

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi**  
**on the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of the**  
**“Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2016”, on January 12, 2016**

Her Excellency Sharmila Farooqui, Minister for Culture and Tourism, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh,  
Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh,  
Mr. Kalim Farooqui, Vice Chairman of Pakistan Japan Business Forum,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to this inauguration ceremony of the “*Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2016*” today. The Japanese Calendar Exhibition has been held every year since 2009 at the Japan Information and Culture Center and this year we have around 130 Japanese calendars on display featuring various highlights of Japanese traditional and modern culture, historical sites, landscape, architecture, etc.

Japan is a land of unique mixture of traditional and modern culture and the beautiful natural landscape. We have distinct four seasons in Japan and each season has strong influence on the cultural diversity and the unique spirituality of Japan and they are often taken up as a motif in the Japanese calendars. I hope the people in Karachi will appreciate such natural beauty and fascinating diversity of Japan through these calendars. I would like to add that Japanese calendars also represent the sophisticated and refined quality of Japanese printing technology, and I hope you will also enjoy this aspect of the calendars on display.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Pakistan Bonsai Society for their kind cooperation in showcasing their exquisite and unique bonsai (Japanese art of growing a miniature tree in a container) inside the Exhibition Hall and the hallway.

I hope you will discover Japan again through these calendars.

Thank you and bahot shukriya.

(End)