

Pakistan Day

Bolstering growth as JETRO's top business destination

ASAD MAJEED KHAN
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On the auspicious occasion of the National Day of Pakistan, let me 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, H.E. Foreign Minister Taro Kono and the government and the friendly people of Japan. On this day every year, we commemorate March 23, 1940, the historic day when our founding fathers laid out their vision for a separate and independent state for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. This vision became a reality on Aug. 14, 1947, following a relentless struggle spearheaded by the father of

the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Japan continue to enjoy a long-standing friendship. With absolutely no historical baggage between the two countries, the people of Pakistan have always carried a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people. The citizens of both of our countries have stood by each other in times of need, economically and personally. This is apparent when we look back our trade and commerce liaison that started even before the creation of Pakistan. Meanwhile, our people-to-people links are deeply historical because the Pakistan of today is the birthplace of Gandhara, the heart and hub of Buddhist civilization.

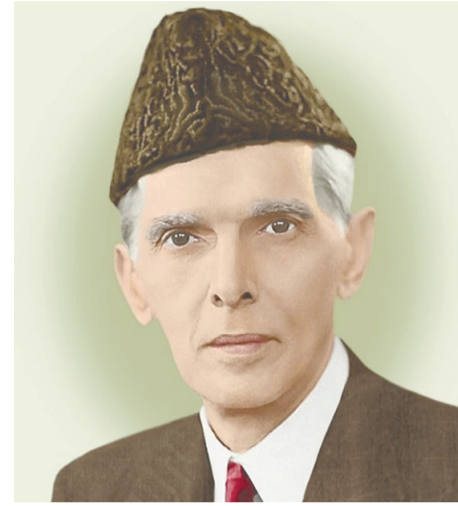
Pakistan firmly believes that our common adherence to the ideals of peace, democracy, freedom and rule of law, as well as a shared commitment to promoting peace and security, provides a strong basis for a comprehensive, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership

between Pakistan and Japan; this is also true in the areas of expanding and deepening bilateral trade, investment and development cooperation.

Happily, on the bilateral front, this past year we have seen renewed interest in both capitals of Islamabad and Tokyo to further intensify high-level exchanges and to deepen business and investment ties. Notably, we started the new year with the Japanese foreign minister's visit to Pakistan. Kono's visit provided a great opportunity for both sides to share their vision for promoting peace, stability and prosperity, as well as exploring ways for closer and mutually beneficial cooperation.

In fully capturing the breadth and depth of bilateral relationship this past year, we also witnessed the successful convening of a number of institutional dialogue processes that covered a wide range of areas that included investment, security, counter-terrorism and nuclear issues, among others. To actively explore ways and means to expand and deepen bilateral trade ties and bring greater balance to trade, we have also set up a Joint Trade Committee that met for the first time in July. As our bilateral engagements gather momentum, we look forward to holding the next round of the High-Level Economic Policy Dialogue and the Joint Government Business Dialogue later this year.

Regarding internal achievements during the past few years, Pakistan has made important gains on the security and the economic fronts. Remarkable improvement in the security situation of Pakistan — last year saw the lowest number of terrorism incidents in over a decade — and the country's impressive and sustained economic turnaround has been duly recognized and acknowledged by international financial institutions and credit rating agencies. This recognition has generated a significant amount of positive



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



President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain



Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

energy and investor enthusiasm regarding available and emerging opportunities in Pakistan. The Japan External Trade Organization's (JETRO) 2018 survey, released this month, rated Pakistan as the top destination for Japanese companies for expected profits, plans for expansion of operations and hiring of local labor force. Similar assessments by Forbes, Bloomberg and Nikkei respectively on Pakistan being "Asia's next growth engine," "global turnaround story" and best undiscovered frontier market clearly highlights Pakistan's potential as an emerging market. The nation offers tremendous new opportunities that Japanese investors are in ideal positions to benefit from. In this regard, the Pakistan embassy in Tokyo, in collaboration with JETRO and The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, has also launched an investment seminar series across Japan to apprise the Japanese business community of the investment opportunities available in Pakistan. The response to the series has been remarkable and several Japanese enterprises have already traveled to Pakistan, while several other organizations are actively exploring investment

possibilities.

As we celebrate the 66th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan this year, we are keen to further build on our shared commitment to peace, security

and prosperity to lay the foundation of an enduring partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. Thank you.

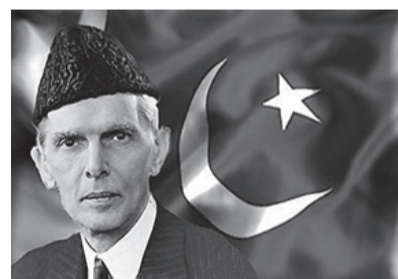
Long live Pakistan and long live the Pakistan-Japan friendship.



Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif shake hands at a meeting in Islamabad on Jan. 4. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN



Badshahi Mosque is located in Lahore, the capital of the Punjab province. The mosque is one of the largest in the world and was completed in 1673 under Emperor Aurangzeb of the Mughal Empire. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN



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



Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE 78th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL DAY

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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78th PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY



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Pakistan Day

GDP at its highest in nine years

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), I would like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the wonderful occasion of Pakistan Day. According to an announcement by the government of Pakistan, the real gross domestic product growth rate for the

2016 to 2017 fiscal year was 5.3 percent, the highest level it's been in nine years. The global economy is set to expand by 3.1 percent this year, slightly up from 3 percent last year, and marking the first year since the 2008 Great Recession that the economy will near or achieve its full growth potential, according to the World Bank. In such circumstances, Pakistan has demonstrated continued strong growth and the government has set an economic growth target of 6 percent for the current fiscal year. Pakistan is also one of the most significant and important markets for Japanese companies. The JPBCC was established in July 1983 at the request of the Pakistan government. Since then, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade,

investment and economic activities. Pakistan and Japan have maintained these fruitful ties and friendly relations for a significant period of time. Despite having our friendship tested more than once, as well as going through difficult phases from time to time, both of our countries have continued to stand by each other's side. The JPBCC has performed a valuable role and provided an excellent platform for the expansion of this bilateral relationship.

In closing, please allow me to express my warmest congratulations to Pakistan once again on the occasion of Pakistan Day. We look forward to the further reinforcement of the traditional friendship and partnerships that exist between our two nations.



Advocating cooperation for future peace

ANTONIO INOKI
GOODWILL AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN FOR SPORTS DIPLOMACY



I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on this memorable occasion of Pakistan Day.

While we continue to hear about gloomy news occurring in the world, your country located at the connecting point of Asia and the Middle East has always played an important role in the international community.

To realize world peace at the earliest possible date, I hope Pakistan, Japan and other Asian nations take the initiative and cooperate to move forward, and I will also endeavor to work hard to help our countries in achieving this goal.

I earnestly pray for the continued prosperity of your country.

Commitment to elevating women's status

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 people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Japan and Pakistan have been enjoying many exchanges in various fields such as politics, economy, culture and academia since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952. Let me renew my warmest welcome to the Ambassador

of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Asad Majeed Khan, who was appointed in July and has a deep understanding of Japan. Since the ambassador is playing an active role in various fields, I would like to work together with him to strengthen bilateral relations.

I had a chance to meet Punjab's Provincial Minister for Women Development Hameeda Waheeduddin in December, and Lt. Gen. Javed Mahmood Bukhari, in February to discuss women's empowerment, the security situation and relationships with Pakistan's neighbors, respectively. The minister explained Pakistan's enthusiasm for girl's education and the improvement of women's status. The general explained Pakistan's commitment to fight terrorism and restore security, resulting in the security situation improving in recent years. I would like to support these

efforts and establish bilateral relations from a long-term perspective as the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

A general election is scheduled in Pakistan this summer. Japan has been supporting Pakistan's efforts to consolidate democracy, and I hope that a free and fair election will be successfully held in Pakistan. Pakistan has a population of about 200 million people, with many of them being younger with a bright future. Pakistan has such great potential and it is important not only for Pakistan, but also for the region and the international community, that Pakistan will be stable and developed.

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.



Top: The Katas Raj Temples in Punjab are among the country's oldest Hindu temples. Bottom: Pakistan won the ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy for the first time in 2017. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN



Ayesha Farooq, first female fighter pilot of the Pakistan Air Force. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN



Kaghan's Lake Saiful Muluk in northern Pakistan. The lake has one of the highest elevations of Pakistan's alpine lakes. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN

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to the State and the People of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the 78th Anniversary of Their National Day

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Embassy of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tokyo