

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan at Karachi
on the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of the
“Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2014”, on January 20, 2014

Her Excellency Sharmila Farooqui, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh and the Minister for Culture,
Mr. Pervez Iqbal, Acting President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association Sindh,
Mr. Syed Jamil Hussain, Vice Chairman of Pakistan Japan Business Forum,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this inauguration ceremony of the “*Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2014*” today. The Japanese Calendar Exhibition has been held every year at the Japan Information and Culture Center and this year we have around 150 Japanese calendars on display featuring various highlights of Japanese traditional and modern culture, historical sites, landscape, architecture, etc.

Japan is a land of unique mixture of traditional and modern culture and the beautiful natural landscape. We have distinct four seasons in Japan and each season has strong influence on Japanese culture and spirituality and they are often taken up as a motif in the Japanese calendars. I hope the people in Karachi will appreciate such natural beauty and fascinating diversity of Japan through these calendars. I would like to add that Japanese calendars also represent the sophisticated quality of Japanese printing technology, and I hope you will also enjoy that aspects of the calendars on display.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the four *ikebana* (Japanese art of flower arrangement) groups, namely Ikebana International Karachi Chapter, Ikenobo Study Group, Ohara Study Group and Sogetsu Study Group for their kind cooperation in showcasing their exquisite and unique flower arrangement inside the Exhibition Hall and the hallway.

I hope you will discover Japan again through these calendars.

Thank you and bahot shukriya.

(End)