

National Day of Pakistan

Publicity

Pakistan, Japan forging new partnership

By **Imtiaz Ahmad**

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic 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 the Emperor and Empress, members of the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the Government and the friendly people of Japan.



Imtiaz Ahmad

March 23 is an important landmark in the history of Pakistan. It was on this day in 1940 when the historic Lahore Resolution was

passed, which united the Muslims of the subcontinent for a greater objective. The Muslims of the subcontinent, through their collective will, expressed unwavering resolve to carve out a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could lead their lives in accordance with their own religion, traditions, values and culture. Today, we also pay homage to the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Poet of the East Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all the other great leaders of the freedom movement who paved the way for the creation of Pakistan.

Pakistan Day 2022 is being commemorated in very turbulent times when the world is facing the continuation of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Very rarely a calamity has such a worldwide impact as we are witnessing today. Nations have to go through difficult times, but only

with unity, can we will sail through. We stand united with the people of Japan to navigate through this calamity.

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan were established on April 28, 1952. The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Embassy is holding a variety of programs to introduce Pakistan's rich legacy in tourism, culture, food and other products to the Japanese people throughout the year.

Friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan are historical and time tested. It is a relationship based on mutual respect and understanding, with the peoples of both nations having a strong feeling of friendship and affection for each other.

Despite relatively limited bilateral interactions in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the re-

lations between Pakistan and Japan have gained enhanced momentum during the past few years. The mainstay of our relationship has been trade and economic, with Japan being a key development partner and a major investor in Pakistan.

In September 2021, the Foreign Ministers of the two countries met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session. In May 2021, Prime Minister Imran Khan became the first ever Prime Minister of Pakistan to give a keynote address at the "Future of Asia" conference organized by Nikkei Inc. On the economic and trade front, Toyota Japan has announced a fresh investment of \$100 million for assembling hybrid vehicles in Pakistan.

Looking forward, I am optimistic for the year 2022 and beyond as the sky is the limit for our fraternal rela-



Photo courtesy Gammer Wazi

Shangrila Lake is located near the city of Skardu in Gilgit-Baltistan.

tions. We will endeavor to carry forward the excellent momentum in our relations to the years ahead and forge new partnerships in multiple fields.

We are also confident that through our joint efforts, our fraternal

ties and cooperative relations will acquire further depth in the years to come, to the mutual benefit of our two peoples and regional peace and prosperity.

Pakistan-Japan relations Zindabad.

Marking 70th anniv. of diplomatic ties

By **Seishiro Eto**

President of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League
Member of the House of Representatives

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 Pakistan Day.



Seishiro Eto

Japan and Pakistan have been enjoying close friendly relations through exchanges in various fields such as politics, economy and culture since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952. This year marks the 70th anniversary of our ties and many memo-

rial events are organized or planned both in Japan and Pakistan. It is a great opportunity to further advance bilateral exchanges, and to look back on our history of friendship to reaffirm its importance.

Although we still cannot foresee a complete end to the spread of the coronavirus, I feel that we are making gradual and steady progress in our fight against COVID-19 by standing united globally.

Despite numerous restraints, bilateral relations between Japan and Pakistan have been maintained firmly. During the course of the past year, Prime Minister Khan participated through his video message in the International Conference on "The Future of Asia" organized by Nikkei Inc. in May. When the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August, the Government of Pakistan extended generous support to help Japanese nationals and Afghan

staff of the Japanese Embassy and the JICA office to safely depart from Afghanistan. This was followed by the first ever meeting between Foreign Minister Qureshi and then Foreign Minister Motegi on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in September, where a meaningful exchange of views was held on bilateral and regional issues.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Pakistan diplomatic relations this year, I would like to make utmost efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations as the President of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, despite the difficulties posed by the spread of the coronavirus.

I wish 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.

A great moment to share a few promising trends

Pakistan's National Day today is indeed a great moment to share a few promising trends.

First, Pakistan has recently announced the lifting of all coronavirus-related restrictions, following declining infections across the country. All offices and transport have been allowed to operate at full capacity, whereas the ban on indoor dining has also been lifted, as 70% of the population has now been fully vaccinated.

In January, Pakistan ranked second in The Economist's Global Normalcy Index for COVID-19. The index aims to determine which countries are returning to their pre-pandemic levels, and grades each country using eight indicators split into three categories:

transport, recreation and commercial activity.

Therefore, all Japanese tourists who wish to travel to Pakistan and were holding back because of the pandemic can now plan their trips.

Second, Pakistan's booming IT start-up sector is turning out to be a silver lining for the country. According to a recent report, IT startups in Pakistan have raised \$486 million of global capital since January 2021. With the aim to tap into Pakistan's IT talent pool, MUST of Pakistan and Plus W of Japan signed an agreement last week. Facilitated by the Pakistan Embassy Tokyo, the agreement aims to create a foundation for Pakistan's advanced IT human resource exports to Japan.

It is estimated that Japan will need around 800,000 IT engineers by 2030; for which Pakistan could be an attractive source, as the country is becoming a prominent supplier of skilled workers to the world owing to a large proportion of young and educated population.

Third, the future looks promising for Pakistan-Japan business relations. Earlier this month, Pakistani food items attracted a lot of attention at Foodex Japan 2022. In the coming months, the seventh round of High Level Joint Business Dialogue between Pakistan and Japan will be hosted in Islamabad. Pakistan has also conveyed intent to participate in EXPO-2025 Osaka.

By **Farrukh Rafiq**

Press Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan

Committee committed to greater business ties

By **Teruo Asada**

Chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Business Co-operation Committee

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Co-operation Committee (JPBCC), please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Since the JPBCC's establishment in 1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. The

JPBCC would like to heartily welcome this year, as it is a special milestone: the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. We hope to contribute towards the mutual relationship between our nations.

Under the leadership of the Khan Cabinet, investors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have

risen substantially. With increasing business momentum in Pakistan and a population surpassing 200 million, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate. I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistan market once the COVID-19 pandemic has been contained.

Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan Day, as well as my sincere wishes for Pakistan's increasing development and prosperity in the future.



Teruo Asada

Congratulations on the Occasion of the 82nd National Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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