

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi
On the occasion of Inauguration Ceremony for “Japanese Film Festival”
On Wednesday, March 18, 2015

At University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta

Honorable Engr. Ahmed Farooq Bazai, Vice-Chancellor of University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS),
Honorable Syed Nadeem Alam Shah, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Quetta,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to inaugurate the “Japanese Film Festival” in Quetta today. I am very delighted to see so many of you have come to see the Japanese film on this occasion.

This Film Festival, co-organized by the Consulate-General of Japan and Pakistan-Japan Friendship Society, Balochistan will be held from today, and four Japanese films, of different genre, such as animation, comedy and drama will be screened. Through this Film Festival, I hope that the audience will be able to discover various aspects of Japanese culture, and that the people in Quetta will learn more about Japan and also feel much closer to Japan.

Today, we will show “*Castle in the Sky*”, which is one of the most popular films by Mr. Hayao Miyazaki, the world-renowned Japanese animation director. On November 8, 2014, Mr. Miyazaki received an Academy Honorary Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his significant contributions to the motion picture industry. Mr. Miyazaki is the second Japanese to win the Award, after Mr. Akira Kurosawa in 1990. It is worth noting that the screening of “*Castle in the Sky*” marked the first ever screening of Mr. Miyazaki’s film in Pakistan when it was shown in Karachi last November. It will be the second time in Pakistan to show the film, here in Quetta today.

I would like to reiterate that the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi will continue to work with Pakistan-Japan Friendship Society, Balochistan in order to conduct various cultural activities to bring the peoples of Balochistan and Japan even closer; thereby further promoting mutual understanding and strengthening the friendly relationship between Japan and Pakistan.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to BUITEMS for kindly providing the venue for the Film Festival.

Bahot Shukria.

[End]