

Pakistan national day

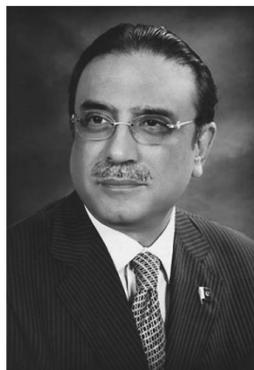
Founding vision to be realized on democratic path

Noor Muhammad Jadmani
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

As we celebrate our National Day today, I would like, on my own behalf and on behalf of all Pakistanis in Japan, to express our warm and respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the government and friendly people of Japan.

March 23, 1940, is celebrated as a historic occasion, when the idea of Pakistan as a separate homeland for the Muslims of British India took concrete form with the adoption of the "Pakistan Resolution." Since its emergence on the map of the world under the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam (the great leader) Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan has surmounted many obstacles and made progress in different fields of endeavor.

The democratic govern-



President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari

ment in Pakistan is resolved to translate the vision of Quaid-e-Azam into reality. Despite difficulties and many challenges, Pakistanis have succeeded in bringing the country back to the democratic path. The government and the people of Pakistan are striving to convert the challenges into opportunities with a focus on moderation, a peaceful environment and development.

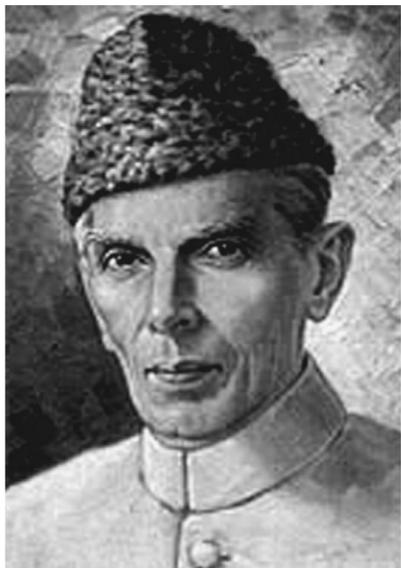
On the economic front, the



Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani

macroeconomic indicators suggest 2009 will be a better year and we will witness an economic turnaround. Due to the prudent economic policies of the present leadership, foreign investments are making their way to Pakistan, exports and imports continue to grow at a healthy pace, and the banking sector has shown resilience despite the global recession.

Since the establishment of



Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

formal diplomatic ties in 1952, relations between Pakistan and Japan have been marked by cooperation, understand-

ing and shared perceptions on major international issues. The foundations of friendly ties between our two countries rest on linkages that are ancient and modern. Historically, these ties go back more than 2,000 years to when the northwestern part of Pakistan was the cradle of the Gandhara civilization, with its Mahayana Buddhism

finding its way to Japan.

In Japan, on this day, we also recall with gratitude Japan's prominent role as a beneficent development partner of Pakistan. Japan is one of the leading trading partners of Pakistan and a major donor. Japan's support to Pakistan has recently been displayed with its offer to host in Tokyo two important multilateral meetings, Friends of Democratic Pakistan, and a donors' conference to supplement Pakistan's efforts to meet its financial challenges and developmental goals.

Given the progressive outlook and enlightened policies of the elected government of Pakistan, we are confident that we will realize our economic goals and further strengthen our relations with close friends like Japan in the years to come.

Foreign investment can help to tap rich potential of oil and gas sector

Amjad Ali Khan
PAKISTAN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Hydrocarbon exploration in Pakistan coincided with the early days of oil exploration in other parts of the world. The first exploratory well was drilled by the government of Punjab near the famous Kundal oil seepage in 1866, just seven years after the world's pioneer well in Pennsylvania.

This was followed by the drilling of 13 wells near the Khattan oil seepage (southeast of Quetta) in Balochistan during the period 1885 to 1892, which produced 25,000 barrels of heavy oil.

As a result of extensive geological surveys in the northern part of the Potwar Basin by Attock Oil Co., the first commercial discovery of oil was made in 1915, and it is still producing today.

Pakistan has been blessed with a total sedimentary area of about 827,365 sq. km (611,307 sq. km onshore and 216,058 sq. km offshore) suitable for hydrocarbon exploration. By the end of 2008, 1,685 wells (725 exploratory wells and 960 appraisal/development wells) have been drilled in different sedimentary sub-basins of Pakistan, with a drilling density of 1.99 wells per 1,000 sq. km.

On the basis of exploratory drilling, Pakistani basins are considered less explored compared to other basins, which are generally similar in geological setting and hydrocarbon potential, in North America and the North Sea, where the drilling density is several times higher than in Pakistan. However, these limited drilling activities in the sedimentary basins of Pakistan have resulted in 219 oil and gas/condensate discoveries, with an overall success ratio of 1:3.31.

So far Pakistan's total dis-

covered recoverable oil and gas reserves are 936 billion barrels and 1.59 trillion cubic meters, respectively. The total resource potential of Pakistan is estimated to be 27 billion barrels of oil and 8.46 trillion cubic meters of gas. Taking into account the drilling density, and the discovered oil and gas reserves so far, Pakistan's petroliferous basins remain a geological frontier, and hold promise for the future in view of their multiple habitats for petroleum generation and accumulation.

The government of Pakistan is also playing an effective role by arranging bidding rounds for exploration blocks (1989 and 1993), and announcing incentive packages for oil and gas investors through petroleum policies (1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2001, 2007 and 2009). In addition, roadshows are periodically held abroad for the promotion of exploration and production activities.

One of the most important prerequisites of an effective exploration program is the availability of a database. This is particularly important in the case of developing countries with petroleum potential and less explored basins such as Pakistan. To this end, it is worth mentioning that the government in 2001 initiated an online exploration and production data repository project using the Landmark PetroBank™ system (less than 10 countries in the world have this facility), which has been fully operational for the last six years.

The other important step taken by the government to this end was to highlight the hydrocarbon potential of Pakistan's sedimentary basins by integrating geological, geophysical, petro physical, and other technical information in the

form of Pakistan's Hydrocarbon Habitat Report through internationally reputable consulting firms in the oil and gas industry in 1988. This report has been updated through a world-class oil and gas consulting firm by incorporating all the technical data and new concepts that have become available since 1988. This report will be shortly available to all existing and prospective oil and gas companies.

The availability of infrastructure and trained/experienced manpower in a country also plays a pivotal role in attracting foreign investment to its oil and gas sector. One of the best gas transmission and distribution networks is available across Pakistan, linking the oil and gas producing fields to the main consumption centers. In addition, there are crude oil refineries in different parts of the country along with cross-country white oil and crude oil pipelines. Local oil and gas companies like OGDCL, POL and PPL, which have been operating in the Pakistan oil and gas sector for more than half a century, together with several universities have developed a strong regional manpower base for existing and prospective oil and gas companies in Pakistan.

To meet its fast-growing energy requirements, the government announced in January its Petroleum Policy 2009, which provides for economic and commercial incentives for investors in the upstream petroleum sector of Pakistan, which has a competitive edge over the terms and conditions offered by other governments in the region with similar geopolitical environments. Under the 2009 policy, terms and conditions for oil exploration companies have been relaxed in addition to a substantial increase in the gas price.

Japan, Pakistan to expand regional cooperation onto world stage

Mitsuo Horiuchi
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I offer my felicitations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day. Since Japan and Pakistan



established diplomatic relations in 1952, they have promoted active and cordial people-to-people exchanges in various fields, including the political, economic and cultural spheres, and developed a close bilateral relationship. I have personally been engaged in such activities since I became president of the league and I visited Pakistan in April 2002 as the prime minister's special envoy to attend ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Pakistan diplomatic relations. In recent years, particularly,

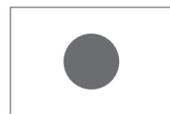
we have witnessed that the relations between Japan and Pakistan have developed one step further. First of all, Masahiko Komura, then foreign minister, visited Pakistan last May and signed a loan for about ¥48 billion, mainly for improving infrastructure. More recently, Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin, adviser to the prime minister on finance, revenue, economic affairs and statistics, visited Japan last month and had meetings with Japanese leaders, including Prime Minister Taro Aso. As president of the Parliamentarians Friendship

League I met him and had a very meaningful exchange of views. Japan and Pakistan, as friends in Asia, are about to enter a new stage of partnership to jointly address the world's major challenges in the international community. As president of the Parliamentarians Friendship League, I will make my utmost efforts to further enhance mutual understanding and bilateral relations. I reiterate my wishes for the continued prosperity of Pakistan, and further development of friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.

CONGRATULATIONS

23rd March, 2009

69th PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY



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President of the Pakistan Association Japan

Shoji Corporation
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Pakistan's new ambassador to Japan.
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will further strengthen on the economic and
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New highs await visitors to Pakistan

Pakistan's north is the country's most spectacular and fascinating region. Here, three of the world's famous mountain ranges meet — the Himalayas, the Karakoram and the Hindukush. The whole region is a paradise for mountaineers, climbers, trekkers, hikers and anglers.

The historic Karakoram Pass (5,575 meters), an ancient trading route between northern Pakistan and Xinjiang (China), gives its name to the range west of it that forms the watershed between the Indus and the Central Asian deserts.

Of the 14 peaks over 8,000 meters on Earth, four occupy an amphitheater at the head of Baltoro. Their shapes, forms, sizes and colors provide tremendous contrasts that defy description. These are: K-2 (8,611 meters) — the world's second highest and the undisputed monarch of the sky; Broad Peak (8,047 meters) — massive and ugly; Gasherbrum-I (8,068 meters); and Gasherbrum-II (8,035 meters) — the "Pakistani Pyramids" that even Cheops would have preferred for a tomb; Muztagh Tower — deceptively sheer; Chogolisa — the "Bride Peak," in whose eternal embrace

lies Hermann Buhl, the first man to climb Nanga Parbat; the Cathedrals of Baltoro, with their great knife-edge ridges; the sky-cleaving monoliths of Trango Towers and the most beautiful of all — the Peak of Perfection — Paiyu (6,600 meters), first climbed by a Pakistani expedition in 1977. There are scores of peaks over 7,000 meters high in the Karakoram Range and hundreds of nameless summits below 6,000 meters, mere points on the map. In the Lesser Karakoram there are equally great peaks such as Rakaposhi (7,788 meters), the dominant giant in the Hunza Valley. Its north face is a fantastic precipice — 5,791 meters of plunging snow and ice.

The Hindukush is also a mountain vastness containing hundreds of peaks, many above 7,000 meters, including Trichmir (7,705 meters), which is the highest point of the range. The western bastion of the Himalayas is Nanga Parbat (8,126 meters), once dreaded as the "Killer Mountain," but climbed many times by various expeditions since the first disasters.

Some of the longest glaciers outside the polar region flow in the Karakoram. The Siachin

glacier is 75 km long. The Hispar (52 km) joins the Biafo at the Hispar La (5,154 meters) to form a 116-km-long ice corridor. The Batura is 58 km in length. But the most outstanding of these rivers of ice is the Baltoro (62 km). This mighty glacier, fed by some 30 tributaries, constitutes a surface area of 1,219 sq. km. Seen from a distance, Baltoro appears smooth and beautiful but in fact it is a chaotic tumbling mass of rock and ice, troughs and hillocks, and the debris of centuries. It is a unique, remote corner of the Earth.

For many centuries, caravans have braved these tortuous mountains, treading precariously along paths providing shortcuts between the great towns of Central Asia and the rich markets of South Asia. However, the trails were hazardous, angry rivers horrifying to contemplate, and storms caused even the most intrepid to quail on the high passes and in the desolate gorges.

It is against this backdrop that Pakistan and China joined hands in 1967 to construct a 900-km, "Karakoram Highway" on the alignment of the ancient Silk Route. For its sheer mountain grandeur and breathtaking panorama of beauty, few places on Earth can match the superb landscape through which the highway snakes. A fantastic and unforgettable spectacle is the passage of the highway along the Batura glacier, rated as the world's seventh-largest glacier. The Khunjerab Pass, which the highway crosses, and the nearby Mintaka Pass, lie astride the fabulous ancient Silk Route that led from Europe to Asia and over which history's most famous tourists once traveled. These include the Venetian trader Marco Polo, after whom the wild Marco Polo sheep has been named, in the 13th century, the Chinese Monk Fa Hien in the fourth century and the Central Asian historian, Abu Rehan Al-Beruni, in the 11th century.

Since 1954, when the Karakoram Range of Pakistan was opened to expeditions for climbing and trekking, the mountains and glaciers of the north have become an international playground. There are hundreds of peaks waiting to be climbed. This is a great challenge for mountaineers and climbers the world over.

All peaks/routes for mountaineering have been designated as an open zone or restricted zone. Permits for climbing peaks in the open zone are issued by the Ministry of Tourism within 24 hours of the receipt of an application. However, for peaks/routes in the restricted zone, permits are issued within 14 days from the date of receipt of the application at the ministry.

Most of the trekking routes lie in the northern mountains of the Hindukush, the Karakoram and the Himalayas. The trekking season is between May and October. The Ministry of Tourism has defined trekking as walking below 6,000 meters. It has designated three zones for trekking — open, restricted and closed. Foreigners may trek anywhere in the open zone without a permit or services of a licensed mountain guide. For trekking in the restricted zone, foreigners must deposit a fee of \$50 per person per trek to obtain a trekking permit from the ministry. It also requires hiring a licensed mountain guide; buying a personal insurance policy for the guide and the porters, and attending a briefing and debriefing at the ministry at the beginning and the end of each trek. No trekking is allowed in the closed zone, which includes areas near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and near the Line of Control with Indian-held Kashmir.

This is one of the most fascinating destinations for mountaineers from all over the world. As in the past, this year too a number of Japanese climbers and trekkers will be visiting Pakistan. A Japanese group is also planning to scale K-2, the second-tallest peak in the world. We wish them good weather and a successful trip.



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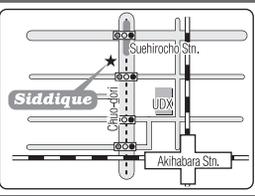
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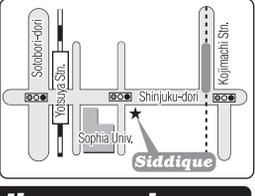
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