

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi,
Consul-General of Japan in Karachi,
on the occasion of the Gathering and Reception for the JENESYS Participants
On Wednesday, August 21st, 2013**

Honorable Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, and Chancellor of Hamdard University,

Honorable Professor Asifa Ataka, President of Ikenobo Study Group, and JENESYS Supervisor,

Dear JENESYS Participants,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the gathering and reception for the JENESYS participants this evening. 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 invited 45,000 youths from Asian and Oceanian regions, including Pakistan. With its great success, the Government of Japan has decided to continue this youth exchange program, as the second phase, “JENESYS 2.0”.

The launch of “JENESYS 2.0” was announced by our Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on January 18, this year, during his visit to Indonesia. The program aims to further invigorate youth exchanges between Japan and countries from the Asian and Oceanian regions, including Pakistan. “JENESYS 2.0” is a program to give High school or University students opportunities to participate in 1 or 2 weeks program in Japan, to visit the Japanese corporations and to experience cutting edge high technologies and products “Made in Japan”, to visit provincial areas of Japan to deepen understanding of Japan’s rich local cultures, attractions and values through home stay or home visits, and to engage in firsthand experiences on “Japan Brand” by visiting historical architectures, World Heritage sites, exhibitions promoting high-tech products in Japan.

Under “JENESYS 2.0”, the Government of Japan aims to provide opportunities to approximately 30,000 youths from the Asian and Oceanian regions to participate in related youth exchange programs. “JENESYS 2.0” participants Ms. Irza Navaid and Mr. Hasan Ali Mirza will share with us their personal experiences about their visits to Japan later on.

As for the first batch of “JENESYS 2.0”, 76 participants from Pakistan including 4 supervisors have visited Japan in May and June this year. A total of 575 youths from SAARC member states visited Japan on the first batch of this program. With a view to further enhancing mutual understanding between Pakistani and Japanese youths and continuing the momentum of people to people exchanges, I am pleased to announce that under the second batch of “JENESYS 2.0”, the Government of Japan is planning to invite approximately 620 youths from SAARC member states to Japan around December 2013 to March 2014.

Youths bear an important responsibility toward the next generation. Thus it is my sincere hope that through various youth exchange programs, including “JENESYS 2.0”, youths of Pakistan and Japan will foster and strengthen friendship from their firsthand experiences and take an important role in consolidating our future-oriented bilateral relationship. I strongly expect that by participating in such exchange programs, you will broaden your perspectives and deepen your understanding on Japan, its culture and its people.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you all, especially the teachers of the Japanese Language Courses, chancellors and vice-chancellors of Hamdard University, University of Karachi and University of Sindh, as well as members of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association for their cooperation in implementing JENESYS programs.

Lastly, I hope all of you, the participants to JENESYS and other related youth exchange programs will build a strong network among yourselves so that you could have exchange of information and further promote understanding of Japan in Pakistan.

Thank you very much.

Bahot Shukria.

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