

# Qatar National Day Special

## Global hub of innovation, sustainability, cooperation

JABER JARALLA AL-MARRI  
AMBASSADOR OF QATAR



On the occasion of the State of Qatar's National Day, it is my pleasure to address this message to the esteemed readers of The Japan Times. This annual occasion is not only a celebration of our nation's rich heritage and identity, but also a moment to reflect on the journey of progress, resilience and vision that has shaped modern Qatar.

The National Day of the State of Qatar stands as a symbol of unity, determination and national pride. Thanks to the wise leadership of our country and the

dedication of its people, Qatar has gradually transformed into a dynamic, diversified and forward-looking state. From an economy that once relied primarily on natural resources, Qatar has today become a global hub for innovation, sustainability, education, culture and international cooperation. This transformation reflects our country's unwavering commitment to building a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for generations to come.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972, the partnership between the State of Qatar and Japan has grown steadily in both strength and depth. Over more than five decades, our bilateral ties have evolved into what is today a comprehensive strategic partnership, a level that was reached in 2023 thanks to the shared political will and common vision of both countries.

Political consultations, ministerial meetings and regular institutional cooperation have all contributed to consolidating this trusted friendship and opening new horizons for joint action.

Energy has long been one of the main pillars of this partnership. In recent years, however, cooperation between our countries has broadened and deepened to encompass a wide range of fields, including investment, trade, education, scientific research, advanced technology, clean energy, food security, environmental sustainability and infrastructure development, as well as coordination on international issues and collaboration in relief and humanitarian efforts.

Today, more than 60 Japanese companies operate in Qatar, contributing to various strategic sectors. Our bilateral trade has also grown significantly, with Japanese exports to Qatar reaching their highest level in more than a decade. This growth underscores the strength and adaptability of our partnership.

On this occasion, I am pleased to extend a sincere invitation to Japanese companies, investors and entrepreneurs to explore the promising opportunities that Qatar offers. Our country provides a highly attractive investment environment supported by world-class infrastructure, political and economic stability and a competitive legal and regulatory framework.

Our laws allow foreign investors to own up to 100% of projects in most sectors, with streamlined procedures, full freedom to repatriate profits and capital, and low tax rates. This is further complemented by specialized economic platforms such as free zones, the Qatar Financial Centre and Media City. Moreover, Qatar's strategic geographic location — linking Asia with Europe and Africa — enables Japanese



The West Bay district of Doha is studded with modern skyscrapers. QATAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

companies to expand regionally and globally with ease and efficiency.

Today, the State of Qatar is also a prominent political and cultural destination. The country continues to invest in tourism infrastructure, museums, cultural institutions and world-class hospitality. Hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup was a historic milestone that showcased Qatar's organizational, technological and cultural capabilities and reinforced its position as a global destination for tourism and culture.

Cultural and academic cooperation between Qatar and Japan has likewise flourished in recent years. Initiatives such as the Qatar Chair for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University — alongside student exchange programs — have helped deepen understanding and dialogue between our societies. Exhibitions, artistic projects and cultural initiatives continue to bring our

peoples closer together and to strengthen our mutual appreciation of each other's history, creativity and values.

Qatar's participation in the Osaka Expo represents another important milestone in the trajectory of our bilateral and cultural cooperation. Through our pavilion at the expo, we presented the story of Qatar — its history, identity, innovations and future ambitions — thereby reflecting our commitment to broadening engagement and strengthening the bonds between our peoples and with the international community. Qatar has also become the first country to sign a participation agreement with Japan for the 2027 International Horticultural Exposition in Yokohama, which testifies to the evolving and diversified nature of the strategic partnership between our countries.

Since assuming my duties as ambassador to Japan, I have been honored to witness

at close range the warmth, mutual respect and genuine goodwill that characterize this relationship. I reaffirm my commitment to continue working with our Japanese partners to enhance our cooperation and expand its scope in the years ahead.


In conclusion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to The Japan Times for providing this valuable platform, and my sincere appreciation to the friendly people of Japan for their enduring friendship and support. As we celebrate the National Day of the State of Qatar, I look forward to a promising future of even stronger relations founded on peace, prosperity, innovation and sustainable development.

On behalf of the State of Qatar, I wish the people of Japan continued health, happiness and success, and I hope that our countries will continue to work together to build a brighter and more interconnected future for the benefit of all.

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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on National Day

**Japan-Qatar Friendship Association**

*Chairman: Satoru Katsuno*

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# Qatar National Day Special



Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque QATAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## Strong foundation of friendship

**SATORU KATSUNO**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-QATAR FRIENDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and the people of

Qatar on the occasion of the 54th 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. Today we are honored to conduct our activities with the support of 42 corporate members.

In April, the Osaka Expo opened, and on its third day — April 15 — the inauguration ceremony of the Qatar Pavilion was held. From Qatar, Her Excellency Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani, chairperson of Qatar Museums, and His Excellency Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al-Thani, commerce and industry minister, attended the event. From Japan, many guests, including myself, Chita Mayor Toshio Miyajima and architect Kengo Kuma, joined the ceremony. The ribbon-cutting took place in a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

The Qatar Pavilion, inspired by the traditional Arab dhow, drew attention for its striking exterior design. The theme, “From the Coastline, We Progress,” was vividly expressed through displays featuring Qatar’s geography and history — such as natural pearl diving and the offshore gas field known as the North Field — which together highlighted Qatar’s development in harmony with the sea.

On July 8, the Qatar National Day celebration at Expo 2025 was held with the gracious presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and Qatari Culture Minister His Excellency Sheik Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Thani. Following speeches by Ambassador Jaber Jaralla Al-Marri and other dignitaries, a live performance by Qatari singers and musicians delighted the audience.

Against a background of beautiful footage of Qatar’s nature, cities and people — produced by the Ministry of Culture — the performance evoked the richness of Arab culture. After the ceremony, Al-Thani and the princess visited both the Qatar and Japan pavilions, and a luncheon gathering further strengthened the bonds of friendship between our nations.

During the expo, the Qatar Pavilion hosted a wide range of events, including science and technology forums on robotics and artificial intelligence, a symposium on humanitarian assistance in conflict zones organized by the Qatar Foundation, a film-related event, and various other programs that our association actively participated in, contributing greatly to the enhancement of cultural exchange and friendship between Qatar and Japan.

Qatar’s core industry — liquefied natural gas — which has long been closely connected with Japan, continues to progress steadily through Qatar Energy’s North Field LNG Expansion Project. Exports are scheduled to begin in mid-2026, with Qatar’s LNG production capacity eventually increasing from the current 77 million tons to 142 million tons per year.

Even in this era of global decarbonization, LNG remains indispensable for ensuring a stable energy supply, given its relatively low carbon footprint. As power demand continues to surge due to the expansion of AI and data centers, LNG’s importance is expected to grow. In February, Qatar will host LNG 2026 in Doha, a

conference that promises to mark another remarkable milestone for the country.

In the autumn of 2026, the Asian Games will be held in Nagoya, followed four years later by the games in Doha. We sincerely hope that many friends from Qatar will visit Japan to enjoy the Nagoya event. Al-Marri also envisions establishing a Qatar information and cultural hub in Nagoya in conjunction with the games.

This center is expected not only to promote mutual cultural understanding but also to serve as a public relations base for the Doha games — further strengthening the partnership between Nagoya and Doha, as well as between Japan and Qatar.

Qatar Airways, marking the 20th anniversary of its first flight to Japan since 2005, celebrated the milestone with a commemorative ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Tokyo on July 24. Since July, the airline’s Narita route has doubled its daily operations, further deepening the connectivity between our countries.

Qatar and Japan are irreplaceable partners. Building on the strong foundations established over the years, our cooperation is set to expand beyond energy to encompass education, culture, health care and sports.

Our association will continue to work closely with the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Japan to further enhance collaboration and contribute to Qatar’s bright and prosperous future.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere congratulations on Qatar’s continued prosperity and development under the outstanding leadership of the amir, and offer my heartfelt prayers for the ongoing growth of trust and friendship between our nations.

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


# Congratulations


to His Highness

*Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani*

*the Amir of the State of Qatar*

*on National Day*



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**Top: A dhow sails in front of West Bay, Doha. Bottom: The Msheireb Tram is a battery-powered tram serving the heart of Doha.**

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