

Visit of Qatari Emir Special

Plans to fortify and further relations in broader spheres

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I am honored to contribute to this special supplement published by The Japan Times on the occasion of the official visit by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani of the State of Qatar (may Allah protect him), that comes at the kind invitation of the friendly government of Japan. This is his highness's second visit to Japan since his last visit in February 2015. Across the three-day trip, his highness's schedule includes a state call on His Majesty Emperor Akihito, and bilateral talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on ways to strengthen existing friendly relations to achieve a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two friendly countries, as well as exchanging views on issues of common concern.

His highness the emir will pay a courtesy call on His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito. His highness also will hold a series of meetings with a number of Japanese ministers along with political and business leaders.

His highness is accompanied by a high-



The Museum of Islamic Art's design fuses ancient Islamic architecture with geometrical form. It houses a collection of artworks spanning over 1,400 years. EMBASSY OF QATAR

level delegation comprised of ministers, senior officials and businesspeople. During the visit, the two countries will sign a number of bilateral agreements that will contribute to the further development of relations between the two countries.

On the occasion of this visit, the Qatar-Japan Business Forum will be held on Jan. 30, with the participation of dozens of people, including ministers, business leaders and representatives of major private and public

companies, as well as their Japanese counterparts. The two sides will discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and business, and the Qatari side will share information with Japanese partners on promising investment opportunities in Qatar in the fields of energy, manufacturing, infrastructure, technology, petrochemicals, food and other industries.

The visit to Japan by his highness is a culmination of the excellent relations, which are very strong and based on friendship and mutual cooperation, between our two countries and well-established by mutual respect and trust between the leadership of our countries.

We regard our relations with Japan as one of the most important pillars of our foreign policies. Therefore, they have always been characterized by strong rapprochement and fruitful cooperation. The huge economic interests between our countries constitute a backbone of bilateral relations that enjoy diversity and expansion.

Efforts to enhance and strengthen ties with Japan are based on the vision of his highness and the political will of the two countries to move relations from the stage of cooperation to a comprehensive strategic



His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at their summit meeting in Tokyo in February 2015, furthering bilateral relations in various fields including economy. EMBASSY OF QATAR

partnership.

Japan is an important trading partner for Qatar. Japanese companies are our first customers to import liquefied natural gas (LNG), and Japan is still one of our major energy partners. Qatar currently provides 12 percent of Japan's total LNG imports and 7.8 percent of its total oil imports. In 2018, the volume of trade between the two countries exceeded \$14.83 billion.

I must point out that in Qatar, we highly value Japan's contribution to our country's growth and renaissance. There are many Japanese companies involved in energy, chemical, infrastructure, water and other projects. Major Japanese companies have contributed to the implementation of vital projects such as Hamad International Airport, the Doha Metro project, the Sohail 2 Satellite project,

water desalination, energy projects and more. We look forward to more Japanese participation in the planned projects in preparation for hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

We are confident that the current visit of his highness will provide new opportunities to reaffirm friendships, explore new areas of cooperation in various fields and renew resolve to further strengthen relations and promote them to higher levels. We are keen to work closely with our Japanese friends to push forward bilateral relations to realize the desire of the leadership of the two countries and to meet the aspirations of our two friendly peoples.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the government and people of Qatar, my sincere thanks and appreciation to the government

and the friendly people of Japan for their gracious hospitality and warm welcome offered to his highness and accompanying delegation. We thank all those who contributed to the success of this important visit, which promises to move relations toward new, wider horizons to achieve the mutual benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples.

In conclusion, I would like to thank The Japan Times and all our partners and friends for their generous contributions, and for giving me this opportunity to address the distinguished readers and inform them of the strength of Qatari-Japanese relations.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Top: Souq Waqif is a traditional market in Doha that's known for selling crafts and spices as well as hosting events amid an abundance of dining locales. Above: An aerial view of The Pearl, an artificial island in Doha. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Heartiest Welcome
to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim
Bin Hamad Al-Thani,
Emir of Qatar,
on his Official Visit to Japan



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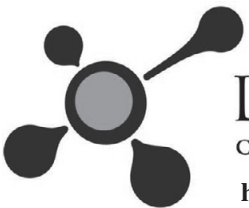
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Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Toshio Mita

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