

Pakistan independence day

Bilateral ties show great potential

Farukh Amil
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

Sixty-six years ago on this day, Pakistan appeared on the world map as an independent Muslim country after successful and strenuous struggle by the Muslims of the South Asian subcontinent for a homeland of their own under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This year Pakistan achieved a watershed development in democracy for political maturity and stability. For the first time in the history of Pakistan there was a smooth transition from one democratically elected government to the next. This bodes well for national and regional prosperity.

On this auspicious occasion I express on the behalf of the government of Pakistan, on my own behalf and on behalf of my com-



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

patriots in Japan our respectful and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

At the 1951 San Francisco



**President of Pakistan
Asif Ali Zardari**

Peace Conference Pakistan was the only country from South Asia who attended and advocated Japan's right to be treated with respect and dignity. A multi-dimensional relationship between Pakistan and Japan has evolved since the establishment of formal ties in 1952. Presently, there is a wide-ranging and sustained cooperation between our two friendly countries. High-level contact has augmented



**Prime Minister of Pakistan
Mian Muhammad Nawaz
Sharif**

this relationship. President Asif Ali Zardari's two visits to Japan, in 2009 and in 2011, when a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement was signed were landmarks in bilateral relations. The people and the government always remember Japanese assistance particularly during national calamities in Pakistan because of the unconditional help and assistance rendered with respect and in the



Long-standing ties: Left, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (left), with his wife, Begum Kalsoom (right), calls on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Court on Dec. 18, 1992, during his official working visit to Japan. Right, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari is greeted by Emperor Akihito during his official visit to Japan on Feb. 23, 2011. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN



framework of human dignity. The new government led by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with business-friendly policies will provide further strength to bilateral relations. Our focus includes deepening understanding between our coming generations.

At present 69 Japanese companies are involved in numerous businesses in Pakistan. Apart from a strong presence in the automobile sector, Japanese companies are actively involved

in other areas such as construction, health and education. Bank of Japan-Mitsubishi has celebrated its 60th year of business in Pakistan. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has played an invaluable role in the social sector and building critical infrastructure such as the Pakistan-Japan Friendship Tunnel in Kohat. The Japan External Trade Organization's role for its consistent and determined efforts to promote trade and investment between the two countries

is laudable. Many other mega-projects are in the pipeline, the most prominent being the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and power transmission lines project connecting Thar-Power Plant with the national grid and the construction of the state-of-the-art Thar-Coal Power Plant.

Owing to the increasing energy needs of a growing society, Pakistan is now exploring new alternatives. Pakistan is blessed with huge potential in energy resources like coal, solar and wind. It would be ideal to tap these with cutting edge technologies of Japan. Proximity to huge regional markets, including the Middle East and Central Asia, puts Pakistan with its youthful, energetic population at a superb crossroads for investment and growth. Pakistan presents many opportunities given its own large consumer market.

Pakistan is also a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security

Council where it has played a vital role, in harmony with the international community, in dealing effectively with challenges facing the world.

Pakistan remains fully committed to international peace and regional stability. As a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan has deputed men and women from its military and police forces as U.N. peacekeepers in the world's most difficult conditions and places. Many have sacrificed their lives in their effort to maintain peace.

Pakistan and Japan have shared roots since ancient times from Gandhara to Nara. In modern history we are two friendly countries whose potential, through sharing of expertise and resources, can build an even stronger bond in the 21st century.

Pakistan Zinda-abad.
Pakistan-Japan friendship,
Painda-abad.

Interactions through sports, cultural events can advance Pakistan's growth

Antonio Inoki
MEMBER, HOUSE OF COUNCILORS

Allow me to extend my sincere congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the country's Independence Day. I offer my best wishes for the country's further development and peace.

Marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, celebrations were held by both Japan and Pakistan last year. Besides Japan providing material support, I would like to develop more people-to-people links. It is necessary to organize events and promote human exchanges in order to further deepen our friendship. Even in the places that are said to be difficult, I think it would be good if interactions through sports lead to peace, and I believe in such power of sports.

My first visit to Pakistan was in December 1976. In June of that year, I



participated in the world's first mixed martial arts match against then world boxing champion Muhammad Ali. Both of us devoted our full strength, but the match ended in a draw, which was bitterly criticized by Japanese media and my fans, who had expected my victory. Nevertheless, I received a letter of challenge from Akram Pahalwan, known as Pakistan's hero. I was glad that he was the only person who valued me highly when I had faced some bitter feedback. So I accepted his challenge and traveled to Pakistan.

With a bird's-eye view of Mount Everest, which was lit by the light of a full moon, the plane arrived in Karachi, the competition site. It was midnight, but the airport was on the edge of panic with the crowd pouring in. I was so surprised by the hospitable welcome of the country, of which I did not know very much.

You may know much about the match. For me, I cherish this first visit in my mind as a lifelong memory.

I have visited Pakistan four times, including the first visit in 1976 and then in 1979, 1984 and 2012. When I visited the country in 1984, the president at the time attended my match event and later I was awarded with a decoration of Pakistan.

I am sure that material exchanges between Japan and Pakistan will further develop if we can promote more human exchanges and establish a trusting relationship deeply rooted in sports and cultural field.

I believe in the potential power of Pakistan as a nation. In order to call for peace, I would like to actively hold sports and cultural events.

For example, I would suggest wrestling matches and martial arts events at the Pakistan-India border, exhibitions around the world to introduce the art of Gandhara and sports exchange events for students.

I am happy to actively do what I can to help as a goodwill ambassador.

Important step taken in democratic process

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

On the occasion of the 66th anniversary of Pakistan's independence, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League.

This year is a very special year for Pakistan. For the first time in its history, Pakistan's civilian government completed a full five-year term and held a general election in May. As a result of the election, there was a transfer of power between the civilian governments, and a new government led by H.E. Nawaz Sharif came to power. I have heard that many women and young people went to the polling station. Many people in Pakistan must have had the strong will to cast their votes. Demonstrating public will through elections is the first step toward the consolidation of democracy. In this regard, I profoundly welcome Pakistan for taking this very significant first step.

I also would like to extend my sincere welcome to the election of the next president last month. Through the general election and the presidential election, Pakistan has launched a brand-new administration. Although there still remain issues to be tackled, I have a strong expectation for the high potential that Pakistan possesses.

Pakistan's land area is twice as big as Japan's. It has a population of 180 million, most of whom are of the promising,

young generation. Pakistan is one of the countries of the "Next Eleven." It enjoys various kinds of agricultural products throughout the four seasons. It is famous for active cotton industries. Pakistan is rich in culture with the remains of the Indus Valley civilization designated as a World Heritage site. It is very important for Pakistan, with such huge potential, to be stabilized and achieve its development, not only for Pakistan herself but also for the region and the international society.

Since the founding of Pakistan 66 years ago, all the Pakistani people have been devoting themselves to building a nation by overcoming differences of the people as well as by gathering their knowledge and strength. I welcome the fact that the wishes for peace and prosperity, which have been passed on from the time of the founding of the nation, have been realized thanks to the tremendous efforts of Pakistan to date.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have established friendly and cooperative relations enjoying exchanges at various levels. The relations have been developed not only between the two governments but also through activities of the business community and academic interactions. I hope the two countries will continue to build mutually cooperative relations.

I am determined, as president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, to exert all my efforts toward further fostering mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Pakistan.

Allow me to reiterate my congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan and to wish for the further prosperity of Pakistan.



CONGRATULATIONS on the Occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Pakistan's Independence



WE LOVE YOU, PAKISTAN.

eō Lynx

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to the People of Pakistan
on the 66th Anniversary
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Pakistan independence day

Investment opportunities create high hope for business relations

Teruo Asada
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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

We welcome the fact that this year, for the first time in Pakistan's political history, one democratically elected government was succeeded by another, with the PML-N, led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, following the former PPP administration.

It is well known that Nawaz Sharif, who has been elected prime minister for the third time, has a strong understanding of the business world. We have high hopes that, under his guidance, Pakistan will become more business-friendly, maintaining a beneficial investment environment and achieving improvements in economic infrastructure. We also expect that Pakistan's economy will be more active in attracting a larger number of foreign enterprises.

As the chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation



Committee, it is my firm belief that the two countries will be able to further strengthen existing trade ties. I am also sure that there are numerous investment opportunities for Japanese enterprises in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, from manufacturing and infrastructure projects to agriculture, energy and beyond.

Pakistan possesses tremendous strength with its population of 180 million — the sixth most populous in the world. This fact is of deep interest for Japanese companies, which see Pakistan as a highly promising future consumer market. As one example, leading Japanese automobile companies have been manufacturing cars and trucks in Pakistan, and gradually expanding their operations. This continues to contribute to economic development, and offers job opportunities and personal training to the people of Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan's ideal geographic location also makes it a competitive and attractive choice for Japanese companies seeking to reduce production costs and to export finished goods to neighboring areas, such as the Middle East, Africa, and the Central Asian republics.

Further efforts by Japanese companies to make use of the strengths offered by Pakistan will contribute to the development of the economies of both nations.

Generating investor confidence

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trade and economic cooperation is far below the existing potential.

To exploit the untapped potential existing in Pakistan, the recent smooth democratic transition of the government in Pakistan among other things has generated business confidence and created an investment-friendly environment. The new government has enacted policies to take all business and investment enterprises on board to make

them partners in progress and prosperity. Over the last three decades, the country has moved in the direction of creating an increasingly larger space for the private sector and establishing a regulatory framework for private investment in important sectors.

This article is an edited extract of a text by Dr. Talat Imtiaz and Shazad Ahmad, provided by the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan.

Congratulations

*to the People of Pakistan
on the 66th Anniversary
of Their Independence*



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Did You Know? In The Quran ぞ存知でしょうか?

God Says In Chapter No. 53, Al Fatah, Verse No. 32
So ascribe not purity to yourselves.
He knows best him, who fears Allah & keep his duty

(It means Vanity is not good at all)
(We should be polite, soft, cooperative with each other)

聖クルアーン 53 番、星章、32 節で創造者が仰せられています
だから、あなたがたは自分で清浄ぶってはならない。
かれは主を畏れる者を最も知っておられる。

この節は「私たちが自画自賛してはいけません」という意味です。

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