

Independence Day of Pakistan

PUBLICITY

Pakistan, Japan mark 70 years of close ties

By Ismat Hassan Sial
Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan

While celebrating the happy occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, I take this opportunity of expressing sincere greetings on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots in Japan to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, members of the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the Government and people of Japan.



Ismat Hassan Sial

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan gained independence from its colonial past as well as from the shackles of physical and ideological restrictions that were binding an entire nation to a way of life that it did not ideologically agree to. As a result, an entire generation was invested with the ability to create and establish a safe place for the incoming generations. We remain thankful to our ancestors for their sacrifices and for their invaluable contributions toward strengthening a nascent Pakistan.

Pakistan since its birth has tried consistently to provide a safe place for its citizens, where individuals of all religions, casts, ideologies and ethnicities are welcome to a

harmonious civil life. Through all crises and challenges, Pakistan has remained steadfast on its principles in relation to its foreign policy and its guiding principles for governing its citizens. Today's Pakistan shares the values of democracy, respect for rights and a love for peace with other likeminded countries including Japan. Pakistan has overcome many crises and has always emerged stronger than before with its resilient population fighting all odds.

Pakistan and Japan have historically enjoyed trouble-free bilateral relations. These relations have now successfully borne 70 years of mutual engagement and productivity. The strength of our bilateral relations has been tested many times. Over the years both nations have exhibited trust in one another and have played a constructive role whenever needed.

The reaction of the Pakistani community following the tsunami in Japan in 2011 and the generous help of the people and the Government of Japan following the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan are two notable examples. The Pakistani diaspora in Japan played a critical and very important role. Our Pakistani compatriots created a network of support following the 2011 tsunami in Japan. The Embassy of Pakistan in Japan collaborated with this network to provide effective assistance to our brothers and sisters in need.

Both countries have also enjoyed a robust level of

trade-related activities driven by private enterprise and supported by both governments. There is a need to enhance this engagement to the mutual benefit of the Japanese and Pakistani peoples in new and emerging sectors such as renewable energy and the IT industry and in the development of human skills. Additionally, Pakistan has a vast amount of skilled labor that can provide invaluable services in Japan's robust and engaging market. Japanese technology and technical know-how can find a vast market in Pakistan, where Japanese technical skills have earned a good name and a positive image.

COVID-19 has indeed tested the limits of globalization. It has also proven the need for global actions to fight global challenges, including pandemics. There is a need to overcome these challenges through continuous engagements and cooperation despite hurdles.

And despite the testing times, our bilateral engagement with Japan at the governmental level and with civil society has continued for the past two years. Our interactions over the period were relatively limited. However, the latest meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi on Aug. 4 this year in Cambodia was a welcome step in this direction after a hiatus of two years. We hope that this engagement will lead to the further deepening of

our bilateral understanding and strengthening of our diplomatic relations.

On this auspicious occasion of the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, we reiterate our long-stated desire to further enhance our bilateral relations with Japan and our bilateral understanding and maximize the benefit of this partnership for both the governments and peoples of Japan and Pakistan.



Japan cooperation committee celebrates Pakistan's Independence Day

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 wholehearted congratulations to the government and citizens of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

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

year, as it is a special milestone: the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan. We hope to contribute to the mutually beneficial relationship between our nations.

Pakistan is a country with a population of over 220 million people. Those under the age of 25 account for approximately 60% of the total population, and there are many capable English-speaking individuals. Under the leadership of the Sharif Cabinet, we can



Teruo Asada

expect economic development due to the country's demographic dividend and promising industrial fields such as automobiles, textiles, and IT.

With increasing business momentum in Pakistan, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate. I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistani market going forward.

Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day. We look forward to further strengthening the friendship and partnerships between our two nations.

Congratulations on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Independence of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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