

Pakistan National Day Special

Marking 70 years of unity, respect and partnership

IMTIAZ AHMAD
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day, let me express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots in Japan, our respectful and sincere greetings to their imperial majesties the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the government and friendly people of Japan.

March 23 is an important landmark in the history of Pakistan. It was on this day in 1940 when the historic Lahore Resolution was passed that united the Muslims of the subcontinent for a greater objective. The Muslims of the subcontinent through their collective will expressed unwavering resolve to carve out a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could lead their lives in accordance with their own religion, traditions, values and culture. Today, we also pay homage to the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, "Poet of the East" Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all the other great leaders of the freedom movement who paved the way for the creation of Pakistan.

Pakistan Day 2022 is being commemorated in very turbulent times when the world is facing the continuation of the coronavirus pandemic. Very rarely does a calamity have such a worldwide impact as we are witnessing today. Nations have to go through difficult times but only with unity we will sail through. We stand united with the people of Japan in navigating this adversity.

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan were established on April 28, 1952. 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of

the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The embassy is holding a variety of programs to introduce Pakistan's rich legacy in tourism, culture, food and other products to the Japanese people throughout the year.

The friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan are historical and time-tested. It is a relationship based on mutual respect and understanding, with the peoples of both nations having a strong feeling of friendship and affection for each other.

Despite relatively limited bilateral interactions in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the relations between Pakistan and Japan have gained enhanced momentum during the past few years. The mainstay of our relationship has been in trade and the economy, with Japan being a key development partner and a major investor in Pakistan.

In September 2021, the foreign ministers of our countries met on the sidelines

of the U.N. General Assembly. In May 2021, Prime Minister Imran Khan became the nation's first prime minister to give a keynote address at the Future of Asia conference organized by Nikkei Inc. On the economic and trade fronts, Toyota Motor Corp. has announced a fresh investment of \$100 million for assembling hybrid vehicles in Pakistan.

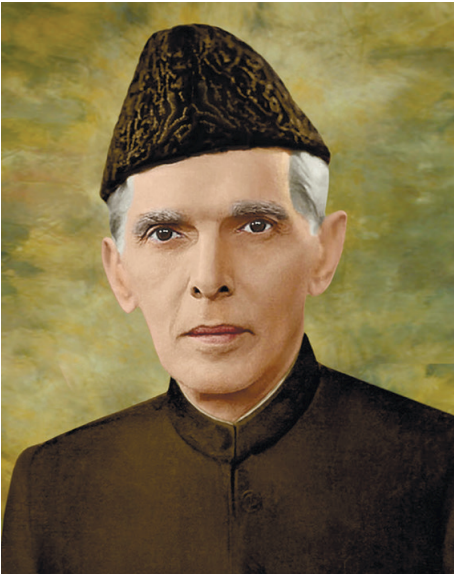
Looking forward, I am optimistic for the year 2022 and beyond as the sky is the limit for our fraternal relations. We will endeavor to carry forward the excellent momentum in our relations to the years ahead and forge new partnerships in multiple fields.

We are also confident that through our joint efforts our fraternal ties and cooperative relations will acquire further depth in the years to come, to the mutual benefit of our two peoples and regional peace and prosperity.

Pakistan-Japan relations *zindabad*.



Mountain flowers bloom in the Chunda Valley in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan. QAMMER WAZIR



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



President Arif Alvi



Prime Minister Imran Khan

Strong momentum for business collaborations

Pakistan's National Day today is indeed a great moment to share a few promising trends.

First, Pakistan has recently announced the lifting of all coronavirus-related restrictions, following declining infections across the country. All offices and transport have been allowed to operate at full capacity, whereas the ban on indoor dining has also been lifted, as 70% of the population has now been fully vaccinated.

In January, Pakistan ranked second in The Economist's Global Normalcy Index for COVID-19. The index aims to determine which countries are returning to their pre-pandemic levels, grading each country using eight indicators split into three categories: transport, recreation and commercial activity.

Therefore, all Japanese tourists who

wished to travel to Pakistan but were holding back because of the pandemic can now plan their trips.

Second, Pakistan's booming IT startup sector is turning out to be a silver lining for the country.


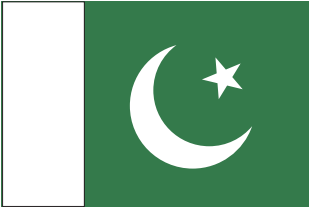
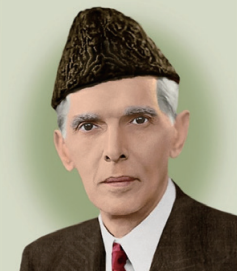
According to a recent report, IT startups in Pakistan have raised \$486 million of global capital since January 2021. With the aim to tap into Pakistan's IT talent pool, the National University of Science and Technology of Pakistan and staffing agency Plus W Inc. of Japan signed an agreement last week. Facilitated by the Pakistani Embassy in Tokyo, the agreement aims to create a foundation for Pakistan's advanced IT human resources to be exported to Japan. As per the agreement, a Japan-Pacific Human Resources Exchange Center will be established at NUST that will act as a bridge between Japanese IT

companies and Pakistani talent.

It is estimated that Japan will need around 800,000 IT engineers by 2030, for which Pakistan could be an attractive source, as the country is becoming a prominent supplier of skilled workers to the world owing to a large, young and educated population.

Third, the future looks promising for Pakistan-Japan business relations. Earlier this month Pakistani food items attracted much attention at Foodex Japan 2022. In the coming months, the seventh round of high-level joint business dialogue between Pakistan and Japan will be hosted in Islamabad. Pakistan has also conveyed its intent to participate in the 2025 Osaka Expo.

Muhammad Farrukh Rafiq, Press Counselor, Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo



23RD MARCH


**THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE
THE ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR NATIONAL DAY**

with renewed vigour and hope to build up a happy, prosperous and progressive future for our country and leave behind a rich legacy of achievements for our future generations to feel proud of.

NBP will continue to play its role in promoting the national effort for all-round development.

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Congratulations

March 23, 2022

PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY

WISHING A GREAT FUTURE FOR

PAKISTAN



Musashi Fukui, Japanese peace activist

NO WAR






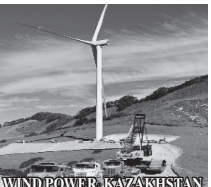

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Pakistan National Day Special



Kharphocho Fort, Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan QAMMER WAZIR

A chance to deepen exchanges, affirm ties

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 people of the Islamic Republic

of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Japan and Pakistan have been enjoying close friendly relations through exchanges in various fields such as politics, the economy and culture since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952. This year marks the 70th anniversary of our ties, for which

many memorial events are organized or planned both in Japan and Pakistan. It is a great opportunity to further advance bilateral exchanges, and to look back on our history of friendship to reaffirm its importance.

Although we still cannot foresee a complete end to the spread of COVID-19, I feel that we are making gradual but steady progress in our fight against the virus by standing united globally.

Despite numerous restraints, bilateral relations between Japan and Pakistan have been firmly maintained. During the course of the past year, Khan participated by video message in the International Conference on The Future of Asia organized by Nikkei Inc. in May. When the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August, the government of Pakistan extended generous support to help Japanese nationals and Afghan staff from the Japanese Embassy and the Japan

International Cooperation Agency safely depart Afghanistan. This was followed by the first meeting between Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and then-Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in September, where a meaningful exchange of views was held on bilateral and regional issues.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Pakistan diplomatic relations this year, I would like to make utmost efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations as the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, despite the difficulties posed by the spread of COVID-19.

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

Toward a robust economic rebound from pandemic

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), please allow me to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the government and

people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Since the JPBCC's establishment in 1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. The JPBCC would like to heartily welcome this year, as it is a special milestone: the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan.

We hope to contribute toward the mutual relationship between our friendly and prosperous nations.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan's Cabinet, investors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have risen substantially.

With increasing business momentum in Pakistan and a population surpassing

200 million, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate.

I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistan market once the COVID-19 pandemic has been contained. Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan Day, as well as my sincere wishes for Pakistan's increasing development and prosperity in the future.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations

to the People of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the Occasion of
the Anniversary of
their National Day

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