

May 9, 2014

Press Release

Ikebana Workshop held at the Consulate-General of Japan

On May 8 and 9, 2014, the Consulate-General of Japan at Karachi and Ikebana International, Karachi Chapter co-organized *ikebana* (Japanese art of flower arrangement) workshop at the Japan Information and Culture Center on the occasion of a *ikebana* master from Singapore, Mr. Christopher Lim's visit to Karachi. During this two-day workshop, around 40 members from Ikebana International, Karachi Chapter have participated and enhanced their skills through sessions of *ikebana* workshop guided by Mr. Lim.

Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, in his opening speech stated that today, *ikebana* is an internationally renowned art which is practiced and appreciated by people all around the world, and expressed his delight in seeing *ikebana* is practiced by many people in Pakistan. He emphasized that *ikebana* is an art which connects people and nature, and both Japanese and Pakistani people share such common cultural values. Mr. Ouchi concluded his speech by stating that the Consulate-General of Japan at Karachi will continue to cooperate with the Japanese cultural organizations, including Ikebana International, Karachi Chapter to conduct activities to introduce Japanese culture to the people in Pakistan, including the traditional art of *ikebana*, thereby promoting mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan.

Under the organization's motto "*Friendship through flowers*", Ikebana International, Karachi Chapter has been contributing to the promotion of *ikebana* in Pakistan since its foundation in 1959. Ikebana International has now spread to over 60 countries, with 165 chapters.

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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 event.

