

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi**  
**on the occasion of the “Bonseki” live demonstration and lecture by**  
**Madame Midori Inomata on January 29, 2015**

Their Excellencies Mr. and Mrs. Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan,  
Mr. Rehan Pirzada, Hotel Manager of Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to this “Bonseki” live demonstration and lecture by Madame Midori Inomata today. Madame Inomata, who is a master of this traditional Japanese art, has specially come from Islamabad to perform the demonstration and lecture of “Bonseki” here in Karachi. Madame Inomata has already performed in Islamabad and in Lahore, and today’s performance will be her sixth one in Pakistan.

“Bonseki” is a traditional Japanese art in which scenery and nature are portrayed in miniature by placing natural stones on black lacquer trays, with various size and amount of white sand. “Bonseki” is also an art form of traditional Japanese culture, which consists of “Wabi” and “Sabi” (austere beauty and elegant simplicity). After completing the work, all works will disappear but the appreciation of the work remains in mind.

Japan is a land of unique mixture of traditional and modern culture and the beautiful natural landscape. We have four distinct seasons in Japan and each season has strong influence on the cultural diversity and the unique spirituality of Japan. I hope the people in Karachi will appreciate such exquisite natural beauty and fascinating diversity of Japan through this “Bonseki” demonstration today.

I would like to conclude my remarks by extending my heartfelt thanks to Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi for co-organizing this cultural event with us today.

Thank you and bahot shukriya.

(End)