

## Pakistan Day

## Relations with Japan reach 60th anniversary

Noor Muhammad Jadmani  
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



Pakistan Day, March 23, is an important event as on this day in 1940, the historic resolution was adopted in Lahore that laid the foundation for the creation of Pakistan as an independent Muslim state in South Asia, whose nationals could live according to their customs and traditions.

This year's Pakistan National Day has added significance as both Pakistan and Japan celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. On this auspicious occasion, I have the honor to extend on my own behalf and on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan and Pakistani expatriates in Japan our respectful and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties



President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and the government and friendly people of Japan.

Last year, most of the events such as the Pakistan Day reception on March 23, two-day Pakistan Bazaar in Yoyogi Park in Tokyo on March 26-27 and visit of a Pakistani cultural troupe were



Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousef Raza Gilani

canceled out of deep respect for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Japan is passing through an extremely difficult phase in the wake of triple tragedy of March last year. I would wish to renew our deep sympathy and solidarity with our Japanese friends and the bereaved families of the afflicted areas on the loss of their



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

dear ones and damage to their homes and properties. Japan's indomitable courage and the strong resilience of its people are laudable. Those who are still suffering from the tragic consequences of the unprecedented disaster are constantly in our

thoughts and prayers and we wish the early return to a normal life.

The relations between Pakistan and Japan over the years have evolved to the mutual benefit of both countries. Japan remains a reliable friend and a strong development partner of Pakistan. H.E. President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Japan in February last year provided further impetus to these ties. The joint statement signed during the summit meeting is forward-looking for a comprehensive partnership with focus on Pakistan's development and strong trade and economic ties between the two countries. As a result, various projects and action plans have taken shape and are being actively pursued.

I wish to thank The Japan Times for putting out this year's special supplement and those friends whose contributions have made the publication possible. Long live Pakistan-Japan friendship.

## Further strengthening the friendly bilateral relationship

Seishiro Eto  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE; VICE SPEAKER, 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 this auspicious occasion.

For the people of Japan, Pakistan is a country of their dreams. Widely known in Japan are the Indus Valley civilization, typified by the remains of the cities at Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa; Gandhara art, a fusion of ancient Greek culture of the West and Buddhist art of the East; and K2, the world's second highest mountain, next to only Mount Everest.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our countries. I hope that in this memorable year the bilateral relationship will be further strengthened, and as the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I am

determined to work hard toward the further advancement of mutual understanding and friendship between our countries.

On March 11 last year, Japan was hit by the largest earthquake in our recorded history, followed by a gigantic tsunami, which claimed numerous lives. I am truly grateful for the warm support that the government and the people of Pakistan extended 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 East Japan that can hope again.

The accident at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima brought about by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent tsunami 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.

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

## Impressions of a Pakistani volunteer helping out Tohoku

Anees Ahmad Nadeem  
PAKISTANI VOLUNTEER INTOHOKU

We could not believe our eyes while looking at the destruction caused by the tsunami after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. Recalling what Japan did during natural calamities all over the world and particularly in Pakistan, be it the earthquake of 2005 or devastating floods of 2010, Ayaz, Maqbool and I took the decision in minutes after the earthquake to rush to the affected areas.

We grabbed whatever we could find but especially water, edibles, coal and other essentials. Then we headed to Fukushima Prefecture in the early hours of March 12. Because of highway closures, we reached Koriyama late at night. But due to news of radiation, we moved to Sendai, reaching the capital of

Miyagi Prefecture on March 13, and contacted the city office.

In Sendai, we were informed by the city administration of the huge destruction caused by tsunami and that it was not even possible to assign any task to volunteers in the given situation. However, we sought permission from the city administration to allow us to prepare food for the people affected. They were kind to permit us, as a special case, to establish a volunteer center, and so on March 14, we were able to commence our activities mainly to clear debris and begin the preparation of hot meals.

In Iwakiri primary school there were 1,000 affected people whom we offered Pakistani dal (lentil) curry and rice. It was the first hot meal for these people in three days. We can not express our pleasure when we saw our Japanese brothers enjoying our

meal, though it was spicy. This encouraged us more.

We were further delighted when next morning, on March 15, most of the Japanese TV channels were directly telecasting from our camp to motivate other volunteers to come forward at a time when a large number of foreigners were leaving Japan because of fear of radiation. According to Japanese TV channels, they wanted to advertise our relief activities on a regular basis so that more volunteers could be motivated at this critical moment.

To our further delight we found out that our embassy officials and the ambassador were visiting Miyagi and Iwate prefectures that same day. Also, it was a wonderful feeling that many Pakistani friends were reaching out to other affected areas, too. Some of them, having seen our

efforts, supplemented us with a regular supply of items needed for cooking Pakistani food.

Moving scenes were witnessed at the time we were leaving Iwakiri emergency camp after one week, when the situation had drastically improved there. We then headed to Ishinomaki where more than 6,000 people had lost their lives and was one of the worst affected areas. On reaching Ishinomaki, we were motivated by the Self Defense Forces (SDF) and we asked them if we could take a corner of the camp to place our utensils to cook food. We deeply appreciate the Ishinomaki administration and the SDF, who allowed us to serve Pakistani food to the affected people, along with their own food at lunch as well as at breakfast. We stayed in the camp in Ishinomaki until May 20, 2011. Our ambassador asked a very

interesting question during his visit to the emergency camp on April 17: How did Nasir cook food for 1,000 people? He was really delighted when informed that Nasir was a professional cook and was competent enough to cater for more than the number being served. We were more than happy to learn that our ambassador was accompanied by senior officials of the Southwest Asian Affairs Department of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other dignitaries who visited our camp included Japan's then agriculture minister, more than 10 Diet members and the United Nations Undersecretary General Valerie Amos.

The two-month stay in Ishinomaki was rewarding in many ways. We were impressed by

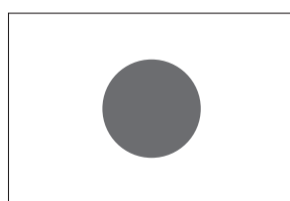


Helping the needy: Pakistani Ambassador Noor Muhammad Jadmani (fourth from left) and Hiroshi Tajima (second from left), director of the Southwest Asia division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meet volunteers including Anees Ahmad Nadeem (fifth from left) and Najib Ullah Ayaz (third from left) in an emergency camp in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, on April 17, 2011. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

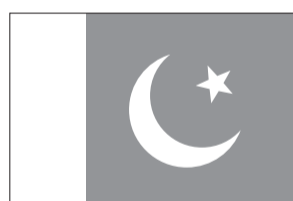
## CONGRATULATIONS

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72nd PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY



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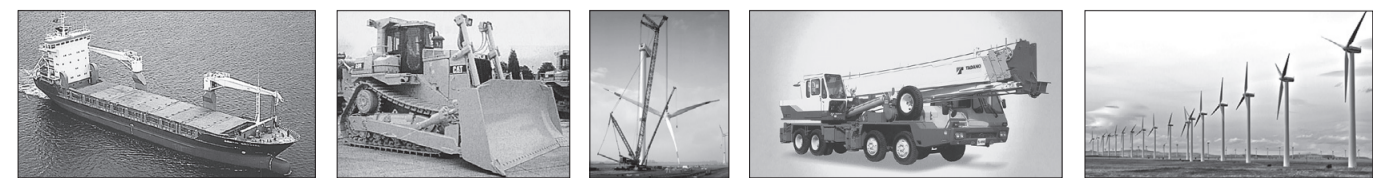
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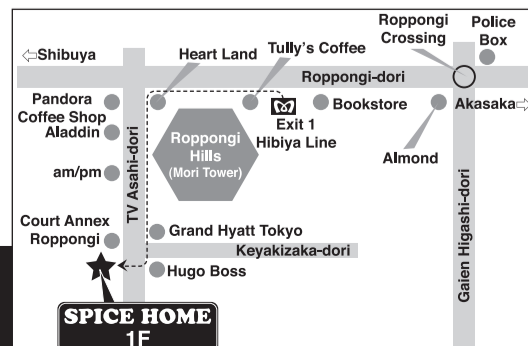
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# Pakistan Day



**Cultural hub: Lahore, the second largest city in Pakistan, attracts tourists with its architecture, arts, music, cuisine, festivals and shopping.** EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

## Mutual respect, benefit spur long-standing ties

Teruo Asada  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN  
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

It is my sincere hope that the nation and people of Pakistan will accept our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day. As the year 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan, it is pertinent to recall that people-to-people contacts between Japan and the area comprising present-day Pakistan are centuries old, harkening back to the days when Buddhist emissaries traveled from the Gandhara region to China, Korea, and Japan to preach Buddhism across the Far East.



During the past six decades, Japan and Pakistan have enjoyed cordial relations, despite drastic changes at the global and regional levels. On most regional and international issues, the two countries share common aspirations. Looking back to the '50s and '60s, Pakistan was one of Japan's major trading partners. Japan was one of the biggest buyers of Pakistani cotton yarn and raw cotton, and Pakistan in return imported huge quantities of Japanese spindles to boost its textile industry. Clearly, the relations between the two countries have long been based on mutual respect and benefit.

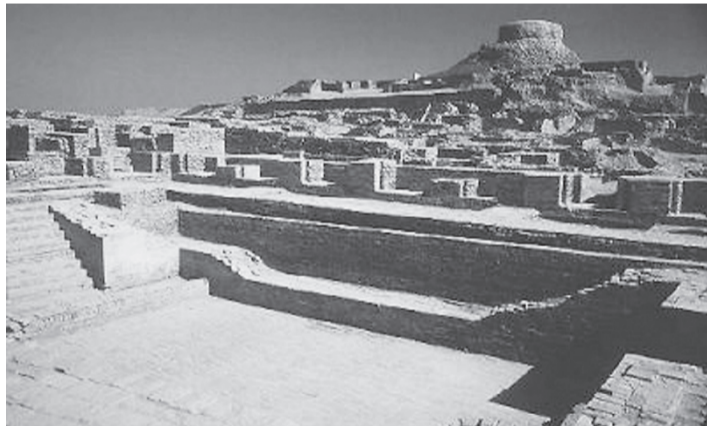
The Japanese automobile

industry has invested continuously in Pakistan for the last 30 years. Japanese automobile giants such as Toyota, Honda and Suzuki have been assembling and manufacturing different types of cars in Pakistan, and they have become important sources of jobs for both semi-skilled and highly skilled Pakistani workers. The presence of these Japanese companies has consistently served to help push Pakistan's economy in the upward direction.

Pakistan, with its ideal geographical location, attracts foreign direct investment in different sectors of its economy and offers tremendous opportunities to foreign investors. Areas of particular recent interest include oil and gas exploration, oil refineries and other petrochemical-related business activities.

In the consumer sector, Pakistan's domestic market of 180 million people continues to be attractive to foreign investors. Moreover, Pakistan provides easy access for those seeking to reach markets in the Middle East and the landlocked republics of Central Asia due to the close proximity. Pakistan is also situated to facilitate the export of oil and gas, connecting the energy-rich Central Asian region with the rest of the world through the Arabian Sea.

In closing, please allow me to congratulate Pakistan once again as it marks yet another National Day. I look forward to the further reinforcement of our two nation's long-standing ties of friendship and partnership.



**City of lost treasure: Built around 2600 B.C., Mohenjo-Daro in southeast Pakistan was one of the largest settlements of the ancient Indus Valley civilization and has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1980.** EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

## Islam's teachings truly practiced

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

the patience and strong resolve of our Japanese friends in the challenging circumstances. The discipline exhibited by everyone, be it a young child, elderly man or woman, really impressed us. Such a sense of contentment is hard to see. Hats off to Japan.

The second aspect of Japanese conduct was honesty. Normally, we would expect chaotic situations, looting, theft, robberies, but all this was alien and unacceptable to our Japanese friends. What Islam teaches us is truly practiced here. No discrimina-

tion was noticed. Whoever was found in distress, regardless of nationality, was treated the same way as locals were, with rather extra affection. There is so much to share but space limitations cannot allow that luxury.

I wish to thank Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba for being kind to acknowledge our services and inviting us to an official reception on March 12 this year. May Japan, which is our second home, and our Japanese friends come out of this difficult period quickly and the affected areas re-emerge stronger than before.



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