

Qatar National Day Special

Relations built on mutual respect

HASSAN BIN MOHAMMED RAFEI AL-EMADI
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF QATAR



Dec. 18 marks the National Day of the State of Qatar, when all Qataris at home and abroad celebrate in a cheerful national atmosphere the foundation of our country on this

day in 1878, by the leader, father and the founder of the state, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani.

On this auspicious occasion, it gives me great honor to convey, on behalf of the government and people of Qatar, my deepest reverence, warmest greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, the government and the friendly people of

Japan. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartiest greeting and felicitations to all my compatriots living in Japan and to our friends and business partners throughout Japan.

Qatar's national day is a great historic occasion in our country, in which we recall the sacrifices of the founders, take pride in the glories of the past, cherish the achievements of the present, renew the covenant and loyalty to our leadership and reaffirm determination to work for a future filled with success, achievement and peace. This glorious occasion also provides a unique opportunity for reflection on the wonderful achievements made over the past years, under the guidance and the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

Our national march is proceeding with confident steps in the implementation of development programs, as planned. Despite the blockade imposed on our country, we are moving steadily toward the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. We have made

remarkable progress in the field of economic diversification by encouraging the private sector and increasing the productive capacities in various sectors. We have been enjoying a period of unparalleled prosperity, with outstanding economic progress being evident in the bettering standard of living of our people.

The energy sector has undergone an evolution that will enhance the strength of the economy and the position of Qatar in the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market. The latest technical tests showed productive layers of the North Field (a natural gas field located off the Qatar Peninsula) extend well into Qatari land in Ras Laffan, paving the way for the possibility of producing huge quantities of gas, which will enable Qatar to increase its production capacity of LNG to 126 million metric tons per year by 2027 — an increase of 64 percent from the current production level of 77 million metric tons per year.

The bilateral relations between Qatar and Japan have been flourishing and continue to

evolve at a rapid pace to be more solid and multifaceted.

Sheikh Tamim attended the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito in October, and joined the friendly Japanese people in their celebration of the beginning of the new Reiwa Era. In January, Sheikh Tamim also paid an official visit, cementing the bonds of friendship and enhancing bilateral cooperation not only in the economic field, but also on the political and security fronts. During the visit the two countries signed a number of agreements, including a joint declaration to launch a bilateral mechanism for strategic dialogue at the level of foreign ministers.

The economic interests form a fundamental pillar of the excellent relations between our two countries. Qatar is currently one of the largest energy providers to Japan. The partnership between Qatar and Japan in the field of gas is a strategy governed by mutual interest and trust and we continue to celebrate our friendship, achievements and joint successes. In July, Qatargas announced the delivery of the 3,000th LNG consignment to Japan since the first delivery in 1997, coinciding with Japan's 50th anniversary of the first LNG shipment from abroad.

It should be noted that Japanese companies play a pivotal role in the development and expansion of energy and other vital



Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani greets Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako at the banquet at the Imperial Palace following the enthronement ceremony on Oct. 22. EMBASSY OF QATAR

projects in Qatar, especially the projects related to hosting the 2022 World Cup.

Popular exchanges between the two countries have seen rapid progress over the past few years, and the pace of tourism and trade activities has been boosted by Qatar Airways' direct daily flights to Haneda and Narita airports. Qatar Airways' direct daily flights to Osaka's Kansai International Airport are scheduled to begin in April.

We remain confident that our friendship with Japan will grow stronger, and we are determined to maintain the momentum of

our excellent relations and work harder to push forward these relations toward achieving a comprehensive partnership between the two 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 would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to all our friends and partners for their efforts and contributions to enhance the existing friendly relations between Japan and Qatar.



Arches at the Museum of Islamic Art, located beside the Corniche promenade along Doha Bay. EMBASSY OF QATAR



Far left: Al Janoub Stadium, inaugurated in May, is one of the eight stadiums for the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar. Left: An artist's rendition of Lusail Stadium, which will be the venue for the opening and final matches of the World Cup. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Historic partnership spans over two decades

The energy relations between the State of Qatar and Japan, which is the largest importer and the foundation customer of Qatari LNG, have grown since the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo was delivered to the shores of Japan 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 of LNG per annum (Mtpa) 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 cargo to the Kawagoe Receiving Terminal on Jan. 10, 1997, Qatargas has safely and reliably delivered more than 3,000 LNG shipments to Japan over the past two decades.

Qatar has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the people of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, when Qatar prioritized the delivery of additional LNG shipments to help meet Japan's urgent energy needs.

Qatargas values the friendship with Japan, the foundation customers of Qatari LNG. It has established term contracts to supply LNG with 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 term 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 that 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, Qatar. It has recently announced that it will raise the country's LNG production capacity to 126 Mtpa by 2027, representing an increase of 64 percent from the current volume.

Qatargas' chartered LNG shipping fleet

QATARGAS

QATAR NATIONAL DAY

On the occasion of Qatar National Day,
18 December 2019
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

is not only the largest in the world, it also includes the largest LNG vessels. Our 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 the first production in 1996, Qatargas has successfully delivered shipments to 31 countries and is committed to meeting the world's demand for safe, reliable and clean energy. Through its

operational excellence, Qatargas is adding value to its production chain, contributing to the Qatari economy and Qatar's National Vision 2030 to ensure efficient energy supplies for the country, creating new markets and contributing to the local community. In addition to LNG facilities, Qatargas operates the Jetty Boil-Off Gas facility, Al Khaleej Gas, two helium plants, the two Laffan Refineries and the Ras Laffan Terminal on behalf of all shareholders.

Sponsored by QATARGAS

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



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Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Toshio Mita

Goodwill fostered in growing relations

TOSHIO MITA
CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN-QATAR
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of Japan-Qatar Friendship Association (JQFA), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, and the people of Qatar on their 48th National Day.

Qatar and Japan have been in diplomatic relations for over 40 years. Above all, 2019 was a special year in which our two countries deepened our friendship, goodwill and mutual understanding due to a number of multilayered interactions.

The highlight was H.H. Sheikh Tamim's visit to Japan in January for the first time in four years. H.H. Sheikh Tamim held meetings with His Majesty then-Emperor Akihito and His Highness then-Crown Prince Naruhito, along with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and granted an audience to me, chairman of JQFA. I was greatly honored to have such a precious opportunity to exchange words directly with H.H. Sheikh Tamim, and was pleased to know that he values the close relationship Qatar has with Japan.

In October, the amir also attended, with other foreign dignitaries, the enthronement ceremony for Emperor Naruhito. Thus, it became a historic year that H.H. Sheikh Tamim visited Japan twice in a year. It can also be said that it was a memorable year for Japanese people to be able to celebrate the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito and the opening of the new

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Reiwa Era with the amir of Qatar in Japan. In the 2019 Spring Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals, His Excellency Khalid Al Attiyah, the former minister of foreign affairs of Qatar, was honored the decoration of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun. His Excellency Yousef Mohamed Bilal, the former ambassador of Qatar to Japan, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. Utilizing a donation of \$100 million from Qatar after the Great East Japan Earthquake, both officials were devoted to supporting the reconstruction of the devastated area. Their courtesy is

deeply carved into the hearts of the people in the stricken area. It has provided a big momentum to expand the circle of friendship and goodwill between our two countries. The honorary awards to these officials was pleasing news that symbolizes growing friendly relations between our two countries. Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate my sincere respect to the achievements of these officials.

At the summit meeting between H.H. Sheikh Tamim and the prime minister in January, H.H. Sheikh Tamim stated that Japan and Qatar's relations are seen in not only energy, but in various other fields. He expects bilateral relations will strengthen in other spheres.

In order to meet the expectations of H.H. Sheikh Tamim, JQFA will deepen exchanges in a wide range of fields such as culture, education and sports, and further strengthen ties between the two countries, while working closely with the Embassy of Qatar in Japan.

In conclusion, I extend my most sincere congratulations on Qatar's continued prosperity and development under the great leadership of H.H. Sheikh Tamim. I hope that our relationship 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.



Skyscrapers line the waterfront in Doha. EMBASSY 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 meat served is prepared in accordance with the Halal method.
Open: 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m. (Closed on Mondays)
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