

Pakistan Day

Relations built on years of trust

Farukh Amil
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

Pakistan Day is celebrated every year on March 23 to commemorate the Lahore Resolution and the democratic vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to establish Pakistan. With democracy firmly in the minds of our founding fathers, it is again at center stage as Pakistan's democratic institutions continue to strengthen.

On this auspicious occasion, I express on behalf of the people of Pakistan, my compatriots in Japan and myself our respectful and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and the friendly people of Japan.

This year we are marking 65 years of diplomatic relations that have been characterized by warmth and common purpose, particularly in the field of development. Pakistan has always upheld the concepts of respect and dignity as clearly spelled out by our first foreign minister at the 1951 San Francisco Peace Conference with

Various exchanges create strong bonds

Seishiro Eto
President, Japan-Pakistan
Parliamentarians' Friendship
League

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

The administration of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has been addressing the economic and financial reforms as the highest priority since the establishment of the administration. In the economic sphere, an International Monetary Fund program was completed successfully last year. The challenges Pakistan has been facing are receding as the democratic government has boldly moved the nation forward.

I had a chance to meet Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal last October, and Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security Nasser Khan Janjua last December, to discuss the economic situation and the relationships with Pakistan's neighbors. Iqbal confidently



The founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad
Ali Jinnah

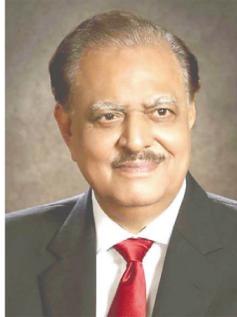
respect to Japan.

In 2016, we continued with important ministerial, parliamentary and business interactions. Eighty-three Japanese companies in Pakistan are posting record profits, underlining the strong consumer buying power of the rising middle class. Resource-rich Pakistan with a youthful population (median age of 22.8 years) of nearly 200 million is a perfect complementary partner for Japan. Pakistan's infrastructural development and energy needs present remarkable opportunities. The proactive investment policies of the government have focused on liberalization, deregulation and privatization. The enabling environment for ease of doing business has drawn interna-

said that Pakistan is attracting the attention of global investors and is seeing an unprecedented scale of investment in the field of energy and infrastructure. Moreover, I felt enthusiasm from Janjua that Pakistan is moving in right direction. As the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to support these efforts and establish bilateral relations from a long-term perspective.

Japan and Pakistan have had various exchanges on political, economic, cultural and academic levels since the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries in 1952. It was a pleasure to see a Japan-Pakistan summit meeting and foreign ministers meeting held on the occasion of the 71st session of the U.N. General Assembly in September. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. I hope more active mutual interaction between our two countries will be held under the initiatives of the Japanese embassy in Pakistan and the embassy of Pakistan in Japan.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for the continued prosperity of Pakistan and further development of friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.



President of Pakistan
Mamnoon Hussain

tional recognition. Great institutions such as the Japan External Trade Organization continue to play a valuable role. The government of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is determined to build bridges of peace, corridors of energy flow and secure regional stability through trade and enterprise through his "Peaceful Neighborhood" vision as witnessed at the Economic Cooperation Organisation summit on March 1.

In addition to trade, it is also important to deepen understanding between our coming generations, particularly through universities and think tanks. Human resource development for a youthful country is both a priority and a potential. Pakistan and Japan are Asian nations with many shared values and roots in the magnificent heritage of the Gandhara civilization that is linked to Nara in a timeless bond.

Japan has a great heart as seen in its global development activities. Pakistan has a great heart, too, having given sanctuary to European refugees in the late 1940s and again in the 1990s and then to the millions who came from neighboring countries. Since 1979 we con-



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

tinued to host at least 5 million with due dignity. With the rule of international law in mind, Pakistan remains fully committed to international peace and stability. As a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan has deputed over 150,000 men and women from its military and police forces as U.N. peacekeepers since 1960 in the world's most difficult conditions and places. Many have sacrificed their lives in their noble effort to maintain peace.

Pakistan has a progressive society set firmly on the democratic path, reflected in a vibrant parliament that includes impressive women's representation that has put the country ahead of many developed countries in terms of women in democracy. The president and prime minister have stressed their commitment to protect minorities in line with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam, the founder of Pakistan. Both have reiterated their belief in peace within countries and between countries. As Pakistan boldly moves forward there has been a strong reiteration of the guiding principles of the founding fathers that are democracy, tolerance, inclusivity and human dignity.

Bilateral business ties continue to experience mutually beneficial growth

Teruo Asada
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

Pakistan and Japan have had friendly relations for many years. For the past 65 years, not once has either friend left the other's hand. Despite having our friendship tested more than once and going through various difficult phases, both of us have stood by each other's side. Our friendship started in the early 1950s when Pakistan, as an agriculture-based country, started producing some of the world's finest cotton. As such, Japan's advanced spindles and other textile machinery helped to jump-start industrialization in Pakistan. Over time, both countries became good trading partners. Pakistan has enjoyed very cordial relations with Japan since April 28, 1952, when a Japan External Trade Organization office opened in Karachi, and the relationship has kept

growing to the mutual benefit of both countries.

In July 1983, the Pakistan government proposed the establishment of a Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee. In May 1984, then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone expressed interest in creating committees during a visit to Pakistan. Consequently, committees were formed and inaugurated in both countries in 1984. These committees have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade investment and economic activities. As bilateral relations have expanded, these business committees have performed a valuable role and provided an excellent platform.

According to the government of Pakistan, the real gross domestic product growth rate for fiscal 2015/16 was 4.7 percent, the highest in eight years. Looking ahead, a GDP growth target of 5.7 percent has been set for fiscal 2016/17. The outlook for the global economy is becoming increasingly unclear, and given these circumstances, Pakistan has been pursuing aggressive economic policies under the administration of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. An International Monetary Fund program is underway and making strong progress in promoting such structural change as power reform

and fiscal reform. There has been significant improvement in the fiscal balance and reduction of the inflation rate, while a steady increase of foreign exchange reserves has been a major achievement of economic reform. With these achievements as a backdrop, economic relations between Japan and Pakistan are expected to become stronger in the future.

We held the seventh Pakistan-Japan Private Sector Business Dialogue in Islamabad in 2015, at which time the automotive industry policy and the taxation system were key topics of discussion. Also discussed were matters concerning the expansion of the export of Pakistani products such as textiles and sporting goods. Considering the medium and long-term economic development of Pakistan, it is important to utilize the combined power of the public and private sectors. Additionally, it is important to hold flexible follow-up discussions to fully address the issues that will arise during dialogue meetings.

Please allow me to express my congratulations to Pakistan once again on the occasion of Pakistan Day. We look forward to further reinforcement of friendships and partnerships that exist between the two countries even in these uncertain times.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, left, and his wife Kalsoom Nawaz Sharif, right, visit Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace during their visit to Tokyo on Dec. 18, 1992. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 20. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN



Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida during the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 20. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Sports help promote peace, tranquility

Antonio Inoki
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF
COUNCILORS AND GOODWILL
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN FOR
SPORTS DIPLOMACY

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

As the world passes through turbulent changes there is all the more reason to strengthen the voices of peace. I have always endeavored to promote peace and tranquility through sports as a theme of a healthy coexistence. In the 65 years of our bilateral diplomatic relations we can jointly take the first step toward greater peace

in the coming 65 years and beyond. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's "Peaceful

Neighborhood" vision enunciates a message that may bring durable peace, tranquility and cooperation among all the neighboring countries of the region.

I earnestly pray for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan and express deep enthusiasm for further strengthening of cordial relations between Pakistan and Japan so that we can jointly take the first step toward new peace.

Congratulations

on the Occasion of
the 77th National Day of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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Did You Know? In The Quran ご存知でしょうか?
God Says In Chapter No. 41, Al-Fussilat, Verse No. 34
The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal.
Repel (the evil) with one which is better.

(Then verily! He (the enemy) will be as though he was a close friend.)

聖クルアーン41番、フッスィラ章、34節で創造者が仰せられています
善と悪とは同じではない。(人が悪をしかけても)一層善行で悪を追い払え。
そうすれば、互いの間に敵意ある者でも、親しい友になる。

(互いを強い絆で結ぶメッセージであります)

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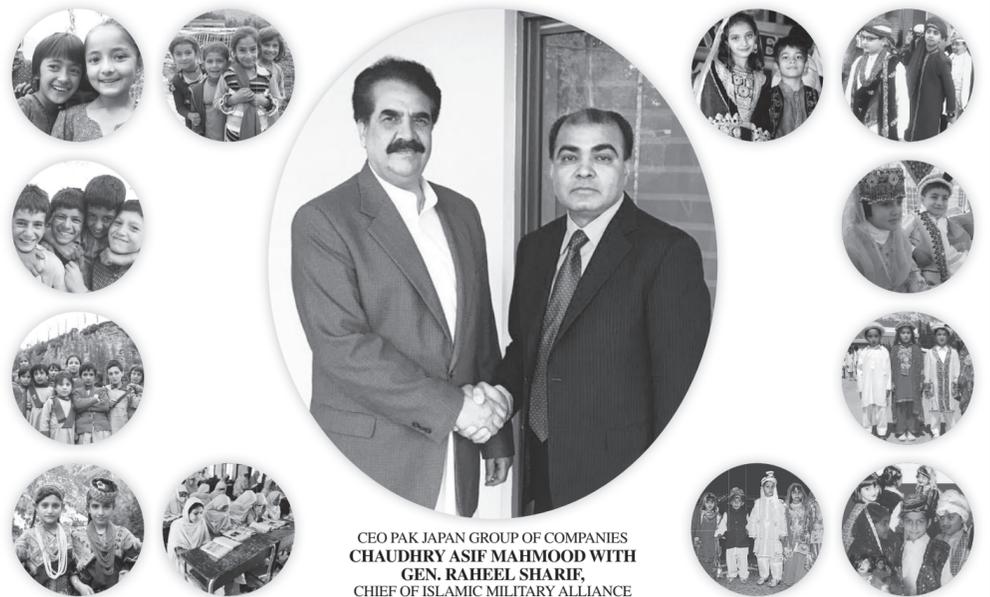
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23rd March, 2017

77th PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY



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Our Warmest
Congratulations
to the State and the People
of the Islamic Republic
of Pakistan
on the 77th Anniversary of
Their National Day

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