



# Japan

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

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## IKEBANA ----- JAPANESE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. It is more than simply putting flowers in a container. It is a disciplined art form in which the arrangement is a living thing where nature and humanity are brought together. It is steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness with nature.

### Content

➤ History of Ikebana .....	Page-2
➤ Article by Ikebana International Karachi Chapter 204.....	Page-3
➤ Article by Ikenobo Study Group, Karachi.....	Page-4
➤ Article by Ohara Study Group .....	Page-5
➤ Article by Sogetsu Study Group.....	Page-6
➤ My Fascination with Ikebana abides by Mr. Sultan Sikandar Khan.....	Page-7
➤ Article by Pakistan Bonsai Society .....	Page-8
➤ Japan Culture Club in Pakistan .....	Page-9
➤ Ikebana Activities by the Embassy and the Consulate-General of Japan .....	Page-10
➤ History of Bonsai .....	Page-11

## HISTORY OF IKEBANA

The term Ikebana means giving life to flowers and it is a traditional Japanese art of beautiful floral arrangement. The Japanese started offering flowers to the dead, particularly to Buddha around sixth century when Zen Buddhism was introduced in the country. Initially, monks used to arrange flowers in order to decorate the altars of temples. Later, in the Heian Period (794-1192), floral arrangement became a popular trend in all segments of the Japanese society; however, the commoners adopted the trend as a fashion which was independent of their earlier religious beliefs.



Japanese lifestyle and fashion saw large scale changes during Kamakura period (1192-1233) and people started adopting newer and unique styles of floral decoration. The popularity of decorating flowers grew further amongst between 13th and 15th century and the Tanabata Festival was celebrated every year on the seventh day of the seventh month where the monks and aristocrats contested in flower decoration competitions. Although, Ikebana was strongly established as an art form independent of its religious roots by middle of 15th century, it continued to maintain strong symbolic and philosophical overtones.

As Ikebana became more popular, more schools were established where the people were given the opportunity to learn the art. The initial teachers and students of this art were priests and members of nobility. With the passage of time, different new styles developed and new schools were founded and Ikebana became a famous practice in all segments of the Japanese Society. The oldest Ikebana school (founded in 1462) can be traced back from the time of one very famous priest of the Rokkakudo Temple in Kyoto, who was so skillful in the art of Ikebana that other priests sought him for training. Hundreds of such schools with their own unique styles were founded in Japan in the next few centuries.

These schools have become so famous that now there are over 3000 Ikebana schools working in Japan and similar schools can be found all over the world. Ikenobo, Ohara, Sogetsu and Ichiyo represent some of the most famous styles of Ikebana.

## اکیبانا کی تاریخ

اکیبانا سے مراد پھولوں کو زندگی دینا ہے۔ یہ ایک خوبصورت انداز سے پھولوں کو سجانے کا جاپانی فن ہے۔ چھٹی صدی عیسوی میں جاپان میں بدھ مذہب کی آمد کے بعد سے پھولوں کو سجانے کے فن کا فروغ شروع ہوا۔ شروعات میں بدھ مذہب سے تعلق رکھنے والے راہب نوافات پا جانے والے افراد خصوصاً گوتم بدھ کے لئے پھولوں کو سجا کر انکی نذر کرتے۔ بعد ازاں ہائین کے دور میں (۱۱۹۲-۷۹۴) یہ فن جاپانی معاشرے کے ہر شعبے میں مقبولیت اختیار کر گیا البتہ عام لوگوں نے اس فن کو رجحان کو فیشن کے طور پر اپنایا جس میں مذہبی عقائد اور رسومات کا عمل دخل نہ تھا۔

کاما کورا کے دور حکومت میں (۱۱۹۲-۱۳۳۳) جاپانی طرز زندگی اور فیشن میں بڑے پیمانے پر تبدیلیاں رونما ہوئیں جس سے پھولوں کو سجانے کے نئے طریقے ایجاد ہوئے۔ اکیبانا کی شہرت میں تیرہویں سے پندرہویں صدی کے دوران مزید اضافہ دیکھا گیا۔ یہی وہ دور تھا کہ جب ہر سال ساتویں ماہ کی سات تاریخ کو تانا بانا تہوار منایا جاتا جس میں راہب اور اشرافیہ سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد پھولوں کی سجاوٹ کے مختلف مقابلوں میں شریک ہوتے۔ اگرچہ اس دور تک ایکے بانا بطور فن جاپانی معاشرے میں مضبوطی سے جڑیں پکڑ چکا تھا تاہم اس میں فلسفیانہ علامت کا پہلو بھی خاصی حد تک موجود رہا۔

اکیبانا کی بڑھتی ہوئی مقبولیت کے باعث جاپان میں اس فن کو سکھانے کے کئی مراکز قائم کئے گئے۔ سب سے پہلے بدھ مت راہبوں اور اشرافیہ کے افراد نے یہ فن سیکھنا اور سکھانا شروع کیا۔ بعد میں عام لوگوں نے بھی اس فن کو سیکھنے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی جسکے بعد بہت سے مزید اسکول قائم کئے گئے۔ سب سے پرانا اکیبانا اسکول ۱۴۶۲ میں کیوٹو میں قائم کیا گیا جہاں روکوڈو مندر سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایک مشہور راہب نے دوسرے راہبوں کو یہ فن سکھانا شروع کیا۔ اس اسکول کے بعد سے آگلی چند صدیوں میں جاپان میں ہزاروں نئے اسکول قائم کئے جا چکے ہیں۔

آج جاپان میں اکیبانا کی مقبولیت کا اندازہ اس بات سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے کہ وہاں اس وقت ۳۰۰۰ سے زائد اکیبانا اسکول قائم ہیں جن میں اکینو بو، اوہارا، سوگیتسو، اسچیو اور بانمی شامل ہیں۔



## IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL KARACHI CHAPTER



Ikebana International Karachi Chapter (IIKC) was formed in 1979 under the guidance of Mrs. Matsumura. Our Motto is friendship through flowers. Every first Wednesday of the month, a general meeting is held in which demonstrations, workshops and other activities related to Ikebana and Japanese art e.g. origami, furoshiki, Japanese food etc. with the cooperation of Japan Consulate and Japan Information and Culture Center.

IIKC had teachers and members from three schools of Ikebana Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu. IIKC is an umbrella under which all of them are united.

Last year, we celebrated 35 years of IIKC. We used Jade and coral colors in our arrangements and organized different demonstrations and workshops by teachers of different schools. We also invited masters from different countries together spreading good will and a fine understanding of this art form called Ikebana. Whenever we have organized such big programs, we have received coverage in newspapers, television and social media. Our teachers had given demonstrations on TV channels and have been much appreciated by the masses.

Lastly, Master Christopher Lim visited us from Singapore. He gave demonstration and conducted workshops. They were organized with the cooperation of Consulate General of Japan in Karachi.

Some of our recent activities include a demonstration on Furoshiki was given by Mrs. Junko Ouchi, wife of His Excellency, Mr Akira Ouchi.

Another of our activity was on 2nd September, 2016 at Japan Information and Cultural Centre. It was a demonstration and a workshop on Foliage arrangement. The demonstration was given by a senior member and teacher of Sogetsu School.

In August, we had a talk on how to condition the plant material for use in arrangements by Mrs. Safia Nusrat who is leading Ohara study Group and Ikebana International Karachi Chapter for the year 2015-2017 as an elected President.

Month of June had Mrs. Salma Aziz of Ikenobo School giving a demonstration using orchids, china palm, and sword fern etc. creating beautiful arrangements.

In May, we arranged a related art workshop on Hyper Tufa, a technique on how to create your own flower pot using cement and peat moss.

Ikebana International Karachi Chapter participates in annual flower show organized by Horticulture Society of Karachi. We also participate in all the programs organized by Japan Consulate.

The Japanese Consulate always provides us a helping hand and great encouragement by allowing us to use their premises for our workshops and other activities.

Many a times, the motto of friendship through flower has become sweet fruit.



## IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL KARACHI CHAPTER 204

President:

SAFIA NUSRAT

Established in Year:

1997

## IKENOBO STUDY GROUP

The history of Ikenobo is the history of Ikebana. Ikebana began with Ikenobo over 550 years ago. Since then, many schools of Ikebana have branched off from Ikenobo. Ikenobo is the trunk of the huge tree of Ikebana and said to be the “Origin of Ikebana”. Ikenobo’s history encompasses both the traditional and the creative, with the two continually interacting to encourage new developments in today’s Ikebana.

People in every era have loved flowers, but our predecessors in Ikebana felt that flowers were not only beautiful, but that they could reflect the passing of time and the feelings in their own hearts. When we sense plants’ unspoken words and silent movements we intensify our impressions through form, a form which becomes Ikebana.

Like a poem or painting made with flowers, Ikenobo’s Ikebana expresses both the beauty of flowers and the beauty of longing in our own hearts. Ikenobo’s spirit has spread not only in Japan but throughout the world. It is our deepest hope that the beauty of Ikenobo will increasingly serve as a way of drawing the world’s people together.

In Pakistan, the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi used to hold Ikebana classes since 1970s for beginners. But many Ikebana lovers wanted to study Ikebana more and requested the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi to invite qualified masters of Ikebana who could conduct post beginners classes of Ikebana. To respond the increasing enthusiasm and affection the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi sent the request to the Japan Foundation for despatching an Ikebana master on a long-term basis for imparting advanced knowledge and techniques to local students and fostering the highly qualified teachers of Ikebana in Pakistan. The Japan Foundation was kind enough to send two Masters of Ikenobo to Karachi in 1991 and 1992.

Pursuing incessant passion towards Ikebana and taking advantages of these splendid gifts from the Japan Foundation, Ikebana lovers in Karachi established the Ikenobo Study Group, Karachi for pursuing the art of Ikenobo Ikebana in 1992.



Ikenobo Study Group, Karachi is purely an educational organization which has been holding weekly Ikebana classes continuously since then. The head teacher of the Ikenobo Study Group in Karachi is Senior Professor Asifa Ataka who has got training of Ikebana several times at the Headquarters of Ikenobo, Kyoto, Japan and is the most qualified Ikebana master in Pakistan. She was awarded diploma “華督(Katoku)” from the Headmaster of Ikenobo Ikebana which is the 3rd highest rank of Ikenobo among 18 ranks. She has also been awarded the floral title “緑映(Ryokuei)” from Ikenobo Headquarters. She conducts Ikebana classes/ workshops and conducts Ikebana demonstrations in Lahore/ Islamabad/ Faisalabad every year for Embassy of Japan in Pakistan.



Besides regular classes the Ikenobo Study Group, Karachi holds Ikebana exhibitions and demonstrations from time to time and participates in the Karachi Flower Show organized by the Horticultural Society of Pakistan.

The members of Ikenobo Study Group, Karachi are awarded diploma of Ikebana directly from the Headquarters of Ikenobo, Kyoto, Japan. Several members have also gone to the Headquarters of Ikenobo to learn Ikebana.

Ikebana is a great way for people to appreciate nature and project harmony. The practice of this great floral art is all the more important in today’s world in building tolerance and promoting peace.

## IKENOBO STUDY GROUP KARACHI

President:	ASIFA ATAKA
Established in Year:	1992



### OHARA STUDY GROUP

Ikebana means keep alive and Hana means flower so it is giving life to flowers.

Ohara school of Ikebana is one of the three big schools of Ikebana.

We are lucky in Pakistan Ohara Ikebana started on regular bases from 1980 at Consulate General of Japan.

Unshin Ohara, had developed the Moribana style which featured natural landscapes in low wide containers. Today Moribana is a popular style one taught by all schools of Ikebana. Moribana style was and is loved by the public as it allowed arrangers more freedom for creative expression Ohara School flourished and eventually become one of the famous school of Ikebana.



Safia Nusrat is first Pakistani who started teaching Ikebana from 1980 at Japan consulate, after completing her instructor course from Japan. She had done intensive training during her more than a year stay in Japan.

Safia was instructor for the regular classes conducted by Japan Consulate, Japan cultural Centre, and demonstrated in different schools, collages, and clubs of Karachi, Hyderabad and Quetta for consulate general of Japan. Participated in different plant festivals and chrysanthemum shows by putting stalls under the banner of Japan Cultural Centre.

Ohara study group is a platform for the students to continue further study of Ohara Ikebana. We are having classes once a week where curriculum from headquarter is followed. We give instructor certificate to our students issued from head quarter of Japan.

We participate in different flower shows where our members make beautiful arrangements highly appreciated by the visitors. We also participated in flower show of Karachi University where large number of young generation also get knowledge of this beautiful art of Japan.

I have a great honor to introduce Ikebana to Japanese children studying in Japanese school in Karachi.

Ohara study group use to be part of Emperor Birthday reception by exhibiting arrangements at the venue.

We also participate in the programs organized for promotion of Japanese culture i.e. Japan fest, Dekho Japan jointly organized by PC hotel and Japan consulate.



Ikebana does not require expensive flowers or great number of flowers. We can make beautiful Ikebana arrangement by using ordinary flowers branches and leaves. Ikebana had deep philosophy and long traditions. Ikebana gives a mental peace when we communicate with flowers.

If you want to learn this beautiful art please join Ohara Study Group.

### OHARA STUDY GROUP

President:	SAFIA NUSRAT
Established in Year:	2005

## SOGETSU STUDY GROUP

Sogetsu School is considered as the most modern school in Ikebana.

Sogetsu School features the idea that the flower arrangement can be made with anything, by anyone, anywhere and at any time; the design, however, has to be innovative and refreshing.

It is considered that the inclusion of various natural and man-made materials, to go along with flowers, creates a delightful impact on the spectator.

Nafisa Tapal formed Sogetsu Study Group in Karachi, Pakistan, to create awareness in the city regarding the modus operandi of this school.



The Study Group conducts regular classes at the Japanese Cultural Centre every week. For professional ladies these classes are held at the residence of various teachers. Classes are also held for students at assorted institutional levels of study, i.e. from nursery schools right up to college. The Teachers also give demonstrations and workshops to different communities and organizations.

These classes are designed to take the students from the basics designs to the teacher's rank. Nafisa, after creating these teachers, instruct them to share their art and encourage more people to understand, appreciate and create.



The Study Group also participates in major events held in the city.

We have our stall displaying work of the teachers and students. The demonstration and workshops, introducing modern techniques to incorporate in their design, are also held at these occasions.

Our stand at the Annual Horticulture Show is highly appreciated by the public.

We also showcase our work in the form of installations and shows at a variety of shopping malls introducing Ikebana to general public.

The indigent people of the populace are also in our inputs. Various demonstrations are held at the hospitals and under privileged schools teaching this art of peace and tranquility.

Our members take an active interest in the indigenous plants of the city. Their knowledge of horticulture and the conservation of natural material have been enhanced and they take this information back to teach others as well, to be environment friendly.



We have also taken this art to other cities of Pakistan. The masses there found the style of Sogetsu's arrangement very thrilling.

Our Study Group would like to thank Japan Consulate and Cultural Centre for the support and patronization in helping us spread this art. Without their support it would not have been possible for the Study Group to reach this place. Mr. Tosa and the other staff at the Cultural Centre have been of great assistance.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Akira Ouchi, the Consul General of Japan in Karachi and Mrs. Junko Ouchi for their continued support. The members are, in particular, appreciative of Madam for sharing her knowledge of various Japanese arts. We, the members of Sogetsu Study Group, shall always stand with the Consulate in the promotion of this art at all occasions.

Our passion is our commitment.

## SOGETSU STUDY GROUP

President:	NAFISA TAPAL
Established in Year:	2011

### MY FASCINATION WITH IKEBANA ABIDES

In May 1963, I went to Japan for higher studies and alighted at the Tokyo's Haneda Airport. The present Narita Airport was to be constructed many years later, after my return home in fact. As I got out of the arrival lounge, right in front of me I saw a large decorative flower arrangement. The flowers certainly were either made of glass or of plastic, I am not quite sure which, but the arrangement was very pleasing to the eye.

In a day or two, my Japanese language studies commenced at the University of Chiba. Soon some of us foreign students developed interest in other aspects of the Japanese culture such as its history, music, customs, and festivals. We came to know that the Japanese girls of marriageable age are expected to learn the art of flower arrangement too, besides the traditional training in cooking, cleaning and sewing, etc. Vases containing beautiful arrangements are ubiquitous in Japanese homes and even in offices. My personal interest, bordering on intense passion, was more in the viewing of the flowering cherry trees than in other things. I had never seen, or even imagined, such profusion of natural beauty as one witnesses in and around Tokyo in late march and in April. It was an unearthly sight. Tens of thousands of cherry trees laden with millions of flowers blossoming all over Japan was an unforgettable sight. Decades later, I still feel over-awed by the memories of that spectacle.

In the autumn of 1965, I joined the University of Tokyo and started living in the Foreign Students' Hostel at Komaba. A few times a year, the hostel administration used to arrange evening lectures by experts on the Japanese language and various aspects of the Japanese culture, which included the country's history, traditions, and festivals. In the summer of 1966, two 4-weeks' duration courses--one on flower arrangement and the other on sumi-e paintings--were started. The participants of the flower arrangement course were mostly girls, except three or four boys from Singapore and Vietnam, so I chose to learn sumi-e painting. But we often used to amble over to the Ikebana class to look at what the girls had created with the flowers. Mostly I found their creations beautiful and delightful to the eyes.

After returning home, the next 35 years passed away in earning a living and raising a family, but in all these years my interest in the Japanese culture did not wane. I collected a fairly large number of books about Japan and its culture, including two or three books on flower arrangement.

When some years back, The Embassy of Japan invited a gracious and accomplished Indian lady to come and conduct a four day training course on Ikebana in Islamabad, I readily joined. In fact, I was an only male participant among perhaps thirty young ladies. I found the experience not overly hard. After the end of the course, our arrangements were exhibited at Islamabad's National Arts Gallery, and each one of us was awarded a beautiful certificate of participation.



Leading a retired life, I have more time now to indulge in my passion for horticulture. My wife makes a flower arrangement for our TV lounge after every three or four days.

I cultivate the flowers.

My wife makes the flower arrangements.

The whole family enjoys the beauty of her creations.

**(By: Sultan Sikandar Khan, Former President MAAP)**





Pakistan Bonsai Society was established in 1998 after an advertisement posted in Dawn Newspaper, for people interested in Bonsai to make contact. Dr. Shaukat Ali Syed was the 1st president of Pakistan Bonsai Society. He started making Bonsai in 1959. We owe a lot to him Dr. Sahab was the glue that kept us together. Because of his guidance, kindness and inspiration PBS gained tremendous achievement and recognition.

In 2004, Pakistan Bonsai Center was inaugurated by Core Commander Karachi Lt. Gen. Tariq Waseem Ghazi. The center is situated at ZamZama Park DHA. Exhibitions, Seminars, Workshops and meetings are regularly held at the center. Pakistan Bonsai Center was constructed and is maintained by Defense Housing Authority Karachi. PBS acknowledges and is thankful for the kind support and encouragement provided by DHA.

Pakistan Bonsai Society has also been collaborating and participating in the Japanese Consulate events. Counsel General of Japan Mr. Akira Ouchi along with his wife were the guest of honor at Pakistan Bonsai Society Exhibition held in the month of August 2015.



Pakistan Bonsai Society is a non-profit entity. Our main aim is spread of Bonsai Art form throughout Pakistan. Everyone is welcomed to join our workshop, demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions. All these events are free of charge. We have 200 plus members however, active members are much less. Majority of our members have bonsai's developed from locally available plants.



It is always advisable to select plant species for making bonsai which are local to the region. Plant material imported from other countries has less chance of survival as a bonsai. For beginners it is recommended to start making bonsai from different variety of ficuses, henna, manila tamarind, clerodendron and tamarind etc. etc. as these plants do not show signs of stress in confined bonsai pots.

Current president of Pakistan Bonsai Society is Khawaja Muhammad Mazhar. He has been associated with this art form since 1983. He has more than 100 bonsai in his collection. The oldest one being 45 years old.



## PAKISTAN BONSAI SOCIETY

President: KHAWAJA MUHAMMAD MAZHAR  
Established in Year: 1998



## JAPAN CULTURE CLUB (A fan club Japanese Culture)

Culture, alongside politics and the economy, is an important field within the diplomacy of Japan, and its role has become more and more important in recent years. Since the conclusion of Cultural Agreement between Japan and Pakistan in 1957, which is a basic instrument to broaden and deepen cultural relationships, the exchanges in culture, sports, youth and education have steadily increased, through the ways of demonstrations, public performances, exhibitions and human exchanges etc.



Mochi-tsuki: Japanese rice cake making event was organized for the members of Japan Culture Club in Islamabad to welcome the new year in 2015

The impact of public opinion on diplomatic policy has been increasing due to the dramatic development of the Internet and mass media. For this reason, in order to promote diplomatic policy successfully it is critical to attain the understanding of not only foreign governments but also foreign nationals. In particular, as an important part of diplomatic policy, countries are investing significant efforts in ensuring that people in other countries see them in a positive light.

The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan takes a direct approach towards people of Pakistan, so as to foster favorable and deep understanding of Japan's culture and its policies. From this point of view, the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan and the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi are proactively furthering a variety of initiatives including exchange and cooperation within the cultural field as well as to involve more Pakistani people to know about Japanese culture, especially those who do not have access to participate physically in Japanese cultural activities organized in Pakistan. Aiming to target such people the idea of "Japan Culture Club" was launched. The Japan Culture Club received a very good response and today more than 300 Pakistanis are the members of this fan club and this number is increasing day by day. We share information about Japan with these members frequently by e-mail, social media and by sending printed material. Many of these members are also invited to attend Japanese cultural activities held in their respective cities from time to time. You can also be a member of this club. Please join by signing up on Embassy's website.

Please like "Japan Culture Club" on facebook and we will be pleased to have your feedback on facebook wall or through email at: culture@ib.mofa.go.jp

For signing up to Japan Culture Club, please visit the following URL:

<http://www.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/Culture/form.html>

## جاپان کلچر کلب

(جاپانی ثقافت کے مداحوں کا ایک کلب)

جاپانی سفارتکاری کی پالیسی میں سیاسی اور اقتصادی سفارتکاری کے ساتھ ساتھ ثقافتی سفارتکاری بھی اس کا ایک اہم حصہ ہے اور عصر حاضر میں اس کی اہمیت اور ضرورت ماضی سے کہیں زیادہ بڑھ گئی ہے۔ 1957ء میں جاپان اور پاکستان کے مابین ثقافتی معاہدہ ہوا۔ یہ معاہدہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان ایک اہم دستاویز ہے جس پر عمل پیرا ہونے سے وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان ثقافتی تعلقات مزید مضبوط ہو رہے ہیں۔ ثقافتی وفد اور نوجوانوں کے تبادلے، کھیل اور تعلیم کے شعبوں نے موثر کردار ادا کر کے عوامی سطح پر موجود ثقافتی تعلقات کے فروغ میں بڑا اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

انٹرنیٹ، جدید الیکٹرانک اور سوشل میڈیا نے رائے عامہ کی اہمیت کو اور بڑھا دیا ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ خارجہ پالیسی کی کامیابی کا انحصار حکومتی سفارتکاری کے ساتھ ساتھ عوامی سفارتکاری پر بھی ہے اور دنیا کے بیشتر ممالک رائے عامہ کو ہموار کرنے کے لئے نئے نئے طریقے استعمال کرتے ہیں تاکہ دنیا کا ایک عام شخص بھی اُن ممالک کے بین الاقوامی مثبت کردار کا معترف ہو۔

پاکستان میں جاپان کا سفارتخانہ بھی پاکستانی عوام کے ساتھ براہ راست رابطہ استوار کرنے کو ترجیح دیتا ہے تاکہ ایک عام پاکستانی بھی جاپان کی صدیوں پر محیط ثقافت کی رنگارنگی اور اس کی پالیسیوں کے بارے میں آگاہی حاصل کر سکے۔ اسی نقطہ نظر کے تحت پاکستان میں جاپان کے سفارتخانہ اور کراچی میں جاپانی کنصلیٹ جنرل بھرپور انداز سے ثقافتی اور تعلیمی میدان میں متعدد پروگرام متعارف کرا کر پاکستانی عوام کو بھرپور آگاہی فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ یہاں اس امر کی ضرورت محسوس کی گئی کہ جو لوگ پاکستان کے دور دراز علاقوں میں رہنے کی وجہ سے جاپان کی ثقافتی سرگرمیوں میں بذات خود حصہ نہیں لے سکتے انہیں بھی اس طرح کی معلومات پہنچانے کا کوئی انتظام کیا جائے۔ لہذا اس طرح کے لوگوں کے لئے بالخصوص اور باقی تمام پاکستانیوں کے لئے بالعموم حال ہی میں جاپان کلچر کلب کی داغ بیل ڈالی گئی۔ جاپان کلچر کلب نے بہت قلیل عرصے میں بہت مقبولیت حاصل کی اور اب تک تین سو سے زائد پاکستانی اس کلب کے ممبر بن چکے ہیں اور اس تعداد میں روز بروز اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ پاکستان میں جاپان کے سفارتخانہ اور کراچی میں جاپانی کنصلیٹ جنرل ان ممبران کے ساتھ بذریعہ ڈاک، ای میل اور فیس بک صفحے پر مسلسل رابطے میں رہتے ہیں اور جاپانی ثقافت اور تعلیم کے بارے میں مفید معلومات فراہم کرتے رہتے ہیں۔ ان ممبران کو اُن کے شہر میں ہونے والی جاپانی ثقافتی تقریبات میں بھی مدعو کیا جاتا ہے اور یوں پاکستان میں ایک جاپانی ثقافت کے مداحوں کا کلبہ وجود میں آ گیا ہے۔

اگر آپ اس کلب کے فرزند ہیں اور چاہتے ہیں کہ آپ بھی اس کلچر کلب کے ممبر بنیں تو بس جاپانی سفارتخانے کی ویب سائٹ پر ممبر کا فارم بھریں اور بھیج دیں۔ آپ فیس بک کے صفحے پر یا بذریعہ ای میل اپنی قیمتی رائے بھیج سکتے ہیں۔ شکریہ

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## IKEBANA ACTIVITIES BY THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN



Mrs. Hameeda Waheeduddin, Provincial Minister for women development is seeing exhibition of Ikebana by the student of Ikebana workshop held at Lahore



Participants of Ikebana International Karachi Chapter learning the techniques of Ikebana from the Ikebana expert at Japan Information



Students of Ikebana workshop are showing their skill after learning the art of Ikebana at a workshop held at Lahore



President of Ohara Study Group giving demonstration at Japan Information and Culture Centre, Consulate General of Japan in Karachi



Students of Ikebana workshop are showing their skill after learning the art of Ikebana at a workshop held at Lahore



Students of Sogetsu Study Group making arrangement during the Sogetsu demonstration at Japan Information and Culture Centre, Consulate General of Japan in Karachi



Students of Faisalabad Institute of Textile and Fashion Design are learning the art of Ikebana at a workshop held at Faisalabad



President of Ikenobo Study Group giving demonstration at a workshop



## HISTORY OF BONSAI

The word "Bonsai" is a Japanese term, which means "tray gardening". The primary objective of growing a Bonsai is to attractively represent nature in a miniaturized form. The actual beginning of Bonsai in Japan is debatable but many scholars are of the view that the art form began with the introduction of Zen Buddhism to Japan during Heian period (792-1192). Initially, monks and members of nobility started learning and spreading the art. However, it was not until the Kamakura period (1192-1333) when the art of Bonsai spread rapidly and the Japanese elite brought Bonsai trees indoors. The commoners started taking keen interest in Bonsai and it became a popular trend in all segments of the Japanese society by fifteenth century.

During Tokogawa Shogunate's period (1603-1868), Japanese started collecting Yamadori (naturally dwarfed trees) from mountains and these trees were pruned so artistically that only the most important parts were left without reducing the actual size of the tree. The Japanese started using bamboos and wires for cultivating Bonsai trees from the early part of 17th century and beginning of 18th century. This period is considered to be the start of the spread of modern Bonsai.



Commercial activities at the time of Meiji's restoration (1868) were at their peak. Professionals started collecting trees from mountains for commercial purposes and the production of Bonsai trees increased significantly. As the art became popular, demand of Bonsai experts increased further. At the end of 17th century, the Japanese started arranging different Bonsai Exhibitions and competitions. Later on, the Japanese introduced this art form to the outside world and similar activities were held in some of the world's most famous cities.

The Japanese Bonsai experts paid visits to different countries including United States after Second World War to spread awareness about Bonsai and to teach locals the art of Bonsai. Similarly, large number of people went to Japan from many different countries to learn the art. Today, Bonsai connects Japan to the outside world as cultural bridge and represent beautiful Japanese traditions. It has also played a very important role in establishing and strengthening relations between Japan and international community.

## بونسائی کی تاریخ

بونسائی بنیادی طور پر ایک جاپانی لفظ ہے جس سے مراد گلوں میں اگائے ہوئے اپنے قدرتی قد سے بہت چھوٹے پودے ہیں۔ بونسائی درخت اگانے کا بنیادی مقصد قدرت کی خوبصورتی کو مختصر اور محدود جگہ میں پیش کرنا ہے۔ جاپان میں ہائین کے دور میں (۱۱۹۲-۷۹۴) میں بدھ مذہب کی پرچار کے ساتھ اس فن کا پھیلاؤ ممکن ہوا۔ اکیبانا کی طرح بونسائی کے فن سے بھی ابتدا میں بدھ مت راہب اور اشرافیہ کے افراد منسلک تھے۔ بعد ازاں یہ فن جاپانی معاشرے کے تمام ہی طبقات میں یکساں مقبولیت اختیار کر گیا۔

ٹوکوغاوا شوگوناتے کے دور میں (۱۸۶۸-۱۶۰۳) جاپانیوں نے پہاڑوں سے حاصل کئے جانے والے یا ماڈوری (قدرتی بونے درخت) جمع کرنے شروع کئے جنہیں گلوں میں اگایا جاتا۔ بودی میں ان درختوں کو باغات میں بانس اور ڈوری کی مدد سے بھی کاشت کیا گیا۔ سترہویں صدی کے آخر اور اٹھارہویں صدی کے آغاز میں بونسائی کے فن میں تاروں کا استعمال بھی کیا جانے لگا۔ یہ پورا دور بونسائی کے فن میں جدیدیت کا دور تصور کیا جاتا ہے۔

میجی حکومت کی بحالی (۱۸۶۸-۱۶۰۳) سے بیسویں صدی کو اوائل کا زمانہ تجارتی سرگرمیوں سے بھرپور تھا۔ اس دور میں بونسائی درختوں کی بڑے پیمانے پر کاشت کی گئی اور پیشہ ورانہ افراد نے تجارت کی غرض سے درختوں کو پہاڑوں سے جمع کرنا شروع کیا۔ سترہویں صدی کے آخر میں جاپان میں بونسائی کی نمائش اور کئی مقابلے منعقد کرائے گئے۔ اسی قسم کی تقریبات بعد ازاں دنیا کے کئی بڑے شہروں میں رونما ہوئیں۔ بونسائی کی بڑھتی ہوئی مقبولیت سے اس فن کے ماہرین کی مانگ میں بھی اضافہ ہوا۔

دوسری عالمی جنگ کے بعد جاپانیوں نے بونسائی فن کو بیروان دنیا میں پھیلا نا شروع کیا۔ دنیا کے کئی ممالک بشمول امریکہ سے لوگوں نے بونسائی فن سیکھنے کی غرض سے جاپان کا رخ کیا۔ اسی طرح جاپان سے بونسائی ماہرین نے دنیا کے مختلف ممالک کے دورے کئے تاکہ پھولوں کی سجاوٹ کے اس خوبصورت فن کو وسعت دی جا سکے۔

بونسائی آج تمام کورۂ ارض پر جاپانی ثقافت اور رسومات کی نمائندگی کرتا ہے۔ یہ فن طویل عرصے سے جاپان اور بین الاقوامی برادری کے تعلقات بڑھانے میں نہایت اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔



# جپان

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



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

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