H.E. Mr. Taro KONO, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, called on H.E. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and discussed matters of mutual interests during his official visit to Pakistan from 3rd January to 4th January 2018.

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H.E. Mr. Taro KONO, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Pakistan from 3rd January to 4th January 2018. This was the first visit of a Japanese Foreign Minister to Pakistan since 2009.

During his stay in Pakistan, the Foreign Minister met his counterpart and high dignitaries of Pakistan, and discussed matters of bilateral relations as well as regional and international situations.

1. Minister Kono spoke of the friendly relations between the two countries over many years, and stated that he would like to take the opportunity of the first visit to Pakistan by a foreign minister of Japan in nearly nine years, to reinvigorate exchanges between the two countries. Furthermore, Minister Kono stated that Japan would continue to cooperate with Pakistan's efforts for stability and development under democracy and the rule of law, and provide assistance related to the general election this year.

2. Minister Kono stated that Japan had consistently supported the economic growth of Pakistan for 65 years, that improvement of the social infrastructure of Pakistan is a priority area of support by Japan, and that Japan is ready to continue the support. In response, Minister Asif conveyed gratitude for the support of Japan over many years, and expressed his hope for further cooperation on the economic development of Pakistan.

3. Minister Kono stated that Japan appreciates Pakistan's efforts in the fight against terrorism and is prepared to cooperate closely in the field of counter-terrorism. In this context, Minister Kono requested Pakistan to continue to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals and companies. In response, Minister Asif explained that the terrorism situation has improved in recent years, and that he hoped more Japanese companies would start doing business in Pakistan.

4. Minister Kono emphasized the importance of Pakistan's positive initiatives regarding the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

5. Minister Kono emphasized the importance of maximizing pressure on North Korea through such measures as implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions, not allowing South Asian countries to be loopholes for escaping the sanctions, and an early resolution of the abductions issue. Minister Asif stated that Pakistan was carrying out full implementation of the UNSC resolutions, and that it intended to cooperate with Japan.

6. Minister Asif explained that Pakistan has been working hard for the stability of Afghanistan for many years, and it intended to cooperate with the international community for the stability of the region. Minister Kono stated that the stability of both Pakistan and Afghanistan was extremely important for the stability of the entire region.
On November 27, 2017, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai and Madam Rieko Kurai hosted a reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Akihito, the 125th Emperor of Japan, who has turned 84 years old on 23rd December, 2017. The reception was attended by the Ministers, Parliamentarians, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic community and other dignitaries from the public and private sector. 

On December 4, 2017, Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, hosted a reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito, who has turned 84 years old on December 23, 2017. Mr. Jam Khan Shoro, Sindh Provincial Minister for Local Governance, Housing and Town Planning was the chief guest at the occasion. The reception was attended by Parliamentarians, Government Officials, diplomats, business executives and other dignitaries from Sindh and Balochistan.

The Imperial Household of Japan is the oldest now existing lineage in the world, dating more than 2000 years back, since the foundation of the first Emperor Jimmu in 660 B.C. according to Japan’s oldest history book named Nihonshoki. Today, under Japan’s postwar constitution, the Emperor is featured as a symbol of the nation, embodying the unity of its people. His Majesty Emperor Akihito was born in Tokyo on 23rd December, 1933 as the first son of the late Emperor Hirohito (Showa). 23rd December is celebrated as a national holiday in Japan. The Era of His Majesty Emperor Akihito's reign is called Heisei.

The chief guest, Mr. Jam Khan Shoro, Provincial Minister, Government of Sindh congratulated His Majesty the Emperor Akihito on His Majesty's birthday and expressed sincere wishes for His Majesty's good health and prosperity. Mr. Jam Khan Shoro also reiterated about the cordial and friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan, and extended his deep appreciation concerning Japan's aid assistance to Pakistan in various sectors. He expressed his desire to further expand cooperation between the two countries to develop Pakistan, especially the province of Sindh.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

The Embassy of Japan Organized a Briefing on Government of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project in Lahore (November 22, 2017)

The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan organized a briefing session on 22nd November in Lahore on the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Program for Non-Governmental Organizations. Since 1989, the Government of Japan has supported more than 370 projects in different sectors like primary health, basic education, agriculture, vocational training, special education and infrastructure development in Pakistan under the GGP program, with a contribution of more than 2.7 billion Japanese Yen [USD 25 million]. Around 140 NGO representatives from across the country participated in the briefing session.


H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, and the Country Director of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan, Ignacio Ariztia, signed an agreement to provide US$ 5.9 million over three years (2017-2020) to support the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and to further strengthen its capacity to hold elections. This project will build upon UNDP’s longstanding commitment to develop the capacity of key democratic institutions including provincial and national assemblies and the ECP itself.

The Government of Japan Funded Project for Special Children in District Faisalabad Inaugurated (November 7, 2017)

Late Mr. Junya Matsura, the then Minister, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, on Tuesday, 7th November 2017 inaugurated the extension of Al-Masoom Center for Special Children in District Faisalabad where intellectually and physically challenged children are receiving quality education and rehabilitation support.

Japan Provides 520 million Yen to Assist Pakistan’s Efforts for Polio Eradication-New US$ 4.63 million Japanese Grant to Procure Oral Polio Vaccine (October 18, 2017)

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Ms. Cristian Munduate, Acting Country Representative of UNICEF Pakistan, signed an agreement to provide a grant of 520 million Yen to assist Pakistan’s efforts for Polio Eradication campaigns during 2017-2018.

Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, Minister for National Health Services Regulation & Coordination, Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, Prime Minister’s Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Mr. Naveed Kamran Balouch, Secretary, Ministry of NHSR & C and Mr. Yasuhiro Tojo, Chief Representative, JICA in Pakistan, also witnessed the signing ceremony.
The Government of Japan has conferred the 2017 Autumn Decorations upon two Pakistani, Mr. Amir Hussain Shirazi and Ms. Roeeda Kabir, in recognition of their significant contribution to the promotion of Pakistan-Japan relations. Mr. Amir Hussain Shirazi, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Lahore, was conferred The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon while Ms. Roeeda Kabir, President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association KPK, was conferred The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

Japanese Film Festival held at the Murree Arts Council (November 22 and 23, 2017)

The Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Murree Arts Council organized screening of Japanese films at the auditorium of Murree Arts Council on 22-23 November 2017. Two Japanese films “A Tale of Samurai Cooking” and “Thermae Romae” with their English subtitles were showcased.

Japanese Classical Gagaku Music & Dance Performance held at Islamabad (November 13, 2017)

Japanese GAGAKU artistes, Ms. Tsukumo TOGI and Ms. Masami TOGI, performing at Gagaku Music and Dance performance held at Islamabad Club which was organized by the Embassy of Japan.

“Japanese Cultural Performance” held at the National Art Gallery (PNCA) Islamabad (October 14, 2017)

Music band “Noor Japan” performed together with the Pakistani artists at the occasion of Japanese Cultural Performances held at the National Art Gallery of PNCA.

NIHON Unplugged: Music from Japan and Pakistan” Show Held in National Art Gallery, Islamabad (September 12, 2017)

A Japanese music band 'The Trio Zipang' performed at a show “NIHON Unplugged: Music from Japan and Pakistan” which was held at the National Art Gallery in connection with the 65th Anniversary celebrations of establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan.

A Joint Cultural Performance of Japanese & Pakistani Artists Held in Lahore (September 8, 2017)

The Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Pakistan Japan Jasmine Association organized a joint cultural performance of Pakistani and Japanese artists titled “The Fusion 2017” in Lahore on Friday 8th September 2017. An exhilarating fusion of musical and cultural performances by the Japanese and Pakistani artists drew a big applause from the audience.
The Consulate General of Japan in Karachi organized a send-off ceremony and an orientation for a delegation of 4 high school students, 11 university students and one supervisor, prior to their departure for Japan under JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth) 2017 Program. The theme of JENESYS program was “Economic Cooperation”.

**Japanese Film Festival 2017” Inaugurated at Japan Information and Culture Center (November 21, 2017)**

The “Japan Film Festival 2017” was inaugurated by Mr. Toshikazu ISOMURA, the Consul General of Japan in Karachi, at the Consulate’s Information and Culture Center. Two Japanese films “A Tale of Samurai Cooking” and “Thermae Romae” were screened during the Film Festival from 21 to 23, November.

**Seminar on “Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement” with JETRO and FBR (October 19, 2017)**

Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, speaking at the occasion said, “I hope that business people who have attended this seminar can heed today's advice and protect their IPRs effectively”. He also hoped that this opportunity would be contributory to stimulate Japanese companies' business activities in Pakistan.

**Reception in honour of Mr. Shigeyuki Ataka for receiving Award from Government of Japan (July 21, 2017)**

Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, hosted a reception to celebrate Mr. Shigeyuki ATAKA, a former senior staff of the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi (presently First Vice President of the Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, Sindh) for his receiving The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays. He was awarded by the Government of Japan on April 29, 2017, in recognition of his service at the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi for a long term to promote cultural exchanges and friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.


The 19th Annual Bonsai Exhibition was organized by Pakistan Bonsai Society from August 25 to 27, 2017 at Zamzama Park in Karachi. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Consul General of Japan in Karachi, Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, and President of Pakistan Bonsai Society, Mr. Khwaja Muhammad Mazhar. Around Two hundred and Fifty Bonsai works aged between 5 and 50 years were displayed at this event.

**The Conferment of Certificate of Commendation from the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi to the Director of PJCA Japanese Language Course (August 29, 2017)**

Mr. Toshikazu ISOMURA, the Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, conferred the Certificate of Commendations to Mr. Muhammad Ilyas, Director, PJCA Japanese Language Course, in recognition of his efforts to promote Japanese language and culture in Pakistan and to deepen the mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Pakistan for nearly 20 years.
Our first sun in Japan rose behind the clouds. It was drizzling and Sendai, being a hill station, looked utterly serene. We left our rooms around 8 and headed to the Tohoku campus for our first day. We were given a welcome speech by the Head of Department of Robotics at Tohoku University. Two Pakistani students of Tohoku University were appointed as our guides for the trip. We were introduced to them; who, quite sooner than later, became our really good friends with them. It was the start of July when Dr Yasar informed me about my selection for the program and the events that followed afterwards put us all in whirlwind. We were a group of 10 students along with Dr Yasar Ayaz from National University of Sciences and Technology.

The journey from Islamabad to Bangkok and from there to Sendai was all a blur of excitement and anticipation. We landed in Sendai at 9 o’clock in the night. We were warmly received by two faculty members from Tohoku University. They escorted us to our accommodations at the Katahira campus where all of us called it a day.

A week later, at the Japanese ambassador's residence over a hi-tea. Both, the ambassador and his wife, Mr. And Mrs. Takashi Kurai warmly welcomed us and extended gracious hospitality. They marked our trip with an amazing start.

The next morning, we boarded the world famous Shinkansen and at around 12 in the noon, We headed straight to “Saito Kobo”, a wheelchair industry which is redefining the lives of special people with the power of technology. The visit to their workshops and a guided tour by the amazing Saito San himself was one of the best life experiences and gave a whole new direction to our innovative thinking pattern. Since time was of essence, without wasting any of it, we went out to lose ourselves in the amazing city. Our first stop was at the heart of electronic appliances called Akihabara. We roamed around and marvelled at that out-of-worldly experience. The day was ending when we found ourselves around the world's biggest museum and the best part of it was the 3 minute demo of Asimo robot.

The last day of our trip started with a visit to the Miraikan Science museum and the best part of it was the 3 minute demo of Asimo robot.

In the closing ceremony, we were awarded certificates and small tokens from Tohoku University as a reminder.

The next day, we were given an opportunity to visit the lectures and after lunch, we roamed around, visiting all the labs. It was amazing to get insight into the latest technology and research work being done there. It felt as if the purpose of our trip was fulfilled.

The forth and last day in Sendai was a recreational one. After the routine morning lectures and after lunch, we roamed around, visiting all the labs. It was amazing to get insight into the latest technology and research work being done there. It felt as if the purpose of our trip was fulfilled.

The third day at Sendai was most interesting. We took the morning lectures and after lunch, we roamed around, visiting all the labs. It was amazing to get insight into the latest technology and research work being done there. It felt as if the purpose of our trip was fulfilled.

The next morning we boarded our flight and bid farewell to Japan; until next time. Each activity, so well thought of and planned; each day with a new surprise and most of all, the knowledge that we gained from world class professors, was all too perfect to be real; yet it was. The hospitality and respect that we received from the management in particular and Japanese people in general is unforgettable. The Japanese government's role in setting up such a program is commendable. I hope this activity becomes a ritual between Pakistan and Japan so that others may also get to know Japan as I do now and this bond of friendship, scientific merger and research collaboration flourishes and, forever, stays intact.

(The writer is student at the Robotics Department of NUST, Islamabad)
A fun-filled and getting-to-know-better, vis a vis the Japanese Culture and Tradition, a two-day event was planned to celebrate the 65 years of Japan-Pakistan’s Diplomatic Relations.

Mr. Toshikazu Isomura, The Consul General of Japan in Karachi, addressed the guests at the occasion of “Hamara Dostana” at the Consulate-General of Japan.

Aiming to further the cause of strong bond, between the two Asian countries, and in order to maintain cordial relations between the two, the event ‘Hamara Dostana’ was organized jointly, under the banner of Consulate General of Japan in Karachi and Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Sindh, in Pakistan.

As part of the two-day festivities, on the first day, Kendo Performance and Jujutsu Demonstration took place, besides Ikebana Demonstration and Bonsai Demonstrations.

Kendo is a modern Japanese martial arts, which has its origins from swordsmanship. Whereas Jujutsu is another form of marital arts where one finds, a method of close combat, while using no weapon to display.

Ikebana Demonstration presents the use of a particular floral arrangement that can be done in your own house and Bonsai Demonstration shows how miniature plants can grow in home environment.

On the second and the final day of the festivities, a musical performance and dance took place in which young Japanese and Pakistani children participated and performed on Japanese and Pakistani songs.

A homely sense came with Japanese cooking demonstration, and at the closing ceremony, one witnessed the Tea Ceremony performed at the Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Karachi.

‘Hamara Dostana’ is hoped to bring better understanding of Japanese culture to the people residing within Pakistan.
یہ جان و بان کی کہانی کے لئے لیکھی گئی تھی جو دوستان کو چھوڑ کر عالم پہنچ گیا اور اونچی حالت میں اپنی حاضری کا سمت کے لئے انسان کو یہ سمجھنے کے لئے کافی توجہ لازم ہے۔ اس کا سب سے بھرپور سیرات جنگ کمپیلیکس کا جھنڈا ہے۔ اس کا ذِکر آپ یہاں مر بھی کریں جو یہ حاضری ہو گی اور اس کا نظام کھلا وضاحت کریں۔

کہانی کا اندازہ لگایا گیا کہ زمین میں کچھ بھی نہیں ہے جو انسان کو اپنا ہاتھ بھگاماتے ہوں۔ اس کا روشنی بنایا جا سکتا ہے اور جو ظاہر نہیں ہے، یہ ہی تعلق ہے اور اس کا اندازہ لگایا جا سکتا ہے۔ اس کا روشنی بنایا جا سکتا ہے اور جو ظاہر نہیں ہے، یہ ہی تعلق ہے اور اس کا اندازہ لگایا جا سکتا ہے۔

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VARIOUS ACTIVITIES HELD BY THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN ISLAMABAD
AND THE CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN IN KARACHI

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