

Pakistan independence day

Building stronger bilateral ties

Farukh Amil
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

After a successful, but strenuous struggle by the Muslims of South Asia, the dream of Pakistan was realized sixty-eight years ago on this day. Born out of democracy, Pakistan was led by the vision and inspiring leadership of one of the greatest democrats of the 20th century, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It is with this democratic heritage that in recent years Pakistan is achieving political maturity. There has been for the first time the smooth transition from one democratically elected government to the next.

On this auspicious occasion I express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, on my own behalf and on behalf of my compatriots in Japan, 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, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

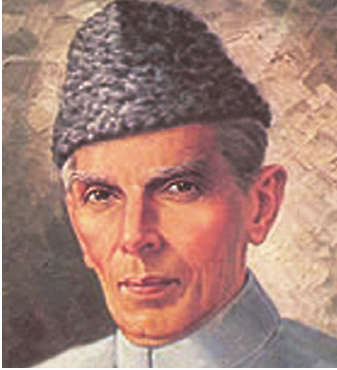
With democracy and human dignity in mind, Pakistan advocated Japan's right to be treated with respect at the 1951 San Francisco Peace Conference.



Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, the multidimensional friendship between Pakistan and Japan has evolved. Our two friendly countries have always maintained cooperation and trust and high-level contact over the decades has augmented this relationship.

The policies of the Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for economic growth, infrastructure development and the commitment to the "Peaceful Neighborhood" will provide impetus for greater cooperation with Japan. Our aim is to deepen understanding between our coming generations.

With over 73 Japanese companies having been involved in profitable businesses in Pakistan for several decades, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and JETRO have also played consistent and important roles to promote development, business, trade and investment. Japan remains a vital partner in development cooperation, particularly as Pakistan has embarked on building vital infrastructure in the 21st century. With a growing population of nearly 200 million, Pakistan's energy demand is increasing. This requires the exploration and adoption of new technologies. Blessed with resources such as coal, solar and wind, the cutting edge technologies of Japan will find a perfect



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

partner in Pakistan. The proximity to major regional markets from West, Central and South Asia means Pakistan — with its youthful population — is at a crossroads for investment and growth. The network of energy and trade corridors that will crisscross the nation and region are being developed in partnership with all our friends of peace



President of Pakistan
Mamnoon Hussain

and development. Pakistan's own major consumer market also presents many opportunities for the Japanese corporate sector.

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



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Nawaz Sharif

1960 in the world's most difficult conditions and places. Many have sacrificed their lives in their noble efforts to maintain peace.

Pakistan and Japan have shared roots since ancient times from Gandhara to Nara. In modern history we are two friendly countries whose potential, through the sharing of expertise and resources, can build an even stronger bond in the 21st century.



Top; Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, furthest left, and his spouse Kalsoom Nawaz Sharif, furthest right, called on Japan's Emperor Akihito, third left, and Empress Michiko, third right, at Imperial Palace during their visit to Tokyo on Dec. 18, 1992. Above left; The Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group meets with the speaker of the Diet and Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League counterparts. Above right; A parliamentary delegation visited Japan to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union Young Parliamentarians Conference in Tokyo on May 27 and 28. Left; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi (left) meets with Foreign Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Further strengthening friendship

Teruo Asada
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to offer sincere congratulations to the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan's 68th Independence Day.

These days, Pakistan's economy is steadily growing, with Pakistan's Ministry of Finance estimating that the country's economic growth rate for the 2014-2015 year stands at 4.2 percent, which is a seven-year high. More Japanese companies are operating in Pakistan, and re-

cently, a number of significant investments have been taking shape, with examples including the opening of a factory by a motorcycle manufacturer and plans for the establishment of a local corporation by a food maker.

The expectations of Japanese companies are growing along with the expansion of the middle-income bracket in Pakistan, with its population of 190 million.

Among the potential sources of strength in Pakistan are the abundant capabilities possessed by the country's young generation.

When I spoke with delegation members of the Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the national assembly last February, I was told that Pakistan's government is promoting the "Prime Minister's Youth Program" for purposes such as job

creation for youth employment and work-related training. I also learned of the government's efforts to nurture budding entrepreneurs.

I believe that these initiatives will contribute to the further development of Pakistan's economy. Our committee is closely observing the progress being made with economic reform in Pakistan, and we will make efforts to contribute to the enhancement of the economic ties between Pakistan and Japan.

I would like to conclude by once again offering my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan as they celebrate this year's Independence Day. We look forward to the further strengthening of the traditional friendship and partnership that have long characterized relations between our two nations.

Customers in Japan can now enjoy 'King of Fruits'

Mangoes, known as the "King of Fruits," from Pakistan have arrived in Japan. Giving customers an exciting reason to shop early and often, AEON, one of the leading retail giants of Japan, showcased Pakistani mangoes, bringing quality and affordability together for its customers.

AEON, being the first retail chain in Japan to offer the highly coveted fruit to shoppers in 2014, agreed to increase their imports of mangoes from Pakistan and continue to work with Global Gap Certified companies of Pakistan that meet Global Food Standards. Mr. Daisuke Wakimoto of AEON said: "We are trying to expand our sales remarkably this year by advertising the most prominent characteristics of Pakistani mangoes, namely, aroma and sweetness. We are planning to sell the king of fruit until the middle of September. Please stop by our stores."



Growing ties through sports

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

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Pakistan Independence Day.

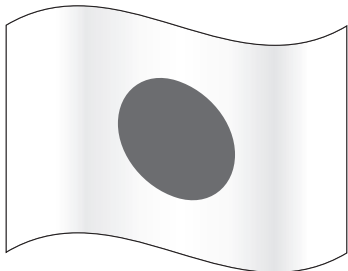
May all Pakistani nationals continue to honor the spirit of the foundation of the nation and may both Pakistanis and Japanese take the path to world peace.

I sincerely wish Pakistan continued prosperity.

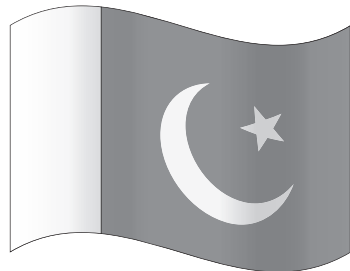


CONGRATULATIONS

on the Occasion of the 68th Anniversary of Pakistan Independence Day



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to the People of Pakistan

on the 68th Anniversary

of Their Independence

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Did You Know? In The Quran ご存知でしょうか？
God Says In Chapter No. 49, Al-Hujuraat, Verse No. 13
"O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female and made nations & tribes, that you may know one another"

(We must have a close relationship with each other)

聖クルアーン49番、部屋章、13節で創造者が仰せられています
"人びとよ、われは一人の男と一人の女からあなたを創り、種族と部族に分けた。これはあなたがたを、互いに知り合うようにさせるためである。"

(私たち人間は互いに緊密な関係が必要です)

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Pakistan independence day



Minister for Women Development Punjab Hameeda Waheeduddin meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during her visit to Japan in June. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Enjoying a close mutual friendship

Seishiro Eto
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE

On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League.



It may be surprising for the Japanese people to know that only 68 years have passed since the establishment of Pakistan. This is because Pakistan is founded on a history of thousands of years.

We are inspired by the eternal history of Mohenjo-daro, and we are also struck with awe by the Buddhist arts of Gandhara. In our childhood, we became familiar with our heritage in school and longed to see them with our own eyes. Although Pakistan is geographically far from us, the Japanese people cast nostalgic eyes on the country, because of the strong flow of the rich history and culture on the foundation of Pakistan.

I have met many people from Pakistan this year. In January, I met Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, who is a champion of economic and financial reform, and he elaborated on the "Darnomics" economic policy, which is aimed at the development of Pakistan.

I hope the efforts focused on the three "E's," namely economy, energy, and extremism will achieve success. In February, I met the President of the Standing Committee on Defence Sheikh Rohale Asghar

and discussed Pakistan's security policy in detail. We also had an active exchange of views on future parliamentary exchanges with the Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League in the national assembly.

As democracy strengthens in Pakistan, understanding and cooperation between our two parliaments must grow. I am happy to note that I also met with a delegation of the Pakistan Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group (PJPPG) in February, further deepening our vital relationship. All of them are respectable patriots who are seriously thinking of the future of Pakistan and I sincerely hope for their future success.

I also met again Hameeda Waheeduddin, whose Japanese name is Hanako Sumida, on her visit to Japan to attend the High Level Seminar on Peace Building, International Reconciliation and Democratization in June. Hameeda is a Japanese-Pakistani who was raised in Osaka and is leading various reforms to establish a society where women can flourish, as the provincial minister for women and development in Punjab.

I, as a Japanese, am proud of Sumida's success in Pakistan and hope she will continue to make positive contributions as a bridge between Japan and Pakistan.

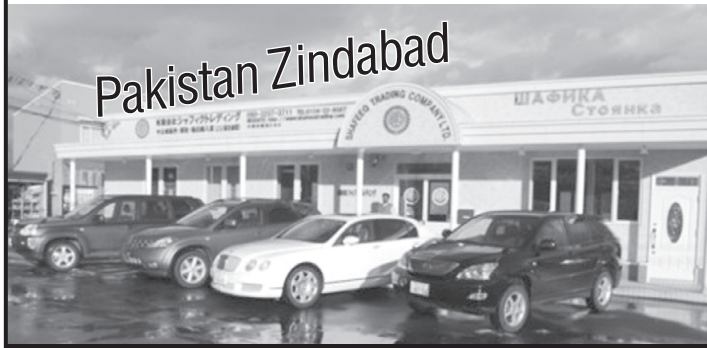
Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have established warm and friendly relations through exchanges in various fields. And, in the future as well, I am determined, as president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, to exert all my efforts toward further fostering mutual understanding and cooperative relations between Japan and Pakistan.

CONGRATULATIONS ON PAKISTAN DAY

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