

Pakistan, Japan strengthening bilateral ties

By Abdul Hameed
Ambassador-designate of Pakistan

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan won its independence and emerged as a sovereign state. On this day, we remember the struggle of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Father of the Nation, the vision of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Poet of the East, and the sacrifices of all the founders of Pakistan and the workers of Pakistan Movement.

Let me take this opportunity to express our sincere and respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, members of the Imperial family, and H.E. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my fellow citizens in Japan.

Since its independence, Pakistan has been contributing to international peace and security. Pakistan has been seeking friendly relations with all countries of the world based on mutual respect for one another's sovereignty. This policy is closely related to the ideology that developed during our struggle for freedom. Japan and Pakistan established diplomatic relations on April 28, 1952. This relationship, which is based on mutual respect and understanding, is characterized by a shared sense of history and common perspective on contemporary issues. In the current circumstances, Pakistan and Japan share the objective of advancing peace and solidarity with all members of the international community.

The peoples of our two nations have been connected since the prehistoric era. The two nations started trading cotton in the 1950s. Our two nations have a shared heritage of the rich past, much of which has yet to be fully explored and comprehended. Pakistan regards Japan as an important Asian country whose economic accomplishments set a good example for the rest of Asian nations. We deeply appreciate the strong sense of family values and togetherness that Japanese people uphold. The similarities between the people of Pakistan and Japan are numer-

ous including the respect for elders, hospitality, politeness, the habit of hard work, endurance and resilience, and a deep-rooted sense of community and social cohesion.

Our relationship has grown stronger over the course of more than 70 years. We are witnessing an increase in co-operation at all levels. Many dignitaries from Pakistan have visited Japan recently to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and friendship, particularly on the occasion of the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo. The recent visit of the Commerce & Trade Minister, Mr. Jam Kamal, has paved the way to enhance investment in Pakistan.

Our bilateral relationship has a geo-economic basis, with Japan serving as an investor and development partner. The last few years have seen an increase in economic cooperation between Pakistan and Japan. Japanese interest in investing in Pakistan has resumed, as seen by the large turnout for the recent "Investment Conference" in Tokyo, which was organized by the government of Pakistan. Komatsu Ltd. has announced plans to invest in Pakistan in the mining exploration sector for rare earth minerals.

In recent years, Japanese investment in Pakistan has entered a new phase. In 2023, Toyota Motor Corp. announced an investment of \$100 million in Pakistani hybrid car manufacturing. Morinaga Milk Industry Co. likewise made a significant investment, indicating a revived interest in the Pakistani market. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Japan has remained steady. The total bilateral trade volume in 2024 was \$1.38 billion, with Japan exporting approximately US \$1.36 billion worth of goods to Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan's exports to Japan

stood at around \$223 million by mid-2025.

In 2024, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) continued its support to Pakistan through various projects, including two grants for maternal and child health, flood management and polio eradication. Japan also financed a \$326 million Japan Development Scholarship program for the development of human resources, allowing Pakistani government officials to pursue public administration degrees in Japan.

Defense cooperation between Pakistan and Japan is strong and improving, with a strong sense of mutual trust and reliability. Pakistan's diaspora in Japan contributes economically, exporting used cars, carpets and Halal food. Both countries are collaborating to encourage skilled labor exports from Pakistan to Japan. Future efforts aim to maintain positive momentum and deepen co-operative relationships for both countries and the region. Long live Pakistan-Japan friendship!



Abdul Hameed



The Shyok River, an Indus River tributary, in Gilgit-Baltistan



Courtesy of Pakistan Embassy

The Pakistan Pavilion at the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo offers a healing experience as it showcases sculptural columns of the Punjab province's ancient Khewra mines of pink rock salt, formed more than 800 million years ago.



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Happy 78th Anniversary Independence Day of Pakistan

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