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The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Pakistan. The two countries have enjoyed close and long friendly relations since 1952.

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MESSAGE FROM H.E. AMBASSADOR WADA MITSUHIRO

Dear Pakistani Friends, Assalamu Alaikum.

As the newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, it is my pleasure and excitement to contribute to the development of relationship between Japan and Pakistan especially at this very important time.

In 2022, our two countries will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. At this wonderful opportunity, I will sincerely pursue my duties to develop further the existing friendly relationship in various fields such as politics, security, economy and culture.

Japan and Pakistan, as long-time true friends and trusted partners, continued cooperating with each other over the years both in peace times as well as in crises.

On this occasion of the 70th anniversary, we will revisit what we have accomplished in the past and review what we would like to accomplish in the future as long-time true friends and trusted partners.

Development cooperation between the two countries had started back in 1954. Japan has provided Pakistan with the second largest cumulative amount of assistance after the United States. The effect of utilizing Japan's strengths toward the development of Pakistan and the region will continue. We are committed to continue providing support to Pakistan for its socio-economic development.

Business cooperation is also a very important area for further development. In 2020, the amount of export of some Pakistani products including fresh mangoes, dates, salt and shrimps to Japan stood at a record high. Moreover, Japanese companies located in Pakistan have established long-standing business relations with Pakistan and contributed to Pakistani economic development through large amounts of investment and employment. As evidence of the above, I am delighted to see many Pakistani people driving Japanese cars and motorcycles in Islamabad.

Exchange of people in various fields has promoted our relationship, thanks to cooperation with Pakistani organizations such as the Monbukagakusho-MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) who has promoted education exchanges between the two countries.

A special notice should be made to the Pakistani athletes who competed at their best in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games even during the COVID-19 situation in the summer of 2021.

Culture is also another focus. We are now coordinating with the Pakistani Authority for the provision of cultural grant assistance for the improvement of equipment for the exhibition and conservation at the Taxila Museum.

Pakistan's adoption of Japanese "Miyawaki Method" for tree planting is another good example. You will find more information on this method and related exchanges in this issue. The Embassy of Japan in Islamabad and Consulate General in Karachi welcome you and your friends to join us to celebrate this 70th anniversary in 2022. Please check the endorsement process on our website to participate in the celebration.

I invite you to make joint efforts for further strengthening the stable, vibrant and prosperous Japan-Pakistan relations. Long live Japan-Pakistan Friendship (Japan-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad)!

WADA Mitsuhiro

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan



JAPAN-PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

On September 23, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, during his visit to the United States of America, held a meeting with H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

During the meeting, Minister MOTEGI expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's cooperation, including the acceptance of Self-Defense Force aircrafts, that enabled a Japanese national as well as Afghan staff of the Japanese Embassy and JICA office to safely depart from Afghanistan and requested continued support. Minister Qureshi responded that the Government of Pakistan would spare no effort on the evacuation of the above-mentioned persons.

The two Ministers exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, confirmed their shared goals including on inclusive political process and ensuring human rights to be respected, and also concurred on working together to prevent Afghanistan from reverting to a hotbed of terrorism and from destabilizing the region.

The two Ministers confirmed that they would further develop bilateral relations on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan in 2022.



JASDF APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION OF PAF IN THE EVACUATION FROM KABUL

On September 8, DG YAJIMA Masahito, Director General, Defense Planning and Policy Department, Air Staff Office, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) paid a courtesy call on Air Commodore Syed Imran Ali, Defence Attaché of Pakistan to Japan at the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan. DG YAJIMA expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the cooperation of Pakistani Air Force in the evacuation of Japanese and Afghan staff of the Embassy of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Afghanistan and their families from Kabul conducted by JASDFs' aircrafts. During the evacuation, Air Commodore Imran Ali devoted himself to coordination between JASDF and Pakistani Air Force even from Tokyo, in cooperation with Colonel YAMAMOTO, Defense Attaché of Japan to Pakistan. On the meeting both of them shared the view that they will further develop defense exchange and cooperation between JASDF and PAF.



JAPAN'S ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

JAPAN PROVIDES GRANT ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FOR EXTENSION OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN SINDH AND JDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Japan has extended a grant assistance of JPY3,445 million (approx. US\$31.4 million) to Pakistan for the extension of maternal and child health care facilities in Sindh. Under this project, a new maternal and child health center will be established at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro. The project is scheduled to be completed by August 2024. With the opening of the center, access to maternal and child health services in the area will be substantially improved.

In addition, US\$2.9 million for the Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) was signed for FY2021, allowing the forth batch of the project to be commenced.

This grant aid will allow maximum 20 government officials in Pakistan to study in Japanese universities to obtain Master's or Doctoral Degree. The purpose of JDS is to strengthen the government officers' administrative capacity through the academic attainment and cultural exchanges in Japan and to build a solid friendship as well as diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan.



GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN THROUGH FAO SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA FOR LOCUST CONTROL IN THE PROVINCE

The Government of Japan in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations handed over locust control items to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in a ceremony organized in Islamabad, under the Grant in Aid project titled "Project for the Restoration of Livelihoods in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" on October 5, 2021.

The items handed over during the ceremony included 20,000 liters of insecticide, 170 battery-operated sprays pumps, 170 generator-operated spray pumps and 77 units of motorcycles for mobilization of staff of the Agriculture Extension Department for future locust control activities in the merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The support will strengthen the operational capacities for desert locust control operations through better preparedness and response to the crisis.



THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN APPRECIATES PAKISTAN ADOPTING THE "MIYAWAKI METHOD" FOR TREE PLANTING THE PASSING AWAY OF THE LATE PROFESSOR MIYAWAKI, A JAPANESE BOTANIST AND EXPERT IN PLANT ECOLOGY



Dr. MIYAWAKI Akira, a Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology passed away at the age of 93 in July 2021. In Pakistan, he is known for the "Miyawaki method", tree planting approach actively promoted at the initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Under this approach, dozens of species that suit the environment are planted in the same area, close to each other, which ensures their growth in a competitive environment, allowing the trees to grow faster compared to normal plantation.

On the sad demise of Dr. Miyawaki, PM Khan conveyed his sincerest condolences, which has been shared with Yokohama National University, where Dr. Miyawaki worked as Professor Emeritus. In response, Mr. UMEHARA Izuru, President of Yokohama National University, has conveyed his appreciations to PM Khan upon receiving his condolence message.

The Embassy of Japan honors the life and work of the late Professor Miyawaki, and expresses deepest appreciation to the Prime Minister for his condolences and sympathies over the passing away of Dr. Miyawaki and also for his initiative of adopting the "Miyawaki Method". We hope that by tree planting activities, with the cherished memory of the late Professor Miyawaki, trees and forests throughout Pakistan will grow strongly, as Pakistan will do certainly.



OATH-TAKING CEREMONY OF PAKISTAN- JAPAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION(PJCA) ISLAMABAD HELD AT THE EMBASSY

Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad has elected new executive members recently. An oath taking ceremony to this effect was held at the official residence of the Ambassador, with a limited number of attendees as a precaution against the coronavirus pandemic. Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan has been unanimously elected as the new President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad by the members of its executive committee where as Mrs. ORITA Toshiko and Prof. Dr. Nusrat Ara Majeed were elected as Vice Presidents.



THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CONFERS "THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN, GOLD RAYS WITH ROSETTE" UPON MR. SYED FERAZ ALAM SHAH, FOR PROMOTING JAPAN-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The Government of Japan has conferred the 2021 Spring Imperial Decoration, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" upon Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah, Honorary Technical Advisor, Federal Board of Investment (BoI) and Director of National Engineering Corporation (NEC), in recognition of his dedicated contributions to promoting economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan. The conferral ceremony was held on September 29 at the Ambassador's residence. Apart from his work furthering bilateral business ties between Japan and Pakistan, Mr. Shah has contributed a lot to further strengthen the cultural ties between the two countries.



TOKYO OLYMPICS & PARALYMPICS 2020: THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN FELICITATES PARA-ATHLETE HAIDER ALI AND ATHLETE ARSHAD NADEEM FOR THEIR STRIKING PERFORMANCES

The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan extends heartiest congratulations to Mr. Haider Ali, Pakistan's para-athlete in discus throw, and athlete Mr. Arshad Nadeem, Javelin thrower, for their brilliant performances in Tokyo Olympics and Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

Pakistan's para-athlete Mr. Haider Ali won the Gold Medal in the final of men's Discus throw (F37) competition in the Tokyo Paralympics where as Javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem secured 5th position in the final of men's javelin throw competition in the Tokyo Olympics. The Embassy of Japan conveys best wishes to both the athletes for their future endeavors.



GANDHARA FESTIVAL & JAPAN-PAKISTAN CULTURAL COOPERATION

Mr. IWASAKI Ryuji, Consular / Head of Public Affairs section, Embassy of Japan, visited Museum and Archaeological Sites in Taxila during the Gandhara Festival held recently. He admired the rich cultural heritage of its ancient Gandhara civilization in Taxila, Pakistan which is an attraction for the tourists as well. He also praised this Festival as a steady approach to enlighten the importance of cultural heritage in Pakistan.

The Government of Japan always recognizes the importance of cultural heritage, attaches great value to its preservation and continues to support Pakistan in this area. The Government of Japan is coordinating with Pakistan Government for the provision of cultural grant assistance for the improvement of equipment for exhibition and conservation at the Taxila Museum which stores the rich cultural heritage of ancient Gandhara civilization.



JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2021: CONFERMENT CEREMONY FOR MR. MUHAMMAD ILYAS

On November 11, 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan conferred the Foreign Minister's Commendation for FY2021 upon Mr. Muhammad Ilyas, Director and Chief Instructor, Japanese language course of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA), in recognition of his contribution in promoting Japanese language in Pakistan.

Mr. ISOMURA Toshikazu, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, presented the commendation to Mr. Ilyas, who has been teaching Japanese language to Pakistani students from basic to advance levels since 1998.

Every year, the Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in various fields to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and areas.

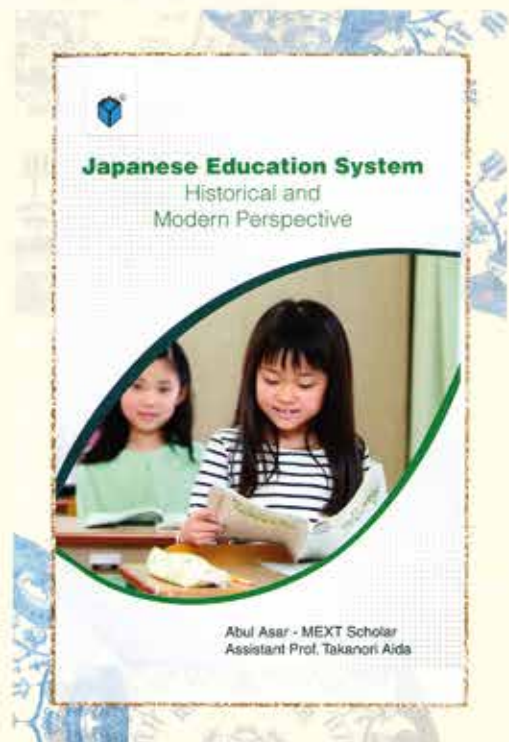


THE BOOK, 'JAPANESE EDUCATION SYSTEM, HISTORICAL AND MODERN PERSPECTIVE.'

The book, 'Japanese Education System, Historical and Modern Perspective' is a fine blend of academic knowledge, intellect and wisdom based on my two years of extensive research (In collaboration with scholars from Oxford and Harvard University) at Iwate University Japan. The book is co-authored by Assistant Professor Takanori Aida, Iwate University. He gave readers a commendable opportunity to learn about the importance of non-credit classes (holistic development). The book provides readers with an opportunity to explore overall Japanese education system (Kindergarten to University Level) and fascinating culture of the land of rising sun, Japan.

My very special thanks are due to two dignified persons (Mr. Iqbal Burma; My father, a true lover of Japan and founder of Pakistan Japan Intellect Forum and Mr. Toshi Kazu Iso Mura; Consul General of Japan) who played a vital role in producing a very important publication. They always remain a source of continuous inspiration for me. In a nut shell, it is a noteworthy contribution to serve the people of education sector and foster mutual goodwill between people of Japan and Pakistan.

Abul Asar
MEXT Scholar, Former Lecturer Iwate University and
Iwate Goodwill Ambassador Japan



SNEAK PEEK INTO JAPAN FEST 2021, KARACHI 日本祭



The Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi organized “Japan Fest 2021” at Official Residence of Consul-General, on 18th November 2021 to celebrate Japanese culture and promote understanding and friendship between Japan and Pakistan.

The evening started with a performance of traditional Japanese drumming wadaiko (和太鼓) performance led by Deputy Consul-General ASHIDA Katsunori, followed by a welcome speech of Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. ISOMURA Toshikazu, in which he expressed his pleasure on the recommencement of cultural events post-pandemic.



和太鼓

Japanese drumming
wadaiko performance



Consul-General, Mr. ISUMURA
Toshikazu's Welcome Note



絵富士山

Truck Art Painting Live
Performance

A trivia competition of interesting facts about Japan was held and the winners were awarded prizes by the Consul-General.

A video presentation was done by Pakistan Japan Literature Forum (PJLF), narrating the journey of Urdu translation of Genji Monogatari, world's first novel, written in early 11th century by the first female author in Japan.

The next program was a live demonstration of Truck-art, in collaboration with Sadequain Foundation who draw the scenery of Mount Fuji in autumn.

The main event of the evening was an enthralling performance by a Japanese amateur band MoonStone, comprised of saxophone, bass, piano and drums who performed for the event from Japan. The audience was also delightedly treated by enchanting tunes played by sitar maestro Ustad Nafees Ahmed who was joined by Mr. ASHIDA Katsunori on vocals and keyboard.

As the event came to a close, guests were treated to sushi accompanied by a delicious buffet befitting of the setting.

Video messages from dignitaries were shown to the audience at Japan Fest, including Mr. Haider Ali, Gold medalist in Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Mr. Anwar Maqsood and H.E. Mr. Imran Ismail, Governor Sindh, wherein they applauded the organization of such events and shared anecdotes of their stay and bonds with Japan.



Video Message from Mr. Anwar Maqsood - a famous satarist, humorist and scriptwriter of Pakistan.



Japanese musicians performed a mix of Japanese and Pakistani songs. There was a Japanese band Moonstone who performed live, virtually. It comprised of saxophonist, pianist, drummer and a guitarist. On the stage, SOPs did a live performance of songs with a sitarist Ustad Nafees Ahmed, making the perfect fusion of Pakistani and Japanese music instruments, such as shamisen. The concert ended with a very famous, patriotic song, *Dil Dil Pakistan*, with an added touch of Jazz music to it, winning the hearts of the audience.



三味線 | Live Performance with Japanese Instrument, Shamisen.

SHAMISEN 三味線



Shamisen is a long-necked fretless Japanese lute. The instrument has a small square body with a catskin front and back, three twisted-silk strings, and a curved-back pegbox with side pegs. It is played with a large plectrum; different types of plectrums produce distinct tone for specific types of music. Shamisen has its origins in China-arts. From China the instrument

came to the Southern Islands of Ryukyu (Okinawa).

Around the late 16th century it arrived on the Japanese main island and soon became popular. The shamisen plays a major role in Japanese theater - in kabuki and in bunraku-the very special Japanese form of puppet theater. During the 19th century, the shamisen was considered to be a classical concert instrument.



生け花 | IKEBANA WORKSHOP WITH VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Consulate General of Japan in Karachi held a very unique and innovative workshop of Ikebana conducted by the group Ikebana International Karachi Chapter 204. The workshop consisted of arrangements with not only flowers but also incorporating vegetables and fruits proving how versatile and interesting Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arrangement) can be.



ANIME AND MANGA IN PAKISTAN

MY JOURNEY TO STUDIO GHIBLI AND THE CREATION OF MANO ANIMATION STUDIOS

I am Usman Riaz, the founder of Mano Animation Studios - Pakistan's first hand-drawn animation studio. My first project, *The Glassworker*, is being created by a team of creatives from Pakistan, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, Japan, Spain, the US and the UK. I am also a TED Senior Fellow, animator and composer.

During my childhood, I used to admire the way people made pictures move. I used to spend long hours watching films by famous Japanese animation company Studio Ghibli—*Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Porco Rosso*, *Princess Mononoke*, before I could even fully understand what their messages were. All I knew was that the films evoked magical worlds where bizarre creatures did outrageous things considered completely normal by the characters around them. They told simple stories in fantastical settings, or vice versa. And they helped me see the beauty in the mundane, and the tragedy in the beautiful.



As I got older, I began to follow Ghibli's work obsessively, and began to appreciate Ghibli co-founder and director Hayao Miyazaki's themes of pacifism & environmentalism more deeply. The visuals and the music work symbiotically in a Ghibli film - always integral to the story, just as important as any main character. Joe Hisaishi's scores complement and give life to Miyazaki's worlds. The motifs and leitmotifs add such emotional dimension that my heart swells when I hear only a few notes.

Watching animated features and cartoons encouraged me to pick up a pencil and play the piano myself. I went on to study fine arts, music and film—and returning to Pakistan, longed to find a way to combine my love for these mediums.

Fast forward to 2015. As the result of giving a TEDxTokyo talk about my love for Japanese animation, I was extended a miraculous invitation to Studio Ghibli. Now, under normal circumstances, one does not get to go to Studio Ghibli on one's first-ever trip to Japan...or ever, really.

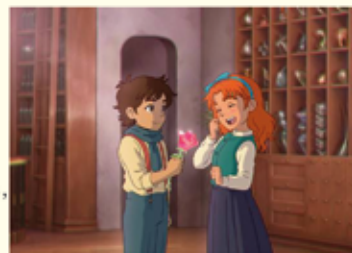


So when I found myself standing outside the studio in front of the "Studio Ghibli" sign nestled in the bushes, it struck me as an incredibly profound moment. Of all the places in the world I'd ever wanted to visit, this was the highest on the list. It was just as I imagined it—simple, just a few small house-like buildings in the middle of a Japanese suburb, the humility and charm of the people working inside, the natural lighting and artists at wooden desks. It was sincere and honest.

But even more precious was the guidance they offered me. I got to share my work with my heroes—and they responded by advising me to graduate beyond my love of Ghibli and make something that was truly my own. I felt as though I had received the studio's blessing. I felt free to explore. I went back to Pakistan

inspired. glassblowing from his father. As Vincent grows older, he begins to fall in love with one of the people who frequently visit the glass shop, a young girl named Alliz.

Back home, I came up with an idea for my own film, "*The Glassworker*," a coming-of-age story about a young boy named Vincent learning the art of glassblowing from his father. As Vincent grows older, he begins to fall in love with one of the people who frequently visit the glass shop, a young girl named Alliz. It wasn't long before it felt like the story was drawing and writing itself. Suddenly I had a story concept, characters, a rough script, a lot of the storyboards, and some music composed. I was excited to explore the intricacy and artistry of glassblowing via animation, which I believe to be a first.



What I didn't have was a studio, other animators, a team. The problem with being in Pakistan is that there is no hand-drawn animation industry, and having long been a student of art and animation, I knew there was no way I could make something like this on my own. So I decided to form my own studio, the very first hand-drawn animation studio in Pakistan, Mano Animation Studios. But how does one build a hand-drawn animation studio in a country with no background in it? The truth is, because there is no such industry here, there are no rules. And because there were no rules, I had no restrictions.

And here's a funny twist: I chose the name Mano for the studio because it was my first cat's name, but I found out later that in Spanish it means "hand"—perfect for a studio that will make animation by hand.

We're already hard at work on "*The Glassworker*." And while the final film is a year away, I hope that Mano Animation Studios can support a new generation of artists in Pakistan and beyond, creating a community for artists to collaborate on beautiful works of art for years to come.



Wishing you a Happy New Year!



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