

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi
On the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of “Japanese Film Festival 2015”
On Thursday, September 10, 2015
At Japan Information and Culture Center, the 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 2015” 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 for three days, starting from today. Three 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 aspects 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 you “*The Tale of The Princess Kaguya*”, which was directed by Mr. Isao Takahata, a famous film director in Japan and produced by Studio Ghibli, the world-renowned Japanese animation company. This film was released in November 2013 and was nominated for “Academy Award for Best Animated Features” at 87th Academy Awards.

Today, Metal Seinen and Shonen Infinity, two Pakistani youth groups, who are actively engaged in promoting Japanese pop culture in Pakistan, have collaborated with us to organize Cosplay (costume play) on this inauguration day. After my speech, you will see the cosplayers dressed up as the characters from the Studio Ghibli’s films and will give a brief talk on how they are enchanted by them.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that we will continue to conduct various cultural activities for the people of Pakistan to deepen their understanding on Japan, thereby further promoting mutual understanding and strengthening the friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan.

Bahot Shukria.

[End]