

Pakistan independence day

Partnership with Japan based on more than economic ties

Noor Muhammad Jadmani
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

Aug. 14, the Independence Day of Pakistan, is a significant event for the people of Pakistan as they celebrate it each year with a spirit of patriotism and great enthusiasm within the country and overseas.

On this day 64 years ago, a separate homeland was created wherein we could live in freedom and shape our lives according to our values. Today, therefore, is marked as a watershed in the history of the country, and an occasion for joy and celebrations.

To commemorate this historic occasion, I express on my own behalf and on behalf of my compatriots in Japan our respectful and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial Family,



President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari



Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousuf Raza Gilani

H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan and the government and friendly people of Japan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Pakistan and Japan have enjoyed very cordial relations. Our two countries are in sync on many regional and international issues. The high-level contacts between the two countries have augmented Japan-Pakistan ties. President Asif Ali Zardari's recent visit to Japan, after his

first visit in 2009, reflects the significance of Japan for Pakistan as a main development and trade partner, and a major Asian power that strongly supports peace and stability in South Asia.

The presence of leading Japanese companies, such as Toyota, Honda, Suzuki and Hino, in Pakistan is reflective of Pakistan's market potential. Pakistan offers tremendous opportunities to Japanese companies

in various sectors, including power generation, agriculture, mining, oil and gas exploration.

Pakistan has one of the largest coal reserves in the world at Thar, in Sindh Province, which needs to be put to optimum utility with technology. The government of Pakistan offers many incentives to foreign companies, including irrevocable confirm purchase agreements for electricity by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) of Pakistan for a stipulated time that could be extended accordingly.

Not only has Japan been a strong development partner of Pakistan in various sectors of its economy, but it has always helped us during the natural calamities such as the earthquake of 2005 and the floods in 2010.

This year has been challenging for our Japanese friends as the Great East Japan Earthquake that hit the Tohoku region on March 11 resulted in huge human and material loss. On behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, I



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

offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to all Japanese friends. Pakistan's top leaders visited Japan's Embassy in Islamabad to offer their condolences to those who lost their lives, and expressed solidarity with the affected people of the earthquake- and tsunami-hit areas and the government of Japan.

Given Japan's national resolve, we are confident that Japan will emerge stronger from these challenges. I have myself witnessed the resilience, courage and strong determination of our Japanese friends during my visit to Sendai and Morioka,

Iwate Prefecture, on March 16 and subsequent tours of the region. The tragedy that befell the friendly people of Japan has profoundly touched the Pakistanis living in Japan. Many of our volunteer groups reached the region as early as March 14 to show solidarity with the affected people by preparing food and extending services. This was a humble effort to express gratitude to our Japanese friends for their laudable assistance to Pakistan during our natural calamities. Our prayers and support are with our Japanese friends in the critical moment of this nation.

Encouragement from Pakistan helps Japan after natural disaster

Seishiro Eto
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE; VICE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I send our most sincere congratulations to the government



and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the 64th anniversary of their country's Independence Day on Aug. 14.

H.E. Asif Ali Zardari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, visited Japan in February, and I had the honor and privilege to welcome him and dine with him along with other members of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, of which I am President. It is good to see the increased exchanges between our countries.

On March 11, Japan was hit by the largest earthquake in our recorded history, followed by a gigantic tsunami, which claimed numerous lives. I am truly grateful that the government and the people of Pakistan have extended warm support to us. Encouraged by your affection and friendship, we are determined to continue exerting

our utmost efforts toward swift and positive reconstruction of the affected areas and for a renewed eastern Japan that can hope again.

The accident at the nuclear power plant brought about by the natural disaster has caused great concern, even to the people of Pakistan. We have been working to normalize the situation by concentrating all kinds of expertise of people from home and abroad, and are resolved to provide accurate information promptly.

In Pakistan, the great earthquake in 2005 and the torrential rains last year inflicted immense damage. As both Pakistan and Japan are often struck by natural disasters, I believe that this is an area in which we can work to help each other.

Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. I hope that in this memorable year, the bilateral relationship will be further strengthened, and with the members of my league, I am determined to work hard for the further advancement of mutual understanding and friendship between our countries.

Again, expressing my sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, I close by offering best wishes for your country's prosperity.

Continuing to enhance trade relations as investment opportunities grow

Teruo Asada
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.



Pakistan has been blessed with abundant natural and human resources. The country is growing in importance as a source of cost-effective, highly skilled and semi-skilled labor. Copious opportunities for investors (Japanese and otherwise)

and the strong performance of the manufacturing sector make Pakistan a highly attractive destination in Asia. Foreign investment in energy, textiles, auto parts and pharmaceutical products offers high returns, while other promising fields include petrochemicals and cement production. It is very encouraging that leading Japanese companies, such as Toyota, Honda, and Suzuki, are already operating in Pakistan and gradually expanding their manufacturing and assembly operations.

As chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee, I am of the view that the two countries will continue to enhance existing trade ties. At the same time, it is clear that opportunities are growing for Japanese companies to invest in Pakistan's

economy, from manufacturing and infrastructure development to energy and telecommunications. Pakistan's ideal geographic location gives it an edge over other countries in the region. The presence of foreign investment and manufacturing companies will not only benefit Pakistan's enormous domestic market of more than 170 million people, it will also make it easier for Pakistan's businesses to market their products in the Central Asian republics and the Middle East.

In closing, please allow us to again offer our congratulations and to reiterate our firm belief in Pakistan's growing economic and social potential. In the days ahead, the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee will continue to work to further ties between our two nations.

Attracting adventurers, foreign investors alike

Mountains, the great masses that stand high against the skies and take up a quarter of all the land, are nature's most spectacular work upon Earth, nowhere more so than in the northern part of Pakistan.

Through centuries, these majestic and mysterious mountains have lured nature lovers, adventurers and empire builders alike. In fact, Pakistan is the only country where all three world-famous mountain ranges meet — the Karakoram, the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush.

In comparison to the Himalayas and the Karakoram, the Hindu Kush is a smaller range.

The Karakoram are a unique range of mountains in more than one respect. They possess the loftiest peaks in the world within the smallest area. Within a radius of 160 km of the towns of Gilgit and Skardu there are as many as 100 peaks ranging from 5,500 meters to the world's second highest peak, K2, at 8,611 meters.

The Karakoram area is also the most glaciated area outside the polar region, containing some of the longest glaciers in the world, such as Siachen, which is about 74 km long. Apart from it, there are other large glaciers, including Batura,

Godwin-Austen, Baltoro, Biafo, Chogolisa, Gondokhoro, Hispar and Yazgil.

Nanga Parbat has long been regarded as the most treacherous mountain peak. Many legends have been spun around this peak and one can hear many tales from the local people and porters. Beyond the Nanga Parbat, the higher summits are all found grouped together into the central sector of the chain.

The great range of the Himalayas, besides having the world's highest summit, Mount Everest (8,848 meters in Nepal), has the most majestic peak of the Kara-

korams, K2. It is located near the Baltoro Glacier in the extreme north of Baltistan, just on the China-Pakistan border, with the boundary between the two countries passing over K2.

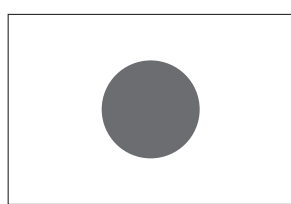
This peak is known not only because it is the second highest peak of the world but also for the large number of attempts that were made for its conquest by various mountaineering expeditions from various parts of the world during the past hundred years or so. After many unsuccessful attempts by many expeditions from various countries, this king of the mountains

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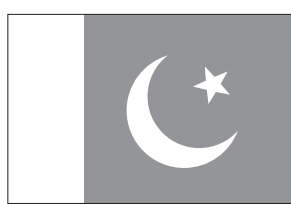


Mountaineering: The mountains of Pakistan are key destinations for climbers from all over the world. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Congratulations on the Occasion of the 64th Anniversary of Pakistan Independence Day



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Majestic: Many of the highest peaks in the world are found in Pakistan. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Land of natural wealth, wonder

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was, however, conquered on July 31, 1954, by two Italians, Lino Lacedelli and Achille Compagnoni.

Mountains will continue to beckon mountaineers, promising a never-ending source of mountaineering pleasure full of thrills, excitement and the challenge of an adventure as limitless as the many mountains of Pakistan.

Besides tourism, the present democratic government of Pakistan is actively promoting trade and investment in the country to pave the way for sustained economic growth. Pakistan, with positive growth trajectory over the years despite global economic turmoil, is focusing on the development and upgrading of various sectors of the economy: agriculture, textiles, telecoms, IT, energy, power, services, construction and housing. These sectors are open for foreign investment with attractive incentives.

Pakistan has 2 billion tons of iron ore reserves that are available for commercial exploitation. Expressions of interest (EOIs) have recently been invited for prequalification of foreign consultants for evaluation of iron ore deposits found in Punjab Province. Iron ore reserves in Punjab amount to more than 920 million tons, out of which 780 million tons are proven reserves.

Pakistan is one of the ancient homes of cotton cultivation.

Pakistan is fourth largest producer of cotton, the third largest exporter of raw cotton and a leading exporter of yarn in the world. Cotton is not only an export-earning crop, but also provides raw material to the local textile industry. This will be another sector that investors could venture into.

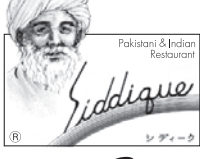
Opportunities in the information technology sector are unlimited and include development of IT incubators, joint ventures with foreign software houses, establishing Internet cities and parks to achieve critical mass of high-tech companies and development of the computer hardware industry through the transfer of technology.

Oil and gas exploration is currently attracting huge foreign investment. The prospects for discovery of big oil and gas reservoirs are brighter than many other countries in the region. Pakistan has a well-developed natural gas distribution system all around the country.

Being the sixth most populous country in the world, having a young demographic profile, abundant availability of skilled manpower, rich mineral resources and bumper agriculture production, Pakistan is an attractive destination for investors. Pakistan falls among the middle-income countries and the presence of a large middle class provides a vast local market for businesses as well.



Capital: Constructed during the 1960s, Islamabad is the administrative center of Pakistan. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN



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