

Qatar national day

Comprehensive national development under way

Yousef Mohamed Bilal
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF
QATAR

Dec. 18 marks the National Day of the State of Qatar. I am honored to take advantage of this auspicious occasion to express, on behalf of the government and people of the State of Qatar, my deepest reverence, warmest greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, the government and friendly people of Japan.



As this year also marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and Japan, it gives me the great honor to seize this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the government and

friendly people of Japan for their good friendship and fruitful cooperation over the years, and we do hope that this historic event will serve as a springboard for further cooperation and coordination between the two countries to strengthen, enhance and broaden the scope of the happily existing excellent bilateral relations, to serve the common interests of the peoples of the two countries.

The national day of the State of Qatar is a special occasion that embodies the pledge of allegiance to the nation and its leadership. It is a day for renewing the commitment to our beloved homeland and fervently celebrating the achievement of building one of the most prosperous countries in the world, thanks to the wise leadership of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the emir, and his entrusted heir apparent, H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

The Qatari people, fully aware and quite assured that



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

the vision, guidance and wise leadership of their highnesses guarantee further advancements for our country to continue sustaining the current growth and prosperity, achieve our aspirations and secure a brighter future for our coming generations, and this makes us all feel proud to be part of our dear country.

Qatar has taken bold and successful strides in terms of economic and social development, which quickly transferred the country to be one of the strongest and most vibrant economies in the world and secured the highest standard of living for its people. Qatar remains one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and its growth over the past decade has been astonishing by any standard thanks to our own efforts as well as the valuable cooperation of our international partners, including

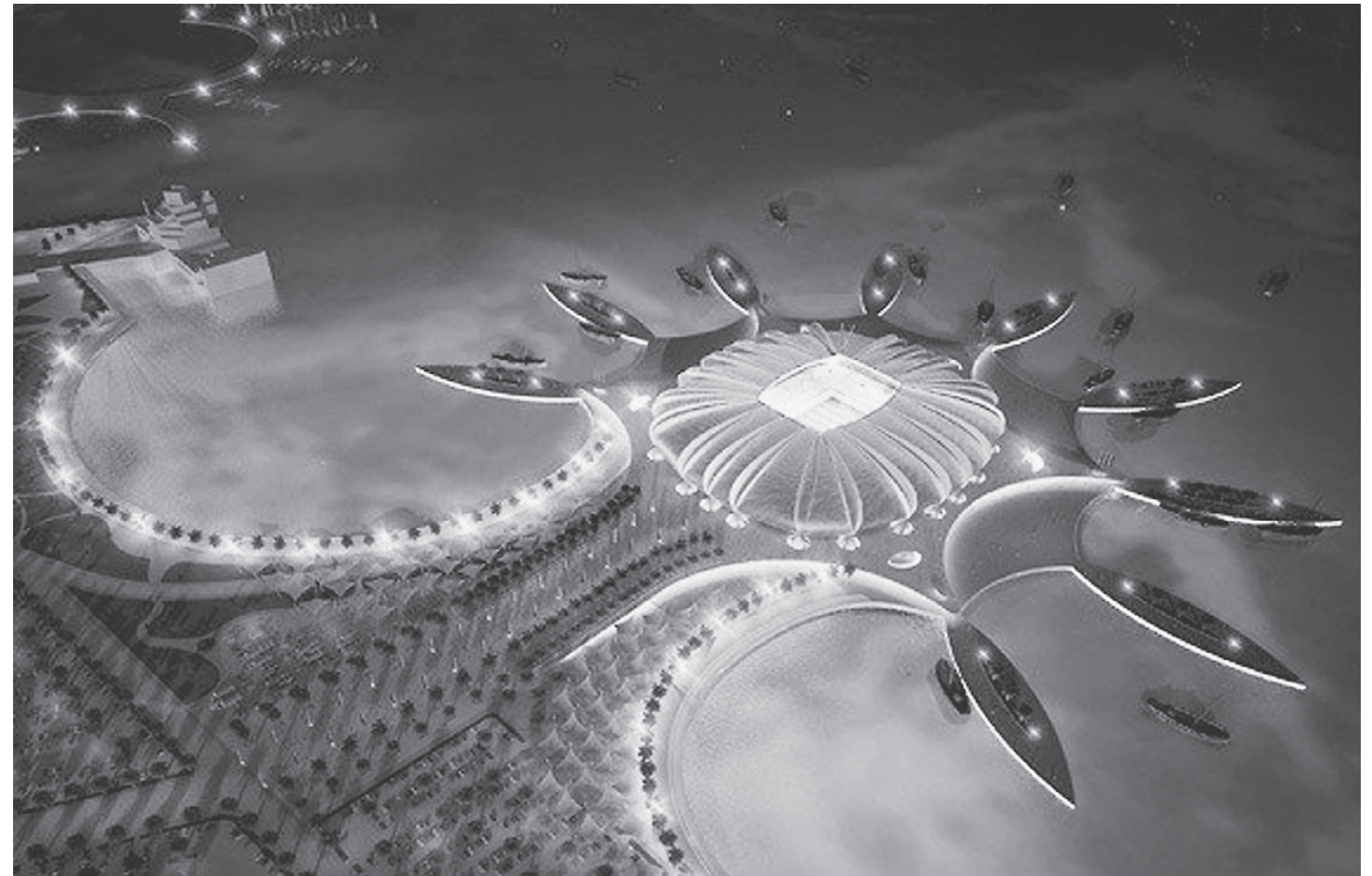
our Japanese friends.

Qatar-Japan relations continue to gain momentum and strengthening in a steadfast pace, and our country has proven to be one of Japan's staunchest friends as demonstrated in our leadership's keenness to respond promptly to the needs of our friends in the wake of the last year's natural disasters in the northeastern Japan.

We are very proud and satisfied by the high level of performance of the Qatar Friendship Fund (QFF), which was established upon His Highness the Emir's decision to help some of the victims in the disaster-affected areas. The QFF is a gift of friendship from Qatar to Japan and it underscores the depth of our friendship and commitment to Japan.

The town of Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, witnessed in October the launch of a fishery processing facility built using part of the QFF totaling \$100 million provided by the government of Qatar to help rebuild industries in the three disaster-hit prefectures in northeastern Japan.

H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, the chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority, and H.E. Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, state minister for foreign affairs, inaugurated the facility to confirm our government's resolve to successfully complete the projects of the QFF and alleviate some of the suffering of those affected. The QFF will soon launch another five mega-projects in Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures that will hopefully



The planned Doha Port Stadium for the 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament in Qatar EMBASSY OF QATAR

benefit more and more people.

To celebrate 40 years of friendship between the two countries, Tokyo experienced a taste of Qatari life this year when "Qatar Week: Ferjaan in Tokyo" was organized in September and October. Thousands of Japanese and foreigners flocked to the landmark event and discovered the richness of

Qatari culture.

The 40th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and Japan provided a new opportunity for reaffirming friendship and exploring new avenues for cooperation and building a far-reaching and multidimensional partnership.

As Qatar has begun a com-

prehensive development drive and planning for several important infrastructure projects in preparation for hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament, we are heavily counting on the contributions of our Japanese partners to share their vast experiences. This is one of the many areas that we can cooperate on during the next

phase as a model of a win-win 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.



Camel racing in Qatar EMBASSY OF QATAR



The Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar EMBASSY OF QATAR



Doha skyline: The city center EMBASSY OF QATAR

An overview of Qatar's foreign policy, economy, bilateral relations

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. To achieve these goals, Qatar supports 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 Qatar contributes financially to various regional and international charities and aid funds.

Qatar adopts a set of principles as a basis for peace and security in the Middle East and the world at large. Qatar also seeks to strengthen Pan-Arab solidarity through mutual trust and com-

munication between individual Arab countries, and spares no effort to advance the interests of the Arab world as a whole.

The economy of Qatar

Qatar is one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world. The real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 15.7 percent from 2007 to 2011. The rate was 18.8 percent in 2011 and is projected to be more than 6 percent in 2012. Though the predicted growth rate is lower than in previous years, the overall outlook for the Qatari economy is positive despite external risks, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The Qatari government has continued to develop its massive hydrocarbon reserves along with projects aiming to diversify its economy through the development and promotion of private sectors' industries, financial services and tourism; however,

oil and gas account for about 85 percent of export revenues and more than 50 percent of the GDP.

Qatar is endowed with 25 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and the world's third-largest natural gas reserves, about 15 percent of the world total. It has permitted expensive foreign investment in its natural gas industry and became the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas in 2007, and Qatar enjoys one of the world's highest levels of per capita income. In 2011, for instance, GDP per capita reached a level of \$98,000, according to IMF statistics.

The government's strategy is to use the vast oil and gas wealth to create opportunities for all. It has committed to massive investments of \$225 billion in establishing infrastructure in a variety of sectors, including energy, health, education, transport and tourism between 2011 and 2016.

The Financial Centre

The Qatari Financial Centre (QFC) is a financial and business hub 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. QFC provides access to over \$140 billion of investments in Qatar until 2015, as well as to over \$1 trillion planned investment across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

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 of Qatar, in local or foreign currencies. Furthermore, 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.

Education City

The 960-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 H.H. the Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

The facility includes higher education institutions at the university level, specialized training in design arts and languages and sporting facilities. The Qatar Foundation has signed with world-renowned educational institutions such as Georgetown University and Northwestern University to set up its branch campuses in the Education City.

Sports

Qatar embraces sport 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 has already hosted major international sporting events such as the Asian Games (2006) and the Asian Football Cup (2011). With the investment of \$2.8 billion in sporting infrastructure, Doha has been turning into one of the most modern sporting cities of the world and its persistent effort has brought success in the bid

for hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament. Qatar has already begun a \$200 billion development drive in preparation for hosting this prestigious sporting event. Qatar plans to bid for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

Bilateral relations

Qatar and Japan enjoy a strong partnership that is built on mutual understanding, respect and trust. The relationship was started at the diplomatic level in May 1972 and it has grown over the years and expanded to incorporate political, economic, educational and scientific and technological areas.

It is worth noting that bilateral relations and economic ties have advanced since the Qatar-Japan Joint Economic Committee started meeting in November 2006. The committee holds annual ministerial meetings to discuss topics such as energy, the business environment and other issues of mutual interest. The seventh annual meeting was held in October 2012 in Tokyo.

40th anniversary

The year 2012, is a special year for both countries as it marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. A series of commemorative events were held in Qatar and Japan throughout the year. CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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.



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on National Day and the 40th Anniversary of
Diplomatic Relations Between Qatar and Japan



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Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Fumio Kawaguchi

Congratulations

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on National Day



Qatar national day

Heartfelt gift for reconstruction

Fumio Kawaguchi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-QATAR
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the emir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamin Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the heir apparent, and the people of the State of Qatar on their 41st National Day.



2012 is a memorable year because of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and Japan. While events introducing Japan's traditional culture were held in Doha, many events including "Qatar Week: Ferjaan in Tokyo," which

was held in Roppongi Hills with the graceful presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attayah, chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority, and exhibitions such as "Pearls" at the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art were held.

As well as these events, great contributions through stable energy supply (especially liquefied natural gas) from the State of Qatar to Japan showed us their presence. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake last year, the State of Qatar has supplied about 17 percent of Japan's LNG demand (FY2012 basis) with the world's largest LNG production capacity of 77 million tons. Nobody doubts that the State of Qatar has made a great contribution to protect the energy security of Japan under the very low utilization rate of nuclear power plants. The State of Qatar has become

an important pillar of Japan's energy security.

In addition, the Maskar project was established by the Qatar Friendship Fund (QFF), with huge donations to the affected areas of \$100 million, represented by His Highness the Emir in 2011, and started its operations in October 2012. This is the world's first disaster-prepared fishery processing facility, which was built in order to support the reconstruction of the town's fishing industry at stricken Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture. I had the chance to join the opening ceremony of the Maskar project in the presence of H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attayah and the Qatari delegation. It was a heartfelt moment for us to see the people in Onagawa celebrating the completion of the Maskar project with the Qatari delegation. There will be additional support activities to the disaster area through the QFF. I would like

to express my sincere appreciation for this precious assistance for lighting the flame of hope of the people in these disaster areas. I sincerely hope that such a huge contribution will reach every sufferer at the earliest opportunity.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held the 18th Conference of Parties (COP18) at Doha chaired by H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attayah from November to early December. I believe it was a timely event to be held in Doha, where LNG, with low environmental impact, is set as the business axis for developing Qatar. More responsibilities and contributions from the State of Qatar besides COP18 will be requested by the international society. The State of Qatar deserves to be in such a position. I expect the State of Qatar to play more important roles in the international society alongside Japan.



Desert in Qatar EMBASSY OF QATAR

Cultural exchanges, friendship fund add to economic partnership

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Qatar cultural week in Japan, titled "Ferjaan in Tokyo," was held in September, where Princess Takamado made opening remarks. The initiative, held at Roppongi Hills in Tokyo, represented a high point in Qatar Japan 2012, a year of cultural, sporting and business-related activities that celebrate 40 years of friendship between the State of Qatar and Japan. The event, which attracted thousands of

Japanese, offered a unique opportunity for our Japanese friends to discover more about Qatar. Ferjaan in Tokyo included Qatari music and dance performances, a number of informative talks and presentations, film screenings and a selection of Qatari products. Visitors enjoyed experiencing traditional Qatari national dress and art, and Arabian henna.

Qatar Japan 2012 featured a number of fascinating events

that have given insights into the arts and culture of the two nations. Highlights have included an exhibition named "Pearls: Jewels from the Sea," held for three months from July at Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art. This event was organized by the Qatar Museums Authority, chaired by H.E. Sheikha Al Mayyasa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

The regular contacts and exchange of visits by high-ranking officials from both countries have contributed much to enhancing the bilateral relations. From the Qatari side, several ministers and high-ranking officials visited Japan throughout the year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, among them H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attayah, the chairman of Administrative Control and Transparency Authority, and H.E. Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Attayah, state minister for foreign affairs. From the Japanese side, Foreign Minister H.E. Koichiro Genba made an official visit to Qatar in early January 2012 and held talks with several Qatari leaders and officials.

Qatar Friendship Fund
Qatar considers itself a loyal friend to Japan and this is why we responded promptly to the March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake. This is reflected by the commitment of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the emir of the State of Qatar, to a \$100 million gift to support local Japanese relief and recovery efforts.
The Qatar Friendship Fund

(QFF) is a gift of friendship from Qatar to Japan. The QFF works closely with the Japanese central and local governments to bring hope to the Tohoku region that was severely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The QFF identified three priority areas, namely child education, health care and fisheries.

In January 2012, the first QFF activity provided around 1,400 children and their families from Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures with an opportunity to participate in a "Fun in the Snow Yubari Camp." The purpose of the Hokkaido Trip was to bring happiness and hope to children who had gone through the tragic experience.

The first mega-project, with investment of \$24.3 million, is the Maskar Fish Processing Complex, inaugurated in October in the town of Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, as a wonderful milestone for the QFF. The QFF will very soon launch five new projects in Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures that will hopefully benefit as many people as possible.

Economic ties

The economic partnership continues to be strong overall. Japan has been the No. 1 trade partner for Qatar over the past few years. In 2011 for instance, 26 percent of Qatar's exports and 6.0 percent of its imports were transacted with Japan. The size of the bilateral trade grew from \$17.5 billion in 2009 to \$31.1 billion in 2011.

Trade and investment in energy constitute the backbone of strategic economic partnership

between the two countries. Qatar is a reliable and stable supplier of crude oil and natural gas resources to Japan. In 2011, Qatar supplied Japan with 137.5 million barrels of oil, representing about 10 percent of Japan's total crude oil imports in addition to 12 percent and 32 percent of Japan's total needs of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum

gas (LPG), respectively, making Qatar the fourth biggest energy supplier to Japan; however, 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.



Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is loaded onto a tanker ship in Qatar. EMBASSY OF QATAR



Traditional dress in Qatar EMBASSY OF QATAR



Attending the opening ceremony of the Maskar Fish Processing Facility in Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, are H.E. Abdullah Al Attayah (third from right), chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority, H.E. Khalid Al Attayah (second from left), minister of state for foreign affairs, H.E. Yousef Bilal (right), Qatar's ambassador to Japan, Onagawa Mayor Yoshiaki Suda (left), Takano Takahashi (second from right), chairman of the Onagawa Fish Market Buyers' Association and Takeju Ogata (third from left), president of The Nippon Foundation. EMBASSY OF QATAR

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



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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.

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