

December 2, 2015

Press Release

Japanese Emperor's 82nd Birthday Celebrated in Karachi

On December 1, 2015, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. Akira Ouchi, and Mrs. Junko Ouchi hosted a grand reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito, who will be 82 years old on December 23, 2015. Senior Minister for Education and Literacy, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro was the chief guest at the reception and was attended by parliamentarians, government officials, diplomats, business executives, and other prominent figures from both Sindh and Balochistan.

Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi, explained in his speech about various economic and cultural activities that have taken place throughout the year. Mr. Ouchi reiterated that the friendly relationship between the two countries is mainly centered on economic cooperation and explained about the Official Development Assistance (ODA) by the government of Japan to Pakistan. Consul-General Mr. Ouchi emphasized his heartfelt commitment in further promoting economic cooperation, and activating cultural and people-to-people exchange between Japan and Pakistan.

On this occasion, Consulate-General of Japan and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) co-organized "Japan Exhibition". 19 Japanese-related companies in Karachi displayed their products such as motor cars, motor bikes, a truck, and a bus etc. In addition, some cultural exhibits such as traditional Japanese dolls, traditional toys, as well as Japanese kites were displayed. The four *Ikebana* groups showcased beautiful flower arrangements and the Pakistan Bonsai Society exhibited *bonsai* (Japanese art of growing a miniature tree in a container) in different spots at the venue. The guests showed keen interests in the displays and appreciated their elegance and sophistication. Also on this occasion, the members of "*Metal Seinen*" and "*Shonen Infinity*" (Pakistani youth groups promoting Japanese pop-culture) wore *Yukata* (Japanese casual *Kimono*) and displayed their works.

The chief guest, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Senior Minister for Education and Literacy congratulated His Majesty the Emperor Akihito on His Majesty's birthday and expressed sincere wishes for His Majesty's good health and prosperity. Minister Khuhro also reiterated about the cordial and friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan, and extended his deep appreciation concerning Japan's ODA to Pakistan in various sectors, especially in the field of education.

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