

**Vol:75**

## **Information Bulletin**

Embassy of Japan in Pakistan & Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi



H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan





## Message from the Ambassador to Japan

H.E. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad

Assalam - o -Aleikum dear friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to address you from Japan where I have very recently assumed my responsibilities as Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan. It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to represent Pakistan, its Government and people in such an important country. My association with Japan goes back to 1988 when I came here as a Language Trainee. That first stay made me fall in love with this beautiful country and subsequently I had three more postings there.

Pakistan and Japan are longstanding friends and share a special bond based on deep rooted linkages that go far in history and time. With absolutely no historical baggage between the two, the people of Pakistan carry a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people.

Recently, we have witnessed a renewed vigor and positivity in the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan. The upward trajectory is manifested in increased bilateral exchanges and activities, both at official level and between the private businesses of the two countries.

For Pakistan and Japan, the potential to grow mutually beneficial relations based on inherent complementarities is immense. From the established win-wins in the areas of trade and investment to cooperation in human resource development, Education and Science & Technology, the potential is huge. In February 2019, Pakistan and Japan have signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP). We hope to have increased number of technical interns from Pakistan under this MOC.

I assure you that my endeavor, as Pakistan's Ambassador in Japan, will be to enhance and further strengthen the bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of our two countries.

Long Live Pakistan-Japan Friendship!



# Economic News

From Embassy & Consulate



5 April (Karachi) - Consulate participated in the 16th MY KARACHI - Oasis of Harmony Exhibition.



11 April (Karachi) - Consulate held a handing-over ceremony at KVTC.



16 April (Khairpur) - The Government of Japan upgraded 54 girls' elementary schools worth PKR 2.2 billion.



29 May (Islamabad) - The Government of Japan donated ambulances to Pakistan Red Crescent Society.



18 June (Karachi) - Consul-General attend the Joint Venture Ceremony between Atlas Autos and D.I.D.



26 June (Karachi) - FPPCI delegation visited the Consulate to discuss about mutual interests in relation to Japan-Pakistan bilateral relationship.



16 July (Karachi) - Consul-General made remarks at the seminar organized by EFP and AOTS.



25 July (Islamabad) - The Government of Japan provides Grant Aid for the project of Human Resource Development Scholarship to Pakistan.



# Cultural Events

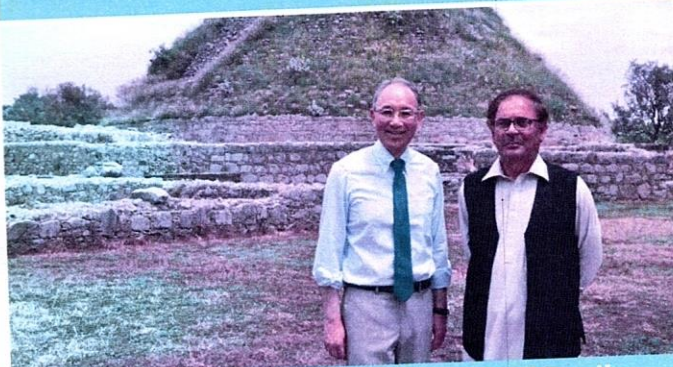
## From Embassy & Consulate



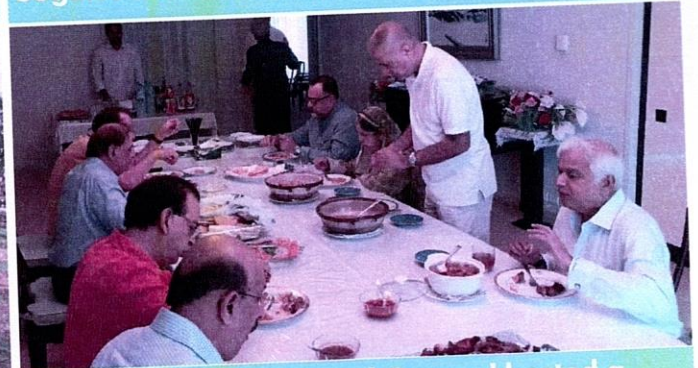
8-11 April (Karachi) - Self Defence Workshop was held at JICC in collaboration with the Pakistan Martial Arts Association.



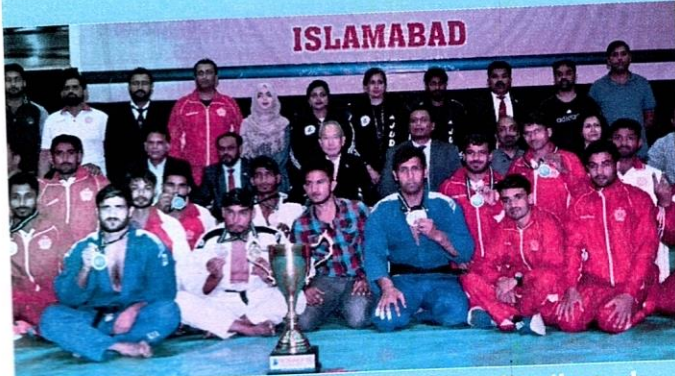
24-26 June (Lahore) - Ambassador visited the exhibitions of Lahore Bonsai Society and the Sogetsu Ikebana Study Group - Lahore.



30 April (Taxila) - Ambassador visited Taxila museum and saw the archaeological sites.



29 June (Karachi) - Consul-General hosted a luncheon for the PJLF members at residence.



4 May (Islamabad) - Ambassador distributed prizes at the National Judo Championship 2019.



3 July (Karachi) - Consul-General spoke about the Japan-Pakistan relationship for the students at Indus University.



24 May (Islamabad) - Exhibition 'Holy Land of Ancient Civilization' was held in Japan and dinner was hosted by Ambassador for Photographic Society of Pakistan.



6 July (Karachi) - Consul-General participated in The Japan House inauguration ceremony.



## Other Events

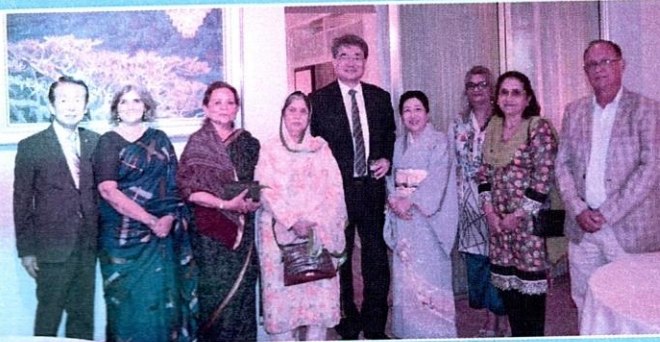
### From Embassy & Consulate



2 May (Islamabad) - Emperor's Succession Reception was hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Matsuda at their residence.



16 May (Islamabad) - Ambassador called Prime Minister Khan and discussed areas of bilateral cooperation between Japan and Pakistan.



6 May (Karachi) - Emperor's Succession Reception was hosted by Consul-General and Mrs. Isomura at their residence.



19 June (Islamabad) - Ambassador hosted a reception to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces Day.



10 May (Islamabad) - Ambassador called on Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa.



19 July (Islamabad) - Ambassador held a meeting with the President of POA.



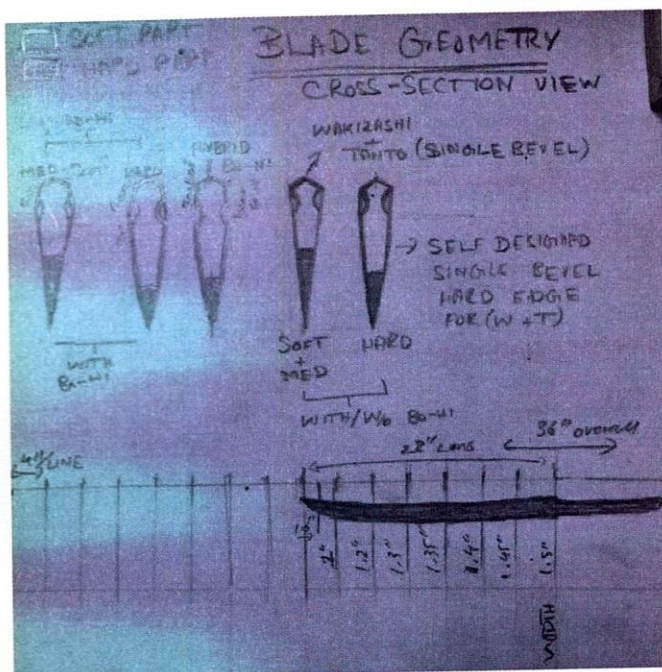
# Raven: A Katana's Journey in Pakistan

## By Junaid Kamran

I am a millennial who grew up watching samurai & ninja movies in the 80's. I confess that I was always deeply inspired and even motivated by Japanese martial arts and particularly their traditional sword. In those days, the much-anticipated weekend for us meant watching Ninja movies till late night and to watch them all over again, the following morning.

We all wanted to be just like those super ninjas who could execute back flips with panache, disappear in the midst of a crowd using smoke bombs. Not to mention the fact that a ninja can take down five guys simultaneously using bare fists and kicks.

That in a nutshell is what Japanese martial arts meant for us. Soon after, I realized that my perception was completely wrong and that for the people of Japan, martial arts is so much more. It is a code that they live by and for those who practice it, it composes their entire lifestyle.





### Humble Beginnings

My first experience with Japanese martial arts started in the early 90's when I was about 10 years old. My father got me admitted at a club that used to teach the discipline of "Shotokan Karate." It was there that I saw an actual full-length Japanese sword or the *Katana* for the very first time in my life. Since then to this date, I have been associated with different forms of martial arts and most of them have been of Japanese origin. Over the years, my passion for Japanese forms of martial arts grew tremendously. I pursued my research in various disciplines such as Judo, Aikido and Kyokushin. All of these disciplines are based on hand-to-hand combat. In fact, it was during my research that I started reading up on the traditional Japanese sword and the amount of detail and sheer hard work that is required for forging one. It was not long before my passion and interest in the Japanese sword out-grew my interests in other forms of martial arts.

### The Katana: One of the Most Elegant Weapon Known to Man!

Japanese Swords are the epitome of fine craftsmanship and these swords are some of the finest blades in the world. They are heated to the color of the sun, then pounded and folded over and over again. They are not merely weapons; they are a badge of class and work of art rolled into one. They are as beautiful as they are lethal. Even more intriguing is the fact that in terms of structure and design, no two swords are the same. Each sword is different, giving it a personal and individualized touch. Having read so much about them, I developed a very strong desire to own one of my own. I was inclined towards owning a *Katana*, which is a full-length Japanese sword having blade length of over 2 *Shakus* or roughly 24 inches. A *Nihonto* or an antique Japanese sword that has been forged using the traditional methods would cost a fortune with a price tag of \$12,000 bare minimum. Then there are many other versions that are made using modern technologies and a decent *Katana* can be procured for as much as \$1,000. However, the import restrictions in Pakistan made it impossible for me to opt for that option. Importing any kind of weapon, even a knife is prohibited in Pakistan. It was at this point I decided that perhaps I should consider forging my own version of a Japanese sword.

### The Making of Raven: My Own Katana

The first step of making the *Katana* involved forging the full tang blade. This was a project that I knew I could not manage on my own so I decided to involve a friend who like me had been deeply inspired by the Japanese sword. He had some space available on his rooftop so using DIY techniques; we built a forge on his rooftop using a blower and a lot of coal. For material, we decided to use leaf springs. We were successful in forging basic blade structures but it was the quenching step where every blade that we had forged would crack. It would take us up to a week to reach the quenching stage and when the blade inevitably cracked, it would crack our intents, our aspirations and our hopes along with it. Within a couple of months and putting in several hours of hard labour on a daily basis, we realized and accepted that this was a project that we could not have managed on our own. We required the help of professional blacksmiths and cutlery makers for the forging of the iconic *Katana* blade. I started contacting several cutlery and knife makers across the country who could have helped me forge the blade of the *katana* but they all refused due to the complexity of the project. I spoke to industrialists in Faisalabad, Sialkot and Lahore but they all refused. Some who did agree initially would back out at later stages when I would share further details about the design. They all offered to forge a sword blade using stainless steel (D12) but a sword forged out of this material would have no practical application. A single blow would crack it into bits. Actual Japanese swords are made using *Tamahagane* which is high carbon steel that is made using the traditional methods. Most modern *Katanas* are made using industrially prepared high carbon steels such as 1045, 1060 and 1095. I was inclined towards getting a blade forged using the 1095 high carbon steel due to its nature of developing and holding an extremely sharp edge.

3 years went by with just disappointments and useless follow-ups on various manufacturers. I had almost given up the idea that someone in Pakistan could actually forge a *Katana* blade for me. It was then an opportunity came up, I had to visit Wazirabad for some official work. Wazirabad is an industrial city in the district of Gujranwala and is known for its cutlery and knives industry.

Many of these manufacturers also sell their products in international markets. After hours of exploration of the entire market in Wazirabad, I just found one young and keen lad who was willing to pursue the project. After making several attempts with sheets of 1095 high carbon steel, he finally succeeded in forging a beautiful looking *katana* blade with a razor sharp edge. It took him over 3 months and several cracked blades before he finally succeeded.

With a *katana* blade forged, I proceeded towards the remaining fittings of the sword which I was either going to make myself or import. The handle of the sword (*Tsuka*) and Scabbard (*saya*) I made myself using Himalayan Spruce wood. The blade collar (*Habaki*), spacers (*Seppa*), handle collar (*Fuchi*) and butt-cap (*Kashira*) I forged using strips and sheets of copper. The scabbard tip (*Kojiri*), knob (*Kurikata*) and scabbard mouth (*Koiguchi*) I made using pieces of bullhorn procured from Wazirabad as well. I tried to make all these fittings in the exact traditional ways the Japanese sword makers would use in the era of the Samurai warriors. I took help of several books on Japanese sword making to craft all these fittings on my own. The rest of the fittings such as hand guard (*Tsuba*), handle wrapping braid (*Ito*) and ornaments (*Menuki*) were imported. *Mekugi* are pegs made from smoked bamboo which are used to hold the *katana* sword and all its fittings together. To make *Mekugi*, I used bamboo chopsticks after experimenting with several different kinds. After working for almost a year on the blade, I finally managed to produce and complete my *Katana*, which of course cannot be compared to an actual *Nihonto*, but I am sure that it is one of the best one ever produced in Pakistan.



## Mr. Khalid Akhtar - Shooting

Our culture team had the opportunity to meet the first Tokyo Olympic Qualifier from Pakistan, Mr. Khalid Akhtar and we couldn't hold back ourselves from asking him some questions specially when the Olympic 2020 Tokyo is set next year. Wishing you best luck!

**Would you like to share something about your early life and how/when you got into this particular sports?**

*I hail from Rajanpur-Punjab and belong to a underprivileged family. I was selected first in army where I learnt that I have talent in the sports of shooting. Thanks to the platform Pakistan Army provided me, with the training of 3 to 4 years my skills at the sports improved immensely. Following the platform given to me now by getting trained from National Rifle Association Pakistan NRAP, I say I have been blessed!*

**Any special memory you have from your career?**

*I have plenty, but winning my first medal in Karachi for National Games remains most special. Btw, that too a gold medal. And well now that I am the first Pakistani to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2020, it's a huge honour.*

**Any lesson you learnt from the sports?**

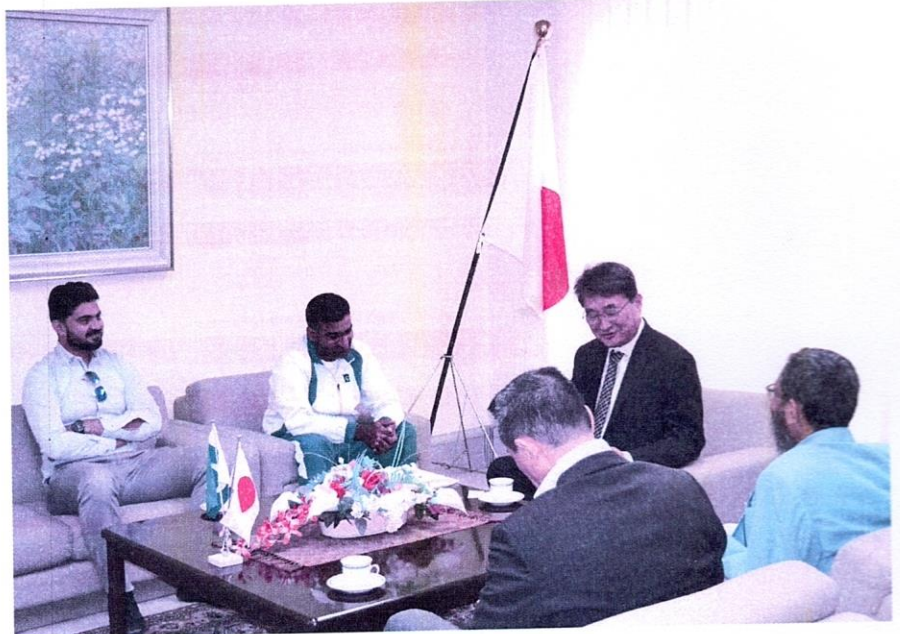
*Shooting sports actually improves your memory. Because you have to be so focused and presence of mind is important.*

**What is your impression about Japan or Japanese people?**

*I didn't have many chances of meeting Japanese before, but since I have been qualified I am quite excited to see Japan and meet the Japanese people there. I have heard great things about Japan and the people, so can't wait!*

**What do you think is the biggest challenge that Pakistan faces when promoting sports among the children ?**

*For shooting I would say that there are not many options for the children to start training at young age. And that is when your talent is actually polished. I myself got the opportunity when I joined Pakistan Army at the age of 17-18.*



**Would you like to say something, a message at the end of our brief interview?**

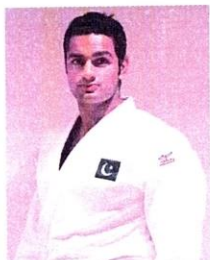
*It was an honour for me to meet H.E. Toshikazu Isomura and been invited to the Consulate General of Japan. I am able to get familiarized with Japanese and my excitement is building up for Tokyo Olympics 2020.*



## Tokyo Olympic 2020 Candidates

### Pakistani athletes moving towards chances

Mr. Shah Hussain - Judo



**Would you like to share something about your early life and how you got into Judo?**

*I have been raised in Japan. My father has been a boxing champ himself, he introduced me to the world of Judo. My mother also suggested me to become a Judo professional since its Japan's national game.*

**Your inspiration?**

*My inspiration are my parents. My father encouraged me to become a professional sportsman while my mother made sure I do well in my academics also. They both gave me balance in life.*

**Any special memory you have from your career?**

*The respect I received from Pakistan specially after the common wealth games, that is one of my cherished memories.*

**How is preparation for Tokyo 2020 Olympic coming along?**

*Pakistan is also my country and so it Japan and its making me very happy that Olympics are going to be in Japan this time. I am quite near to qualifying and I participated in Olympics before also so I have some experience from that too. I am trying to qualify.*

**What is your impression about Japan/Japanese?**

*Japanese are very disciplined people. And the respect they show for others.*

**What is the biggest challenge Pakistan faces when promoting sports education among the kids?**

*In Pakistan children don't get proper sports education on school level. For example in Japan sports are mandatory and is taught inside school so children get training from early ages.*

**Do you have any message to the Judo kids?**

*Judo is a very dynamic sports, therefore listen to your coach carefully because he can see your movements, we can't see it ourselves.*

**What is the biggest lesson you learned from Judo?**

*I often get hurt badly in Judo, it made me feel and understand the pain for others. Judo built my character.*

Mr. Saadi Abbas - Karate

**Would you like to share something about your early life and how you got into Karate?**

*I hail from Lyari, an area of Karachi where there is a lot of poverty. Growing up there I knew I need to do something in life to make an impact.*

**Any special memory you have from your career?**

*My first medal will always remain my most profound memory of my career.*

**How is preparation for Tokyo 2020 Olympic coming along?**

*I am working hard to by Qualified, I will be trying to win some more games to improve my ranking. Since I do not have much support from the government level, it becomes little difficult to remain focused only on your game because I also have to arrange sponsorships myself and manage to travel to countries to participate in different tournaments.*

**What is your impression about Japan/Japanese?**

*Japan is so clean! Karate is a Japanese sports, thus I have always been fond of Japan and the people. Japan is very rich in culture and they value time.*

**What is the biggest challenge Pakistan faces when promoting sports education among the kids?**

*Unfortunately there is no much development on government level. I faced the challenge as a child. We don't have proper sports centres where children can get professional trainings.*

**Do you have any message to the Karate kids?**

*I want to do something for the children, specially those who don't have much means of getting proper education. My future plans are to provide professional trainings to children so that they have an opportunity to do something in life.*

**What is the biggest lesson you learned from Karate?**

*Karate teaches you a way of living. It requires one to be disciplined in life.*







## Messages from the Karachi Japanese Speech Contest Winners



### IMRAN SAEED

"GLOBAL WARMING"

I started learning Japanese from Sir Ilyas last year after getting nominated for Technical training in Japan by my company (Pak Suzuki Motors Company). During my stay in Japan I was inspired by Japanese culture and values and after returning to Pakistan I was motivated enough to spend more time in learning Japanese language and got invited to participate in the language competition by my teacher. I'm very thankful for his help and support which led to this victory.



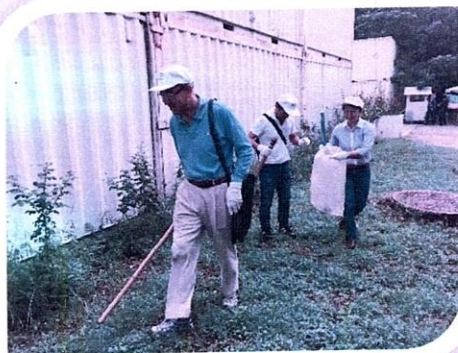
### URWA SAJJAD

"GRADES DON'T DEFINE YOU"

I started learning Japanese at Karachi University as I was captivated by its beautiful dialects. By learning Japanese language, I learned a lot about the Japan culture and their traditions. Since my Japanese teacher encouraged me to take part in the speech contest, and winning 2nd position in the contest, my desire of Japanese learning drastically increased.



The Embassy of Japan in Islamabad joined DiploGreen initiative H.E. Ambassador MATSUDA Kuninori together with his other colleagues collecting waste from the diplomatic enclave as a part of Clean and Green Diplomatic Enclave initiative launched under the title of "Diplo Green" supporting clean and green Pakistan.



### Japanese Government Offices in Pakistan

#### Embassy of Japan in Pakistan

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 (P.O. Box 1119, Islamabad, Pakistan)  
 Tel: +92(51) 9072500  
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[economic@ib.mofa.go.jp](mailto:economic@ib.mofa.go.jp) (Economic Department)  
[culture@ib.mofa.go.jp](mailto:culture@ib.mofa.go.jp) (Public Affairs Department)  
 Website: <http://www.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/>

#### Consulate General of Japan in Karachi

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 Tel: +92(21) 35220800  
 Fax: +92(21) 35220815  
 e-mail: [culture@kr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:culture@kr.mofa.go.jp)  
 Website: <http://www.kr.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/>

#### Office of the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Lahore

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 Tel: +92(42) 37225015-7  
 Fax: +92(42) 37233518  
 e-mail: [anw@shiraziinvestments.com.pk](mailto:anw@shiraziinvestments.com.pk)

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 Tel: +92(81) 2829478, 2829633  
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 e-mail: [knadeem@cyber.net.pk](mailto:knadeem@cyber.net.pk)

#### Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office

Serena Office Complex, 4th Floor, G-5/1, Khyaban-e-Suhrawardy, Islamabad, Pakistan  
 Tel: +92 (51) 9244500-07  
 Fax: +92 (51) 9244508  
 Website: <http://www.jica.go.jp/pakistan/english/index/html>

#### Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

2nd Floor, Block-B, Finance & Trade Centre, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan  
 Tel: +92 (21) 35630727-32  
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 Website: <http://www.jetro.go.jp/>





## Chieri and Cherry

Chieri is a 6th grade elementary school girl. Her father died when shewaslittle,sosheliveswithjust her mother. The only friend of Chieri had been a stuffed doll Cherry which she found on a storehouse. She finds a stray dog being about to give birth to puppies. But a crow and strange monster come trying to get the pups. Can Chieri and Cherry save theirlives?(2015)

# JAPANESE FILM FEST

Featuring five movies  
that made waves in the 2000s

August-October 2019