

# Qatar National Day Special

## 50 years of cooperation, friendship

**HASSAN BIN MOHAMMED RAFEI AL-EMADI**  
AMBASSADOR OF QATAR



Dec. 18 marks the National Day of the State of Qatar, the great occasion that shows the cohesion, solidarity and unity of the people of Qatar, and reflects the meanings of love for homeland, loyalty to ancestors and fathers, and their unforgettable sacrifices. It is the day of pride for the wise leadership of H.E. Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, may God protect him, the leader of the process of achievements, development and a promising future.

On this auspicious occasion, I am honored to express, on behalf of the government and people 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 impe-

rial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and further progress and prosperity to the government and the friendly people of Japan.

The slogan of Qatar National Day 2022, "Our Unity is the Source of Our Strength," an excerpt from a speech by the amir, affirms the Qatari people's determination to face challenges, achieve goals and continue the path of our great achievements in the political, diplomatic, economic, sports, health and educational fields, and to draw plans for a brighter future for our beloved country.

The celebration of Qatar National Day this year is of particular importance because it coincides with the hosting of the FIFA World Cup. The two events provide an opportunity to highlight the unity, culture and tolerance of the people of Qatar to the world. Our guests, including our Japanese friends, will learn during this period about our history, rich culture, hospitality, our belief in civilized interaction with other cultures and our respect for and pride in our Arab and Islamic values.

The World Cup showed the cultural identity of Qatar — its economic, security and administrative capabilities, and its

clear achievements in all fields.

The prestigious soccer championship concludes with beautiful memories that carry the principles of tolerance, diversity and understanding between civilizations, and its success would not have been possible without the support and backing of our friends and partners. We are grateful for the support and praise for our success in organizing this great global humanitarian event, and we affirm that this unique and inspiring experience belongs to all humanity. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Japanese friends on the heroic performance and great achievements of the Samurai Blue in defeating giant teams and reaching the round of 16.

As a trusted international partner, the State of Qatar believes in supporting collective initiatives and multilateral action, and has always been proactive in responding to global crises related to food security, energy security, the COVID-19 pandemic and more.

Qatar is also keen to support all efforts aimed at promoting civilized and cultural openness among the peoples of the world, while paying great attention to efforts to enhance international peace and security through mediation aimed at resolving disputes by peaceful means, and supporting development and stability projects in different countries. Qatar's mediation in Sudan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Chad and other places has contributed to drawing the path toward peace, stability and development, not only in those countries, but also at the regional and international levels.

Qatar attaches great importance to its relations with Japan, especially as it is one of our most important partners in the fields of energy, trade, investment and development. Our bilateral relations, which stretch back half a century, are a model of cooperation, friendship and common interests. In March, the two countries celebrated their 50th anniversary

of the establishment of diplomatic relations, in recognition of 50 years of success and achievement in promoting strong relations that have evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks and appreciation to the government and friendly people of Japan for their decades of friendship, fruitful partnership and constructive relations that we are confident will increase in pace over the coming decades.

In confirmation of the great importance that our country's leadership attaches to our relations with Japan, the amir participated in the state funeral held by the Japanese government in September for the late former Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Shinzo Abe.

Bilateral dialogue and consultation between our countries continues at the highest levels, as Doha hosted in June the fourth round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of our countries. In the same context, H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, assistant foreign minister for regional affairs, paid an official visit to Japan in November during which he held talks with senior Japanese officials, including Foreign Minister H.E. Yoshimasa Hayashi. The third round of political dialogue at the foreign minister level is scheduled to be held in Tokyo next January.

We reaffirm our relentless keenness to work closely with our partners in Japan to strengthen, develop and diversify relations, and take them to broader horizons that meet the desired aspirations of our 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. I hope that the new year will be a year full of health, wellness, happiness, peace and prosperity for all.



Amir Sheikh Tamim poses with FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Nov. 20.

EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR



The opening ceremony of the 2022 FIFA World Cup took place on Nov. 20 at Qatar's Al Bayt Stadium.

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Pearl Island is a popular destination in Doha.

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Sponsored by Qatargas

## Qatargas: Reliably serving Japan's liquefied natural gas needs for more than 20 years

The State of Qatar's energy relations with Japan, one of the largest importers and the foundation customer of the Qatari liquefied natural gas industry, 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 with Japan's Chubu Electric Power Co., 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 3,356 LNG deliveries to Japan over the past two decades.

Qatar demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the people of Japan in the aftermath of the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, 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 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 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 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 a 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

On the Occasion of Qatar National Day  
18 December 2022  
we extend our congratulations and greetings to  
His Highness  
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani  
The Amir of the State of Qatar

Japan Liaison Office  
Qatargas Operating Company Limited  
[www.qatargas.com](http://www.qatargas.com)

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

Since starting production in 1996, Qatargas has successfully delivered LNG to nearly 70 customers in more than 31 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 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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# Qatar National Day Special

## Working to deepen exchanges toward 50 more years of ties

**SATORU KATSUNO**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-QATAR  
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association, 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 their 51st National Day anniversary.

This year, exchanges between Japan and Qatar have become active again as the movement restrictions due to COVID-19 have been considerably relaxed. In particular, from February to March, ceremonies were held one after another in both countries to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Qatar and Japan.

The ceremony in Doha was held on the evening of Feb. 4, hosted by the Embassy of Japan on a grand scale at Baraha Square in downtown Doha's Musheileb district. Following the Japanese drum performance by the Japanese Society in Qatar, a projection mapping titled "Together to the Future" was screened on the M7 Museum wall, celebrating the long and strong relationship between the countries, and expressing wishes for an even better future for our countries.

The ceremony in Tokyo was held at the Imperial Hotel on the evening of March 29, hosted by the Embassy of Qatar. At the venue, there were many photographs displayed on the wall showing the 50 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Qatar, as well as miniature models of the

stadiums for the Qatar World Cup. About 300 people, including parliamentarians, business executives and cultural figures with ties to Qatar, attended the grand reception.

Travel is also returning. For the first time since 2019, the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association visited Doha twice this year, in April and December, and was able to reaffirm friendships with close friends in Qatar.

At the end of September, the sheikh visited Japan to attend the state funeral of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in between his busy royal duties. His highness' visit to Japan was the first since January 2019. After attending the state funeral, his highness greeted Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Abe's widow at the State Guest House in Akasaka, and met with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito the next day.

As the highlight of the year, on Nov. 20, the World Cup kicked off for the first time in the Middle East.

The city of Doha has been filled with the heat of the World Cup, and the hospitality of the Qatar people was wonderful. Japanese supporters fully respond to their hospitality, and their polite behavior at the stadiums was commendable. In this way, it was a great event for the friendship between Japan and Qatar.

As you know, the performances of the Japanese players were wonderful, and the stadium was surrounded by the "delights of Doha." After nearly a month of intense competition, we have the final game on Qatar National Day.

Qatar is a very important country and the best friend to Japan. Our best friend is now leading the world's liquefied natural gas business, and is continuing to develop in a wide range of fields, including sports, edu-

cation, culture and diplomacy, as evidenced by the great success of the World Cup.

As chairman of the JQFA, I will do my 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 superior leadership of the sheikh, 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.*



Chairman of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association Satoru Katsuno poses with H.E. Ambassador of Qatar Hassan bin Mohammed Rafei Al-Emadi at a ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Qatar at Tokyo's Imperial Hotel on March 29. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR



Above: La'eeb is the mascot for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Right: A view of the Doha skyline from the Islamic Art Museum. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR



The National Museum of Qatar takes design inspiration from desert rose crystals. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR



Traditional dhow boats sit off the coast of Doha. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR



The flag of Qatar EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR

**Congratulations**  
to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani  
the Amir of the State of Qatar on National Day

Enjoy our delicious Arabian cuisine prepared by our Arabian chef. All food served is prepared in accordance with the halal method.

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Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Satoru Katsuno

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