

Turkey wants to invest in development of football in Qatar: Ambassador



Turkish Ambassador to Qatar
HE Ahmet Demirok

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IN the run-up to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Turkish companies hope to participate in the development of the football infrastructure in Qatar, according to the Ambassador of Turkey to Qatar HE Ahmet Demirok.

Speaking to *Qatar Tribune* in a recent interview, the ambassador said, "Turkey would like to invest in the development of football infrastructure in Qatar, and we would of course like to see the Turkish national team here soon!"

Turkish companies would participate in building stadiums required for the FIFA World Cup in 2022. "While these projects are yet to go to tender, of course, a lot of Turkish companies would be interested in entering tenders for these projects," he said.

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The envoy pointed out that at least one Turkish footballer has already come to the country.

"We transferred a coach from Turkey, Bülent Uygun, who is now the Head Coach of the Umm Salal Sports Club's football team. He was a successful football player, and since his appointment he has got many wins under his belt," the ambassador added.

The ambassador stressed the infrastructural knowledge and experience of Turkish companies in the world, and said, "Turkish construction companies are actually second only to China, in the volume of projects undertaken globally. We are successful in this field, especially in places like Russia, Central Asia, Egypt, Libya and Qatar."

He noted the extent of the infrastructural projects carried out by Turkish companies and joint ventures with a Turkish stake in the country. "Turkish companies concentrate on infrastructure projects. The new Doha Airport is

built by a joint venture with a Turkish company, as well as the Qatar National Convention Center, the Museum of Islamic Art, along with a number of roads and bridges - all built with the participation of Turkish companies," he elaborated.

Given the significance of infrastructure to the Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030, the ambassador said that an increasing number of Turkish companies would be involved in the Gulf country's future projects. "The Qatari government would like to invest in infrastructure within the framework of the QNV 2030, and since there is a very big event like the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be hosted, Turkish companies would certainly like to have a share of these projects," the ambassador explained.

Qatar and Turkey have enjoyed great ties in the economic sector. More than \$12 billion worth of projects have been carried out by Turkish companies and through joint ventures in Qatar, to date.