

Press Release

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) destroyers, Sazanami (DD-113) and Samidare (DD-106), led by Captain Hiroaki Tajiri, was on three-day official visit to Karachi from April 18 to 20, 2014. The two destroyers were en route to Japan, after completing its anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden, off the coast of Somalia.

The Despatched Maritime Force, JMSDF, which had called at the Port of Karachi was the first convoy to participate in the Combined Task Force (CTF-151), a multinational naval coalition including Pakistan Navy, which was established in 2009 for the anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden.

Sazanami and Samidare arrived at Port of Karachi on April 18 and were welcomed by Commodore Sajid Mahmood, other officials and Navy Band of Pakistan Navy along with Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Hiroshi Inomata and the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. Akira Ouchi.

During the visit, Captain Tajiri called on Vice-Admiral Khawaja Ghazanfer Hussain, the Commander Karachi, and Vice-Admiral Khan Hasham Bin Saddique, Commander Pakistan Fleet, as well as senior officials of the Pakistan Navy. Both the JMSDF and the Pakistan Navy officers and seamen toured their counterparts' vessels. Also, JMSDF crews and the Pakistan Navy personnel had friendly sports matches.

On this occasion, the Japanese residents in Karachi had an opportunity to tour the Japanese vessels. The port visit by the JMSDF further strengthened the friendly relationship between the two countries and enhanced defense exchange between Japan and Pakistan.

Sazanami and Samidare had left the Port of Karachi on April 20. The sending off ceremony was attended by Commodore Sajid Mahmood and the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. Akira Ouchi.

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For further information, please contact the Japan Information and Culture Center at the Consulate-General of Japan at Karachi: 35220800 (Ext. 134). Also please kindly visit our web-site: <http://www.kr.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/> in regard to this official visit.

