

Qatar-Japan Diplomatic Relations

PUBLICITY

Qatar to further enhance ties with Japan

By Hassan bin Mohammed Rafei Al-Emadi
Ambassador of the State of Qatar

It is with great pride and honor that we celebrate today the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and Japan. This is a historic occasion that provides a new opportunity to reflect on the great achievements that have been made in the course of the distinguished relations and the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two friendly countries, which was built on solid foundations of friendship, understanding, joint cooperation, and which was reinforced by mutual respect and trust at the leadership level in the two countries.

On this important occasion, I am honored to express on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, the government and people of the State of Qatar, my warmest greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to His Majesty the Emperor, the Empress, the Imperial Family and His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and to the friendly government and people of Japan further progress and prosperity.

Bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and Japan, since their establishment in 1972, have witnessed a rapid pace of growth



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and development, and today they have multiple strategic dimensions. The huge economic cooperation between the two countries formed the backbone of our comprehensive strategic partnership. Relations with Japan are one of the most important pillars of our foreign policy, as it is an important trading partner for the State of Qatar. Japanese companies were our first customers in exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG), and Japan is still one of our most important and largest partners in the energy sector.

I would like to seize this opportunity to renew our thanks, appreciation and respect to our friends and partners in Japan for the great role they played in the renaissance process witnessed by the State of Qatar. We highly value the efforts and contributions of many Japanese companies in implementing vital projects in the State of Qatar, and there are still great opportunities and promising areas in which we can continue our cooperation and partnership.

The bilateral relations have witnessed a qualitative leap in a wide range of fields outside the energy sector to include politics, security, trade, investment, innovation, technology, tourism, education and culture. There are regular high-level mechanisms for dialogue and consultation to discuss bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The first round of the bilateral political dialogue meeting at the level of the foreign ministers of the two countries was held in Doha in August 2021.

At the cultural and educational level, the first Japanese school was

opened in Doha in 2009 as a means of nurturing generations that understand the cultures of the two countries. In May 2021, we celebrated the inauguration of the Qatar Chair for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University.

The launch of direct flights to Japan by Qatar Airways in 2006 contributed to stimulating mutual trade and achieving a remarkable growth in the number of Japanese tourists to the State of Qatar, and the number of Japanese community members in the State of Qatar has increased. I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to the friendly people of Japan to visit the State of Qatar this year to enjoy the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which our country will host. We look forward to welcoming them in their second country, the State of Qatar.

We are confident that the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of relations between our two friendly countries will increase the momentum to reaffirm friendship, explore various areas of bilateral cooperation, and to advance relations to higher levels toward consolidating the comprehensive strategic partnership.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations in various fields. We thank them for their efforts, dedication and friendship over the past years, and we hope that they will continue their support for us and make more efforts to move the Qatari-Japanese relations to broader horizons to serve the interest of

the two friendly countries and peoples.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to

The Japan News and all partners and sponsors, for their generous contributions to this celebration, and for giving me the opportunity to ad-

dress distinguished readers and inform them of the strength of Qatari-Japanese relations on this important historical occasion.



on the 50th Anniversary
of the Establishment of
Diplomatic Relations
between the State of
Qatar and Japan



Al Thumama Stadium, left, one of the eight stadiums that will be used for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, and West Bay, Doha's spectacular skyline.



Courtesy of the Embassy of the State of Qatar

Congratulations

on the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the State of Qatar and Japan

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