

Qatar National Day Special

Economic diversification in a wide variety of sectors

JABER BIN JARALLA AL-MARRI
AMBASSADOR OF QATAR



On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Qatar, I am pleased to share this message, which reflects my deepest pride and honor in our rich history and national achievements. It also

expresses our profound appreciation for the fruitful partnership that unites us with Japan, a relationship founded on mutual respect and constructive cooperation.

The State of Qatar, under wise leadership and a clear vision, has achieved remarkable advancements across all sectors over the past decades, transitioning from reliance

on its natural resources to diversifying its economy and building a comprehensive and advanced infrastructure. The National Day of the State of Qatar is not merely a celebration of a glorious past, but also a manifestation of national unity and shared aspirations for a brighter future.

This occasion provides an opportunity to renew our appreciation for the efforts of our friends in Japan, who have played a pivotal role in fostering and strengthening the bilateral relations between our nations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Qatar and Japan in 1972, these relations have witnessed significant and continuous development across various fields. The most recent milestone was the fifth round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and Japan, held in November. Additionally, the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

plays an essential role in fortifying these bonds and enhancing the bridges of cooperation and mutual understanding between the peoples of both countries.

Japan stands as a strategic partner for the State of Qatar across various sectors. For years, we have maintained close relations that extend beyond energy cooperation to encompass areas such as trade, culture, education and technology. Currently, over 60 Japanese companies operate in Qatar, including 33 with 100% Japanese capital, actively contributing to sectors like oil, gas and infrastructure. This reflects the deep integration and synergy between our economies. In 2023, Japanese exports to Qatar experienced significant growth, reaching their highest levels in 15 years — a testament to the robust economic collaboration between our nations.

In line with strengthening this cooperation, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar and the Japan External Trade Organization. This agreement aims to enhance economic ties and explore new areas of collaboration in sectors such as renewable energy, technology and the green transition.

In Qatar, we consistently welcome fruitful partnerships with Japanese companies. Through this message, I extend an open invitation to Japanese business leaders to explore promising investment opportunities in our country. Our investment climate offers a supportive environment for innovation, contributing to mutual benefits and unlocking new horizons for cooperation between the private sectors of both nations.

Qatar National Vision 2030 serves as the guiding compass for our nation's journey toward a more sustainable future. This vision aims to achieve a balance for eco-



Pearl Island is an artificial island development with residential and retail spaces, as well as a marina. QATAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Souq Waqif is a major marketplace in Doha. QATAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

nomie, social, environmental and human development. Since its launch, Qatar has made significant strides in areas such as education, training and economic sustainability. Our future plans focus on diversifying the national economy by developing new sectors, including manufacturing, digital technology, tourism, financial services and agriculture, while strengthening reliance on clean and renewable energy.

Qatar places great importance on developing tourism as a key economic pillar. Our goal is to attract 6 million visitors annually by 2030 through the development of tourism infrastructure, streamlining visa procedures and promoting Qatar as a global destination. Hosting global events such as the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Horticultural Expo 2023 and numerous cultural and sports activities has further cemented Qatar's position as a leading destination for sports and culture.

In the field of education, cooperation

between Qatar and Japan has expanded significantly. This includes the establishment of the Qatar Chair for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University in 2019, along with strengthened student exchange programs and frequent visits to foster academic and scientific collaboration between relevant institutions. These joint efforts contribute to enhancing cultural understanding and developing human resources in both countries.

I am also pleased to invite you to visit Qatar's pavilion next April at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. Qatar's participation in this global event underscores the great importance it places on the friendship and cooperation shared with Japan, as well as the deep-rooted strategic partnership that has flourished over more than 50 years, driven by the strong political will and mutual aspirations of both nations. Moreover, Qatar's participation in the expo represents a significant step in showcas-

ing our achievements, culture and efforts to preserve our rich heritage. Through our pavilion, we aim to highlight the cultural aspects and developmental milestones of the State of Qatar.


It has been a year since I assumed my duties as ambassador to Japan. During this period, I have had the privilege of meeting numerous political, economic and cultural figures and witnessing firsthand the remarkable efforts made to strengthen our bilateral relations. I reaffirm my unwavering commitment to continuing to work toward broadening the horizons of cooperation between our countries in all fields, serving our shared interests.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to The Japan Times for this opportunity to connect with its readers. I also send my warmest regards and best wishes to our friends and partners in Japan, wishing everyone a new year filled with peace, prosperity and good health.

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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the Amir of the State of Qatar
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Japan-Qatar Friendship Association
Chairman: Satoru Katsuno

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Qatar National Day Special



Doha's modern skyline shines like a beacon on the Persian Gulf. QATAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Toward an ever-brighter future

SATORU KATSUNO
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-QATAR
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association, I would like to extend my 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 53rd National Day anniversary.

The JQFA was established in 1976 with the aim of deepening friendship and goodwill between Qatar and Japan and promoting economic cooperation and cultural exchanges. The association currently has 42 active corporate members.

Although there is a distance of about 8,000 kilometers between Qatar and Japan, the friendly relationship between our countries has lasted for over 50 years, and we are deeply connected in a wide range of fields. For our country, your nation truly is a "distant yet close country."

For nearly five years until last year, former Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Japan His Excellency Hassan Mohammed Rafi Al-Emadi worked tirelessly to promote friendship between our countries. This year marks the beginning of a new chapter

with the arrival of the new ambassador, His Excellency Jaber Jarallah Al-Marri, who succeeded Al-Emadi.

The JQFA has had the honor of having successive ambassadors of Qatar serve as our honorary chairmen. We are pleased to welcome Al-Maari as our new honorary chairman. We held a welcoming reception in his honor, celebrating his appointment and deepening exchanges with our members.

The air route that serves as a bridge between Qatar and Japan began in 2005 with the launch of Qatar Airways' Doha-Kansai flights. Although the Doha-Kansai flights were suspended in 2016, they were revived in March, marking their return after a long absence. Together with the flights to Narita and Haneda, we now have a three-route system similar to that during the peak period.

Furthermore, starting in February, Narita flights will increase to 11 from seven per week, which is expected to further stimulate business demand and support the strong inbound demand.

In November, I visited Ras Laffan in the north of Qatar. This is the place where the Qatar liquefied natural gas project began about 30 years ago, thanks to the close cooperation between the State of Qatar and Japan. During my visit this time, I witnessed construction on the site of Qatar Energy's LNG expansion project. This project aims to expand Qatar's LNG production capacity

from the current 77 million tons per year to ultimately 142 million tons per year.

Even in today's world where carbon neutrality is being called for, LNG, which is low in carbon, is indispensable for a stable energy supply. The importance of LNG is increasing due to energy security concerns and the rapid rise in electricity demand driven by artificial intelligence and data centers. I would like to express my respect for the wise leaders of the State of Qatar, who are making solid progress in increasing LNG production during this time.

Qatar and Japan, as invaluable partners, will build stronger cooperative relations by deepening exchanges not only in the energy sector, but also in areas such as education, culture, health care and sports, based on the relationships we have established so far.

The JQFA will strive to further cooperate and contribute to Qatar's bright future by working closely with the staff of the Embassy of Qatar in Japan.

In conclusion, I extend my most sincere congratulations on Qatar's continued prosperity and development under the superior leadership of the sheikh and pray 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.



Left: The Corniche in Doha is a popular waterfront promenade. Fishing nets are still woven in the traditional manner.



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