

Pakistan independence day

Ambassador reflects on bilateral relationship

On the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day, The Japan Times had the opportunity to interview Pakistan Ambassador to Japan Farukh Amil to hear his views on the bilateral relationship and other issues.

Excerpts of the interview follow.

First of all, let me congratulate you on the 68th Independence Day of Pakistan.

Thank you very much. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots 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 friendly people of Japan.

What are the recent developments in Pakistan-Japan exchanges in politics, business and culture?

We had many exchanges over the past year. Last September, on the sidelines of a U.N. meeting, the prime ministers of both our countries held bilateral talks, in which they reaffirmed their close friendship.

Several Japanese dignitaries and politicians visited Pakistan, including an April visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Shinzuke Sugiyama, who met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad. Also, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Tarō Kimura called on Sharif last August. In the same month, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense Masahisa Sato visited Pakistan to exchange views on security with politicians and military officials.

From Pakistan, the Minister of Planning, Development & Reform professor Ahsan Iqbal



Pakistani Ambassador Farukh Amil speaks during a recent interview with The Japan Times. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

visited Japan in early December to discuss energy, infrastructure and human resource development. The minister had 33 meetings in 3 days, underscoring the importance Pakistan attaches to its ties with Japan. Regarding human resource development, I hope to see more exchanges among the youth of both Pakistan and Japan, including university student exchanges and expanded employment opportunities for young workers.

We also have had several exchanges of business delegations and many business seminars. The idea behind these is to encourage Pakistani businessmen to start operations in Japan. Although Japan is said to be a difficult market to penetrate, there are many opportunities in Japan through business partnerships. In that context, both JICA and JETRO have remained traditionally helpful.

In terms of cultural exchanges, we hold the Pakistan-Japan Friendship Festival in Ueno Park once a year. This year on April 26 and 27, we had mainstream singer-songwriters from all across Pakistan from different genres and provinces representing the diversity of our culture.

Also, a group of Pakistani children visited Japan for two weeks last August. They went to places such as the Diet, the Miraikan (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation), spent a day at a Japanese school with schoolchildren in Minato Ward, amongst many other activities.

We have a very clear focus on education because young people represent the future. We would like to carry out as many similar programs as possible. We try to encourage as many youth as we can to visit Japan, which has a beautiful culture and the people are peaceful, law-abiding citizens. Young people not only from Pakistan, but all over the world should see how the Japanese live. A group of 75 students, ranging from elementary school to university, visited Japan under the Abe's program for youth exchange, Jenesys 2.0.

Equally, it's also important for Japanese young people to visit Pakistan. We should also have more exchanges of academia and think tanks especially through formal mechanisms. I myself have visited 23 universities in Japan since February 2013 and I hope we will be able to take Pakistan's wonderful story to many more during my time here.

Pakistan and Japan have a very close friendship. How would you describe it?

Let me put it this way. At the 2013 Karachi Expo trade show, the largest delegation in terms of assets was from Japan, including some CEOs of multi-billion-dollar companies. Forty-eight delegates came from Japan. I was pleasantly surprised that our joint efforts bore fruit.

Our friendship dates back to the San Francisco Peace Conference in 1951, when Pakistan

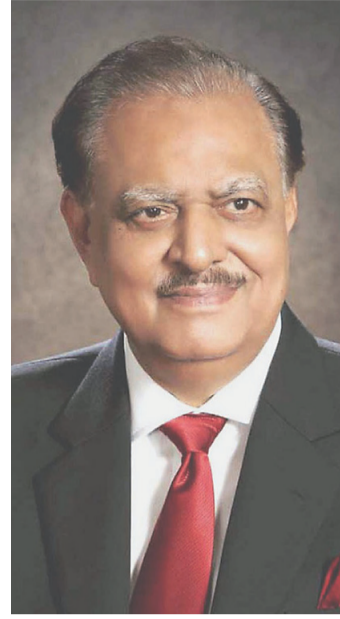


The founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

was only 4 years old and our foreign minister said that "Japanese people need to be treated with dignity and respect." This is really the cornerstone of our friendship. When you treat someone with dignity and respect, you have the base to any solution for even the hardest times, such as the 2010 Pakistan floods and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

We respect Japan as a trusted partner and the Pakistani people will never forget Japan's assistance during the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 flood. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called the 2010 flood a slow tsunami, damaging an area the size of a middle sized country and causing \$42 billion in damage. Japan was instrumental in providing immediate humanitarian aid. Japan can be counted on as a friend that always helps without a hidden agenda.

Pakistan has a very mature outlook in the sense that Pakistan wants to be friends with peace-loving countries. We respect all countries' sovereign rights, the U.N. and international law. Given how Japan has treated us, how could we



President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain

not be friends with such a country?

There is the Pakistan-Japan Friendship Tunnel in Kohat, northern Pakistan. Its name, which recognizes the major contribution by JICA in the construction of the tunnel, is proof of Pakistani friendship toward Japan. Why was the name chosen?

It was the natural choice and whoever came up with the name picked the perfect one because our countries truly have a solid friendship. Every time someone passes through the tunnel, they can clearly see our relationship represented by our two countries' flags.

Can you recommend any sightseeing venues in Pakistan?

We have so many beautiful landscapes and such a variety of climates. The South is perpetually warm, with the ocean, beautiful deserts and the largest juniper forest in the world.

Flowing through the country, Pakistan has five major rivers, which are like the arteries of life, business and our civilization.

Lahore is the cultural capital and as an imperial city, it's very much like Kyoto. Also, Pakistan has many World Heritage sites, including the ancient Mohen-



Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

jadaro from 2,600 B.C.

Upcountry, we have great agricultural flatlands in the Punjab region. Whilst in the North, we have beautiful mountains. Pakistan is home to 9 of the world's 20 highest mountains, the tallest of which is K2.

The weather in the far North is extremely cold with many glaciers. Pakistan is not only diverse in climate, but also in language, ethnicity and cuisine, with a huge variety of fruit and vegetables. The Almighty Allah has blessed Pakistan with wonderful resources.

Hunza, in Northern Pakistan, has recently become known in Japan as the "Last Shangri-La," because Hunza was introduced as such in the Japanese film "Sogen no Iku," (A Chair on the Grass). The 2012 movie tells the story of a Japanese man whose life changed after his travels to Hunza, the last Shangri-La. The cast and crew spent about six weeks filming in Hunza.

Because we are an agricultural society, horse and cattle shows are held all over Pakistan, the biggest of which is in Lahore. The National Horse & Cattle Show in Lahore is held in November for five days, and activities include animal races and performances, as well as a



Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal (right) meets with Midori Matsushima, state minister for economy, trade and investment in Tokyo during his visit to Japan from Dec. 3 to 7. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

wide variety of music and other entertainment.

Do you recommend Japanese companies directly invest in Pakistan? What business fields do Japanese companies have the best chances in?

We currently have 76 Japanese companies operating in Pakistan. They are in all kinds of sectors, including trading, manufacturing and finance, with the Bank of Tokyo (the predecessor of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi) having been in Karachi since 1925. Japan also has a dominant presence in Pakistan's automobile sector.

We also have established a special economic zone for Japanese companies near Karachi and welcome all kinds of companies to enter the Pakistani market. We would especially like to see companies bring the latest technologies in energy, infrastructure, fuel-efficient automobiles and machinery as they will likely enjoy success in Pakistan.

Also, there are many prospects in the marine industry. We have extensive territorial waters and Japanese companies could harness these marine resources in a sustainable way.

In addition to this, animal husbandry has a great potential. There are millions of cattle,

sheep, goats and chickens in Pakistan and nutritious buffalo milk is a growing business. **What would be your message to Japanese people? What would you say Pakistan can offer Japanese people?**

Please come see our people, experience the country and enjoy our rich culture, beautiful nature and great food, which includes delicious fruit — Pakistani mangoes are renowned for their sweetness, size and taste and the first batch of Pakistani mangoes was imported to Japan last year and quickly sold out within a few days — vegetables, rice, wheat and many others.

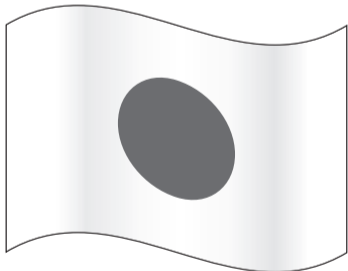
Also, come and see the business opportunities and large human potential. Pakistan is a food-secure nation that is strategically located at the crossroads of South, West and Central Asia.

As Japan is a very democratic country and Pakistan's democracy is growing stronger, I would like to see more parliamentary exchanges.

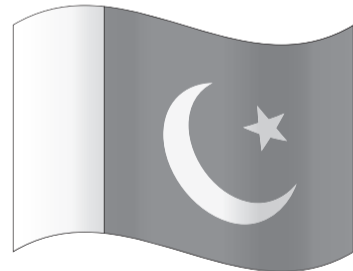
Pakistan has an abundance of raw materials and excellent human resources. Also, given Pakistan's history of friendship with Japan, we would like to have many more people-to-people exchanges, in academia, politics and business.

CONGRATULATIONS

on the Occasion of the 67th Anniversary of Pakistan Independence Day



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THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE
THE 67th ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR INDEPENDENCE

with renewed vigour 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 efforts for all-round development.

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Pakistan independence day

Support for stability efforts

Seishiro Eto, PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the 68th Independence Day of Pakistan. Over one year has passed since the former civil administration completed its five year term for the first time in the history of Pakistan's constitutional government and the administration of H.E. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was inaugurated in June last year as the result of a historic general election. The Sharif administration and the Pakistani people have been working toward the stability and prosperity of the country. As a friend of Pakistan, I support all of your efforts.



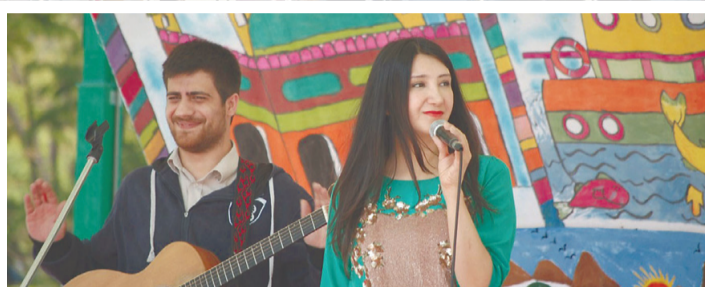
Sharif has been firmly addressing all challenges from the beginning of his administration. The strengthening of democracy, which we strongly support, is the whole premise of any nation's prosperity. We wish the prime minister every success in his endeavors.

Although the international situation is dramatically changing, Japan and Pakistan have consistently had various exchanges in political, economic, cultural and academic areas since the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries in 1952. I would like to further encourage exchanges among parliamentarians of our two countries. As president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to sincerely do my utmost to promote mutual understanding and cooperative relations between our two countries for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for the continued prosperity of Pakistan and further development of friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.



Above, The annual Pakistan-Japan Friendship Festival is held in Ueno Park, Tokyo on April 26 and 27. Right, For the first time at the festival, internationally well-known Pakistani artists, including singer-songwriter Zebunnisa Bangash (right), participated.



Improving business climate

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 68th Independence Day.

Under the leadership of its prime minister, Pakistan is now reforming its electricity sector by tackling longstanding structural problems, which is a positive development for the business world in general. More good news was heard in June this year, when it was announced that the government of Japan would be involved in cofinancing efforts with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, ex-



tending up to ¥5 billion in credit to Pakistan.

The Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee supports the actions by the government of Pakistan to improve the business environment. Our committee was established in 1984, and it has organized six "Japan-Pakistan Joint Business Dialogues" in cooperation with our counterpart, the Pakistan-Japan Business Forum (PJBF). In addition, last year we held a meeting that was attended by Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, H.E. Ahsan Iqbal. This year saw a successful seminar and business-to-business meetings during the visit of the PJBF mission to Japan. In these and other ways, we continue to endeavor to promote business between Japan and Pakistan.

The economy of Pakistan is mostly viewed in Japan as one that is growing steadily, with strong expectations for a bright future. In a recent IMF

report, the outlook for real GDP growth in Pakistan for 2013 to 2014 was adjusted upward from 3.1 percent to 3.3 percent, while the same figure for 2014 to 2015 is 4 percent.

High-quality products from Pakistan's domestic industries are also becoming conspicuous, exemplified most recently by the fact that the official ball for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil was produced in Pakistan. The Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee will continue to encourage awareness of the attractiveness of Pakistan's markets with the hope that economic ties between Pakistan and Japan will become stronger.

In closing, please allow me once again to congratulate the people of Pakistan on the occasion of the country's Independence Day.

We look forward to the further strengthening of the long-standing bonds of friendship and partnership between our two nations.

Women — Pakistan's vibrant component of progress

Ever since Independence, Pakistan has made many strides courtesy of the intelligent, consistent endeavors of its elements of national power, with women playing a significant role and proving themselves to be ardent contributors toward national growth, among the other vibrant elements of national power that include our academics, politicians, doctors, engineers, scientists, journalists, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and laborers.

There is something remarkable about Pakistan's women. Take any dimension of human activity and you'll find a long list of our women's accomplishments, starting from the role played in the Pakistan Movement by legendary figures such as Mohtarama Fatima Jinnah, Begum Afifa Mamdot and

Begum Salma Tassadaq among the long list of equally illustrious names.

These women mobilized others and made them vocal freedom activists that conveyed a strong message to the British colonialists that the resolve of the Muslims on the subcontinent could not be defeated because of its dynamic and progressive female component. This strengthened the freedom movement led by the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League leadership.

It was also an amazing message to the entire outside world that had previously held a different view of Pakistan before women's active participation in the freedom movement.

One of the successes on the path of women's progress are

reforms to benefit women through legislation and similar government measures. The noteworthy thing about this success is that these reforms and laws enacted during the last 10 to 15 years for women's empowerment and for raising their living standard and ending discrimination against them (especially in rural areas), have not been given to women on a platter. Pakistani women have earned these rights that were earlier denied them due to the discriminatory attitude of the domination and hegemony of male members of the society.

These laws that should, in fact, be described as reforms for the amelioration of women's conditions, have come in different forms that include the Women Empowerment Act

passed during the incumbency of the Benazir Bhutto-led government and then different sets of laws and schemes launched by the present government. These include the Youth Loan Scheme in which women have been given an equal entitlement of 50 percent side-by-side with men. Even earlier, women, during the regime preceding the Gillani government (that gave property rights to landless women), were successful in earning participation in elected assemblies, giving them a considerable say in national affairs.

It is also undeniable that in no sector of national activity, have women been lagging behind their male counterparts. Now the situation is so encouraging that women have taken up even the challenging tasks

of policing and piloting. In science and technology, medicine, information technology and many other fields, women are playing their role with devotion and commitment.

Even in media, women have made their mark, as in newspapers and on television, women are actively contributing to society with their ideas.

If one looks at the political and leadership fronts, the role played by our female politicians and leaders has proved remarkable by all national and international standards. Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto becoming the first woman in the Islamic world to become prime minister was one such leader who earned worldwide recognition for her struggle for democracy. Currently, the country's

youth draws encouragement from Maryam Nawaz Sharif's inspiring figure. It is the commitment of the prime minister's daughter to youth empowerment that has inspired the younger generation.

Even the first lady, Kulsoom Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister's wife, is said to be an influence within the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz ranks.

Above all, reference to pre-1947 Freedom Movement or of Pakistan's journey to progress and stability to date remains incomplete if the effective role of women played through all these phases is not acknowledged.

This text is an edited excerpt of an article written by Saif-ur-Rahman

Friendship between two nations grows through sports activities

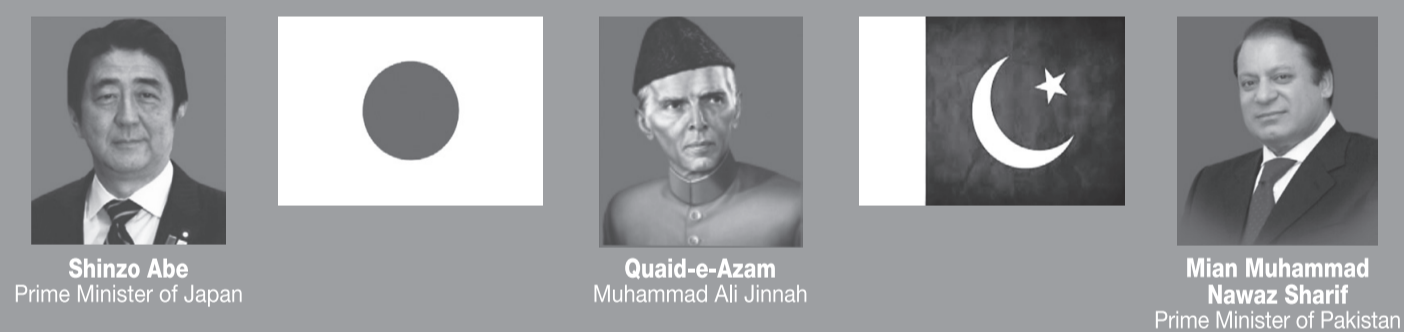
Antonio Inoki, MEMBER, HOUSE OF COUNCILORS



I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of the country's Independence Day on August 14.

This is an important day that makes us feel that the Japan-Pakistan friendship is deepening. I will work on further promoting diplomacy with a human touch through sports activities.

I feel really privileged to extend my message here on this auspicious occasion.



Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan; Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah; Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan

Strengthening Democracy Through Friendship
14 August
Happy Pakistan Independence Day



Hafiz Mehar Shamas, President PML(N) Japan

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PML(N) Japan donated various daily necessities to Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture, in March 2011, in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. PML(N) President Hafiz Mehar Shamas, furthest right, was being interviewed by a Pakistani TV station.



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Congratulations to the People of Pakistan on the 67th Anniversary of Their Independence

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 God Says In Chapter No. 17, Isra, Verse No. 53
"Say to My servants that they should (only) say those things that are best"
 (It means We all Need To Talk Politely With Each Other)

聖クルアーン17番、夜の旅章、53節で創造者が仰せられています
 「われのしもべに告げなさい。
 「かれら(ムスリム)は何事でも最も丁寧に物を言いなさい。」
 この節は「私たちは皆、お互いに最も丁寧に話をする必要があります」という意味です

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