

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi,
Consul-General of Japan in Karachi,
Orientation for the JENESYS Participants
On Friday, February 7th, 2014**

Dear JENESYS Participants and Supervisors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon and Assalam Alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the orientation for the JENESYS participants. JENESYS, which stands for “Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths”, is a project launched by the Government of Japan from the standpoint of providing a sound foundation for strong solidarity within Asia, as well as developing friendly relations by promoting mutual understanding through youth exchange activities. Its first phase was implemented from 2007 to 2012 and the Government of Japan invited 45,000 youths from Asian and Oceanian regions to Japan, including Pakistan. With its great success, the Government of Japan has decided to continue this youth exchange program, as the second phase called, “JENESYS 2.0”.

The launch of “JENESYS 2.0” was announced by our Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on January 18, 2013, during his visit to Indonesia. The program aims to provide opportunities for about 30, 000 youths from the Asian and Oceanian regions, including Pakistan, to participate in 1 or 2 weeks program in Japan. They visit Japanese corporations, historical sites and provincial areas of Japan to deepen their understanding on Japan.

As the first batch of this year’s “JENESYS 2.0”, the total of 72 participants including 5 supervisors and 67 High School and University Students from Islamabad, Karachi and Quetta are going to visit Japan for 10 days from tomorrow. I am sure that all of you who are participating in this program this year will have a good experience and deepen your understanding on Japan.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you all, especially Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh for their cooperation in implementing JENESYS programs in Pakistan.

Lastly, I hope all of you; the participants to JENESYS will make friends with Japanese youths and get to know more about Japan, thereby promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Pakistan.

Thank you very much. Bahot Shukria.

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