

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Shared traits of hospitality, resilience, sense of community

ABDUL HAMEED
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF PAKISTAN



On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan won its independence and emerged as a sovereign state. On this day, we remember the struggle of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the father of the nation, the vision of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the poet of the East, and the sacrifices of all founders of Pakistan and workers of the Pakistan Independence Movement.

Let me take the opportunity to express our sincere and respectful greetings to their imperial majesties the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family and H.E. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my fellow citizens in Japan.

Since its independence, Pakistan has been contributing to international peace and security. Pakistan has been seeking friendly relations with all countries of the world based on mutual respect for one another's sovereignty. This policy is closely related to the ideology that developed dur-

ing our struggle for freedom. Japan and Pakistan established diplomatic relations on April 28, 1952. This relationship, which is based on mutual respect and understanding, is characterized by a shared sense of history and common perspective on contemporary issues. In the current circumstances, Pakistan and Japan share the objective of advancing peace and solidarity with all members of the international community.

The peoples of our nations have been connected since the prehistoric era. We began trading cotton in the 1950s. Our nations have a shared heritage of a rich past, much of which has yet to be fully explored and comprehended. Pakistan regards Japan as an important Asian country whose economic accomplishments set a good example for the rest of the region. We deeply appreciate the strong sense of family values and togetherness that Japanese people uphold. The similarities between the people of Pakistan and Japan are numerous, including respect for our elders, hospitality, politeness, the habits of hard work, endurance and resilience, and a deep-rooted sense of community and social cohesion.

Our relationship has grown stronger over the course of more than 70 years. We are witnessing an increase in cooperation

at all levels. Many dignitaries from Pakistan have visited Japan recently to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and friendship, particularly during the Osaka Expo. The recent visit of our Commerce and Trade Minister Jam Kamal paved the way to enhance investment in Pakistan.

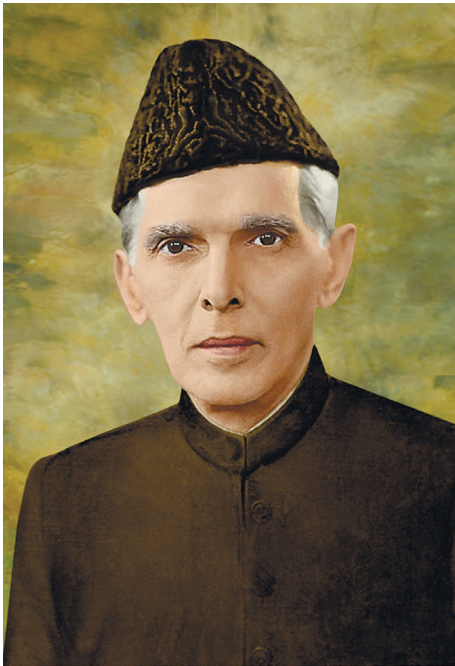
Our bilateral relationship has a geo-economic basis, with Japan serving as an investor and development partner. The past few years have seen an increase in economic cooperation between Pakistan and Japan. Japanese interest in investing in Pakistan has resumed, as seen by the large turnout for the recent investment promotion event in Tokyo organized by the government of Pakistan. Komatsu Co. has announced plans to invest in the mining exploration sector for rare earth minerals in Pakistan.

In recent years, Japanese investment in Pakistan has entered a new phase. In 2023, Toyota announced an investment of \$100 million in Pakistani hybrid car manufacturing. Morinaga Milk likewise made a significant investment, indicating a revived interest in the Pakistani market. Bilateral trade has remained steady, with a total volume in 2024 of \$1.38 billion. Japan exported approximately \$1.36 billion worth of goods to Pakistan, while Pakistan's exports to Japan stood at around \$223 million as of mid-2025.

In 2024, the Japan International Cooperation Agency continued to extend support to Pakistan through various projects, including grants for maternal and child health, flood management and polio eradication. Two grants were provided for projects relating to maternal and child health. Japan also financed a \$326 million Japan Development Scholarship program to support human resource development, allowing Pakistani officials to pursue public administration degrees in Japan.

Defense cooperation between Pakistan and Japan is strong and improving, with a strong sense of mutual trust and reliability. The Pakistani diaspora in Japan contribute economically, exporting used cars, carpets and halal food. Both countries are collaborating to encourage skilled labor exports from Pakistan to Japan. Future efforts aim to maintain positive momentum and deepen cooperative relationships for both our countries and the region.

Long live Pakistan-Japan friendship!



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Strong growth potential in key industries

AKIRA TERAKAWA
JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government, leadership and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on this most joyous commemoration of Pakistan's Independence Day.

The JPBC was founded in November 1984 in response to a request from

the government of Pakistan. Following its inception, we have been dedicated to fostering bilateral economic relations, including trade and investment, as well as broader business exchanges. We also had the distinct honor and privilege of hosting a business round table coinciding with the delegation of Commerce and Trade Minister H.E. Jam Kamal's visit to Japan in May. We remain committed to further enhancing economic cooperation between our nations through fostering ongoing dialogue, as well as joint efforts between the public and private sectors.

With a population exceeding 240 million, and approximately 60% under the age of 25, Pakistan boasts an exceedingly vibrant and youthful demographic. What's more, the abundance of English-

speaking talent further contributes to the country's considerable potential.

I am confident that Pakistan is well positioned to achieve continued economic advancement, leveraging its demographic strengths, as well as the growth potential of key industries such as automotive, textiles and information technology. It is also my expectation that an increasing number of Japanese companies will explore and ultimately enter the promising Pakistani market in the years ahead.

In closing, I would like to once again extend my most sincere congratulations on Pakistan's Independence Day, along with my very best wishes for the country's continued development and lasting prosperity.

Working to strengthen friendly bilateral relationship

SEIJI MAEHARA
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the 78th 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.

Soon after Pakistan's independence in 1947, Japan and Pakistan began forming a friendship through which we have sup-

ported each other in times of need. Japan's official development assistance to Pakistan marked its 70th anniversary last year, and Japan remains firmly committed to supporting and fostering Pakistan's ongoing development.

I am saddened by the news that Pakistan is again suffering from floods this year and many people have lost their lives. Japan has also been hit by severe natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods, in its history, and it is my strong hope that our countries can exchange skills and knowledge to prevent and mitigate disaster-related damage.

This year, the Osaka Expo is a wonderful opportunity for people from both our countries to interact and understand the culture of each country better. I am pleased

to hear that the Pakistan Pavilion has gained popularity among visitors to the expo.

The success of the National Day ceremony of Pakistan at the expo will surely contribute to the further strengthening of the Japan-Pakistan relationship.

As chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I will continue to make sincere efforts to further promote friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.

May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.

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



Left: Kharphocho Fort in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan; Right: Mountain flowers bloom in the Chunda Valley in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan. QAMMER WAZIR



Congratulations

to the People of

the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

on the Anniversary of

Their Independence

Marubeni

<https://www.marubeni.com>

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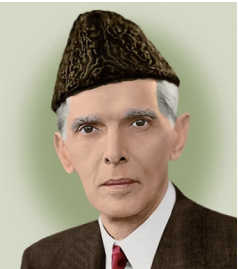
their Independence

 **Mita Kosan Co., Ltd.**

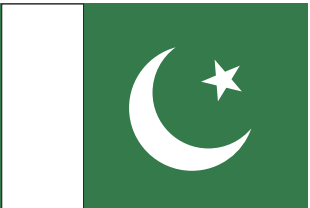
Idemitsu Shokai Co., Ltd.

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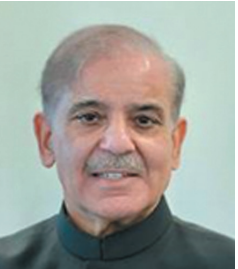
Mita Kosan Co., Ltd. Idemitsu Shokai Co., Ltd. Powerlink Co., Ltd.



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



14th of August, 1947



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif


**THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE
PAKISTAN'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

with renewed vigor 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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