



NEWSLETTER

EMBASSY OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
TOKYO, JAPAN



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MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DR. ASAD M. KHAN

I am delighted to return to Tokyo as the Ambassador of Pakistan. Having started my career in Japan as a Japanese language Trainee and thereafter serving in the Embassy from 1993-96, it is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to be appointed as Pakistan's Ambassador to Japan. All this makes me feel very nostalgic. Pakistan and Japan share historical friendship based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. For us Japan has been an important development partner with extensive trade and investment linkages. The continued presence in Pakistan of 83 major Japanese companies and their growing numbers and range of activities is a testament to the trade and investment win-wins that our two countries have enjoyed over the decades.

Cooperation in education, science and technology has been another key aspect of our cooperation with Japan. Being a beneficiary of Japanese education myself, I am very keen to make collaboration in education, science and technology as a key strategic pillar of our relationship with Japan. I am happy to note that my first formal official engagement in the Embassy was to welcome the Saukara Science and Technology Exchange Programme participants from Pakistan.

I am also very glad to see an active, vibrant and enterprising Pakistani Community in Japan. I look forward to working closely with the community to harness this great resource in the service of the relationship. It would always be my sincere effort to extend all possible facilitation to the members of community and to work hand in hand with them for strengthening the partnership between Pakistan and Japan.

Ambassador Dr. Khan calls on Vice Minister Sugiyama



Ambassador Dr. Khan presenting copies of his credentials to Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Vice Foreign Minister

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nobuo Kishi at the Gaimusho (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan). Ambassador Khan recalled the recent visit of Minister Kishi to Pakistan and said that the visit marked the 60th Anniversary of his grandfather, Prime Minister Kishi's visit to Pakistan in 1957. He further stated that the symbolism of the visit was not lost on the Pakistani leadership. He also expressed his desire to enhance bilateral ties to the mutual benefit of both countries and inter alia highlighted the International Financial Institutions' recent assessment of tremendous growth potential of the Pakistani economy. Ambassador Khan said that immense opportunities in fields of trade and investment were now available in Pakistan and voiced the hope that Japanese investors, with history of engagement in Pakistan, would benefit from these opportunities.

Whilst warmly welcoming the Ambassador, Minister Kishi reiterated cordiality in bilateral relations between the two countries and conveyed gratitude at the hospitality extended to him during his visit to Pakistan. Expressing satisfaction at the frequency of high level interactions, he welcomed the recent holding of Joint Trade Committee meeting. He said that he sensed a strong desire amongst the Japanese and Pakistani businessmen to enhance bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. The Minister also lauded Government of Pakistan's efforts at curbing terrorism and said that Japan is ready to enhance counter terrorism cooperation with Pakistan.



AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH CHAIRMAN JAPAN PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Mr. Seishiro Eto, Member of the House of Representatives in the Diet (Japanese Parliament) and Chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League (JPPFL). Ambassador Asad expressed his earnest desire to further strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Japan, particularly parliamentary exchanges as the two countries celebrate 65 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations. He apprised Mr. Eto of the trade and investment opportunities created in Pakistan in the wake of improved security environment and sustained economic turn around and expressed the hope that Japanese investors, with history of engagement in Pakistan, would avail this opportunity.

Whilst warmly welcoming the Ambassador and reciprocating his desire for deepening bilateral cooperation, Mr. Eto fondly recalled his meetings with Pakistani dignitaries including the Speaker of the National Assembly, Parliamentarians and Ministers. Agreeing with the Ambassador that the visits by respective Parliamentarians were important to build bridges of peace and understanding, he underlined the great importance of people-to-people contacts at all levels in society that would deepen cooperation and partnership between the two countries.



AMBASSADOR ASAD M. KHAN MET SENATOR ANTONIO INOKI

Ambassador Dr. Asad M.Khan called on Senator Inoki – an iconic wrestler and a household name in Pakistan – to discuss further deepening of bilateral cooperation. While warmly welcoming Ambassador Khan, Senator Inoki assured working closely to promote bilateral ties particularly through sports and parliamentary exchanges. The Ambassador lauded the sincere efforts of the Senator towards making the strong relations between Japan and Pakistan more meaningful and based on mutual understanding and cooperation.



DELEGATION OF EDB VISITED PAKISTAN EMBASSY TO MEET THE AMBASSADOR



A six member delegation of EDB visited Pakistan Embassy to meet the Ambassador and discussed matters of bilateral interests.



AMBASSADOR DR. ASAD M. KHAN MET WITH NEC DELEGATION

A three member delegation of NEC Corporation, Japan called on the Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan. Mr. Hironobu Kurosaki, General Manager, Americas and EMEA Division of NEC briefed about NEC Corporation's ongoing projects in Pakistan.

The Ambassador appreciated the role NEC played in providing state of the art infrastructural and technical support in a number of areas. The Ambassador also urged upon the NEC, having the requisite technical infrastructure, to train young people from Pakistan. Mr. Hironobu Kurosaki invited Ambassador to visit NEC's Shinagawa facilities alongwith his team for further discussions to strengthen NEC's business activities in Pakistan.

The Ambassador was assisted by Commercial Counsellor Mr. M. Abu Bakar. Mr. Takashi Furukawa Department Manager and Mr. Ruichi Kuwano, Manager, Americas and EMEA Division of NEC were also present.

CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR BY JICA's DG (SOUTH ASIA)

The Director General (South Asia) JICA Mr. Kiichiro Nakazawa paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Khan alongwith his team. The Ambassador lauded JICA's historic and expansive role in development cooperation and expressed the belief that thriving Pakistan economy presents vast opportunities for investors and hence JICA should also play its role by providing trade and industrial capacity building support and by encouraging Japanese investment in Pakistan.

Mr. Nakazawa said that given Pakistan's sizeable population, it is indeed an attractive market for Japanese entrepreneurs. He mentioned that IMF's just published report indexes Pakistan's economic growth expectation at 6%, an endorsement of GoP's successful macroeconomic policies. This growth forecast adds to Pakistan's credentials as an investment destination.

VISIT OF PAKISTAN SAKURA STUDENTS TO EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

The renowned Sakura Science and Technology Exchange Programme has been inviting students from Pakistan regularly for some years. A batch of 19 Pakistani students participated in the programme. They visited the Embassy alongwith officials of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) to meet Ambassador, Dr. Asad M. Khan. The Ambassador welcomed the students and urged them to take maximum advantage and benefit from their visit to Japan. He referred to the wide range of opportunities that exist in the education sector for Pakistani students wishing to study in Japan especially in the field of Science and Technology. The Ambassador hoped that the students would be the generation of development for new Pakistan. Recalling his earlier stay and posting in Japan, Ambassador Khan termed Japan as his second home and cherished the wonderful memories it carried with it. Earlier the Deputy Chief of Mission Mirza Salman Babar Beg gave a detailed presentation to the students on diplomacy, working of the Embassy and functions of its various wings. The Deputy Executive Director of JST in his remarks expressed hope that the exchange programmes would continue in future with zeal and vigour to the advantage of both the sides. He reiterated that through Exchange Programmes the Pakistan youth would acquaint themselves with people and culture of the Japan.

