foreign companies and all profits can be remitted outside of Qatar. The business environment created by QFC enables firms to quickly establish a physical presence in Qatar and the region.

Education City

The 960-hectare multi-institutional Education City is being set up under the aegis of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, which was established in 1995 by H.H. Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani. The facility includes higher educational institutions at the university level, specialized training in design arts and languages, and sporting facilities. The foundation has signed a number of agreements with world renowned educational institutions to set up branches in Education City. The first such agreement was signed with New York-based Cornell University for establishing the Weill Cornell Medical College - Qatar. As part of the college there is also a proposal to set up a hospital with a 250- to 300-bed capacity.

Qatar is also benefiting from Japanese investment and expertise in various large-scale projects. Currently, there are more than 40 Japanese companies with offices in Qatar, and their focus is on the construction, shipping and energy sectors.

Bilateral relations
Qatar enjoys excellent bilateral relations with Japan. The relationship, which was started at diplomatic level in May 1972, grew in coverage and scale, and over the years expanded to incorporate polit-

ical, economic, educational, and science and technology forms of cooperation.

The two sides have made tireless efforts to boost and enhance the existing ties of friendship and collaboration. Foremost among these, is the creation of the Qatar-Japan and Japan-Qatar Friendship Associations, and the Japanese Parliamentary Association for Friendship with Qatar.

It is worth noting that bilateral relations in general and economic ties in particular were elevated to new heights with the creation of the Joint Economic Committee in November 2006. The Qatar-Japan Joint Economic Committee holds annual meetings at ministerial level, and discusses topics such as energy, the business environment and investment among other issues of mutual interest. The committee held its fifth annual meeting last September in Tokyo, with the participation of the Qatari Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy and Industry H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, along with Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara, and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Akihiro Ohata. Besides the annual meetings, another regular event, the Joint Qatari-Japanese Energy Seminar, is organized under the aegis of the joint committee. The seminar has been held twice a year since early 2009 in Doha and Tokyo, and the participants of both countries exchange views and information on various energy-related issues.

The economic partnership continues to be strong overall. Japan has been Qatar's No. 1 trade partner over the past few years.

Last year, 33.3 percent of the value of Qatar's exports and 9.6 percent of imports were with Japan. Trade relations also grew in magnitude, with the volume of trade jumping from \$11.7 billion in 2005 to \$17.5 billion in 2009.

Trade and investment in energy constitute the backbone of the strategic economic partnership; Qatar is a reliable and stable supplier of crude oil and natural gas resources to Japan. In 2009 for instance, Qatar supplied Japan with 159.63 million barrels of oil, representing about 12 percent of Japan's total crude oil imports, in addition to 12 percent and 22 percent of Japan's total needs of LNG and LPG, respectively, making Qatar the fourth-largest energy supplier to Japan.

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Congratulations

to His Highness

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on National Day



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on National Day

Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Fumio Kawaguchi

Qatar special



2022 World Cup in Qatar

Qatar is the first Middle East country to be awarded the honor of hosting FIFA World Cup

Sports can build worldwide bridges of understanding, unity

Qatar embraces sports as part of its rich culture and heritage, and has engaged in an extraordinary range of sporting activities that are propelling the country to the forefront of Middle East nations. Qatar views sports as a means to forge friendship and

to enhance relations with nations worldwide. Qatar also has a vision of becoming a leading country in bringing the world together and improving relations between nations through sports.

Qatar has crossed several milestones in hosting and or-

ganizing major international sports events. The country hosted a successful FIFA U-20 World Cup in 1995. The 15th Asian Games were successfully held in Qatar in 2006.

In January 2011, the country will host soccer's AFC Asian Cup. The country has

invested \$2.8 billion in sporting infrastructure, turning the capital Doha into one of the most modern sporting cities in the world and confirming its readiness to host even bigger world sports events.

Dec. 2, 2010, however, marked a new dawn and an exciting era for the State of Qatar.

After competing with Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United States to host the 2022 World Cup, Qatar succeeded in winning the majority of votes, becoming the first nation in the Middle East and the Arab world to host this prestigious and most celebrated international soccer event.

According to H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, chairman of Qatar 2022: "Qatar 2022 is a bid on behalf of the whole region. The first global sports event in the Middle East provides an opportunity for greater understanding and unity between the Arab and Western worlds, and can inspire enthusiastic support from football fans young and old across the entire region."

Qatar's plans to host the 2022 World Cup included the



And the winner is: Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani holds the World Cup trophy (above) after the announcement Dec. 2 in Zurich, Switzerland, by FIFA President Sepp Blatter (left) that Qatar would host the 2022 soccer World Cup. AP



Island paradise: The Pearl Qatar is a phased mixed-use development comprising 10 distinct, themed districts that include beachfront villas, elegant town houses, luxury apartments, exclusive penthouses, five-star hotels, marinas, and upscale retail outlets and restaurants all situated on an artificial island encompassing 400 hectares of reclaimed land just off the coast of the Arabian Peninsula in the State of Qatar. EMBASSY OF QATAR

construction of nine new state-of-the-art stadiums with a modular design, in addition to renovation of three others, with a total cost estimated at around \$3.5 billion. The 12 stadiums are divided among seven host cities all located within a 25- to 30-km radius, making it the most compact FIFA World Cup ever, easily and quickly accessible for the benefit of fans and teams.

Moreover, as the temperature in the summer months

averages around 40 degrees Celsius in the Gulf region, and as such would be high for the players and spectators, the tournament venues will be air conditioned. The stadiums will have zero-carbon cooling equipment utilizing solar technology to ensure the temperature is no higher than 27 degrees Celsius, ensuring optimum playing conditions and a comfortable environment for fans. This same environmentally

friendly, carbon-neutral technology will ensure training sites, fan fest and fan zones are also cool and comfortable.

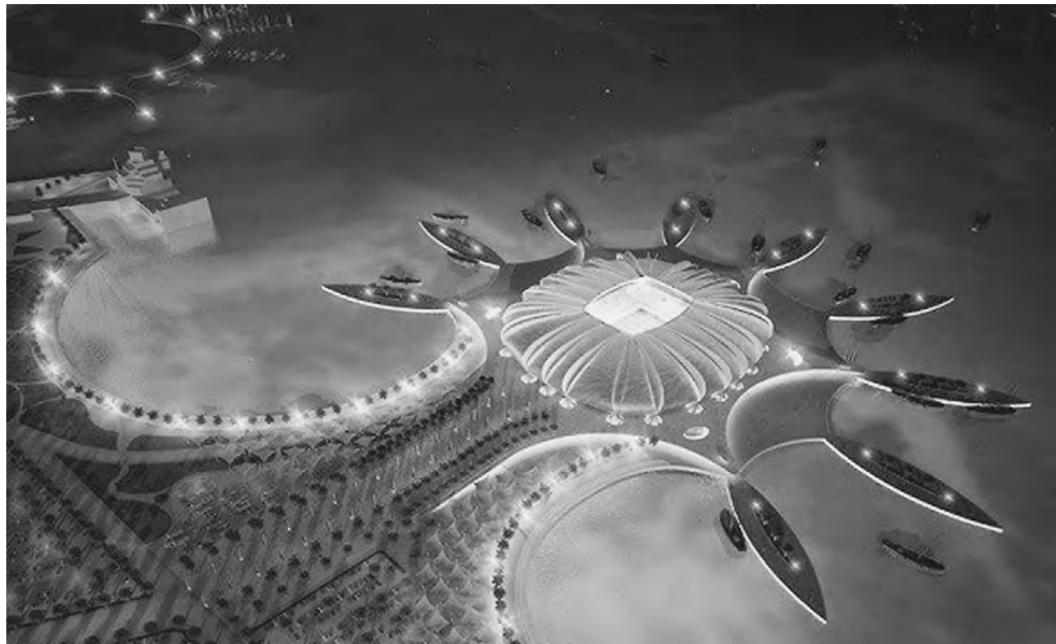
The government has allocated a huge investment budget for the event, with plans to spend \$42.9 billion on infrastructure projects to be completed by the time the tournament is scheduled to start, in-

cluding a high-speed rail network and airport.

After the World Cup ends, the new stadiums will be partially dismantled and their upper tiers will be sent to developing countries to build 22 stadiums in those countries that lack sufficient soccer infrastructure, thus allowing for the further development of the game on a global stage.



Dream come true: Qataris wave national flags as they celebrate in Doha on Dec. 3, the day after world soccer's governing body FIFA announced the Gulf city will host the 2022 World Cup. AP



Cool design: The new Doha Stadium will be a completely modular venue with 44,950 seats. The stadium, which will sit on an artificial peninsula in the Gulf, is designed to evoke its marine setting. Water from the Gulf will run over its outer facade, aiding the cooling process and adding to its visual allure. EMBASSY OF QATAR

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to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani the Emir of the State of Qatar on National Day

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On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18 December

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and greetings to

Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani
Who set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
The Emir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
The Heir Apparent

And to all the honourable people of Qatar
We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Emir

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Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

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