

60th Anniversary of Pak-Japan Friendship

The year 2012 commemorates the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan. The Embassy and Consulate General of Japan will celebrate this year with a variety of events and programs throughout the year.

The year began with the Japanese Calendar Exhibition through which the Pakistani people were acquainted with the culture and lifestyle of the Japanese people these calendars also displayed the modern printing technology of Japan. There was also a lecture on Guatama Buddha held in the city by Dr. Makin Khan and an Ikebana Exhibition, both events as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations.

To celebrate this commemorative year on a grand scale, a two day mega event was held in March, the "Japan Fest", which took place at the Arts Council of Pakistan and the response of the Pakistani people was very encouraging as they visited the Japan Fest in great numbers.

The Japan Fest featured the following Japanese programs: the art of Japanese flower arrangement "Ikebana", the art of miniaturizing plants and trees called "Bonsai", Japanese cooking demonstration, Japanese martial arts championship, art with paper called "Origami", Japanese Calligraphy, a Japanese musical concert, a quiz on Japan, Japanese videogames and many other activities including lectures and workshops.

Keeping in view the spirit of unity and friendship between our two countries, this festival was organized by various Japan related organizations working to promote Japanese culture in Karachi and other parts of Pakistan. These organizations managed this grand event under the full support of the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi.

There are many events and programs lined up for the rest of the year. "Haiku Mushaira" is one such event that is to take place by the end of March. "Haiku" is an age old favourite poetic form of Japan. Every year many renowned Pakistani poets gather under the auspices of the Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh (PJCA) and participate in the Haiku Mushaira in Urdu language.

There will also be a Japanese film festival by the Japanese Cultural Centre featuring Japanese films and documentaries. Japan has kept alive its culture and tradition despite great modern technological and industrial advancement, the Japan Cultural Centre will hold the Girls and Boys festivals as well, decorating with and displaying traditional dolls used in these festivals.

All in all, 2012 is a year filled with cultural activities, with a hope to bring the people of Pakistan and Japan ever closer together and to further strengthen the existing ties of friendship between the two countries.

The End