

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi
On the occasion of Inauguration Ceremony for “Japanese Film Festival”
On Thursday, November 27, 2014

At the Japan Information and Culture Center, Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to inaugurate the “Japanese Film Festival” today. I am delighted to see so many of you have come to see the Japanese film today.

This Film Festival, organized by the Consulate-General of Japan will be held from today, and four Japanese films, of different genre, such as animation, comedy and drama will be screened. Through this Film Festival, I hope that the audience will be able to discover various aspect of Japanese culture, and that the people in Karachi will learn more about Japan and also feel much closer to Japan.

Today, we will show “*Castle in the Sky*”, which is one of the most popular films by Mr. Hayao Miyazaki, the world-renowned Japanese animation director. On November 8, Mr. Miyazaki on received an Academy Honorary Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his significant contributions to the motion picture industry. Mr. Miyazaki is the second Japanese to win the Award, after Mr. Akira Kurosawa in 1990. It is worth noting that the screening of “*Castle in the Sky*” marks the first ever screening of Mr. Miyazaki’s film in Pakistan.

To felicitate this memorable occasion, Metal Seinen, a Pakistani youth group, who are actively engaged in promoting Japanese pop culture in Pakistan, has collaborated with us to organize Cosplay (costume play) on the inauguration day. After my speech, you will see four cosplayers dressed up respectively as one of the characters from Mr. Miyazaki’s film, and they are also going to give a brief talk on how they are enchanted by Studio Ghibli’s films.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that we will continue to conduct various cultural activities to bring the peoples of Pakistan and Japan even closer; thereby further promoting mutual understanding and strengthening the friendly relationship between the two countries.

Bahot Shukria.

[End]