

National Day of Pakistan

PUBLICITY

Pakistan-Japan relations gaining momentum

By Raza Bashir Tarar
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, the Government and the friendly people of Japan.



Raza Bashir Tarar

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.

Friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan are historical and time-tested. Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship



Hussaini Suspension Bridge, Hunza Valley, Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan

with Japan. We have always looked to Japan with a sense of respect and veneration as a very important country in Asia, whose economic success and model we wish to emulate.

I am pleased to note that the relations between Pakistan and Japan have gained enhanced momentum during the past few years. A number of visits have taken place, which are a clear manifestation of a mutual desire to enhance already excellent relations. Both sides have also signed a number of MoUs/Agreements which govern bilateral cooperation in a number of sectors. A number of institutional mechanisms are in place to consolidate and expand

our relationship in various fields. Both friendly countries also cooperate at international forums on a wide range of issues.

The bedrock of our relationship has been economic, with Japan being a key development partner, a major investor and a significant export destination for Pakistan. Pakistan and Japan's economic cooperation and engagement have been picking up in the last few years. Japan considers Pakistan one of the major destinations for Japanese companies. In this regard, big Japanese corporations such as Marubeni, Mitsui, Sojitz, Morinaga and auto manufacturers like Toyota, Honda and Suzuki have significant investments in Pakistan.

Pakistan's exports to Japan have been on an increasing trajectory over the last three years, and they have shown positive growth in the first two quarters of Financial Year 2022-23.

Here, I would like to highlight the major contribution of the 19,000-strong Pakistani diaspora in Japan. Our community in Japan is among the pioneers in the export of used automobiles, carpet trade and Halal food. They remain important contributors to the Japanese economy.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for its high-level participation and pledge of \$77 million at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan held in Geneva on Jan. 9, 2023. This pledge was in addition to the \$38.9 million earmarked for Pakistan as part of Japan's supplementary budget to deliver life-saving aid to flood victims. A grant of \$7 million was also announced in September last year. Japan's pledge is evidence of our excellent bilateral ties and will go a long way in alleviating the situation in the flood affected areas.

Looking forward, I am optimistic for the year 2023 and beyond. We will endeavor to carry forward the excellent momentum in our relations in 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.

Japan, Pakistan cherish friendly 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 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 relations in 1952. Last year, which marked the 70th anniversary of our relations, we had active high-level exchanges, including a Summit meeting and a Foreign Ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings respectively, a visit of the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs to Pakistan and a Joint Government Business

Dialogue, while many commemorative events were held both in Japan and Pakistan. I feel that the bonds between our two countries have been further strengthened through these exchanges.

Last year, unprecedented flooding caused extensive damage in various parts of Pakistan and claimed many precious lives. I would like to reiterate my sincere sympathies for those affected. The Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League held an emergency general meeting to discuss the situation of the flood damage in Pakistan and how Japan should support the country. As Japan is also a country prone to natural disasters, I hope that we can be of some help to Pakistan's speedy recovery, utilizing the knowledge and technology we have cultivated in disaster prevention and mitigation.

I would like to make utmost efforts to elevate bilateral relations to new heights as the President of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

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.

JPBCC committed to enhancing economic ties

By Akira Terakawa
Chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee

Having been appointed as the new Chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC) from March 1 of this year succeeding the former Chairman, Mr. Teruo Asada, please allow me, on behalf of the JPBCC, to extend my sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.



Akira Terakawa

Since the JPBCC's establishment in 1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Last year was the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. The JPBCC held the ninth Japan-Pakistan Private Sector Business Dialogue in Islamabad together with the Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJBF) in September 2022. We also attended a Government Business Dialogue organized by the governments of Japan and Pakistan as representatives of the Japanese business community. We

paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Prime Minister Sharif to report the results of the discussion. We hope to further strengthen economic ties between Japan and Pakistan by bringing together the strengths of the public and private sectors.

Pakistan has a population of over 220 million people. Those under the age of 25 account for approximately 60 percent of the total population, and there are many English-speaking human resources, so we believe that Pakistan's potential is extremely high.

In addition, even though Pakistan suffered from massive flood damage in 2022, I understand that the people of Pakistan are now united under the strong leadership of the Sharif Cabinet and are working diligently on reconstruction efforts. As such, I believe that Pakistan will be able to overcome the flood damage and achieve further economic development thanks to its demographic dividend and such promising industrial sectors as automobiles, textiles, and information technology. Consequently, I am convinced that more and more Japanese companies will choose to enter the Pakistan market in the near future.

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 going forward.



Gammer Wazir

Blossom at Chunda Valley, Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan

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