



# Japan

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN PAKISTAN & CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI

August, 2016

Vol. 66



H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, with Mrs. Kurai called on H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and discussed matters of mutual interests.

#### Content

➤ Introduction and message of the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan .....	Page-2
➤ Introduction and message of the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi .....	Page-3
➤ Activities by the Embassy of Japan .....	Page-4
➤ The Government of Japan's assistance to Pakistan .....	Page-5
➤ Success story of educational dream .....	Page-6
➤ Japanese park in Islamabad .....	Page-7
➤ Views and experiences of the participants of JENESYS .....	Page-8
➤ Gateway to Study in Japan and Japanese Language Course.....	Page-9
➤ Experience of Study in Japan on MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan) Scholarship 2016 .....	Page-10
	Page-11

## پاکستان میں جاپان کے سفیر کا تعارف اور پیغام

### INTRODUCTION AND MESSAGE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO PAKISTAN

#### THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO PAKISTAN



Name: Takashi Kurai  
Date of Birth: 1955

#### Professional Background:

Entered Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1981.

Assumed various positions at home, particularly related to Russia and security policy, such as Deputy Director of the Security Policy Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Director of the Russia Assistance Division, European Affairs Bureau, Deputy Director General, Intelligence and Analysis Service. Posted to UK twice, Russia four times, including at the time of the Soviet Union, Austria for Permanent Mission of Japan, and South Korea.

Speak English and Russian.



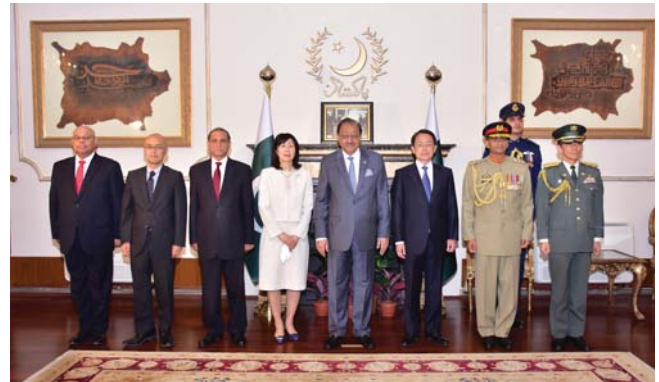
*H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, presenting credentials to the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain.*

#### MESSAGE

#### FROM H.E. MR. TAKASHI KURAI, THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO PAKISTAN

Upon having assumed office as an Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, I would like to extend my warm greetings to the people of Pakistan.

I assumed the post of the Ambassador to Pakistan in April 2016. Pakistan is a country of rich culture, long history and well preserved traditions. The beauty of the Northern Areas is definitely beyond description and cultural heritage such as those in Gandhara region is something very special for the people of Japan. Pakistan is a country of 190 million people and plays an important role not only in the region but also in the international community as a whole. It is an honour for me to work in Pakistan and I have long been looking forward to doing so.



Japan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan established the diplomatic relations in 1952 and ever since have enjoyed very close and cordial relationship. It is a relationship based on friendship, good will and cooperation. I am very happy to note that the bilateral relations between our two countries have strengthened over the years, and have become increasingly multifaceted.

During my whole tenure, I would like to actively support events and programs of any kind which encourage the communities of both countries to deepen each other's knowledge and understanding.

Also I am determined to make utmost efforts to even further promote and expand the Japan-Pakistan relationship with your support. Thank you very much.

Long Live Japan-Pakistan Friendship



## INTRODUCTION AND MESSAGE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI

### THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI



Name Toshikazu ISOMURA  
Date of Birth July 12, 1958

**Education:**  
March 1984 Graduation from Niigata University  
Graduate School of Law

#### Professional Background:

April 1984	Entered Ministry of Foreign Affairs
January 1998	Consul, Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver
November 2000	First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan
October 2003	Deputy Director, United Nations Policy Division
June 2005	First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
July 2007	Consul, Consulate General of Japan in Karachi
July 2011	Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan
June 2016	Consul General of Japan in Karachi

### MESSAGE

#### FROM MR. TOSHIKAZU ISOMURA, THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI

I am Toshikazu Isomura, newly appointed Consul-General of Japan in Karachi. I assumed my post on 1st of June, 2016. This is not the first time I have been posted here. I came to Pakistan for the first time in June 1985 as a trainee of MOFA to learn Urdu Language from oriental College, Punjab University Lahore. After that, I was posted to Embassy of Japan in Islamabad for four times and this is the second time I have been posted at Consulate General of Japan in Karachi. I have served Pakistan for around twenty years in total.



*On 2 August, 2016, Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, attended the CEOs MOOT 2016 organized by the Employers' Federation of Pakistan*

During my stay in Pakistan, I have fortunately made many Pakistani friends and our friendships have continued until today.

My friendly relations with the people of Pakistan is one of my assets that have helped me achieved many assigned tasks.

I had the privilege to travel extensively across Pakistan. Even to Khyber Agency FATA which is now not accessible to foreigners. Pakistan has many attractive places for tourism. I hope that the security situation improves rapidly so that I could visit those memorable places again.

To promote the bilateral relations and have further mutual understandings between the two nations have always been my utmost priority. And while being in Karachi I will continue to do the very best to achieve my goals with the assistance of my team and my Pakistani friends.

I look forward to seeing you somewhere in the not so distant future.

## ACTIVITIES BY THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN

### MEXT Research Scholarships send-off ceremony (March 18, 2016)



Pakistani students who have been awarded Japanese MEXT Research Scholarships 2016 to pursue their Masters/PhD education in Japanese universities pose for a photo with Mr. Junya Matsuura, the then Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan at the occasion of their farewell reception held at the Japanese Embassy.

### Japan Embassy organized Haiku recital at the PAL (May 18, 2016)



The Embassy of Japan organized a recital of Urdu Haiku poetry titled 'Haiku Mushaira' at the premises of Pakistan Academy of Letters on Wednesday 18th May 2016 which was well attended by the literary personalities of the twin cities. Ambassador Takashi Kurai also graced the occasion by attending this haiku recital. The Embassy of Japan organized this event of haiku recital in collaboration with the Pakistan Haiku Society and Pakistan Academy of Letters. Mr. Naseem-e-Seher, President Pakistan Haiku Society, presided over the haiku mushaira. Ambassador Takashi Kurai was the chief guest while Chairman Pakistan Academy of Letters Dr. M. Qasim Buhio was the guest of honor on the occasion. Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry that dates back to the 17th century. Haiku is the most precise, compact and condensed poetry originating in Japan. Haiku is defined as an unrhymed verse, written in 5-7-5 syllabic form, usually in three lines.

### Ambassador Takashi Kurai hosted a dinner for members of Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly (May 19, 2016)



Ambassador Takashi Kurai hosted a reception at his official residence in honor of the Members of Japan-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of Pakistan. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq attended the reception together with other members.

### JSDF Reception held at the Ambassador's Residence (May 31, 2016)



Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Chief Guest, Lieutenant General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Inspector General Training & Evaluation, General Headquarters, Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana, Minister for National Food Security and Research Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, National Security Advisor, Lt. General (Retd) Naseer Khan Janjua and Colonel Koji Hirata, Defense Attaché, Embassy of Japan, cut a cake to celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of the Japan Self-Defence Forces Day at the official residence of the Japanese Ambassador.

JSDF Day celebrates the establishment of the Japan Defence Agency and the inauguration of the Japan Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defence Forces on 1st July, 1954. The Japan Defence Agency was upgraded to the Ministry of Defence in 2007.

### Japan-Pakistan Friendship Reception (July 12, 2016)



Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Federal Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Governor Punjab Rafiq Rajwana, National Security Advisor Lt. Gen (Retd) Nasir Khan Janjua, President PJCA Hafiz SA Rehman and President MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan Zafar Mahmood cutting cake at a reception hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Kurai to celebrate Eid and foster good will among people of Japan and Pakistan.



## THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

### Japan Provides US\$ 17.5 million to support energy and education in Pakistan (March 1, 2016)



The then Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, Mr. Junya Matsuura and Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division (EAD) signed bilateral agreements for two projects worth 1,967 million Yen (approx. 17.5 million USD) to strengthen training facilities on power grid operations and to build around 25 girls' schools in Northern Rural Sindh.

### The Government of Japan and UNODC Country Office in Pakistan sign project aimed at strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime in Pakistan (March 10, 2016)



Mr. Junya Matsuura, the then Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of Japan in Pakistan and Mr. Cesar Guedes, the UNODC Country Office Representative in Pakistan, signed an agreement of a UNODC Country Programme for Pakistan (2016-2019). Japan has contributed US\$ 6.5 million for a UNODC project which is aimed at strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime in Pakistan.

### Japan renews commitment to bring Pakistan closer to becoming polio-free, additional US\$ 3 million grant contributes to defeating polio throughout 2016 (March 15, 2016)



Mr. Junya Matsuura, the then Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan and Ms. Christain Munduate, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Pakistan, signed an agreement of 360 million Japanese Yen (approx. US\$ 3 Million) worth grant to eradicate polio virus in Pakistan. The grant provided by the Government of Japan will help procurement of 16,078,990 doses of the Oral Polio vaccine (OPV); sufficient to vaccinate 14,356,241 children under the age of five in ten mop-up campaigns during 2016.

### Japan Provides 6.29 billion yen to protect the children of Pakistan against polio (May 19, 2016)



The Government of Japan has announced to extend a soft loan of 6.29 billion Yen (approximately USD 59 million) to the Government of Pakistan for polio eradication in Pakistan. The notes were signed and exchanged between Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mrs. Anjum Assad Amin, Additional Secretary for Economic Affairs Division, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. H.E. Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics and Privatization witnessed the signing ceremony. This loan will be utilized to procure 273 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccines for polio eradication campaign. Since 1996, for over 20 years, Japan has supported polio eradication campaign in Pakistan by way of procurement of polio vaccine, strengthening the logistics for delivery through cold chain system, improvement in the treatment of vaccinators, dispatching Japanese medical experts, and so on. Thereby Japan's assistance including this Yen loan reaches approximately 22.6 billion Japanese Yen (approximately USD 212.5 million) in total.

### Japan to grant Rs 205m for face recognition system at airport (July 4, 2016)



Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, and Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Economic Affairs Division, exchanging documents after signing of Japanese grant aid 200 million Yen to install advanced Facial Recognition System at airport for security improvement in Pakistan. The Face Recognition System is a computer application capable of identifying or verifying an individual from a digital image of human face captured by video cameras. In addition to this project, Japan has been assisting Pakistan through implementation of various projects in the field of security. X ray scanning devices have been installed at three international airports (Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad) and similar projects are now underway at Karachi and Bin Qasim International Ports. Last year, Japan handed over 123 Japanese Hybrid Vehicles to the Ministry of Interior and National Highway Police for patrolling. Moreover, in collaboration with UNODC Pakistan, the 4-year project on strengthening border management and illegal drug control has just started this May.

### SUCCESS STORY OF EDUCATIONAL DREAM ACTUALIZED THROUGH GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASSROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS (GGP) PROGRAM FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

**Written By: Dr Arjumand Faisel & Ms Shahla Rafi**

Raja Qaiser Ghaffar, a resident of Pind Begwal (a village about 27 km East of Islamabad) was acutely cognizant of education being indispensable for alleviating both poverty and extremism. He dreamt of opening a quality school for the most underprivileged children of his area, as he believed that if even one child of an indigent family could receive a balanced pluralistic education, the impact would be substantive on both the economic conditions and civic outlook of the entire family.

In 2005, Mr. Ghaffar with his wife and friends established Horizon International Trust. Funds were collected under this Trust to establish in 2006 the House of Light School (HOL School) at rented premises, with a batch of 25 underprivileged children from surrounding areas.

Started simply at the primary level, HOL School's classes now go up to 10th, with 270 students - from families with income less than Rs.12000/- per month. **School uniforms, books, stationery, materials, and basic food items, all are provided free of cost to every child and no tuition fee is charged.** Educated girls chosen from the area and trained through teacher-training workshops by different organizations impart quality education to these children.

Mr. Ghaffar donated 10,000 sq. yds. (18 canals) of family land in the area. **The Japanese Embassy, through its GGP Program, funded Phase-1 of the school building construction which began in April 2014. In addition to GGP funding (USD 107,080) additional funds of Rs.4.5 million were raised from individual donors.** The project proved to be more costly and difficult than anticipated as the rocky terrain and distance from Islamabad led to several problems during construction. However, all odds were overcome and the building was completed within a year, as scheduled. Thanks to this GGP Grant, in April 2015 HOL School moved into its new premises.

HOL School provides quality education. In 2014: all its 26 students who appeared in the Federal Board examinations for grade 5, passed with A grades - of whom 11 attained A+, and 3 of the A+ students were awarded government scholarships. In the 2016 Federal pre-board exams, held under the auspices of PSN (the Private Schools Network) - an organization of about 100 private schools of rural and urban Islamabad - a 9th grade HOL School girl student secured 5th position.



HOL School is not focused on results alone, but also addresses the physical, mental, social and cultural development of the children and the community, with the assistance of other partners - of which the following would serve as examples:

\* At HOL School, the Ministry of Climate Change sponsored World Environment Day 2016 for parents, community people and other guests. The children and other speakers sent out a strong message on ecology and preservation of the local and global environment.

\* MASF Pakistan planted 150 fruit trees in school and at students' homes, and has committed to planting 600 more trees in the community, providing free fruit at home as well as income-generation opportunities.

\* The Islamabad Metropolitan Rotary Club has initiated annual polio vaccination camps, medical screening of students, their parents and community members, as well as eye camps.

\* Rozan, an NGO, sensitized children against child abuse and taught self-protection to children.

\* "Art for Change", an NGO, held a national art competition, "Create a New World of color", in which a HOL School student won 4th prize and another received a Best Performance Certificate.

\* A Science & Computer Lab for HOL School was funded by IQRA University students.

\* The educational institution IBADAT regularly visits HOL School to train teachers on character building. This training impacts not only upon the children but, through them, upon the entire community.



\* Other organizations have also shown interest in the school. HBL Foundation has provided Rs.2.5 million for furniture and other equipment. East-West Center Association Islamabad Chapter is taking a keen interest in HOL School and is actively trying to raise funds internally and internationally. Girl Guides Islamabad has offered to initiate training.

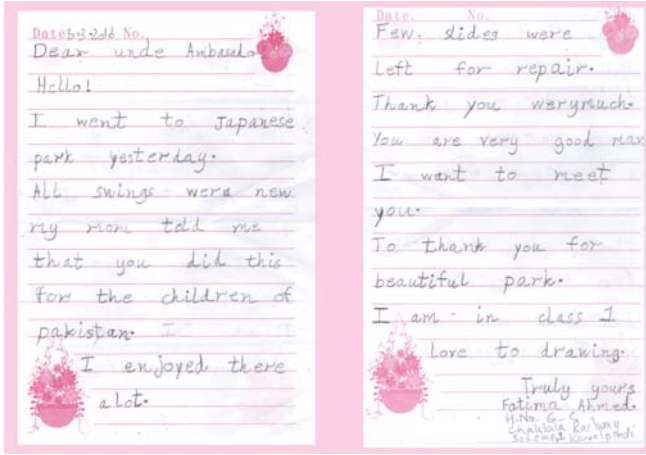
\* Parents Awareness Workshops are held regularly, where parents are given some basic education.

HOL School is now successfully reaching out to parents through their children, thereby involving the community in the process of education, change and progress, and moving society away from extremism, illiteracy and rigid traditions. All this was enabled by the vital support of the Japanese Embassy through its GGP grant - converting the dream of Raja Qaiser Ghaffar into reality, not only of constructing a school but also of bringing a positive change in the entire community.

[www.facebook.com/HouseOfLightSchool](http://www.facebook.com/HouseOfLightSchool)



حکومتِ جاپان کی طرف سے اسلام آباد میں چلڈرن پلے لینڈ ”جاپانی پارک“ کے لیے 70 ملین روپے مالیت کے بچوں کے کھیلنے کے سامان کی فراہمی



Letter by a child who visited Japanese Park



A girl welcoming visitors in Japanese Park



Children are playing in play land at Japanese Park

گزشتہ سال 31 دسمبر 2015 کو حکومتِ جاپان نے اسلام آباد میں قائم چلڈرن پلے لینڈ جو جاپانی پارک کے نام سے مشہور ہے میں بچوں کے کھیلنے کے لیے 70 ملین روپے کے جھولے اور دیگر سامان فراہم کیا ہے۔ حکومتِ جاپان نے 1985 میں جاپانی وزیراعظم جناب ناکا سونے کے پاکستان کے دورے کی یاد میں جاپانی بچوں کی طرف سے پاکستانی بچوں کے لیے دوستی کے تحفے کے طور پر جاپانی پارک اور بچوں کی کھیل کود کا سامان فراہم کیا تھا۔ تیس سال کا عرصہ گزرنے کے بعد کھیل کود کا یہ سامان کافی پرانا ہو چکا تھا اور اس کی بحالی کے لیے پُر زور درخواست کی جا رہی تھی۔ اسی پُر زور اسرار کے پیش نظر حکومتِ جاپان نے سی ڈی اے سے مشورے کے بعد بچوں کی کھیل کود کے اس پُرانے سامان کو تبدیل کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا۔ اُس وقت پاکستان میں جاپان کے سفیر جناب ہروشی انوماتا نے جاپانی پارک کے لیے بچوں کی کھیل کود کا یہ سامان ایک تقریب میں سی ڈی اے کی انتظامیہ کے حوالے کیا۔ یہ امداد حکومتِ جاپان کی طرف سے پاکستان کو دی جانے والی نان پراجیکٹ گرانٹ ایڈ کا حصہ ہے جس کا مقصد ترقی پزیر ممالک کی سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے حصول کے لیے کی جانے والی کوششوں میں معاونت فراہم کرنا ہے۔



Inauguration of the Japanese Park

**Article by: Ujala Saleem  
Supervisor (JENESYS 2015)**

It was a privilege to be part of such an amazing program filled with such knowledge, warmth, classy yet trendy in its own manner. Coping with new language and culture can be unsettling but things were so properly arranged accompanied with trained and helpful staff members that crossed all the barriers and we enjoyed and experienced very memorable moments during program and stay in Japan.

All the visits to the cultural sights; school exchange program; industrial visits; opening ceremony about Japan; visit to the town for local projects about energy resources; yet beautiful hosting by the HINO town for our memorable home stay program; farewell party; and last not least reporting session all had beautiful and historic memories with us as we came back to our home town.

All the students were very cooperative and helped me in all the tasks they had to perform during exchange program. Students had a very good time at Ritsumeikan University for school exchange program and also enjoyed the home stay program in Japan.

As a supervisor it would have been difficult if students would not have been cooperative and also if I was not accompanied by the coordinator of our group "SARAH SOHMA". She helped me a lot in my routine works and guided students and informed students about the sights we visited in a very good manner.



*JENESYS participants at railway station in Japan*

At the end there is only vote of THANKS for arranging such a beautiful program and allowing me to be a part of it. I would love again to become part of these programs in coming future.

**Article by: Nabeel Fakhar  
JENESYS 2015**

Japan is one of the most beautiful places of the world. The way in which they have preserved their culture is really remarkable, they are following their traditions in this era of technology was so much surprising for me. The way Japan is utilizing its resources in recycling the water and managing the waste material is very impressive. Japanese are so much Eco-friendly that they have made efforts to utilize the waste products. By the recycling process they are able to make detergents from used oil and producing the gas oil alternative fuel.

Japanese have preserved their temples and shrines in a very traditional way for their future generations. As we have visited the renowned Ritsumeikan University, we had a very close interaction with the students of that university. We exchanged the ideas about the current energy situations and learned about the new projects upon which the students are working nowadays. I have never seen a technology before which the Kyocera and Panasonic Centers are using. In term of technology, infrastructure, transport system like bullet trains, Japan is too much advanced than other countries of the region.



*JENESYS participants at home stay in Japan*

In the end, I would like to thank the JICE and the JENESYS program that provided us a wonderful opportunity to learn about the cultural and technological aspects of Japan. "Arigato Gozaimasu".

**Article by: Zainab Mahmood  
JENESYS 2015**

I just came back from Japan after a wonderful and very well organized and very well managed trip, it was a wonderful lifetime experience for me and I have learned and observed a lot about Japan, its culture, traditions and the Japanese people who are the most kindest people. I must say that Japan is a highly developed country with very well preserved social values and traditions. Each day of my stay was a new experience for me and I have found Japanese to be amazingly nice and loving people apart from their hard working nature. I must say that they have left no stone unturned to keep our stay very comfortable right from our take off to reaching back to our homes.



*Group photo of the JENESYS participants*



### MEXT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN PAKISTAN

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan annually offers various scholarships under its MEXT scholarship program. Scholarship recipients are recruited and initially screened by the Embassy, and then recommended to the aforementioned Ministry through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for final selection. A university can also directly recommend a candidate as an exchange student based on inter-university student exchange agreement.

Approximately 230 Pakistanis are currently living in Japan under MEXT research, undergraduate and training scholarship programs.

#### Types of Scholarships offered:

MEXT offers a variety of scholarship programs each year. A brief detail of the programs offered in Pakistan is given below:

- **Research Scholarship:** College graduates less than 35 years of age, who have completed 16 years of schooling, can apply for Graduate Degree program (Masters and/or PhD). The candidates have to complete 6 months of preliminary Japanese language training, before the commencement of their research work.
- **Undergraduate Scholarship:** Candidates with at least 12 years of education are eligible to apply for MEXT Undergraduate Scholarship program. The students who are granted scholarship undergo 1 year of language training before entering a 4-year undergraduate program at one of the Japanese national universities.
- **Teacher training Program:** Graduates under 35 years of age, having at least five years of active teaching experience at primary/secondary level can apply for this one year training program preceded by 6 month initial Japanese language training.



Students getting information at scholarship seminar in Karachi

For further details please visit:

<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/highered/1303739.html>

[http://www.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/education.html](http://www.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/education.html)

**Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Sindh (PJCA)  
Japanese Language Course Under the patronage of  
the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi**

PJCA Japanese Language Course is the only Japanese Language Course of its nature in Karachi that was originally started by the Consulate General of Japan, Karachi in 1972 at its premises.

Japanese Language Experts were sent to this Course by the Japan Foundation from 1976 to September 2001, and by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from October 2004 till March 2009. Since April 2003, Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh (PJCA) has taken over the management of the Course. This Japanese Language Course has produced a large number of graduates who are now working and studying in Japan, Pakistan, and other parts of the world in their respective fields.

The curriculum of the Course has been designed by Japanese Language Experts and this has been approved by the Japan Foundation and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The instructors are qualified, properly trained and experienced, and are devoted to the Course and the students. People from different fields come to study Japanese for different reasons, including higher studies in Japan, researches, profession and business purposes, etc. and they are being benefited from this Japanese Language Course. The students are not only from Karachi, but also come from all over the country to study. We have two sessions in a year at the main Course, the 1st session start in April and the 2nd session start in October. The duration of each session is about 6 months. The classes are held in the evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and currently, we offer Basics and Intermediate level classes at the main Course.

Besides, in January 2001 we introduced Japanese Language Course at the University of Karachi, and since then we have been teaching Japanese there as a subsidiary subject. We feel proud to say that University of Karachi is the only University in Pakistan, where the Japanese is being taught as a subsidiary subject.

Furthermore, we are also teaching at Japanese organizations to their executives and to the students of LUMS Lahore as well who are selected for University Exchange Program of Waseda University, Japan. In addition, we are also providing Japanese assistance to the companies and individuals.

Every year, Karachi Japanese Speech Contest is jointly organized by the Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Sindh-Japanese Language Course and Consulate General of Japan in Karachi supported by the Japan Foundation.

This Japanese Language Course has been playing a significant role of being a bridge between these two countries. Teaching Japanese is important not only from learning point of view but also that it helps Pakistanis to understand Japanese ethics, culture and tradition, as well as facilitating technology growth which has a vital role in the development of Pakistan. Studying the Japanese Language also has a major role in strengthening the friendship between Pakistan and Japan.

Here I would like to briefly mention that I have been teaching Japanese for the last 18 years at the main Japanese Language Course and at the University of Karachi since it started in 2001. In my career, I have spent more than 14,000 hours teaching, and have taught thousands of students. I have participated in Long and Short Term Teachers Training Program conducted by the Japan Foundation, in Urawa Japan and achieved level 1 (N1) of Japanese Language Proficiency Test. After the cessation of Japanese Experts from the Japan Foundation in September 2001, I have been working as the Director and Chief Instructor of the Course, and managing the Course. Under my direct supervision, 14 annual Karachi Japanese Speech Contests have taken place.

Finally, I would like to request to the Japanese society and organizations to give their support to this Course for the promotion of the Japanese language and to motivate the students more effectively.

I look forward to your feedback.

Muhammad Ilyas  
Director  
PJCA Japanese Language Course  
Visiting Faculty University of Karachi

## EXPERIENCE OF STUDY IN JAPAN ON MEXT SCHOLARSHIP

**Article by: Ms. Amena Nadeem Rahman**  
**Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan**



*Ms. Amena Nadeem Rahman expressing her views at the Orientation Ceremony*

The Monbukagakusho scholarship provides its recipients with an incredible opportunity to live and study in Japan. I had the great honor to receive the scholarship in order to pursue my studies in the field of architecture and urban design.

As the selection process for the MEXT scholarship is quite lengthy, it takes nearly an year. So, it's important not to become discouraged and to pursue it tenaciously. The staff at the Consulate at Karachi were very helpful and guided us through the multiple steps. I was able to all of the universities I applied to and was placed in Tokyo Institute of Technology by MEXT.

After spending the greater part of 2015 in the application process of MEXT, I finally left for Tokyo in April 2016 and have been here for a little more than four months. Tokyo, which is not a single city but a conglomerate of many, is everything one would expect while being nothing like what one could expect. Any descriptions I could write will probably fall short of what Tokyo is.

While I was initially apprehensive of travelling from airport to my dormitory alone, it was more than two hours away from Narita airport, I was able to make it without a single obstacle. The transportation and its staff are extremely efficient. There are plenty of English signs to navigate by and the people are friendly. I made it to my dorm exactly at the time I had calculated it would take. As I applied to MEXT as a research student, I was part of the Intensive Japanese Course. Our instructors of the course were extremely friendly and approachable while being incredible teachers. Japanese is a complicated language and the course was a little bit tough. However, with the guidance of the teachers made it easier for the students to grasp the basics of the language. Our instructors arranged events like workshops for Japanese calligraphy, Tea ceremony and also trips to nature parks and places near Tokyo like the medieval city of Kamakura and the island of Enoshima. This course really helped with learning Japanese for daily life, even though I am far from being fluent, and helped me meet some incredible people. I've completed the course but I'm sure I will miss going to class every day.

Besides our language course, there is also the Tokyo Institute of Technology International Students Association (TISA). TISA has a great Facebook presence and is a great help in connecting foreign and local students. They hold an event usually every month and is a good place for foreign students to meet each other.

Even though the past semester I was a Japanese Language student, I also attended some lectures at the department of architecture and seminars of the laboratory of my professor. Many courses are available in English for the international students and I was fortunate enough to be able to sit in some of them. I was also able to see the final presentations of many students and was quite impressed by the high caliber and talents of the students.

I also got the unique opportunity to see how architecture firms operate in Japan. For the past two months I have been at an internship, provided by my professor at Tokyo Tech, and have been part of an international competition. While it was difficult to juggle it with my classes at the institute, it was an opportunity that I felt I couldn't miss.

In summary, although I have been in Japan a very short while, I count myself extremely fortunate to be here. Though it is intimidating to come to a strange new place, the opportunities one gets and people one meets are worth it. It's important to be open-minded and engage in activities that will connect you to local people as well as international. It's the best way to find how you can pursue your aspirations but utilizing your limited time in Japan to the maximum.

**Article by: Mr. Asad Ali**  
**Tohoku University, Japan**



*Mr. Asad Ali expressing his views at the Orientation Ceremony*

***Sometimes I think I am dreaming. I cannot believe I am in Japan!***

Dear Readers,

Konnichiwa!! I moved to Japan in April this year and I still cannot believe I am in my dream destination! I have been accepted by the Japanese Consulate General in Karachi for Master Program under MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship. The best things about MEXT scholarship is that it gives you freedom of choosing the University of your Own Choice. So I chose Tohoku University which is located in the beautiful city of Sendai. Here I am staying at my awesome state-of-the-art dormitory fully equipped with all the modern day facilities one can think of. It is arranged in such a way, it makes you want to study. We have cupboards, a desk, a chair, a table lamp, bed, attached bathroom. Coming from a country of long hours of load shedding, this is like a heaven for us.



## EXPERIENCE OF STUDY IN JAPAN ON MEXT SCHOLARSHIP

This April, 30 MEXT scholarship students from a diverse set of 29 different nationalities arrived at Tohoku University to pursue graduate research in an assortment of fields - specialties ranging from Architecture to Virology! As a part of the scholarship, we have been enrolled in an intensive Japanese language course at the University; the course provided us the chance to not only learn some basic survival skills in Japan but adapt to life in Sendai.

Before coming to Japan, I was really worried about getting settled here, the life and studies in Japan. I used to 'bother' my senior co-workers, "Senpais" studying in Japan a lot. I would ask millions of questions about studying abroad, living in Japan etc. which, they would reply me patiently. However, from my arrival to Narita Airport, all the way to dorm and getting settled in Sendai, everything was astoundingly organized, thanks to our university. A Tohoku University representative first received us at the Narita Airport at Tokyo, took us to Hotel and then bought us Shinkansen tickets (Bullet Train) for Sendai. Again upon our arrival at Sendai, another representative was waiting for us at Sendai Station with the university vehicle to take us to International Students Dormitory. From this point, all the MEXT students have been 'taken care' by an active volunteering group of Japanese housewives who can speak English, popularly known as the Mori Group. We are some 30 students here under MEXT scholarship from different countries such as India, Nepal, Singapore, Kenya, Vietnam, Brazil, Philippine, UK etc. And every MEXT student have his own volunteer. When we had just arrived, it was the Mori group who came over our dorm, helped prepare the documents for registering ourselves in the ward office. They even took us to the post office to open a bank account followed by lunch in a beautiful restaurant in Sendai.

In addition, Mori group has been organizing several programs for us. They organized a splendid welcome party for us with almost all kinds of Japanese dishes followed by a musical program. Mori group also gather every Mondays and Thursdays from 12pm to 3pm where we always go to take a lunch with them or practice speaking in Japanese with them. I like the fact that they are so polite, humble and always offer you something to eat. The Mori group also organized a bazaar where we could find almost anything at very cheap prices. There were clothes, blankets, ornaments, crockery, stationeries and even home decor items.

Apart from Mori group, the International Exchange Division of Tohoku University has been very helpful for international students. This is the division that arranged Orientation Ceremony, Welcome Party, and Trip to Iwate Prefecture for us and soon there will be final ceremony of our Japanese Language Course. Be it life in Sendai, money matters, earthquake warnings, university related guidance, dormitory related guidance or any query that we have regarding Japan, Sendai or Tohoku University, an officer is always there to help us. She always helps us with a smiling face. Most of the time we take our queries to her, in break time which is her break time too, but she never feels reluctant in helping us.

There is also a Tohoku University Foreign Student Association (TUFSA) that has been organizing fun-filled events and activities to challenge cultural barriers by bringing people together to celebrate the different cultures of the world. TUFSA on and off organize educational, interactive and volunteer activities throughout the year. TUFSA also provides essential information sessions about life in Tohoku University and Japan, such as lectures, university programs, housing etc. They organize different activities like Welcome Party, BBQ Picnic, International Festival, International Dinner, Charity Events, Buddy Project, Volunteer Work, Holiday Events, Exchange Trips, and Farewell Party. TUFSA members are have been very warm and friendly, and made us newcomers feel welcomed. As far as the university and its education are concerned, Tohoku University is really huge and more beautiful than Murree or Swat of Pakistan. There are several dozen departments comprising of several campuses with so many buildings that it would take you more than a week to visit all of it. Each campus is like a town where you will find students and researchers from almost all parts of the world. Most of the international students at Tohoku University are from United States and Europe. The teaching methods and research culture in Japan in general and Tohoku University in particular, are superb. I myself being a teacher at a Pakistani university, concentrate on learning their teaching method, let alone the technical knowledge that we gain during the lectures. The unlimited notes, supplementary materials and audio-visuals that we receive from the Professors every day, is incredible. One just remains astounded as to how they prepare so much supplementary materials on daily basis. Apart from studies, there are tons of affordable entertainments: karaoke bars, sightseeing, local clubs / bars, forests, beautiful beaches and islands.

Now let us talk about Japan. Japan in one word, is awesome. It has been the country of my dream. There was always a kind of an affinity I felt towards this country and its people. Trust and responsibilities are key to Japanese success. The senior trust his subordinates while delegating a job and the juniors is utmost responsible to finish the job in the best possible way. People are so responsible that in most cases there are No Deadlines for submitting dues or doing your task. Even if you get late in submitting your assignment, fees or any kind of dues, Japanese do not mind it because they know that you haven't done it deliberately. Where the main aim of a student is get a good job soon after graduation, here normally students get a job offer before the start of their final year. Normally in countries like Pakistan, where jobs are contract based that is, you will have to leave the company after two or three years, companies in Japan prefer candidates that will serve them for life time.

Japan is particularly famous for its unique "Matsuri". In Japan, there are more than 300,000 traditional matsuri, which means festival in Japanese, and they are very different from area to area. Normally, a matsuri is sponsored by a local shrine or temple and is organized by the local community. People wear a typical matsuri costume and carry a heavy Mikoshi, which is a portable shrine around the street, hoping it can bless the town and people. The different kinds of festivals are unique to Japan. You can never find them anywhere else in the world.

Their interesting bowing styles will make you fall in love with Japanese. The respect and the love that they give to others can nowhere be seen. When friends ask me about my life in Japan, I tell them, 'So far, so good'.

Minna San, Douzo Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!



# جپان

سفارت خانہ جاپان، اسلام آباد اور قونصل جنرل آف جاپان، کراچی میں ہونے والی مختلف سرگرمیاں



## VARIOUS ACTIVITIES HELD BY THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN ISLAMABAD AND THE CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI

### Japanese Government Offices in Pakistan

#### Embassy of Japan in Pakistan

53-70, Ramna 5/4, Diplomatic Enclave 1, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan  
(P.O. Box 1119, Islamabad, Pakistan)  
Tel: +92(51) 9072500  
Fax: +92(51) 9072352  
e-mail: [ryoji@ib.mofa.go.jp](mailto:ryoji@ib.mofa.go.jp) (Consular/Visa Department)  
[economic@ib.mofa.go.jp](mailto:economic@ib.mofa.go.jp) (Economic Department)  
[culture@ib.mofa.go.jp](mailto:culture@ib.mofa.go.jp) (Public Affairs Department)  
Website: <http://www.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/>

#### Consulate General of Japan in Karachi

6/2, Civil Lines, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi 75530, Pakistan  
Tel: +92(21) 35220800  
Fax: +92(21) 35220815  
e-mail: [culture@kr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:culture@kr.mofa.go.jp)  
Website: <http://www.kr.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/>

#### Office of the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Lahore

1 McLeod Road, Lahore, Pakistan  
Tel: +92(42) 37225015-7  
Fax: +92(42) 37233518  
e-mail: [anw@shiraziinvestments.com.pk](mailto:anw@shiraziinvestments.com.pk)

#### Office of the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Peshawar

No. 38, St. 3, Sector N-3, Phase 4, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 (91) 5828378  
Fax: +92 (91) 5817569

#### Office of the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Quetta

53-A, Jinnah Town, Samungli Road, Quetta, Pakistan  
Tel: +92(81) 2829478, 2829633  
Fax: +92(81) 2829515  
e-mail: [knadeem@cyber.net.pk](mailto:knadeem@cyber.net.pk)

#### Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office

Serena Office Complex, 4th Floor, G-5/1, Khyaban-e-Suhrawardy, Islamabad, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 (51) 9244500-07  
Fax: +92 (51) 9244508  
Website: <http://www.jica.go.jp/pakistan/english/index/html>

#### Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

2nd Floor, Block-B, Finance & Trade Centre, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 (21) 35630727-32  
Fax: +92 (21) 35630733-34  
e-mail: [pak@jetro.go.jp](mailto:pak@jetro.go.jp)  
Website: <http://www.jetro.go.jp/>

For information on Japanese diplomacy, politics, economy, society and culture, please visit:  
<http://www.japanpolicyforum.jp/> <http://web-japan.org/>