

Press Release

“Japanese Dolls Exhibition” inaugurated in Karachi

On March 2, 2015, “Japanese Dolls Exhibition” titled “*Dolls of Japan- Shapes of prayer, Embodiments of Love*” was inaugurated at the Japan Information and Culture Center of the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi with the attendance of Her Excellency Ms. Sharmila Farooqui, Minister for Culture and Tourism, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh as Chief Guest. This Exhibition is co-organized by the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi, the Japan Foundation, and the Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Sindh.

In this Exhibition, more than 80 dolls are displayed. The exhibition of dolls from Japan presents a diverse and intricate ensemble of Japanese dolls carrying exuberant details marking the height of craftsmanship that is considered an important example of fine decorative art in Japan.

Consul-General Mr. Akira Ouchi inaugurated the exhibition. While speaking to a large number of guests, Consul-General Mr. Ouchi said “Japanese dolls are the reflection of traditional art and Culture of Japan and express the customs and life style nurtured in the long history of Japan”. Mr. Ouchi also stated “Japan enjoys a rich culture and long history of dolls. Each doll has its own distinct meaning and purpose, and is deeply connected to daily life”.

Japanese dolls traditionally known as “*Ningyo* (human shape)” are a unique cultural symbol because of their rich history and association with the Japanese way of life. They reflect the customs of Japan and the aspirations of its people, possess distinctive regional attributes, and over the centuries have developed in many diverse forms. Dolls also provide a showcase for traditional Japanese craft products, such as textiles.

Though the human figure in miniature can be found in some form or another within cultures around the world, in Japan, the doll art having risen to the height of craftsmanship, is now considered an important example of fine decorative art. The most popular Japanese dolls are those crafted for two important festivals, Girl's Day (“*Hinamatsuri*”) on March 3 and Boy's Day (“*Tango-no-Sekku*”) on May 5. Both of these are festivals which honour children with elaborate displays of dolls set up for them.

The Exhibition of Japanese Dolls would remain open for public viewing at the Japan Information and Culture Center of the Consulate-General of Japan from March 3 to 7, at 10:00 - 17:00 hrs.

(End)

For further information, please contact the Japan Information and Culture Center at the Consulate General of Japan at Karachi: 35220800 (Ext. 134). Also please kindly visit our web-site: <http://www.kr.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/> in regard to this Exhibition.