

Remarks by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul General of Japan
at the Farewell Reception on March 9, 2016

Excellencies, distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum!

At the outset, before I make remarks on my farewell, I would like to mention that day-after-tomorrow will be the 5th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake which occurred on March 11, 2011. The tsunami caused by the earthquake claimed nearly 20,000 lives in Tohoku Region of Japan. I would now like to ask you to join me in offering one minute silent prayer for the victims.

(One minute silence)

Thank you very much.

I would like to express once again our sincere appreciation to the world and Pakistan in particular for the warm support and assistance extended to Japan after the disaster. Let me report to you that the steady progress has been successfully made in post-earthquake reconstruction of Tohoku region and Japan is now revitalized.

Now I would like to start the Farewell Ceremony.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the farewell reception of my wife and myself this evening. We would like to express our sincere thanks to you all for the support and cooperation extended to us during my tenure in Karachi. We arrived in Karachi on November 8, 2012 and my tenure in Karachi was 3 years and 4 months. Looking back the past, when I arrived in Karachi, the law and order was still in the difficult situation. But now I see the much better security situation in Karachi. This is a good sign and important element for attracting new investment from foreign countries including Japan.

On November 10 last year, the economic mission from Japan came to Pakistan. And the members of the mission expressed the security situation is much better than they thought in Japan. This means that we could expect further progress of economic relations between Japan and Pakistan.

During my tenure, I did my best in my capacity to promote economic, cultural and people-to-people exchange between Japan and Pakistan. In the area of economic cooperation, I signed 10 grant contracts for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). And in the area of cultural exchange and people-to-people exchange, I delivered 21 lectures and hosted more than 60 events. I made official visits to local cities about 15 times, including Hyderabad 5 times, Quetta 3 times and Sukkur twice. I always felt friendly feeling and strong interest towards Japan from the people of Pakistan in every place I visited.

Today, we have the representatives from two important organizations related to Japan with us: Mr. Soheil Ahmed, Chairman of Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJBF) and Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Sindh (PJCA). PJBF is the organization to promote economic and business relations and PJCA is the organization to promote cultural exchange between Japan and Pakistan. Today, I am honored to confer the certificates of commendation from myself to the two organizations. PJBF has a history of 15 years since its establishment in February 2001 and PJCA has a history of 14 years since its establishment in August 2002.

I am very happy to confer these certificates of commendations for the great achievements made by the two organizations in the past years for the promotion of friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan.

In concluding my remarks, I wish the cordial and friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan will be further strengthened in the coming years.

Thank you very much!
Bahot Shukriya.