

Speech by Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi
on the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of the “*Japanese Dolls Exhibition*”
on March 2, 2015

Her Excellency Sharmila Farooqui, Minister for Culture and Tourism, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh,
Mr. Pervez Iqbal, Vice President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam alaikum.

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to this inauguration ceremony of the “*Japanese Dolls Exhibition*” today. In this Exhibition, more than 80 dolls are displayed to introduce fine examples of a variety of dolls in Japan. Japanese dolls are the reflection of traditional art and culture of Japan. They also express the customs and life-style nurtured in the long history of Japan.

Japan enjoys a rich culture of dolls. Each doll has its own distinct meaning and purpose, and is deeply connected to daily life. Old Japanese traditions such as *Hina Matsuri* (Girls’ Festival), which we celebrate on March 3 (that is tomorrow); have fostered this unique culture of dolls. This traditional appreciation for dolls has resulted in the belief that dolls are not only children’s toys but also sophisticated works of art to be displayed and admired. Furthermore, familiar themes from Noh and Kabuki drama have been incorporated into the culture of dolls, thus creating unlimited styles.

Even in these modern times, craftsmen using time-honored methods create traditional Japanese dolls that are admired by many people. Many new artists have emerged and are crafting various kinds of unique Japanese dolls even today.

I hope you will enjoy the beauty of these dolls and appreciate the variety of Japanese culture through the dolls and discover Japan again.

Thank you and bohat shukriya.

(End)