

Qatar National Day Special

A growing role on the global stage

HASSAN BIN MOHAMMED RAFEI AL-EMADI
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF QATAR



Today the State of Qatar celebrates its National Day, the glorious anniversary of the founding of our beloved country. Dec. 18 is a day when the people of the State of Qatar remember the sacrifices and achievements of the founders, our fathers and grandfathers, and their heroic and epic roles in achieving the unity of our country, affirming its sovereignty, preserving its heritage and building the modern state.

On this very special occasion, I am honored to express, on behalf of the Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the government and people of the State of Qatar, my deepest reverence, warmest greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

This is a great occasion to reflect on our national achievements. Under our wise leadership, and in accordance with the Qatar National Vision 2030, the State of Qatar has undergone a rapid modernization process with a society whose standard of living has risen by leaps and bounds. In October, the Qatari people made a historic achievement and enthusiastically participated in the first national elections to select two-thirds of the 45-member Shura Council. These elections were one of our country's broad strategies that aim to consolidate the rule of law, building the institutions and developing the legislative process with



The Amir of the State of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

a broader participation of citizens in the process of development and modernization in the country.

Qatar's economic diversification is gaining momentum and progressing at an accelerating pace by increasing private-sector investment in all areas, enhancing partnership projects between the public and private sectors, and providing incentives to attract foreign direct investment. The Qatari market is attractive to foreign investments, especially in huge infrastructure projects, as Qatar has investment assets worth \$300 billion and is ranked 11th in the list of the largest sovereign funds in the world. Therefore, there are many and varied opportunities for Japanese companies to increase their invest-

ments and contributions to the Qatari economy in various sectors.

Qatar has always been a global player, whether that is by hosting massive sporting events, or presenting itself as a regional hub for global politics and diplomacy. The preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar are accelerating with most of the stadiums and facilities ready to host the prestigious event.

The State of Qatar has been able to demonstrate its supremacy and leadership on the world stage with the important role it played during the past few months in the evacuation operations from Afghanistan, which put it in the global spotlight.

Qatar's assistance in the evacuations was well received by world leaders, who praised its great role in evacuating tens of thousands of foreign nationals in difficult conditions in record time. Japan commended the role of the State of Qatar in supporting the safe departure of the Japanese and the Afghan staff working with them and their family members from Afghanistan. Qatar is mentioned positively in the context of the Afghan crisis, not only because of its internationally appreciated humanitarian efforts, but also because of its adherence to dialogue as an alternative to war.

Relations between the State of Qatar and Japan have been characterized by mutual trust, fruitful cooperation and deep strategic dimensions. In addition to the strong partnership that exists between the two countries in the field of liquefied natural gas, relations witnessed a qualitative leap in a wide range of areas outside the energy sector to include trade, investment, tourism, education and culture.

The first round of the bilateral ministerial-level political dialogue was held in Doha in August, with the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and then-

Foreign Minister H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi. Bilateral cooperation in the field of education is expanding, as the Qatar Chair for Islamic Area Studies project was inaugurated at Waseda University in May. Preparations in the two countries are in full swing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, in March. These developments lay the solid foundations for building a comprehensive strategic partnership between our two friendly countries.

In closing, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to The Japan Times for giving me this opportunity to address its distinguished readers on this happy occasion, wishing all peace, health, happiness and prosperity in the coming new year.



The Qanat Quartier is located in the Pearl, where Venetian charm meets Arabian chic



Doha's skyline
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Sponsored by QATARGAS

Qatargas-Japan: Enhancing energy relations

The State of Qatar's energy relations with Japan, one of the largest importers and the foundation customer of Qatari liquefied natural gas, have grown since the first LNG cargo was delivered to Japan's shores in January 1997.

Qatargas' inaugural delivery was made possible by the historic Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Japan's Chubu Electric, and seven other Japanese buyers, who jointly import 6 million tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG from Qatargas.

Qatar's position as the largest LNG producer in the world is enhanced by its commitment to producing LNG in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. Ever since the first successful delivery of LNG to the Kawagoe Receiving Terminal on Jan. 10, 1997, Qatargas has safely and reliably made more than 3,300 LNG deliveries to Japan over the past two decades.

Qatar has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the people of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, when Qatar prioritized additional LNG deliveries to help meet Japan's urgent energy needs.

Qatargas values the friendship with our foundation customers. It has established term contracts to supply LNG with many of the key Japanese buyers, including JERA Co., Tohoku Electric Power Co., Kansai Electric Power Co., Chugoku Electric Power Co., Tokyo Gas Co., Osaka Gas Co., Toho Gas Co. and Shizuoka Gas Co.

Apart from these term contracts, Qatargas also delivers a significant amount of Japan's spot LNG requirements. Today, our commitment to serving the energy needs of our valued customers has never been stronger. As the world's premier LNG company, our customers know that they can rely on Qatargas to deliver safe and reliable LNG.

Qatargas, established in 1984, pioneered the LNG industry in Qatar and today is the largest producer of LNG in the world, with an annual production capacity of 77 MTPA from its world-class facilities in Ras Laffan Industrial City. The State of Qatar has announced plans to raise the country's LNG production capacity to 126 MTPA by 2027, representing an increase of 64% from the current amount.

Qatargas' chartered LNG shipping fleet is not only the largest in the world, but also includes the largest LNG vessels. Our fleet provides unprecedented flexibility

On the occasion of Qatar National Day
18 December 2021
we extend our congratulations and greetings to
His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
The Emir of the State of Qatar

Japan Liaison Office
Qatargas Operating Company Limited
www.qatargas.com

in meeting the needs of our customers. Every day, we produce and deliver LNG safely and reliably to every corner of the globe.

Since the first production in 1996, Qatargas has successfully delivered LNG to nearly 60 customers in more than 20 countries and is committed to meeting the world's demand for safe, reliable and lower-carbon energy.

Through its operational excellence, Qatargas is adding value to its production

chain, ensuring efficient energy supplies, creating new markets, contributing to the Qatari economy and supporting the local community in line with Qatar's National Vision 2030.

In addition to the LNG facilities, Qatargas operates the Jetty Boil-Off Gas Recovery Facility, Al Khaleej Gas, Barzan Gas, three helium plants, two Laffan Refineries (among the largest condensate refineries in the world) and the Ras Laffan Terminal on behalf of its shareholders.

On the occasion of Qatar National Day
Our Warmest Congratulations to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani,
Amir of the State of Qatar

Chiyoda is proud to be a part of the success and prosperity
of Qatar under the outstanding leadership of His Highness The Amir.

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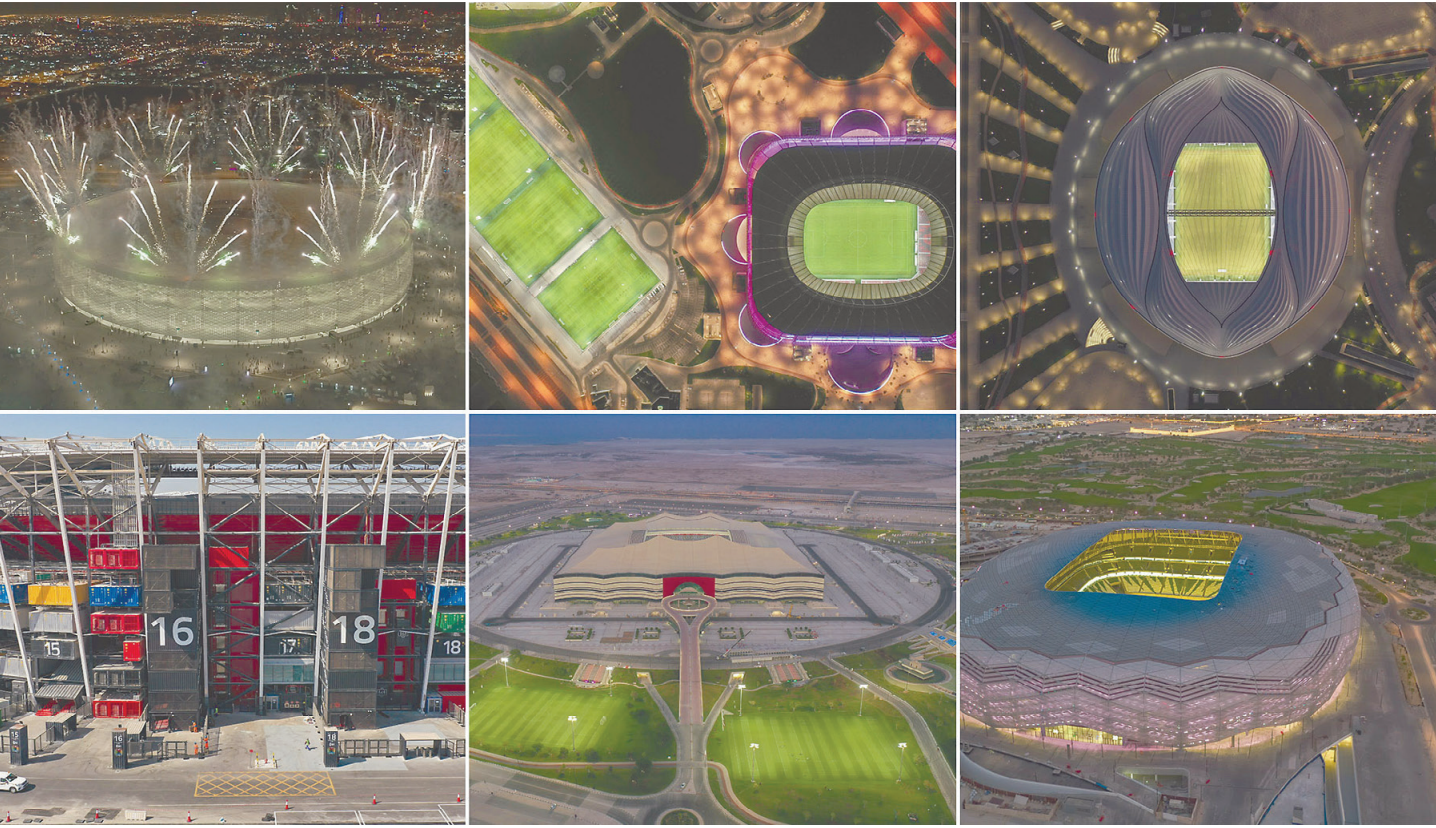
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Qatar National Day Special



Newly built stadiums are ready for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.



Above: The Museum of Islamic Art in Doha showcases Islamic art dating back more than 1,400 years. Right: The Souq Waqif is a traditional market in Doha.



Ongoing cooperation for the next five decades of friendly relations

SATORU KATSUNO
CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN-QATAR
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association (JQFA), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and the people of the State of Qatar on the 50th anniversary of their National Day.

Fifty years have passed since diplomatic relations were established between Japan and the State of Qatar. I heard several commemorative events will be held in both Tokyo and Doha in the first quarter of the new year and I am very much looking forward to them.

Looking back on this year, bright news arrived early on as the Al-Ula Declaration was issued, proclaiming the restoration of relations among the Gulf countries, and the Qatar blockage was brought to an end. Regarding the situation in Afghanistan this summer, Qatar played a central role in the evacuation operations for each country's people, including the Japanese. I am truly grateful to Qatar for the commitment.

In August, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi held the first Japan-Qatar Strategic Dialogue with His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the State of Qatar. Both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and agreed on promoting exchange and cooperation in a wide range of fields beyond energy.

At the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, which were held this year,



Satoru Katsuno, chairman of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association, and Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani, chairman of the Qatar Olympic Committee, meet during the Tokyo Olympics. JAPAN-QATAR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Qatar's performance was remarkable with Fares Ibrahim and Mutaz Essa Barshim achieving the feat of winning Qatar's first gold medals in men's weightlifting and high jump, respectively.

During the Olympic Games, as chairman of JQFA, I had an audience with His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, chairman of the Qatar Olympic Committee. His excellency was very pleased that Qatari athletes played big roles and were able to live up to expectations. The sheikh remarked that he would like to deepen ties with Japan not only in energy, but also in various fields. It was an unexpected joy to be able to deepen exchanges with Qatar through the sheikh this year even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

It is less than a year before the first FIFA World Cup to be held in the Middle East takes place in Qatar. We hope it will be a

wonderful event that will be remembered by people all over the world.

As president of JQFA, I will cherish the relationships of trust that have been cultivated over the past half-century since our diplomatic relations started, and I will do our utmost to strengthen our ties with Qatar, deepen exchanges in various fields, and develop together for the next half century.

In conclusion, I extend my most sincere congratulations on Qatar's continued prosperity and development under the the superior leadership of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and hope that our relationship of mutual trust will continue to develop further.

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



Doha's evening skyline offers spectacular views. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR, TOKYO

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Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani

the Amir of the State of Qatar

on National Day

Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Satoru Katsuno

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