

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi on the
occasion of Bonsai Exhibition 2015 on August 13, 2015**

It is my great pleasure to attend the inauguration ceremony of the 16th Bonsai Exhibition today. I would like to congratulate the Pakistan Bonsai Society for organizing Bonsai exhibitions for the past 16 consecutive years since 1998.

Bonsai is a traditional Japanese art of growing artistically shaped miniature trees in the containers, which has a long history of more than 800 years in Japan. Bonsai is the art in which a person create not only by unique techniques but with profound observation and insight for the nature. Bonsai is, in other words, a creation of aesthetic philosophy. I am happy to note that Bonsai has been practiced and appreciated by many people in the world, including Pakistan.

I find it very heartwarming to see how the members of Pakistan Bonsai Society have embraced this Japanese genre of art Bonsai and have kept it going with the spirit of introducing Japanese culture in Pakistan and have further promoted cultural exchange between Japan and Pakistan for many years.

I would like to conclude my remarks by hoping that many people in Pakistan will come to see this beautiful art of bonsai, starting from today and deepen their understanding on Japanese traditional culture and this Bonsai Exhibition will contribute to the promotion of friendship between Japan and Pakistan.

(End)