

# Japan

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

March, 2015

Vol. 62



Dolls of the Japanese Emperor and Empress wearing costumes of the imperial court during the *Heian* period (794-1192), with a miniature golden folding screen placed behind them.

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# THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENDATION AWARD CEREMONY

## THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENDATIONS FOR MR. HAFEEZ-UR-REHMAN AND SYED MUHAMMAD MEHDI FOR THEIR MERITORIOUS SERVICES



Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, presenting certificate of commendation to Mr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman Malik, Former Political Advisor to Governor of Punjab in recognition of his contribution to strengthening Japan-Pakistan relations.

H.E Ambassador Inomata conferred commendations to Mr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman Malik, former Political Advisor to Governor of Punjab and Syed Muhammad Mehdi, Media Coordinator and Coordinator for Foreign Affairs of PML-N, in recognition of their contribution to strengthening Japan and Pakistan relations. The commendation award ceremony was held at the Embassy of Japan.

The Japanese Ambassador's commendation is awarded to an individual or a group to acknowledge its contribution to the promotion of friendship between Japan and Pakistan.

Mr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman Malik served the Lahore Branch of Pakistan People's Party for a long time. Mr. Malik has been in close communication with the Embassy since 1985, and has made an effort to give the Embassy staff a lot of opportunities to cultivate friendship with many influential Pakistani people.



Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, presenting certificate of commendation to Syed Muhammad Mehdi, Media Coordinator and Coordinator for Foreign Affairs of PML-N, in recognition of his contribution to strengthening Japan-Pakistan relations.

Syed Muhammad Mehdi has also been supportive for the Embassy staff to further develop the relationships with prominent Pakistani people as a member of PML-N for last 10 years. Particularly since his visit to Japan in 2011, on the invitation program of the Government of Japan, Mr. Mehdi has been keen on promoting Japan-Pakistan relations among the Pakistani political community.

Ambassador Inomata, while speaking on the occasion, highly appreciated their significant contribution, and stated that both Mr. Malik and Mr. Mehdi have played a primary bridge role between the two countries.



## THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

### THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO PAKISTAN INAUGURATES SCIENCE LABORATORY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN HAFIZABAD, PUNJAB (JANUARY 14, 2015)



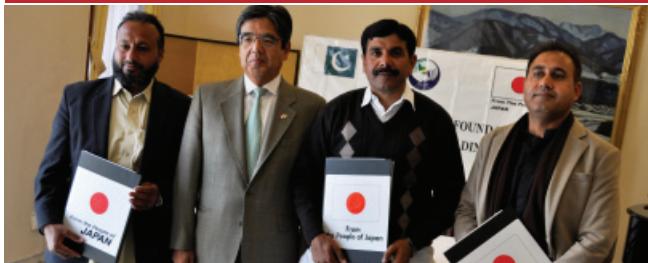
Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, inaugurated Science Laboratory and Vocational Training Centre in Hafizabad. The two projects were completed by a grant of US\$ 113,264 provided by the Government of Japan to a non-governmental organization.

### JAPAN TO STRENGTHEN PORT SECURITY IN KARACHI AND ENERGY SAVING IN WATER SUPPLY IN LAHORE (JANUARY 28, 2015)



Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, and Mr. Saleem Sethi, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division (EAD), signed and exchanged documents in the presence of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Finance.

### THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THREE PAKISTANI NGOs (FEBRUARY 12, 2015)



Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and the heads of three non-governmental organizations after the signing ceremony held at the Embassy of Japan. The Government of Japan has extended financial support totalling US\$ 276,346 (approx. Rs. 28 million) to three Pakistani NGOs; Farmers Development Organization, Sanjh Foundation and Shewa Educated Social Workers Association (SESWA) for the improvement of educational facilities in disadvantaged areas of the country.

### THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO FOUR PAKISTANI NGOs (FEBRUARY 16, 2015)



Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and heads of the four NGOs after the signing ceremony held at the Embassy of Japan. The Government of Japan has extended financial support totalling US\$ 360,950 (approx. Rs. 36 million) to four Pakistani NGOs; Ameer Begum Welfare Trust, Al-Mujtaba Development Network, Community Development & Anti-TB Program, and Obaid Noor Welfare Association for the implementation of social development projects in disadvantaged areas of the country.

### JAPAN FUNDS UNESCO FOR STRENGTHENING FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN (MARCH 10, 2015)



Mr. Takashi Katae, the then Chargés d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan and Ms. Vibeke Jensen, Representative / Director, UNESCO Islamabad, exchange signed documents in presence of Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, to implement a project worth US\$ 4.05 million.

### JAPAN CONTRIBUTES TO BENEFIT FAMILIES DISPLACED FROM FATA AND AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN (MARCH 17, 2015)



Mr. Takeshi Katae, the then Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan, flanked by Dr. Jacqueline Badcock, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, announced that Japan has disbursed US\$16.21 million in total to UN Agencies to support their efforts benefitting people who had fled their homes due to security operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

# BILATERAL RELATIONS, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

## BILATERAL RELATIONS, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BY EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN PAKISTAN

### THE 8TH JAPAN-SAARC ENERGY SYMPOSIUM HELD AT NUST (MARCH 10-11, 2015)



Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan in a group photo with the delegates from SAARC countries at the inaugural session of the 8th Japan-SAARC Energy Symposium, held at NUST on March 10 and 11, 2015. This two-day symposium was organised to discuss medium term vision for energy connectivity in the SAARC region.

### THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AWARDS MEXT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS TO PAKISTANI STUDENTS (MARCH 20, 2015)



Mr. Takashi Katae, the then Chargés d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan, in a group photo at a pre-departure orientation with the Pakistani students selected for the Japanese Government MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Research Scholarships to pursue their Masters and Doctorate degrees at the prominent Japanese universities.

### IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION AND CERTIFICATES AWARD CEREMONY HELD AT LAHORE ARTS COUNCIL (MARCH 25, 2015)



Mr. Takeshi Katae, the then Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan, presenting certificate to a participant of the Ikebana workshop at the concluding ceremony. Begum Hameeda Waheed Uddin, Provincial Minister for Women Development, Government of Punjab, Ms. Asifa Ataka, Ikebana expert, Mr. Ata Muhammad Khan, Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council and Mr. Amir H. Shirazi, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Lahore, were also present at the certificate award ceremony.



Begum Hameeda Waheed Uddin, Provincial Minister for Women Development, Government of Punjab, the then Chargé d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan Mr. Takeshi Katae and Ms. Asifa Ataka, Ikebana expert, looking at the Ikebana arrangements by the participants of the Ikebana workshop. The Ikebana workshop, in which around 100 Pakistani ladies participated, was held simultaneously at Alhamra Art Gallery and Defense Public Library of DHA.



Minister Begum Hameeda Waheed Uddin and Ms. Asifa Ataka, looking at the Ikebana arrangements made by the students at the Alhamra Art Gallery.

## GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASSROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECT (GGP) IMPLEMENT BY THE CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI

### JAPAN PROVIDES Rs. 10.2 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCES TO JAM-E-SHAFA ORGANIZATION (FEBRUARY 3, 2015)

The Government of Japan extended a grant of US\$102,008 (approximately Rs. 10.2 million) to Jam-e-Shafa Organization for "The Project for the Provision of Ambulances to Jam-e-Shafa Organization". The grant covers the cost of two ambulances fully equipped with basic life-support equipment to achieve the objective of providing efficient access to emergency services and save more lives in Quetta. In addition to the grant of about 10.2 million Rupees, 1.4 million Rupees are contributed by Indus Motors Company Limited.

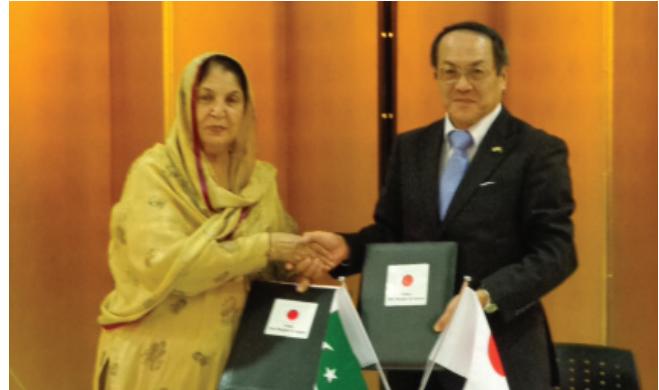


*Mr. Akira Ouchi, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi and Lt. General (Retd) Mohammad Ishaq, the Chief Executive Officer of Jam-e-Shafa Organization signing the Grant Contract. Mr. Parvez Ghias, the Chief Executive Officer of Indus Motors Company Limited and Mr. Nadeem Shah, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Quetta were also present at the occasion.*

### JAPAN PROVIDES Rs. 7.3 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT FOR THE EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING HAMDARD FREE MOBILE DISPENSARIES (FEBRUARY 10, 2015)

The grant contract was signed at the Japan Information and Culture Center of the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi, between Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi and Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation. Mr. Yosuke Yamada, the representative of Pak Suzuki Motor Company Limited was also present at the occasion. The grant covers the cost of 10 vehicles along with

equipment for the mobile dispensaries in Karachi and with the implementation of this project, more than 10,000 people are expected to benefit every month.



*Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi, and Mrs. Sadia Rashid, are shaking hands after signing the Grant Contract for the provision of 10 vehicles to Hamdard Foundation.*

### JAPAN PROVIDES Rs. 5.1 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FACILITIES FOR 25 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN HYDERABAD (FEBRUARY 12, 2015)

The Government of Japan extended a grant to Sindh Development Society for the Provision of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities for 25 primary schools in Hyderabad. Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi and Mr. Ghaffar Malik, Executive Director of Sindh Development Society signed the grant contract which covers the cost for the provision of 50 latrines and 25 water pumps, etc. for 25 primary schools in Hyderabad. At the signing ceremony, Mr. Ouchi sincerely hoped that the implementation of this project would improve the educational environment for children in rural areas of Hyderabad, and that the number of students would greatly increase in the future.



*Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi and Mr. Ghaffar Malik, the Executive Director of Sindh Development Society at the occasion of grant signing ceremony.*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITY

### SHODO DEMONSTRATION BY MRS. JUNKO OUCHI

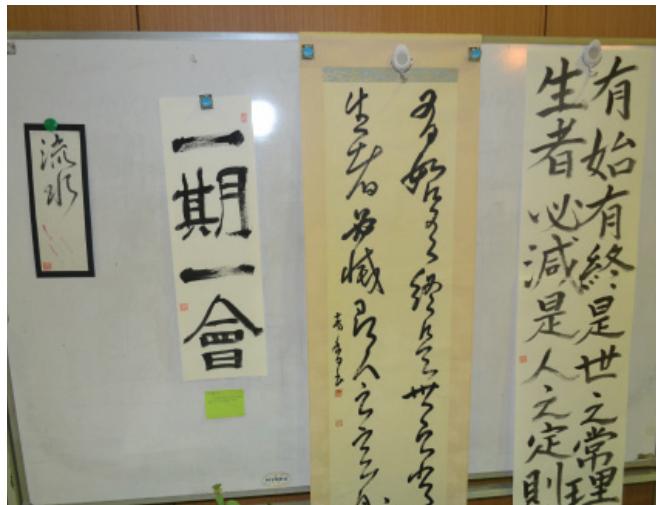
In Japan, *shodo* (Japanese calligraphy) is considered one of the fine arts. It not only implies the skillful writing of characters, but also the entire culture associated with it as a discipline. *Shodo* also possesses philosophical sense as it transfers harmony and beauty. The parity of simple and graceful is embodied in calligraphic works as one of the main principles of Japanese aesthetics "Wabi" and "Sabi" (austere beauty and elegant simplicity).



On February 4, 2015, *shodo* demonstration and lecture by Mrs. Junko Ouchi, wife of the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, was held at the Japan Information and Culture Center. Mrs. Ouchi is a master of *shodo*.



Participants learnt about the principles and techniques of *shodo* and they also had an opportunity to practice this traditional Japanese fine art.



On this occasion, Mrs. Ouchi presented some of her *shodo* works.



The participants keenly observed Mrs. Ouchi's live *shodo* demonstration. She is writing "flower" in several different strokes.



Lively question and answer session was held during the workshop.

# AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO QUETTA

## CONSUL-GENERAL MR. AKIRA OUCHI'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO QUETTA (MARCH 17-19, 2015)

The Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. Akira Ouchi made an official visit to Quetta, Balochistan from 17 to 19 March 2015. It was his second official visit to Quetta, since April 2014.



*The Ceremony to Confer Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to Syed Nadeem Shah, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Quetta was held. The Certificate was presented to him by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi.*

On March 17, Consul-General Mr. Ouchi met senior provincial government officials. During the meetings, they exchanged views on topics of mutual interests and discussed the ways forward to strengthen the friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan. The ceremony to confer the Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, to Syed Nadeem Alam Shah, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Quetta was held in the evening on the same day.



*Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi delivering a lecture at the University of Balochistan of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Services (BUITEMS) on "Bilateral Relations between Japan and Pakistan".*

On March 18, Consul-General Mr. Ouchi delivered a lecture at the University of Balochistan of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Services (BUITEMS) on "Bilateral Relations between Japan and Pakistan". Around 200 students and faculty members of the University attended the lecture. The audience keenly listened to Mr. Ouchi's lecture and a lively question and answer session ensued, in which the audiences' interests were mainly related to

studying in Japan, Japan and Pakistan's bilateral relations. Engr. Ahmed Farooq Bazai, Vice-Chancellor of BUITEMS expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Ouchi for delivering very informative lecture in which students and faculty members of BUITEMS were able to gain insightful and comprehensive knowledge about bilateral relations between the two countries and deepen their understanding on Japan. Also, the inauguration ceremony of Japanese Film Festival was held at the auditorium of BUITEMS, where around 150 students attended with enthusiastic interest. "*Castle in the Sky*" was screened on the inauguration day. This film is one of the most popular films by Mr. Hayao Miyazaki, the world-renowned Japanese animation director.



*The Inauguration Ceremony of Japanese Film Festival was held at the auditorium of BUITEMS, where around 150 people attended with enthusiastic interest. "*Castle in the Sky*" was screened.*

On March 19, Consul-General Mr. Ouchi delivered a lecture at the Quetta Chamber of Commerce & Industry, on "*Economic Relations between Japan and Pakistan*". Over 50 members attended the lecture. Mr. Muhammad Moosa Khan Kakar, President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Quetta, expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Ouchi for delivering very interesting lecture in which the members were able to broaden their knowledge in regard to the economic relations between the two countries. Also on this occasion, Consul-General Mr. Ouchi visited Quetta museum and observed archaeological exhibits and antiquities in Balochistan.



*Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi delivering a lecture at the Quetta Chamber of Commerce & Industry, on "Economic Relations between Japan and Pakistan".*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### JAPANESE CALENDAR EXHIBITION 2015 AT LAHORE AND KARACHI

Japanese Calendars Exhibition is a popular annual feature of the cultural activities organized by the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan and Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi. This year, about 150 calendars had been displayed in the exhibition with the cooperation of Japan Calendars Association, Tokyo. These calendars portray various themes of Japan, such as its traditional and contemporary arts, four seasons, cultural heritage, landscape and architecture. The exhibition not only gave a picture of the socio-cultural development of Japan spread over centuries, but also exhibited the sophisticated quality of Japanese printing technology. Most of the calendars in the exhibition were printed on recycled paper which presented a fine example of Japan's efforts to be eco-friendly. After the Exhibition, the calendars on display were distributed to the viewers through a lucky draw.

#### JAPANESE CALENDARS EXHIBITION AT ALHAMRA ART GALLERY, LAHORE (FEBRUARY 3-10, 2015)

The Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with the Lahore Arts Council and Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Lahore organized an exhibition of Japanese Calendars 2015 at the Alhamra Art Gallery from February 3-10, 2015. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Hameeda Waheeduddin, Provincial Minister for Women Development, Government of Punjab, together with the Executive Director of the Lahore Arts Council, Capt ( R ) Atta Muhammad Khan and Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, Counsellor, Public Affairs Department of the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan. While speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Isomura said that a variety of Japanese calendars have been put on display in this exhibition which represent the beauty as well as the true life image of Japan. Mr. Isomura also commended Japanese companies as most of the calendars displayed in this exhibition were made by private Japanese companies.



*Minister Begum Hameeda Waheeduddin, Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, and Mr. Amir H. Shirazi, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Lahore, looking at the Japanese calendars displayed at the Japanese Calendars Exhibition, held at the Alhamra Art Gallery.*

#### JAPANESE CALENDARS EXHIBITION AT JAPAN INFORMATION AND CULTURE CENTER, KARACHI (JANUARY 12-17, 2015)

“Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2015” was held at the Japan Information and Culture Center of the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi from January 12-17, 2015. The Exhibition was organized by the Consulate-General of Japan, in collaboration with Pakistan Japan Cultural Association (PJCA), Sindh and Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJB). H.E Ms. Sharmila Farooqui, Minister for Culture and Tourism and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh was the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony. Mr. Akira Ouchi, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, in his opening speech stated that through the Japanese Calendar Exhibition, the viewers would appreciate the natural beauty and fascinating diversity of Japan as well as four distinct seasons well depicted in the Japanese calendars. Mr. Ouchi also stated that the Japanese calendars represented the beautiful and sophisticated quality of the Japanese printing technology.



*Mr. and Mrs. Akira Ouchi, Ms. Sadia Rashid and Minister Sharmila Farooqui while viewing the calendars during exhibition held at the Japan Information and Culture Center in Karachi.*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### LIVE BONSEKI DEMONSTRATION AND LECTURE BY MRS. MIDORI INOMATA WIFE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN 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 amounts of white sand used to add dimension. *Bonseki* scenes often depict mountains, such as Mount Fuji, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, seashores, and gardens. Small stones are used to represent mountains, shore lines or rocky islands that waves break upon.

*Bonseki* is also an art form of traditional Japanese culture, which consists of "Wabi" and "Sabi" (austere beauty and elegant simplicity). After completion, all works will disappear but the appreciation of the work remains in mind.



Mrs. Midori Inomata while demonstrating Bonseki

### BONSEKI DEMONSTRATION AND LECTURE IN KARACHI (JANUARY 29, 2015)

Mrs. Midori Inomata, wife of the Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan gave a live demonstration and lecture on the ancient Japanese art form of *Bonseki* which was well attended and deeply appreciated by the art lovers in Karachi. Mr. Akira Ouchi, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, in his speech stated that Japan is a land of unique mixture of traditional and modern culture and the beautiful natural landscape, with four distinct seasons which have strong influence on the cultural diversity and the unique spirituality of Japan. Consul-General Mr. Ouchi emphasized that through the "*Bonseki*" demonstration, he hoped that the people in Karachi would appreciate the exquisite natural beauty and fascinating diversity of Japan. The event was held at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi.



Ambassador Hiroshi Inomata, Mrs. Midori Inomata, Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi, Mrs. Junko Ouchi and Hotel Manager Mr. Reehan Peerzada at the Bonseki demonstration held at Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi

### BONSEKI DEMONSTRATION AND LECTURE IN LAHORE (OCTOBER 23, 2014)

To showcase the ancient Japanese art form, *Bonseki*, a lecture and live demonstration on the subject was held at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore on October 23, 2014. The event was organized by the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore. Ambassador Hiroshi Inomata, who was also present at the occasion, said that after witnessing this demonstration, the people will see a different aspect of Japan and that is its traditional art and beauty.



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### JAPANESE DOLLS EXHIBITION; SHAPES OF PRAYER, EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE

Japanese dolls traditionally known as “Ningyo (human shape)” are a unique cultural symbol because of their rich history and association with the Japanese way of life. They reflect the customs of Japan and the aspirations of its people, possess distinctive regional attributes, and over the centuries have developed in many diverse forms. Dolls also provide a showcase for traditional Japanese craft products, such as textiles. In Japan, the doll art having risen to the height of craftsmanship, is now considered an important example of fine decorative art. The most popular Japanese dolls are those crafted for two important festivals, Girl's Day (“Hinamatsuri”) on March 3 and Boy's Day (“Tango-no-Sekku”) on May 5. In this Exhibition, more than 80 dolls were displayed.

#### JAPANESE DOLLS EXHIBITION AT ISLAMABAD (JANUARY 7-30, 2015)

Embassy of Japan in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation and Pakistan National Council of the Arts presented the Japanese Dolls Exhibition at the National Art Gallery in Islamabad. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan inaugurated the exhibition and shared insights about the importance of dolls in Japanese culture. He further said that the purpose of showcasing the exhibition was to give the visitors a close glimpse of the versatility and individuality of the traditional and cultural life of Japanese people through these artistic handmade objects.



Ambassador and Mrs. Hiroshi Inomata while inaugurating the Japanese Dolls Exhibition in Islamabad.



#### JAPANESE DOLLS EXHIBITION AT KARACHI (MARCH 2-7, 2015)

The Dolls Exhibition in Karachi was held at Japan Information and Culture Center with the collaboration of Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi, the Japan Foundation and Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh with the attendance of H.E. Ms. Sharmila Farooqui, Minister for Culture and Tourism, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh as Chief Guest. Consul-General of Japan Mr. Akira Ouchi inaugurated the exhibition and explained to the large number of guests that the Japanese dolls are the reflection of traditional art and culture of Japan and express the customs and life style nurtured in the long history of Japan.



Mr. & Mrs. Akira Ouchi, Minister Sharmila Farooqi at the inauguration of Japanese Dolls Exhibition



## جاپانی تھیر

آپ کی آنکھیں بھی ایک بڑے اور جدید میکانگی اسٹچ کو دیکھ کر چکا چوند ہو جائیں گی، گھونمنے والا اسٹچ اور دروازے کی بلندی غیرہ دیکھ کر آپ دنگ رہ جائیں گے۔ ان کی شروعات اٹھاروں صدی میں ہوئی تھی، کیونکہ اس وقت لوگ جسمانی طور پر مضبوط اور کسرتی بدن کے مالک ہوتے تھے۔ یہ حاضرین کے لیے ایک مکمل مظہر نامے کا اہتمام کرتے تھے اور اسٹچ کو دھیل کر منظر کو آگے بڑھا دیا کرتے تھے۔ تھیر کی ایسی مثالیں اور مشکل ہی سے دیکھنے کو ملتی ہے، جہاں اس نوعیت کا اسٹچ اتنے عرصے تک استعمال ہوتا رہا، یہ اس ذہانت کی نشانہ ہی کرتا ہے، جس کی وجہ سے ”کابوکی“ کو اتنے عرصے تک پُر اثر برکھا ہے۔

”کابوکی“ بذات خود تاریخی واقعات، محبت میں پیش آنے والی مشکلات، مژاج اور خوف کے احساسات کی تجارتیات جہت کا سرمایہ ہے۔ ”کابوکی“ تھیر کے تمام ڈرے بہت مقبول ہیں، مگر سب سے زیادہ پسند کیا جانے والا ڈرہا ”سینٹلیس“ یعنی شہزادے ہے۔ یہ جاپان کا پسندیدہ ترین ڈرہا ہے۔ اس کہانی کا پلاٹ دراہل ایک مزروع حاکم کے گرد گھومتا ہے، جس کو زور تو نہ بہ پرے بلے پر خود کشی کے لیے مجبور کیا گیا اور اس حاکم کے فداوار ساتھیوں کی منصوبہ بندپال، جو وہ اپنے آقا کی موت کا بدلہ لینے کے لیے کیا کرتے تھے، اس کھیل کا اہم حصہ ہیں۔ جاپانی حاضرین اس کہانی کو بدلتے کی تھنا سمجھنے کی وجہے دیانت دار آدمیوں کی جدوجہد قرار دیتے ہیں، جھوٹ نے اپنی حقیقی نیت کو چھپاتے ہوئے اپنے خطرناک مقاصد کے حصول کے لیے وجہ پر دجھ کی۔ اس ڈرے میں تھیقی تناو کو بتاتا گیا ہے، جس کے ذریعے یہ وضاحت بھی کی گئی ہے کہ کردار کیا کہنا چاہتے ہیں۔

محبت کو یقینی طور پر ”کابوکی“ تھیر میں بھلا کیا نہیں گیا۔ ایدو کا عہد وہ تھا، جس میں محبت کرنے کی آزادی ممنوع تھی۔ شہری معاشرے میں اپنے عہدوں اور درجات کا سختی سے احترام کرنا پڑتا، ورنہ یہ خیال رکھا جاتا کہ معاشرے کی نیازیوں متنزل ہو سکتی ہیں۔ اس پسندی نے بہت سے لوگوں کی محبت کو حدود سے ماوراء اور جنم قرار دیا یہاں تک کہ عہد ایدو کے لوگوں کو سیزید مقتبس کیا کہ وہ آزاد محبت کا تجربہ اسٹچ پر دیکھیں۔

”کابوکی“ تھیر کے کچھ ڈراموں میں جانور مرکزی کردار ہے۔ ایسے کھیلوں کی دو مثالیں ”انسان نما“ اور ”چیڑی“ کے ایک ہزار درخت اور ”لوزمری اور شکاری“ ہیں۔ بعض مشہور ڈرے میں را کو پتھنی ڈراموں پر بھی مشتمل ہیں۔ آج کے ڈرہا حاضرین کے لیے ”کابوکی“ تھیر کے اداکار جانوروں کے لباس میں ملبوسوں ہوتے ہیں، تاکہ ماحول سے مختلف دھانی نہ دیں۔ اس نوعیت کے ڈراموں کو مغرب میں بالغان کی پسندیدگی مشکل سے ہی حاصل ہوتی ہے۔

کابوکی تھیر میں اسٹچ کی بناؤ ایسی ہوتی ہے، جس میں پیڈل چلنے کی جگہ ہوتی ہے، جو اسٹچ کو ابتدائی کناروں سے لے کر آگے تک بیٹھے ہوئے حاضرین تک لے جاتی ہے۔ اس طرح کردار کنارے سے اندر آتے جاتے رہتے ہیں اور اسٹچ کا بڑا رقبہ قبل استعمال رہتا ہے۔ پیڈل چلنے والے راستے

کے قریب بیٹھے ہوئے حاضرین کے پاس ڈرے کا کردار آ جاتا ہے، اپنے انتہائی نزد دیک، یہاں تک کہ آپ اس کی سانسوں کی آواز، کپڑوں کی مہک اور بناؤ سکھار کی خوشبو تک محسوس کر سکتے ہیں۔

”کابوکی“ تھیر کے کرداروں کی معلومات اور قابلیت باپ سے بیٹھے تک منتقل ہو رہی ہے۔ آپ سے معلوم تک اور ایک نسل سے دوسری نسل تک یہ سلسہ جاری ہے۔ نو آموزادا کار پانے اداکاروں کا نام لیتا ہے اور پرانے طریقوں کا استعمال جوں کا توں جاری رکھتا ہے۔ حاضرین اس نوعیت کے معاملات کو بغور دیکھی سے دیکھتے اور لطف انداز ہوتے ہیں۔

آپ جب جاپانی تھیر میں ”کابوکی“ کا ڈرہا دیکھیں گے، تو بہار است ”تعبد ایڈ“ میں پہنچ جائیں گے، پھر آپ کو ایک ایسے وقت کا تجربہ ہوگا جو 1600ء کے عرصے پر صحیح ہے۔ ”کابوکی“ تھیر اسٹچ پر پیش کی جانے والی سمجھی قدیم کہانی سے بالکل مختلف ہوتی ہے۔ آپ اس سے نکل کی آمیزش اور خوشی کی جستجو اور الجھاؤ کے زیر اثر بہت لطف اٹھائیں گے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک جیت ناک محسوسے میں بھی بتلاریں کے جیسے آپ کسی ”پریوں کے دیس“ میں ہیں۔ ”کابوکی“ کے حوالے سے کچھ کلکش حقائق مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔

اس تھیر میں سب سے پہلی خلاف توقع شے، نیس کپڑے، متاثر کن حد تک گہرا میک آپ۔ اسی ساعت میں ڈرے کے مارنی کا مرکزی کردار اور ہیرہ مصنوعی بالوں کی بڑی سی وگ اور گھیرے دار کپڑے پہنے اسٹچ پر نمودار ہوتا ہے۔ اس کے پاس ایک بہت بڑی توار ہے اور اس کا چہرہ بہت لال اور نیلے رنگ کی گہری لکیروں



سے جا ہوتا ہے۔ آپ خود کو ایسی میں محسوس کریں گے، جہاں فیش اور نمودار بازی آپ کو غیر معمولی بلندی پر لے جائے گی۔ لفظ ”کابوکی“ دراہل ”کابوکو“ سے نکلا ہے، جس کا مطلب ہے ”کپڑوں کے اوپر حاضری لباس پہننا اور اموری حرکات و سکنات کا ہونا“ یہ سب کچھ آپ ”کابوکی“ میں دیکھیں گے اور دیگر جاپانی روایتی ثقافت اور تاریخ میں بھی، جیسا کہ جاپان میں منعقد ہونے والا ایک ثقافتی میلہ ”جین فیشیوں“ جس میں جاپان کے شہر کیوٹ کی گلیوں میں گردش کرتے شافت نہیں لوگوں کے جنم میں ایک جگہ سے دوسری جگہ لے جائے جاتے ہیں اور جنگلی گلاؤ جسے سلوہیں صدی میں جنگو پہننا کرتے تھے۔

”کابوکی“ تھیر میں ہیرو کے چہرے پر لال اور نیلی دیزی لکیروں کا ایک حقیقی مقصد ہوتا ہے۔ یہ کرداروں کے چہروں کو اسٹچ پر نمایاں کرتی ہیں، جہاں مصنوعی روشنی ترقی پا نہ ہونے کے برابر ہوتی ہے اور اسٹچ پر صرف اتنی مضمون روشنی ہوتی ہے، جس کے باسے میں ہونے کا سوچ سکتے ہیں۔ اس میک اپ کا دوسرا ہم کردار یہ بھی ہے، ماحول میں مہبوبت کردنے والا ایک ناشی پیدا کیا جائے۔ جاپان دنیا میں دفعہ دو واحد جگہ نہیں ہے، جہاں لوگ اہم مصالح پر غیر معمولی میک اپ کرتے ہیں، لیکن اس تھیر کے لیے میک اپ کا انداز جس کو جاپانی زبان میں ”کوادوری“ کہا جاتا ہے۔ یہ کچھ اس طرح تحقیق کیا گیا ہے جس کے تحت اسٹچ پر نمودار ہونے والا کردار کی ماورائی طاقتیں کا حامل نظر آتا ہے۔

عبد ایدو میں کچھ ڈرے، خاص طور پر ”سوغا بھائیوں کا تصادم“ ہر برس بغیر کسی تعطل کے شانقین کے لیے پیش کیا جا رہا ہے۔ مناظر اور ادائیگی کا انداز گزرتے وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ تبدیل ہو سکتا ہے، مگر کہانی باغیر تبدیلی کے مستقل طور پر ہو ہی ہے۔ جاپان میں یہ روایت ایسی سرگرمی ہے جسے لوگ ہر سال دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ جاپان میں ایک چیز جو بھی تبدیل نہیں ہوتا، وہ ادا کرنے کی مقصدیت ہے اور یہی خصوصیت ”کابوکی“ تھیر کی کہانیوں کا حق بھی ہے۔

اس ادا نگل کا انداز افطری ہے، خاص طور پر سوغا بھائیوں کا طبقے میں، جن کی ہر سال یہی اولین خواہش ہوتی ہے کہ فصل کی پیداوار ہر آنے والے سال میں بہترین ہو جائے، اس طرح ”کابوکی“ تھیر میں ادا نگل کی بھی اپنی ایک انفرادیت ہے جیسا کہ سالانہ تہوار، مذہبی تہوار اور دیگر تہوار جو کہ ہر سال صحت اور دولت مندی کی خواہشات کی غازی کرتے ہیں۔

”کابوکی“ تھیر میں ”اننا گاتا“ ایک مردا کا اسٹچ پر زنانہ کردار ادا کرتا ہے، یہ ”کابوکی“ تھیر کو ایک بالکل نئی سمت میں لے جاتا ہے۔ تھیر کی تاریخ پڑھنے والے یہیں گے، دنیا کے مختلف حصوں میں مرکز طرح زنانہ کردار بھاجتے ہیں، لیکن صرف ”کابوکی“ تھیر ہی نے تمثیر جذبات کے ذریعے ایک حقیقی فن کی طرح ابھاٹا ہے، جو آج تک زندہ و جاوداں ہے۔ دچپ بات یہ ہے کہ موجودہ جاپانی پوپ موسیقی اور دیگر فنون میں یہ بات غیر معمولی نہیں کہ مرد کی عورت کے جذبات کی عکاسی کرے اور عورت اسی سے جنس کا فرق عبور کر سکے۔ یہی زاویہ ہمیں جاپانی ثقافت کے دیگر پہلوؤں سے متعارف کرواتا ہے۔





# جاپان

سفارت خانہ جاپان، اسلام آباد اور گونصل جزل آف جاپان، کراچی میں ہونے والی مختلف ثقافتی سرگرمیاں



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