

# Pakistan Day Special

## Bilateral relations see renewed 'vigor and positivity'

**ALI ANSER ZAIDI**  
ACTING 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, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and friendly people of Japan.

The National Day of Pakistan is celebrated every year to commemorate the historic date of March 23, 1947, when our founding fathers spelled out the vision for a separate and independent state for the Muslims of the Indian sub-continent. That vision became a reality on Aug. 14, 1947, owing to the untiring efforts by our elders led by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Pakistan and Japan are long-standing

friends and share a special bond based on deep-rooted linkages that go far back in history. With absolutely no historical baggage between the two, the people of Pakistan carry a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people. We have always stood with each other in times of need, calamity and natural disasters.

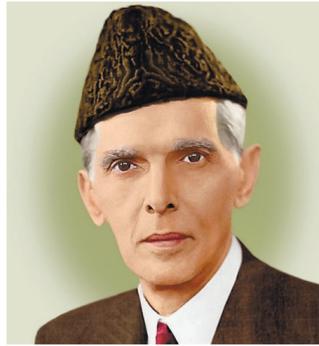
Last year saw a renewed vigor and positivity in the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan. The upward trajectory was manifested in increased bilateral exchanges and activity, both at official levels and between the private business sectors of the two countries. The year started with a visit by Foreign Minister Taro Kono to Pakistan. It had been nine years since a Japanese foreign minister visited Pakistan, and the visit was reflective of the increasing importance both sides attached to this relationship and the mutual desire to further deepen bilateral relations.

The fifth High Level Economic Policy Dialogue was also held in Pakistan in April after a hiatus of seven years. The dialogue presented a good platform to discuss issues pertaining to investment and bilateral economic cooperation. In December, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and

Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood, visited Tokyo to attend the sixth round of the Pakistan-Japan Joint Government Business Dialogue.

For Pakistan and Japan, the potential to grow mutually beneficial relations based on inherent complementarities is immense. For Pakistan, Japan has been an important development partner with extensive trade and investment linkages. The continued presence in Pakistan of 86 major Japanese companies, as well as their growing numbers and range of activities, is a testament to the trade and investment win-win that our two countries have enjoyed over the decades.

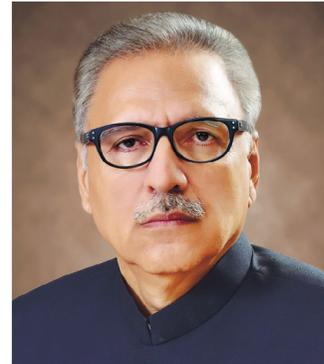
Building on our decades-old relationship, Japan with its profound capacity and expertise for investment but with a graying population and a shrinking workforce can be a natural partner for a Pakistan having more than 60 percent of its population under the age of 30 and having one of the fastest-growing middle classes in the world. In February, Pakistan and Japan have also signed a memorandum of cooperation on a Technical Intern Training Program. We hope to have increased numbers of technical interns from Pakistan in Japan under this memorandum who could



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

contribute to the socioeconomic development of their country upon return.

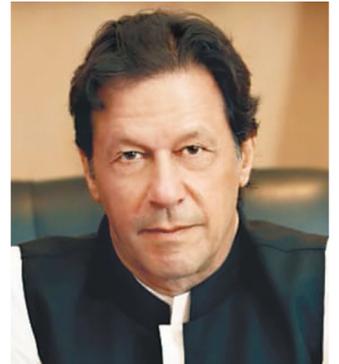
The active and vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Japan, now numbering over 15,000, is acting as a strong and effective bridge between our two countries and peoples. I am very proud to recall the services rendered by the Pakistani diaspora to help their communities



President of Pakistan Arif Alvi

in the aftermath of natural disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Indeed, all this makes us very proud. I have every confidence that they will continue to make important and useful contributions to the Japanese society and economy.

As we celebrate the 67th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

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! Long Live the Pakistan-Japan Friendship!

## Economic outlook bullish as GDP hits 10-year high

**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 auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

According to an announcement by the government of Pakistan, the real gross domestic product growth rate for the 2017 to 2018 fiscal year was 5.79 percent,

the highest level in 10 years. Since the establishment of the new cabinet of Prime Minister Imran Khan last summer, investors' expectations for economic reform in the country have been rising substantially. With the increasing business momentum in Pakistan, the access rates by Japanese companies are only expected to accelerate, as Pakistan

is one of the most significant markets for Japanese companies.

The JPBCC was established in July 1983 at the request of the government of Pakistan. Since then, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Pakistan and Japan have maintained friendly relations for a long period of time. Despite having our friendship tested more than once and undergoing difficult phases from time to time, both of our countries have stood by each other's side.

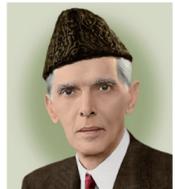
The JPBCC has performed a valuable role and provided an excellent platform in

expanding this bilateral relationship. It held the eighth Pakistan-Japan Private Sector Business Dialogue in December with the Pakistan-Japan Business Forum, achieving intensive and constructive discussions among attendees. The JPBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business between Japan and Pakistan through such activities.

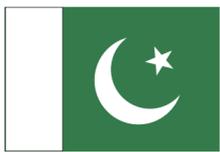
In closing, please allow me to express my congratulations to the country once again on the occasion of Pakistan Day. We look forward to the further strengthening of the traditional friendship and partnerships that exist between our two nations.



Attabad Lake in Hunza's Gojal Valley is a major tourist attraction. SYED MEHDI BUKHARI



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



23RD MARCH



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

**THIS DAY  
WE CELEBRATE  
THE 79th 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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# Congratulations

23rd March, 2019

## 79th PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY

**WISHING A GREAT FUTURE FOR  
PAKISTAN**

THANK YOU PAKISTAN AND PEOPLE OF  
A BRAVE NATION FOR HELPING  
THE WORLD AGAINST THE WAR ON TERROR  
& BUILDING A PEACEFUL WORLD



PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN IMRAN KHAN NIAZI



CEO PAK JAPAN GROUP OF COMPANIES CHAUDHRY ASIF MAHMOOD

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# Pakistan Day Special

## Diplomatic visit punctuates call for stability

**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 Pakistan Day.

Japan and Pakistan have enjoyed various exchanges in fields such as politics, economy, culture and academics since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952. Pakistan has a population of about 200 million people, and many of them are young individuals who have bright futures ahead of them. 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.

In September, soon after the new administration of Prime Minister Imran Khan was established, I visited Pakistan as the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League with Chief Director Koichiro Genba, and the league's Secretary General Midori Matsushima.

First, we visited Karachi to meet with business and cultural communities from both countries and exchange our views. We also visited Mazar-e-Quaid to pay tribute to the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and laid down a floral wreath.

Later, we arrived at Islamabad and exchanged our views with the prime minister, other Pakistani government officials and representatives of the Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League about strengthening bilateral relations. We received a warm welcome from the people of Pakistan and our visit to the country was really meaningful.

Moreover I had a chance to meet Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production,

and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood, who visited Japan and heard from him about Pakistan's economy and trade. I learned that many Japanese companies participated in the Pakistan Business Seminar where Dawood delivered a lecture. I strongly hope that the economic relations of both countries will develop further.

In addition to that, as a friend of Pakistan, we are worried about the deteriorating situation in Kashmir. We hope the countries will reach a stable situation through dialogue.

I would like to further strengthen bilateral relations from a long-term perspective as the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

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.

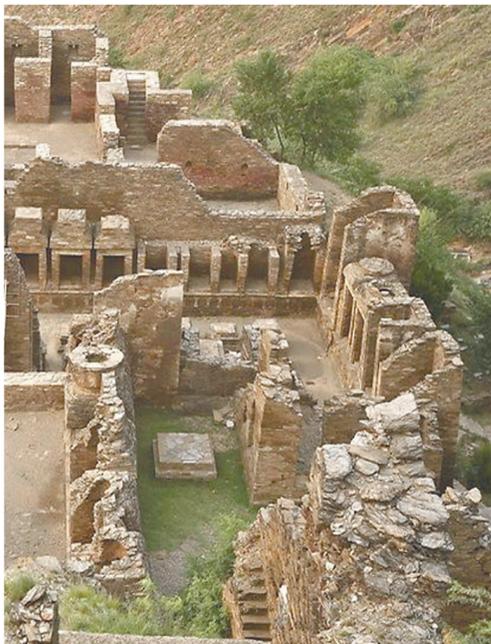
*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



K2 in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan is the second-tallest mountain in the world. SYED MEHDI BUKHARI



Saiful Muluk Lake is located at the northern end of the Kaghan Valley near the town of Naran. SYED MEHDI BUKHARI



The Takht-i-Bahi is a well-preserved Buddhist monastery that was founded in Mardan during the first century. GULREZ GHOURI

## Congratulations

on the Occasion of  
the 79th National Day of  
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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**HAPPY PAKISTAN DAY TO ALL**

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**Did You Know? In The Quran ご存知でしょうか?**

God Says In Chapter No. 69, Al-Haqqah, Verse No. 28-29  
Resurrection day human will say "My wealth has not availed me,  
my power and arguments have gone from me!"

(The above meaning is abandoning selfness when you are in this world.)

聖クルアーン69番、真実章、28-29節で創造者が仰せられています  
復活の日に人間は言う「富は、わたしに役立たなかった。」  
「権威は、わたしから消え失せてしまった。」

(上記は、現世に生きているとき自我を捨てなさいという意味です)

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of Pakistan  
on the 79th Anniversary of  
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