

Qatar national day

Stability, trust at heart of Qatar's fast growth, progress

Yousef Mohamed Bilal
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF
QATAR

Dec. 18, the National Day of the State of Qatar, is a special occasion that revives the feelings of glory and pride, renews the commitment to the homeland and embodies the cohesion between our wise leadership and the people. This glorious event provides an opportunity to pay homage and show reverence to the founder of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Jasim Bin Mohamad Bin Thani, for his role to surmount the challenges of building the unity of our country.

On this auspicious occasion, I am privileged to express, on behalf of the government and people of the State of Qatar, our deepest respect and cordial greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the

Imperial Family, the government and friendly people of Japan.

The commemoration of our National Day this year comes amid tremendous transformations and outstanding achievements taking place in Qatar. Thanks to the vision and wise leadership of His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani and the efforts of his trusted heir apparent, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, our country has secured notable advances in all spheres of life, and entered a significant phase of comprehensive political, social and economic developments.

Economically, Qatar has a durable, robust and rapidly growing economy, underpinned by the hydrocarbon wealth, stable political environment and sound strategic plans. Qatar's gross domestic product (GDP) growth reached 16.6 percent in real terms in 2010 and is projected to grow by a further 20 percent in 2011, prompting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to classify our economy as



Emir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

the fastest-growing, one of the most competitive and the most stable in the world. The impressive economic boom in Qatar has created an unstoppable momentum for building a prosperous and more vibrant country in the region.

Qatar is politically stable due to the strong trust by the population in the wise leadership, a safe environment and a good

distribution of the country's wealth among the population. Our leadership is committed to accomplish the country's constitutional goals and to hold the Advisory Council elections, which will serve as a springboard for building a modern state that is capable of dealing with the challenges of the new era and draw a brighter pathway for our future.

While continuing the daunting task of building a fully developed country, our leadership also remained preoccupied by the complicated situations in the region. Qatar has always been keen to take advantage of its good relations with all parties to try healing the rifts among the countries and mediate in resolving some conflicts and problems for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

With regard to the unprecedented political unrest that resulted in heavy casualties in some Arab countries, Qatar has chosen to align itself with the Arab people in their struggle to attain their legitimate rights of



Modern skyline: Many skyscrapers have been built in Qatar in recent years and many more are planned in the near future in the capital Doha. EMBASSY OF QATAR

freedom, justice and democracy. Qatar strongly believes that the adoption of the political and economic reforms that meet the wishes and aspirations of the people is the only guarantor of stability of all Arab countries.

Japan, as a longtime, good friend to the Arab world, remained concerned with the volatile situation in the region, despite its momentous task to cope with the consequences of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

The devastation caused by the March 11th earthquake and tsunami in Japan immediately evoked heartfelt sympathy in Qatar toward our Japanese friends.

I would like to once again ex-

press my deepest condolences to the government and friendly people of Japan, for the massive loss of lives from the disaster. What is heartening, however, is that the Japanese people were able to demonstrate their common resilience and determination to overcome the impacts of the crisis and to quickly recover from the disaster and emerge stronger.

Qatar was one of the countries that rushed to alleviate the suffering of our friendly Japanese people from the calamity. H.E. Khalid bin Mohamed Al-Attiyah, then the minister of international cooperation, visited Japan shortly after the disaster to convey the condolences of the government and people of Qatar.

To demonstrate the great importance our country attaches to Japan and its friendly people, Qatar's leadership decided to donate \$100 million to help rebuild some of the regions hit by the disaster. A special fund has already been established to accomplish a number of projects that will benefit many of those affected. Qatar has also pledged to meet all Japan's energy needs on the background of the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima power plant. This symbolizes the interdependence and closer cooperation with Japan, as one of our most important economic partners.

Qatar-Japan relations are strengthening in a steadfast pace. The next year will mark

the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries; both sides are committed to celebrate this historic occasion in a way that befits its status and significance. The event will provide a chance for reaffirming friendship, reviewing past achievements and exploring new avenues for forging a far-reaching and multidimensional partnership.

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 and I would like to express my best wishes for all to have a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Celebration: Young students join in a parade on the occasion of the National Day of Qatar. EMBASSY OF QATAR



EMBASSY OF QATAR

Current highlights of the State of Qatar's foreign policy, economy

Foreign policy

The State of Qatar, since its establishment, has been pursuing the prevalence of peace, security and stability in all corners of the globe, based on the conviction that they are closely tied to political and economic stability. To achieve these goals, Qatar sanctions the United Nations' efforts to uphold peace in the world, and maintains close ties of collaboration with peace-loving nations and individuals. Qatar has adhered to the principle of good relations with its neighbors and all countries, and has contributed to international peace, stability, security and prosperity. It extends generous financial assistance to developing countries in Asia and Africa, and contributes financially to various regional and international charities and aid funds.

Qatar adopts a set of princi-

ples as a basis for peace and security in the Middle East and the World at large. Foremost among these principles is the abstention from using or threatening to use military force by one country against territorial integrity of another. Instead, Qatar always advocates settling disputes by peaceful means, including regional or international arbitration and dialogue.

Being a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Qatar's foreign policy places a special focus on supporting the GCC, and works hard toward the promotion and consolidation of relations among member states. The objective is to help GCC states realize their common objectives of attaining integration in various fields. Qatar also seeks to strengthen pan-Arab solidarity through mutual trust and communica-

tion between individual Arab countries, and spare no effort to advance the interests of the Arab world as whole.

Qatar is a member of the League of Arab States (LAS), the GCC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement, the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as other regional and international organizations.

Economy of Qatar

The Qatari economy is one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world. The real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an impressive rate of 15.7 percent during the last five years (2006-2010). The rate was 16.6 percent in 2010 and is projected by Qatar National Bank to rise to 20 per-

cent this year.

The rapid economic growth is made possible by the expansion in the production and export of liquefied natural gas, petroleum, petrochemicals and related products.

The Qatari government has continued to develop the country's massive hydrocarbon reserves while at the same time implementing a program with the aim of diversifying the economy through the development and promotion of the private sector's industries, financial services and tourism.

Increases in export earnings in recent years, due to the expansion of production capacity of oil and natural gas, has given Qatar a per capita income that ranks among the highest in the world. Per capita income in 2010 was \$76,160 and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates

it will soar to \$109,900 by the end of this year. The IMF says the surge in per capita income will push Qatar in the world ranking, too, catapulting it to the No. 2 spot after Luxembourg.

The government strategy is to use the vast oil and gas wealth to create opportunities for all. It has committed to massive investments in infrastructure expansion in a variety of sectors including energy, health, education, transport and tourism. Qatar is planning \$225 billion of investment in the period 2011-2016. This is in the runup to its hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament, and rooted in the model of sustainable development envisaged in Qatar National Vision for 2030. Investment in developing a first-class infrastructure will be accelerated in preparation to host the World Cup event. The largest

project is the \$29 billion metro and rail project. It will be implemented in three phases, with the completion scheduled for 2022. Other focal areas include roads, industrial zones and information and communications technology.

Qatar's oil and condensates reserves as of December 2010 were estimated at 26 billion barrels. This is 1.9 percent of proven world oil reserves and ranks Qatar 13th globally. Total crude oil, condensates and natural gas liquids production in 2010 were around 1.6 million barrels per day, of which 800,000 barrels was crude oil and the remainder condensates and NGL. At the current production pace, total reserves of crude oil and condensates are expected to last for around 45 years. On the other hand, Qatar's proven natural gas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Night lights: Doha retains a vibrant ambience. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Congratulations
to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani the Emir of the State of Qatar on National Day

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

Open: 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m. (Closed on Mondays)
Stark Tower Ohdorioken Bldg. 1, B1F, 2-17 Yayoi-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama Tel: 045-251-6199

العین
AL AIN

Our Warmest Congratulations to
His Highness The Emir,
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

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

CHIYODA CORPORATION

12-1, Tsurumichuo 2-chome, Tsurumi-ku
Yokohama 230-8601, Japan
<http://www.chiyoda-corp.com/en>

Congratulations
to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

出光
100 years

Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.

<http://www.idemitsu.com/>
1-1, Marunouchi 3-chome,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8321, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3213-3170

Congratulations
to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

TOYO ENGINEERING

Congratulations
to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.

1, Higashi-shincho, Higashi-ku, Nagoya 461-8680, Japan
Tel: 052-951-8211
www.chuden.co.jp/english

Congratulations
to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Fumio Kawaguchi

Qatar national day

Deepen bilateral ties to enhance relationship

Fumio Kawaguchi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-QATAR
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association (JQFA), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the heir apparent, and the people of the State of Qatar on their 40th National Day.

It is said that Confucius, the great Chinese thinker, men-

tioned he was free from vacillation at the age of 40, a state known as "fuwaku" in Japanese. The State of Qatar steadily proceeded in constructing its country, centering on the energy sector. The country achieved 77 million tons per year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) production capacity last year and succeeded in establishing its position as the largest LNG exporter in the world even before reaching the age of 40. Moreover, in areas of diplomacy, economy, culture and education the State of Qatar did make great success under the distinguished leadership of His Highness. Now, nobody doubts that the State of Qatar has become the country that is

a "small but great power in the Middle East" with the highest economic growth rates in the world.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the support extended to Japan from the State of Qatar with respect to the Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred on March 11. His Highness decided to generously donate, on behalf of the people and the government of the State of Qatar, \$100 million as a contribution to Japan's reconstruction efforts following the earthquake. In this regard, I would like to express my profound appreciation on behalf of the JQFA. I sincerely hope that

such a huge contribution will reach every sufferer at the earliest opportunity. Immediately after the earthquake struck, Japan received the kind offer from the State of Qatar for its readiness to extend every possible assistance. Furthermore, we welcome and appreciate the initiatives of the State of Qatar through Qatargas to supply Japan with an additional 4 million tons of LNG to resolve the shortage of energy due to this disaster, so that Japan can continue to carry out promptly and smoothly its reconstruction efforts.

We will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Qatar-Japan diplomatic relations next year. The relationship between our two

countries has already reached the stage of the age of 40, and is very stable and reliable. We, the JQFA, intend to further endeavor to deepen bilateral ties and establish multilayered relationships through exchange in various fields, including culture, education, sports and medical care. I hope many Japanese people will visit Doha next year to celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations and many people all over the world will visit Doha for various purposes, including the 18th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP18) via the new international airport in Doha.



Folklore: Men get ready to perform a rhythmic group dance. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Various forms of cooperation continue to drive relations with Japan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

reserves are the third-largest in the world after Russia and Iran, and are estimated at 25 trillion cu. meters. These reserves would translate into 14 percent of the world total and will be sufficient to support planned production for more than 200 years.

Qatar Financial Center

The Qatar Financial Center (QFC) is a financial and business complex established by the government of Qatar in 2005 to attract international financial services and multinational corporations to grow and develop the market for financial services in the region. The QFC provides access to over \$140 billion of investment in Qatar over the next five years as well as over \$1 trillion in planned investment across the GCC.

The QFC aims to help all QFC-licensed firms generate new and sustainable revenue streams. It provides access to local and regional investment opportunities. Business can be transacted inside or outside Qatar, in local or foreign currency. Uniquely, this allows businesses to operate both locally and internationally. Furthermore, the QFC allows 100 percent ownership by foreign companies, and all profits can be remitted outside of Qatar. The business environment created by the QFC enables firms to quickly establish a physical presence in Qatar and the region.

The QFC provides a world-class business environment for undertaking financial services and also promotes revenue-generating opportunities internationally. The QFC provides a familiar international legal and business infrastructure that is separate from the host Qatari systems.

Education City

The 970-hectare multi-institutional Education City is being set up under the aegis of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, which was established in 1995 by His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani. The facility includes higher educational institutions at the university level, specialized training in design arts and languages, and sporting facilities. The Qatar Foundation has



Marketplace: The newly restored, traditional-style Souq Waqif is a major tourist attraction in Doha, selling garments, spices and handicrafts, as well as being home to many restaurants and art galleries. EMBASSY OF QATAR

signed a number of agreements with world-renowned educational institutions to set up branches of their institutions in the Education City in Qatar. The first such agreement was signed with Cornell University for establishing the Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar. As part of the Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar, there is also a proposal to set up a hospital with a 250 to 300 bed capacity.

The other leading educational institutions represented in Qatar are Georgetown University's Welsh School of Foreign Services, Texas A&M University, which offers engineering degree courses, Carnegie Mellon University, which offers undergraduate programs in computer science and business, Northwestern University, which offers bachelor's degrees in communication and journalism, College of North Atlantic and Canadian Bureau of International Education, among others.

Sports in Qatar

Qatar embraces sports as part of its rich culture and heritage, and has engaged in an extraordinary range of sporting activities that are propelling the country to the forefront of the nations of the Middle East. Qatar views sports as a means to forge friendship and to enhance relations with the nations worldwide. Qatar also has a vision of becoming a leading country in bringing the world together and improving relations between nations through sports.

Qatar has already crossed several milestones in hosting and organizing major international

sports events. The country hosted a successful FIFA Under-20 World Cup in 1995. The 15th Asian Games were successfully held in Qatar in 2006. In January of this year, the country hosted, for the second time after the 1988 edition, the Asian Football Cup, which was won by Japan. The country has invested \$2.8 billion in sporting infrastructure, turning the capital city Doha into one of the most modern sporting cities of the world, and confirming its readiness to host even bigger sports events for the world.

Dec. 2, 2010, however, marked a new dawn of history and an exciting era for the State of Qatar. After competing with Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United States to host the 2022 World Cup, Qatar succeeded in winning the majority of votes, becoming the first nation in the Middle East and the Arab world to host this prestigious and most celebrated international soccer tournament. According to the words of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, chairman of Qatar 2022: "Qatar 2022 is a bid on behalf of the whole region. The first global sports event in the Middle

East provides an opportunity for greater understanding and unity between the Arab and Western worlds and can inspire enthusiastic support from football fans young and old across the entire region."

Relations with Japan

The State of Qatar enjoys excellent bilateral relations with Japan. The relationship, which was started at the diplomatic level in May 1972, grew in coverage and scale, and over the years expanded to incorporate political, economic, educational, and science and technology forms of cooperation.

The two sides have made tireless efforts to boost and enhance the existing ties of friendship and collaboration. Foremost among these is the creation of the Qatar-Japan, and Japan-Qatar friendship associations, and the Japan Parliamentary League for Friendship with Qatar.

It is worth noting that bilateral relations in general and economic ties in particular were elevated to new heights with the launching of the joint economic committee in November 2006. The Qatar-Japan Joint Economic Committee holds annual meetings at the ministerial level to discuss topics such as energy, the business environment and investment, among other issues of mutual interest. The committee held its sixth annual meeting in October in Tokyo, with the participation of the Qatari Deputy Premier and Chief of the Amiri Diwan H.E. Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, and H.E. Mohammed Saleh Abdulla Al-Sada, minister of energy and industry, along with Foreign Minister H.E. Koichiro Genba and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry H.E. Yukio Edano. Besides the annual meetings, another regular event, the Joint Qatari-Japanese Energy Seminar, is or-

ganized under the aegis of the joint committee. The seminar is held twice a year since early 2009 in Doha and Tokyo, and the participants of both countries exchange views and information on various energy-related issues.

The economic partnership has continued to be strong overall. Japan has been the No. 1 trade partner for the State of Qatar over the past few years. Last year, 32 percent of the value of Qatar's exports and 5 percent of its imports were transacted with Japan. Trade relations also grew in magnitude with the volume of trade surging from \$11.7 billion in 2005 to \$17.5 billion in 2009,

and jumping again by 30 percent to \$22.7 billion in 2010.

Trade and investment in energy constitute the backbone of the strategic economic partnership. Qatar is a reliable and stable supplier of crude oil and natural gas resources to Japan. In 2010, for example, Qatar supplied Japan with 158.88 million barrels of oil, representing about 12 percent of Japan's total crude oil imports, in addition to 11 percent and 27 percent of Japan's total needs of liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas respectively, making Qatar the fourth biggest energy supplier to Japan.



Sandy scenery: Much of Qatar consists of low, barren plains of desert. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Qatar is also benefiting from Japanese investment and expertise in various large-scale projects. Currently, there are over 40

Japanese companies with offices in Qatar, and their focus is on the construction, shipping and energy sectors.

Congratulations on the National Day
to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar,
and H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar



Qatargas Operating Company Limited

P.O. Box: 22666 Doha, Qatar
Tel: (974) 4736 000 Fax: (974) 4736 666
Japan Liaison Office Tel: (052) 952-8661 Fax: (052) 952-8666
<http://www.qatargas.com.qa>

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



ITOCHU Corporation

<http://www.itochu.co.jp/>

TOKYO Headquarters 5-1, Kita-Aoyama 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo Tel. 03-3497-2121
OSAKA Headquarters 1-3, Umeda 3-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka Tel. 06-7638-2121

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



MITSUI & CO., LTD.

<http://www.mitsui.com/jp/en>

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

Marubeni CORPORATION

<http://www.marubeni.com>

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



Mitsubishi Corporation

On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December

and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878
when Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Emir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Heir Apparent

and to all the honourable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish
that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Emir.

QATAR AIRWAYS
الخطوط الجوية القطرية

World's 5-star airline.
qatarairways.com