

Qatar celebrates National Day 2021

By H.E. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Hamar
Ambassador of the State of Qatar
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In my capacity, as ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Korea, I feel greatly privileged and honored to celebrate the National Day of The State of Qatar in this wonderful city of Seoul. This occasion is celebrated annually on 18th December to mark the date in 1878 when Sheikh Jassim bin Moham-med Al Thani succeeded his father.



H.E. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Hamar, ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Korea

It is genuinely pleasant that this glorious celebration takes place at a time when the relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Korea reach one of their highest peaks.

Reciprocal visits among leaders of both countries have contributed to strengthening and making relations between the two countries reach the current level.

On top of these visits comes the visit of His Highness The Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in June 2019. This visit contributed to opening new horizons for cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit a number of agreements and memorandum of understandings were signed, which strengthened the special relations between the two countries.

Energy relations

Qatar and Korea share a strong relation spanning over 47 years, and have made great milestones and achievements together. In 1995, Qatargas signed the first LNG sales and purchase agreement, and four years later delivered the first cargo to Korea.

Since then, Qatargas has increased its deliveries to reach more than 9 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of LNG to Korean customers. Lately, Qatar Energy signed a long term sale and purchase agreement with Korea Gas Corporation for the supply of 2 MTPA of LNG to Korea.

Today, Qatargas is the largest LNG supplier in the world and it clearly intends to maintain its leading position in the LNG industry and is determined to continue to be a trusted and reliable supplier of clean energy to the market.

Qatar and Korea signed the largest LNG shipbuilding in History

Qatar Energy signed, on June 1st, 2020, agreements to reserve LNG ship construction in the Republic of Korea to be utilized for Qatar pe-



HH The Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

roleum's Future LNG carrier fleet requirement, including those for the ongoing expansion projects in the North Field and the United States of America.

Under the agreements, The big 3 Korean shipyards- Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME), Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) and Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI)- will reserve a major portion of Their LNG ship construction capacity for Qatar Energy through the year 2027.

It is worth noting that the State of Qatar requested 73 LNG carriers (for the export of LNG) from 2001 to 2012, and the three Korean companies won all of these orders, which indicates the extent of Qatar's confidence in the technology of Korean companies.

These milestone agreements indicate the close relations between the 2 countries, highlight Korea's position as a key and strategic energy partner with the state of Qatar, and will take the relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Korea to greater and brighter Horizons.

The deal will create more than 160,000 jobs and revive the shipbuilding and related industries such as steel, amongst others. Moreover, it will reinforce Korea's position as the world leader in the shipbuilding industry and it will further consolidate the already ex-

isting cordial relations between the two countries.

Foreign Policy

The foreign policy of the State of Qatar is based on the principles of consolidating international peace and security, promoting peaceful settlement of international disputes, mutual respect and common interests, peaceful coexistence and international cooperation, adherence to the values of justice and openness and respect for human rights. To that end, Qatar is keen on practicing the principles of good neighborliness, avoiding interference in the internal affairs of states, supporting the right of peoples to self-determination, in accordance with the principals of international law and the UN charter.

The foreign policy of Qatar has accomplished many feats. Lately, the State of Qatar played a major role in evacuating thousands of afghan civilian and Nationals from other countries out of Afghanistan, and works alongside its international partners on Afghan soil to ensure the safe passage of Afghans and other nationalities in order to secure a safe path for them outside Afghanistan.

The State of Qatar has facilitated the evacuation of about 58 thousand people through Doha in coordination with the concerned countries and



Qatar National Museum



Al Bayt Stadium

the parties present in Afghanistan, where most of them have settled as guests in Qatar for a while until they resume their way to their final destinations.

The evacuation efforts came in the context of the State of Qatar's commitment to the brotherly Afghan people and their right to live with dignity and in safety, and the

evacuees include families, women and children, in addition to minorities.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it poses; Qatar has decided to provide free health care facilities, free quarantine, and COVID-19 tests as well as free vaccination for all those coming from Afghanistan. In addition to free

accommodation and other necessary services.

The State of Qatar continues its efforts to support and facilitate efforts to reach a comprehensive political consensus that achieves security and stability in Afghanistan and involve all Afghans in the process. This can only be achieved through

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West Bay of Doha City