# Friendly ties form dependable partnership

Noor Muhammad Jadmani
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

On March 23, 1940, the historic Pakistan Resolution was adopted in Lahore, which laid the basis for the creation of Pakistan. Seventy years ago, on that day the democratic struggle for Pakistan was launched under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The resolute effort of the Muslims was crowned with success within a short period of seven years and Pakistan emerged on the map of the world on Aug. 14, 1947.

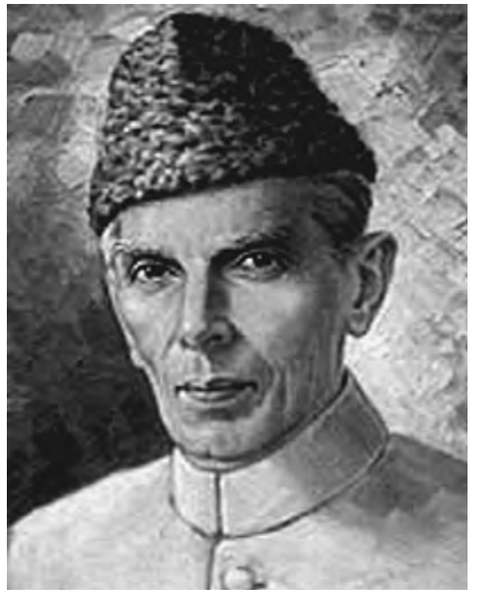
To commemorate that historic occasion, I express, on my own behalf and on behalf of my compatriots in Japan, our respectful and sincerest greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko and the government and the people of Japan.

President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari

Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousuf Raza Gilani

Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan on April 28, 1952, the two countries have enjoyed very cordial relations. They have always demonstrated mutual trust and propitious respect for each other's concerns and interests. This has helped evolve Pakistan-Japan friendship into a dependable partnership. Japan's economic assistance has played a very important role in the economic and social development of Pakistan.

Regular exchange of high-level visits has been the hallmark of Pakistan-Japan relations. President Asif Ali Zardari visited Tokyo in April 2009 to attend the Ministerial Conference of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan and the Donors Conference. These meetings were a reflection of Japan's strong support for Pakistan in its fight against extremism and terrorism. It was also an acknowledgment of the great sacrifices that the Pakistani people have made. Japan's political support for Pakistan was supplemented by Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada's visit to Pakistan in October 2009. Pakistan's government and its people are strongly committed to becoming an anchor of peace and stability in the region as a whole.



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

Pakistan offers tremendous investment opportunities to Japanese investors in various sectors of its economy. Located near vital shipping lanes and situated in a unique geographical location, Pakistan is an ideal base for manufacturing goods that can be exported to the Middle East, adjoining western China and the Central Asian republics — almost half of the world's population.

It is our endeavor to motivate our Japanese friends to benefit from the opportunities offered by Pakistan. We have established an 800-hectare Special Economic Zone for Japanese investors near Karachi. This will contribute to even stronger economic ties between Pakistan and Japan.

## Strategic location makes it ideal for foreign investment

Takeo Kawamura
SECRETARY GENERAL, JAPAN-PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

Japan and Pakistan have centuries-old relations. Pakistan is a cradle of civilizations and the birthplace of Buddhism, from where it spread to China, Korea and Japan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan in 1952, the two countries have closely cooperated in various sectors of the economy, including communications, textiles and assembling and manufacturing automobiles.

The close relations between the two countries could be seen in the backdrop of recent developments. Last year Japan hosted two conferences in Tokyo, Friends of Democratic Pakistan and the Donors Conference, in collaboration with the World Bank to assist Pakistan in emerging from the economic crisis triggered by the current global economic recession and Pakistan's war against militancy and extremism.

Japan is a leading development partner of Pakistan. A number of development projects in Pakistan are being completed with the generous economic assistance of Japan. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is at the forefront in the development of key infrastructure projects in Pakistan.

The government and the people of Japan highly appreciate the current political developments in Pakistan. The democratic process is on the move, both houses of parliament are working smoothly, and the judicial system is functioning independently.

Pakistan's geostrategic location makes it ideal for foreign investment. Leading Japanese companies such as Suzuki, Toyota, Honda and Hino already have their factories in Pakistan and I hope that other Japanese companies will follow them.

## Japan, Pakistan keep working toward building warm relations

Teruo Asada
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan in 1952, the two countries have worked hard to build a warm relationship. As part of this, the Japanese business community established the JPBCC in 1984 in accordance with proposals made by the leaders of the two countries. Since that time, we have deepened contacts with a wide variety of parties involved in Pakistan's economic sphere and have held joint meetings aimed at facilitating the frank exchange of opinions and promoting trade and investment between our two countries.

On May 25, 2009, the fifth Joint Business Dialogue was held in Tokyo. During this event, representatives of the private sector of both countries shared ideas for solutions to trade- and investment-related issues, including proposals for improving infrastructure and enhancing the agricultural and energy sectors. This was followed by a presentation of the Joint Study Report on Pakistan Vision 2030 to both governments.

In addition, a Friends of Democratic Pakistan meeting and Donors Conference were hosted by the Japanese government in Tokyo in April last year. This was followed by a business conference presided over by the President of Pakistan H.E. Asif Ali Zardari and attended by top Japanese companies, providing a rare opportunity to discuss the development of Pakistan and investment opportunities in the country and related issues.

In recent years Pakistan's economy has undergone steady change. It is obvious that Pakistan's role on the international stage is growing. Pakistan's continued efforts to improve its trade and investment environment will certainly lead to stronger economic ties and a closer partnership between our two countries.

I congratulate Pakistan once again on the occasion of its National Day and look forward to the further reinforcement of our two nations' traditional friendship and partnership.

**Natural beauty: Located at a height of 2,500 meters and surrounding the heart-shaped Kachura Lake, Shangrila Resort in Skardu town, northern Pakistan, is a popular tourist destination.**
EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

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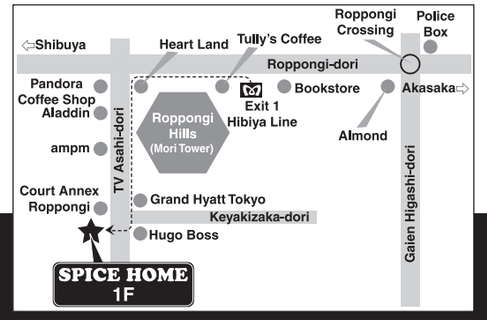

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