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Japan

Information Bulletin

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

Japan Fest Highlights

Students' experience
Designers' interview
Delegation from Japan
Japanese performers
And much more...

Experiencing Japan by MEXT Student

PLUS Special
News
Inside





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*VISIT OF STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF PAKISTAN & JAPANESE DELEGATION*

H.E. Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from August 30 until August 31, 2018. During his stay in Islamabad, the State Minister met the leadership of the Government of Pakistan and discussed matters of mutual interest.



A delegation of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarian's Friendship League (JPPFL) of the National Diet of Japan headed by Mr. Seishiro Eto, Chairman of the JPPFL, visited Islamabad from September 3-5, 2018 upon the invitation of Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan. During their stay in Islamabad, the delegation called on H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi.



H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, hosted a reception at his residence in honor of the visiting delegation of Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarian's Friendship League (JPPFL) of the National Diet of Japan.



ELECTION OBSERVERS MISSION VISIT TO PAKISTAN

On July 25, elections of the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies were held in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. From the Government of Japan, an election observer group headed by Mr. Iwao Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, participated in the local observation mission.



This was the second time in Pakistan that a general election was held after a civilian government completed its term.

In addition to dispatching an election observer group, the Government of Japan provided assistance through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the general elections 2018.



H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, conferred Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation on two Pakistanis and a Japanese national in recognition of their significant contribution to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan at a reception hosted by the ambassador at his residence.



August 6, 2018



Japanese Language Certificate Awarding Ceremony (Sep 26, 2018),



Students were awarded certificates for the language course under the patronage of Consulate-General of Japan

“Bonsai Exhibition 2018” was held at Nisar Shaheed Park (Sep 14, 2018)



H.E. Toshikazu Isomura, Consul - General of Japan and members from Pakistan Bonsai Society were present at the Bonsai Exhibition.

Project for the Improvement of Special Education School for Deaf in Rashidabad (Oct 15, 2018)



The Government of Japan extended a grant of US\$ 77, 476 to Family Education Services Foundation in Rashidabad, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme. The Grant covers the cost of two school vans for the children, and equipment for bakery where the students will be vocationally trained.

“Women Self Defense Workshop 2018” at Japan Information and Culture Center (Sep 11-14, 2018)



The Consulate hosted the “Women Self Defense Workshop” on Sep. 11 to 14, 2018, at the Japan Information and Culture Centre (JICC) in cooperation with the Pakistan Marital Arts Association. The workshop is organized for women to raise their awareness for self-defense. About 100 women from various educational institutes participated in the workshop and practiced self-defense skills.

Consulate - General of Japan at ITE International Tourism Expo (Sep 5-6, 2018)



The Consulate displayed a booth promoting tourism in Japan at ITE International Tourism Expo.

Japan Fest 2018



H.E. Toshikazu Isomura, presented a welcome note at Japan Fest 2018 – more highlights of the events on pages inside ...

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF IBA – DR. HUMA BAQAI

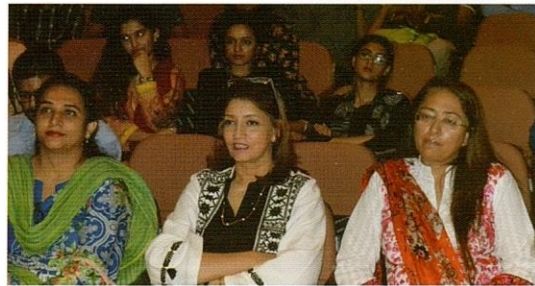
Ms. Sumie Kaneko 's performance at Institute of Business Management (IBA) – Nov 9, 2018

Ms. Sumie Kaneko, a Japanese artist from New York, USA, honoured IBA with her presence on October 9, 2018. The performance she gave was both enthralling and captivating. Ms. Kaneko's dedication to traditional Japanese music was more than obvious, most of the songs she sang were love songs composed in the twentieth century. The instruments were also traditional Japanese instruments; Koto which is similar to the Pakistani Sitar and Shamisen which we may relate to a Banjo. She was wearing a beautiful floral Kimono which only added to the magic.

Something that was of immense satisfaction to me, was the auditorium full of students, present there voluntarily, completely mesmerized by her performance. The highlight of the evening was "Sammi Meri", a Coke Studio song in Urdu. What stole my heart was the number called "Sakura Sakura" also known as Cherry Blossoms, a traditional Japanese folk song depicting spring, the season of cherry blossoms. It is often sung in international settings as a song representative of Japan, IBA was no exception.

IBA encourages all kinds of performing Arts. It has very vibrant Dramatic and Music Societies. Musical events at IBA are a regular feature, however, the performance by Ms. Kaneko was in a class of its own. We appreciate the cooperation of the Cultural Centre of Japan in Karachi for choosing IBA for this and look forward to more.

Dr. Huma Baqai
Associate Dean
Institute of Business Management (IBA)



Ms. Sumie Kaneko's visit to Karachi kicked off with a concert at the Alliance Française de Karachi marking the opening of The Classical Music Without Borders concert, where different Consulates (including Consulate - General of Japan in Karachi) came together to spread the message of peace and to strengthen ties through music. Ms Kaneko's visit to Karachi was then followed by her performance at IBA while ending her tour with the mesmerizing performance in collaboration with NAPA at Japan Fest 2018.

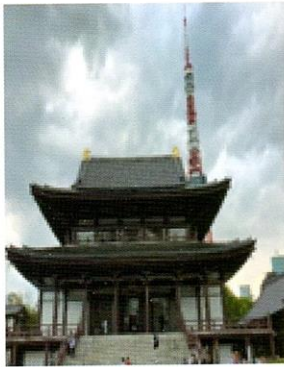


Japan Fest 2018 - Karachi

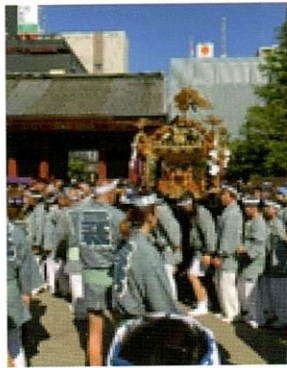


Article by Mr. Salar Moeeni

When I first landed in Japan in April 2018, I had certain doubts that how I will survive in a society or a land where the language and culture is entirely different. I was expecting a cultural as well as language shock. For the first two weeks, indeed that was the case but gradually and slowly I started to settle down with the help of PSAJ (Pakistan Student Association Japan) volunteers. After spending almost 2 months here in Japan, I had also come to realize that the Japanese people and their society are very helpful and systematic. I remember the day when I went for grocery shopping, I couldn't find half of the items as the names were in Kanji. Though having some experience of speaking Japanese language, I went to the shop attendant and asked her about the stuff reluctantly hoping she doesn't mind if I speak incorrectly. She not only told me where they were but also appreciated me on my effort to speak Japanese. She was very happy for the effort that I was making in order to communicate with her. She was very welcoming and very helpful even though I was a foreigner to her. I didn't feel at all that I am a stranger in this country, but rather they welcomed me with open arms.



The Chief temple of the Jodo-Buddhist sect, ZOJOJI



Glimpse of Sanju Matsuri

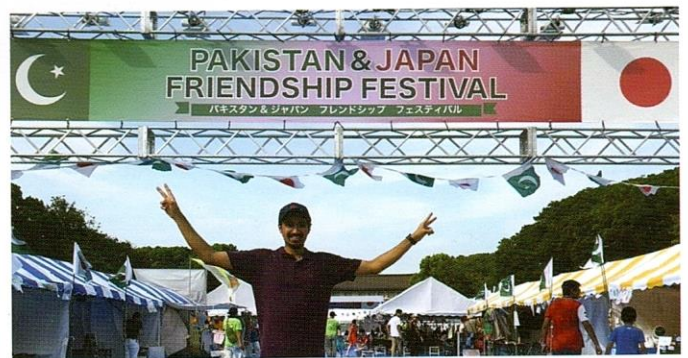
Another time, when I was travelling on the train for the first time from my dormitory to the university, I was a little unsure to where this train will go because I had no google maps. I had asked a young person sitting beside me, asking whether this train will go to Chiba University or not. He wasn't sure himself, but he got up and went to see the chart on which the locations to which the train goes to were written. He came and told me that indeed this train goes to Chiba University and you should get off on the next stop and the university will be right in front of the station. Not only he helped me but also, he introduced himself to me and started to have a conversation.

When I had enrolled myself in the university and started to have more interaction with the Japanese people, my doubts started to vanish and I realized that they are very courteous and helpful. They will go out of their way to help you. Also, they want to learn more about the culture that we belong too and they are very enthusiastic learners. Most recently, a Japanese friend and I were having a conversation and he

asked me about the national language of Pakistan. After telling him that it was Urdu, he was very enthusiastic to learn about the language and asked me to teach him the general introduction in Urdu, like how to say the name, where am I from, what's my field of study etc.

Another observation that I had made was that Japan and its people care about the human being. They don't discriminate on the basis of religion, skin color, or the country you belong from. They welcome everyone with open arms in their society and they make sure in their power to help us get accustomed here to the mode of life.

The tourist spots here in Japan are also very beautiful especially the shrines and its beautiful architecture. It represents a culture of its own and it's a unique experience. The Japanese society is very connected with its cultural heritage, just like Pakistan. They celebrate and participate actively in their cultural activities such as the Matsuri's (Japanese festivals). I recently attended a Matsuri event that took place in Asakusa. The experience and the scenes were unforgettable because not every day you get to see such sorts of cultural events. It was a unique experience for me.



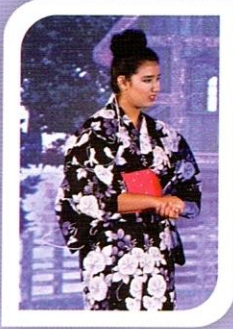
This was the roughly my two months synopsis of my stay here in Japan. Whosoever is considering coming to Japan for the purpose of studying or conducting research should not be worried about settling here. The Japanese society will welcome you with open arms and will assist you whenever you need help. Also, apart from Japanese people, organizations like Pakistan Student Association Japan (PSAJ), is also there to help. You can always ask for their help in settling down.

Best of luck!



The writer is studying at the Chiba University on MEXT Scholarship.

Fun Comments by KGS Students at Japan Fest 2018



Inshal Shakil as Riku:

'Dressing up in such beautiful Japanese clothing, performing in front of our peers and superiors and not to mention watching the other amazing performances that day were all part of a wonderful experience that I shall forever cherish!'

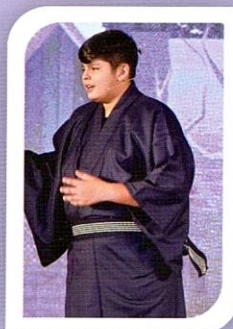


Mubashira Amir as Snow Queen: 'I auditioned for the Japanese play because I was sure that it would be a terrific experience for me as I would get to know a lot more about the field of theatre and about the country Japan.'

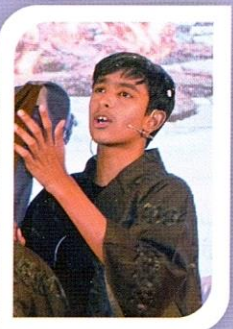


Aamina Raza as Yuki:

'Japan Fest was really exciting and it was the first time I had seen anything like this'

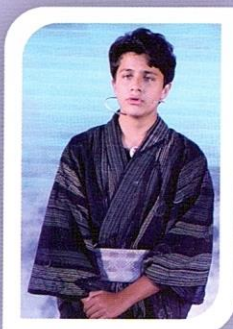


Zohaib Ali as Kaito: 'All in all it has been a pleasure working with the Japanese consulate.'



Hasan Imran as Musaku:

'I would like to thank a million times everyone who has worked with me in the span of this programme and made me more passionate about acting. Will never forget any of you!'



Yousuf Najam as Minokichi: 'I wanted to learn more about Japanese culture. That is what inspired me to be a part of the Japan Fest 2018. My character helped me realize that the Japanese are truly some of the gems of this world and their personality'

'A Brief Interview of Alisha – Singer at Japan Fest'



Q: Tell us something about yourself?

A: I love music (especially rock, it's my favourite genre) and I'm currently writing a book I've been working on for about 2 years.

Q: Since when have you been singing?

A: As long as I can remember. There's not a day that goes by without me singing.

Q: How did you select the two Japanese songs? What did you like about them and which one is your favourite?

A: Both songs I encountered through a recommendation, though I have to say 'Again' by Yui is my favourite out of both, and one of my favourite songs in general. I have a friend who's really into anime, and recommended Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood to me. This song was the opening, and for that reason is extremely important to me because it was my primary introduction to Japanese music, and got me into Jpop as well as vocaloid.

Designers' Interview at Japan Fest 2018



Ms Maira, I believe you are doing fashion designing from Indus University? Which year are you in and what inspired you to choose this path?

I have done my bachelor's in fashion design from Indus University on 09 August 2018. It was a dream from my childhood to pursue my profession in fashion design.

How did you come across the Japan Fest event and what interest you to participate in it?

A team from Japan consulate paid a visit on our final thesis display which was on 09 august 2018, where I got selected for this opportunity to display my thesis collection on the ramp of Japan fest 2018 where all the diplomats and other guests from media industry would be attending this event and being a fresh graduate it was a great opportunity to leverage where I can walk as a designer on ramp for the very first time.

Was it your first Fashion Show? How was the experience?

As I have attended some fashion shows before as a volunteer and internee but attending a show as a fashion designer, it was my first experience where I displayed my work and got so much appreciation.

What were your designs inspired by?

My theme was a fusion of Japan and Kashmir and the title is "When duty meets fashion" as Japanese kimonos were wore by Japanese people on their special occasions as a duty so I gave a touch of Kashmiri embroidery on Japanese kimono cuts to make this duty as a fashion.

Which particular design became special to you?

The fusion gown was one of my favourites as it has long kimono sleeves with a lining of shanghai fabric and embroider with Kashmiri patterns on the front. So that intrigued me a lot.

Finally, what memory do you take back from this event?

Experiencing Japanese culture, their food and working with them was a great experience which will be remembered to the end of time and soon I'll be writing an article on this event.



Ms Rafia, I believe you are doing fashion designing from Indus University? Which year are you in and what inspired you to choose this path?

I have done my Bachelors in Fashion Designing recently from Indus University. I wanted to study something in which I could use my designing and creativity skills and have fun at the same time.

How did you come across the Japan Fest event and what interest you to participate in it?

I have done my thesis recently in August so there the representatives of Japan consulate had come to see our thesis display and they liked mine and one fellow mate display and dresses and invited us to participate in Japan Fest Event.

Was it your first Fashion Show? How was the experience?

Not the first as we had already done one or two fashion shows in our university but yes it was my first fashion show on such a higher level. And the experience was amazing I must say.

What were your designs inspired by?

My theme was inspired by Sakura that is cherry blossom, Japanese national flower, and Birdcage. Basically my theme was the fusion of sakura and birdcage.

Which particular design became special to you?

'Pant Saree' is the design i like the most because it is the fusion of two cultures.

Finally, what memory do you take back from this event?

Not memory but memories. Alot of memories. The overwhelming response and appreciation by the audience and remarks by juries. The fun and the food we had there and to received certificate from sir Toshikazu. I want to say Thankyou to Japanese consulate for inviting us and giving us platform to show our designs.

Special News Alert: First being part of Japan Embassy in Islamabad, it is a pleasure to have Mr. Katsunori Ashida as Deputy Mission, Consulate - General of Japan in Karachi. We look forward to another wonderful tenure of his in Pakistan.



Economic Assistance Provided by the Government of Japan to Pakistan

Islamabad- August 31, 2018

Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Ahmad Hanif Orakzai, Additional Secretary for Economic Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan, signed and exchanged documents for two grant aid projects in the presence of Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Finance. The Government of Japan has agreed to extend grant assistance of 2.6 billion rupees to strengthen weather forecasting and human resource development in Pakistan.



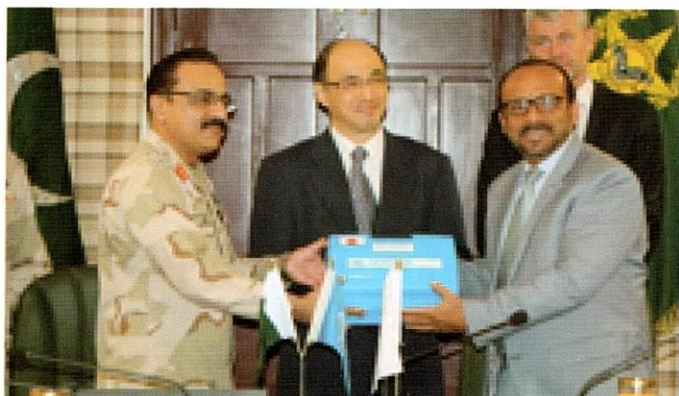
Islamabad- September 27, 2018

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, addressing the gathering at the occasion of the announcement of Japan's support to the United Nations World Food Programme for Seasonal Livelihood Programming in erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Mr. Finbarr Curran, WFP Country Director and Representative, Mr. Abdul Latif, Secretary, Livelihood and Production Department, FATA Secretariat, and Brig Mukhtar Ahmed, Member (Operations), NDMA, were also present at the occasion.



Islamabad- September 13, 2018

Mr. Yusuke Shindo, Minister/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Cesar Guedes, the UNODC Country Office Representative in Pakistan handed- over 200 drugs and precursors identification kits to Brig. Sheikh Ali Muhammad, Chief of Staff, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) during the handing-over ceremony held at ANF Headquarters, Rawalpindi.



Islamabad- October 3, 2018

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and UNHCR's Country Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela signed the agreement with Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Mr. Saleem Khan, in attendance as the government of Japan has pledged a contribution of USD 2.7 million to support Afghan refugees and host communities across Pakistan.



CULTURAL EVENTS BY THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN ISLAMABAD

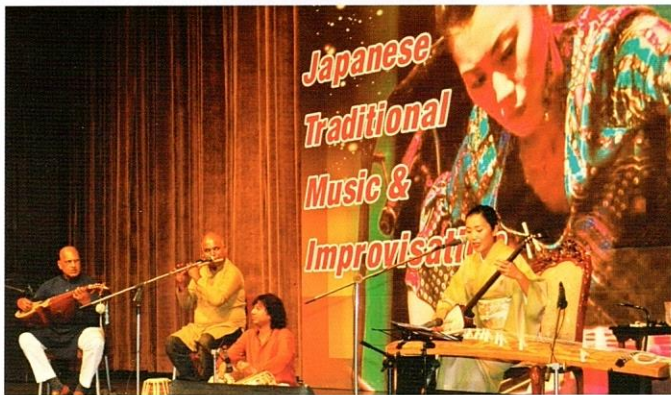
The Embassy of Japan in cooperation with the Pakistan-Japan Friendship Forum organized a show titled "Japanese Cultural performance" on Sunday October 21 2018.



Traditional Japanese drum beating called Wadaiko.

Koto and Shamisen Performance

The Embassy of Japan organized an enchanting performance of traditional Japanese instrumental music Koto and Shamisen by the visiting Japanese artiste Ms. Sumie Kaneko during her visit to Pakistan.



Pakistan National Council of the Arts Islamabad



Lahore Arts Council

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, poses for a group photo with the grantees of Japanese government funded scholarships at the occasion of a pre-departure orientation ceremony held at the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, hosted a dinner at the inauguration ceremony of newly established Pakistan-Japan Friendship Forum at his official residence on Monday September 24 2018. Pakistan-Japan Friendship Forum is founded by its Chairman Mr. Khalid Malik with a vision to further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.





Intimation of what to look forward in the next issue of March 2019

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<http://www.japanpolicyforum.jp/> <http://web-japan.org/>