

National Day of Qatar

Publicity

Qatar active hub for global politics, sports

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

Today the State of Qatar celebrates its National Day, the glorious anniversary of our founding of our beloved country. Dec. 18 is a day when the people of the State of Qatar remember the sacrifices and achievements of the nation's founders, our fathers and grandfathers, and their heroic roles and epics in achieving the unity of our country, affirming its sovereignty, preserving its heritage and building the modern state.



Hassan Bin Mohammed Rafei Al-Emadi

On this very special occasion, I am honored to express, on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir, the government and people of the State of Qatar, my deepest reverence, warmest greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

This is a great national occasion to reflect on achievements. Under our wise leadership, and in accordance with the Qatar National Vision 2030, the State of Qatar has undergone a rapid modernization process with a society whose standard of living has risen by leaps and bounds. In October this year, the Qatari people made a historic achievement and enthusiastically participated in the first national

elections to select two-thirds of the 45-member Shura Council. These elections were one of our country's broad strategies that aim to consolidate the rule of law, building the institutions and developing the legislative process with a broader participation of citizens in the process of development and modernization in the country.

Qatar's economic diversification is gaining momentum and progressing at an accelerating pace by increasing private sector investments in all sectors, enhancing partnership projects between the public and private sectors, and providing incentives to attract foreign direct investment. The Qatari market is attractive to foreign investments, especially in huge infrastructure projects, as Qatar has investment assets worth \$300 billion and is ranked 11th in the list of the largest sovereign funds in the world. Therefore, there are many and varied opportunities for Japanese companies to increase their investments and contributions to the Qatari economy in various sectors.

Qatar has always been a global player, whether that is by hosting massive sporting events, or presenting itself as a regional hub for global politics and diplomacy. The preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar are accelerating, with most of the stadiums and facilities ready to host the prestigious event.

The State of Qatar has been able to demonstrate its supremacy and leadership on the world stage with the important role it played during the past few months in the evacuation operations from Afghanistan, which trust it into the global spotlight.

Qatar's assistance in the evac-

uations was well received by world leaders, who praised its great role in evacuating tens of thousands of foreign nationals in difficult conditions and in record time. Japan commended the role of the State of Qatar in supporting the safe departures of the Japanese and the Afghan staff working with them and their family members from Afghanistan. Qatar is mentioned positively in the context of the Afghan crisis, not only because of its internationally appreciated humanitarian efforts, but also because of its adherence to dialogue as an alternative to war.

Relations between the State of Qatar and Japan have been characterized by mutual trust and fruitful cooperation and have deep strategic dimensions. In addition to the strong partnership that exists between the two countries in the field of LNG, relations witnessed a qualitative leap in a wide range of areas outside the energy sector to include trade, investment, tourism, education and culture.

The first round of the bilateral ministerial-level political dialogue was held in Doha in August, with the presence of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and then-Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi representing Japan. Bilateral cooperation in the field of education is expanding, as the Qatar Chair for Islamic Area Studies project was inaugurated at Waseda University in May. Preparations in the two countries are in full swing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, in March next year. These devel-

opments lay the solid foundations for building a comprehensive strategic partnership between our two friendly countries.

In closing, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to The Japan News for giving me this opportunity to address its distinguished

readers on this happy occasion, wishing to all peace, health, happiness and prosperity in the coming New Year.

Qatargas – Japan: Focus on improving energy relations

The State of Qatar's energy relations with Japan, which is one of the largest importers 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 (SPA) with Japan's Chubu Electric, and seven other Japanese buyers, who jointly import 6 million tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG 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 10 January 1997, Qatargas has safely and reliably delivered more than 3,300 LNG cargoes 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 and tsunami in March 2011, when Qatar prioritised the delivery of additional LNG cargoes to help meet Japan's urgent energy needs.

Qatargas values its friendship with Japan, the foundation customer of Qatari LNG. It has established term contracts to supply LNG to many of the key Japanese buyers including JERA, Tohoku Electric, Kansai Electric, Chugoku Electric, Tokyo Gas, Osaka Gas, Toho Gas and Shizuoka Gas. 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 an annual production capacity of 77 MTPA from its world-class facilities in Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar. The State of Qatar has announced plans to raise the country's LNG production capacity to 126 MTPA by 2027, representing an increase of 64% from the current 77 MTPA.

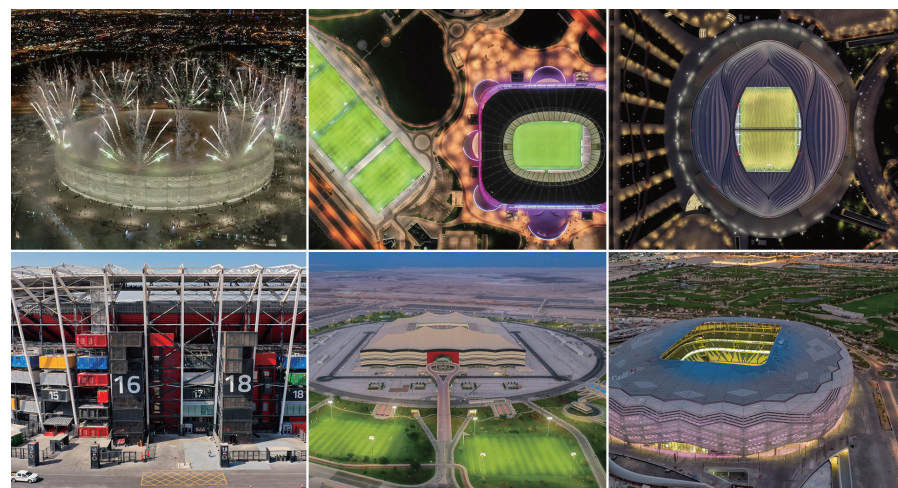
Qatargas' chartered LNG shipping fleet is not

only the largest in the world, but 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 its first production in 1996, Qatargas has successfully delivered cargoes to nearly 60 customers in more than 20 countries and is committed to meeting the world's demand for safe, reliable and lower-carbon energy. Through its operational excellence, Qatargas is adding value to its production chain, ensuring efficient energy supplies, creating new markets, contributing to the Qatari economy, and supporting the local community in line with Qatar's National Vision 2030. In addition to the LNG facilities, Qatargas operates a Jetty Boil-Off Gas facility, Al Khaleej Gas, Barzan Gas, three helium plants, two Laffan Refineries (among the largest condensate refineries in the world), and the Ras Laffan Terminal on behalf of its shareholders.



Courtesy of the Embassy of the State of Qatar
Doha's skyline



Courtesy of the Embassy of the State of Qatar
Newly built stadiums, ready for the Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022

Congratulations

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

Chiyoda Corporation

Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.

THE CHUGOKU ELECTRIC POWER CO., INC.

Cosmo Energy Holdings Co., Ltd.

Doha Bank

ENEOS Corporation

Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.

IINO KAIUN KAISHA, LTD.

IMPERIAL HOTEL, LTD.

Inchcape Shipping Services (Japan) Ltd.

INPEX CORPORATION

ITOCHU Corporation

JERA Co., Inc.

JGC HOLDINGS CORPORATION

JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corporation

The Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.

Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. ("K" Line)

KOBE STEEL, LTD.

LNG JAPAN CORPORATION

Marubeni Corporation

Mitsubishi Corporation

MITSUBISHI SHIPBUILDING CO., LTD.

MITSUI & CO., LTD.

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.

Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

MUFG Bank, Ltd.

NYK Line

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

THE PENINSULA TOKYO

Qatar Airways Group Q.C.S.C

SHIZUOKA GAS CO., LTD.

Sumitomo Corporation

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

TAISEI CORPORATION

TOHO GAS CO., LTD.

Tohoku Electric Power Co., Inc.

Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Tokyo Boeki Holdings Corporation

Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.

TotalEnergies Japan S.A.

United Petroleum Development Co., Ltd.

Japan-Qatar Friendship Association