

**Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul General of Japan at Karachi
on the occasion of the Inaugural Ceremony of the Japanese
Calendar Exhibition 2013, on 21st January, 2013**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to the inauguration of the Japanese calendar exhibition 2013. This year we have around 100 Japanese calendars on display. We have received them from various companies and organizations in Japan. We have divided the calendars into different categories such as art, landscape, ikebana, architecture and so on. We have introduced to you various aspects of Japan through our cultural programs and I believe that this annual Japanese calendar exhibition brings you even closer to Japan.

Japan is a land of unique mixture of the contemporary and the traditional and the beautiful natural scenery and landscapes. These calendars reflect many aspects of Japan. Some depict the modern and convenient lifestyle of the Japanese with pictures of skyscrapers, high-speed bullet trains and an array of hi-tech electronic items, while other calendars portray the traditional Japanese arts of Ikebana or the tea ceremony, as a reminder of the rich cultural heritage of Japan.

Apart from being technologically advanced and culturally attractive, Japan is also a land endowed with natural beauty. Japan has four distinct seasons and its scenic beauties created by the climate and the landscape truly fascinate us. The calendars on display here today will give you a chance to see these splendors of Japan.

I hope you will discover Japan again through these calendars.

Thank you.