

June 6, 2015

## Press Release

### Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi attends 31<sup>st</sup> Urdu *Haiku/Waka* Mushaira

The 31st Urdu Haiku/Waka Mushaira was organized by Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA), Sindh on June 5, 2015 at the Khadim Ali Shah Bukhari Institute of Technology. This cultural event was patronized by the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi.

Over thirty poets participated in this event and presented three original works of Haiku/Waka in Urdu; one Urdu translation of Japanese Haiku; one Urdu translation of Ogura Hyakushin Isshu, which is a classical Japanese anthology of one hundred Waka (a type of poetry in classical Japanese literature) by one hundred poets; and one original work of Waka in Urdu.

Haiku and Waka are the forms of Japanese poetry that dates back to the 8th century. Haiku and Waka are the precise, compact and condensed poetry originating in Japan. Haiku and Waka, the traditional forms of Japanese poetry, still remains popular in modern Japan, and in recent years its popularity has also spread to many countries including Pakistan. Many poets in Pakistan today practice this compact yet profound and evocative form of expression that leaves a lot of room for interpretation and subtlety. Art and literature, which are the two significant media of Haiku and Waka help us understand and co-relate between different cultures of the world.

Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, who was the chief guest at the occasion, congratulated on the 31st anniversary of Haiku Mushaira which is being held since 1983 and the first Waka Mushaira. Consul-General Mr. Ouchi appreciated the Pakistani poets for their efforts in promoting Haiku and Waka in Pakistan.

He concluded his remarks by expressing his hope that the Haiku/Waka Mushaira will contribute to the deepening of understanding on Japan in Pakistan and the promotion of friendship between Japan and Pakistan.

(End)

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

