

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi,
Consul-General of Japan in Karachi,
at the Certificate Awarding Ceremony for Japanese Language Course Students
on Wednesday, September 25, 2013**

Honorable Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association,
Respected teachers of Japanese Language Course, Mr. Shigeyuki Ataka/
Mr. Muhammad Ilyas/Ms. Fatima Zia/Ms. Rameesa Aqeel,
Dear Japanese Language Course students,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

みなさん、こんばんは。

Assalam Alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to attend this Certificate Award Ceremony for Japanese Language Course students this evening. I would like to congratulate the students of Japanese Language Course for successfully completing their respective courses through their efforts and hard-working.

Since I arrived in Karachi, through various events which we organized at the Japan Information and Culture Center, such as the Japanese Language Speech Contest, I had opportunities to see the students of Japanese Language Course diligently and enthusiastically studying Japanese. I feel very much encouraged and feel delighted to see so many young people like you, are interested and studying hard to acquire the Japanese language. It is my sincere hope that you will continue to further brush up your Japanese language skills.

Acquiring language is not an easy task and requires patience. The key to acquiring Japanese is to get exposed to Japanese in your daily life. Although your courses have finished, I strongly expect that you will continue to study Japanese. I would like to reiterate that to learn a foreign language is the best way to learn about the culture and society of the country, and I hope that by learning the Japanese language, you will be able to deepen knowledge about Japanese traditional and contemporary culture, lifestyle and way of thinking, and thus Japan become much more closer to you. I truly hope that you will continue your keen interest in knowing more about our culture, so that you can be a bridge between Japanese and Pakistani cultures.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Sadia Rashid, the President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, which jointly conducts the Japanese Language Course with the Consulate-General of Japan. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Japanese Language Course teachers Mr. Ataka, Mr. Ilyas, Ms. Fatima and Ms. Rameesah for their tireless dedication in successfully running the courses. Since 1972, over 4,700 Pakistani students completed the courses.

I would like to conclude my speech in wishing you all the best for the second term of Japanese Language Course which will commence from October.

Bahot Shukria.