



EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN TOKYO, JAPAN

NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

1	Federal Minister Hammad Azhar met Mr. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister/Finance Minister of Japan	2	Federal Minister of Economic Affairs meets Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Delegation of JPBCC and address Pakistani Community
3	Federal Minister Hammad Azhar interviews to local media	4	Tourism Seminar at the Embassy
5	Kashmir Solidarity Day observed at Embassy	6	Seminar on Technical intern Training Programme (TITP)
7	Ceremony to Declare Suginami City as the Host Town for Pakistan's Olympic Contingent	8	

Federal Minister Hammad Azhar met Mr. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister / Finance Minister of Japan

Mr. Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, called on Mr. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister/Finance Minister of Japan, in Tokyo. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the ways to enhance the existing bilateral economic relations. It was agreed that there was a huge potential to increase the current level of bilateral trade and investments from Japan into Pakistan.

Minister Azhar, while appreciating Japan's role as one of the premier development partners of Pakistan over decades, briefed Minister Aso on the current economic situation of Pakistan. He highlighted the difficult policy decisions that the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan had to take to bring the economy out of balance of payment and fiscal crisis. It was emphasized that owing to timely and appropriate decisions, Pakistan's economy had stabilized and Pakistan was now looking to revive faster growth. The recent successful review of the IMF programme by its Board, improvement in Pakistan's ranking by Moody's and the 28-point improvement in Pakistan's Ease of Doing Business in just one year were also highlighted by the Minister. Minister Taro Aso appreciated the steps taken by Pakistan to stabilize its economy and expressed the desire of the Japanese government to comprehensively take the existing economic and commercial relations to the next level.



Federal Minister for Economic Affairs meets Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Delegation of JPBCC and addresses Pakistani Community

The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Muhammad Hammad Azhar met Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kenji Wakamiya in Tokyo. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and identified areas for further cooperation in political, economic, trade, investment, education and cultural fields. Both sides while noting the renewed vigor and momentum in high-level exchanges, reaffirmed their commitments to take the bilateral relationship to higher level. While discussing the regional issues, the Minister briefed the State Minister on the deteriorating situation of human rights in Indian Occupied Kashmir especially after the recent illegal decision of the Indian Government to strip Kashmiris of their autonomous rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Mr. Azhar also apprised Mr. Wakamiya about Pakistan's mediatory and constructive role in bringing lasting peace in Afghanistan. State Minister Wakamiya appreciated Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in the region. He also expressed hope that engagements between the two countries at all levels would enhance the mutually beneficial relations.



The Minister also met Mr. Teruo Asada, Chairman, Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC) in Tokyo. Representatives from leading Japanese Corporations having strong presence in Pakistan also participated in the meeting. The two sides discussed strengthening economic cooperation and increasing bilateral investments and exerting all possible efforts to eliminate obstacles and overcome difficulties that obstruct the smooth flow of trade and investment between the two countries. While appreciating Japan's role as premier development partner of Pakistan, the Minister stated that Pakistan was ready to welcome Japanese businesses in all the sectors of economy. Mr. Asada and other business leaders acknowledged the economic credentials of Pakistan and expressed strong desire of JPBCC to make practical efforts for boosting up trade and investment relations between the two countries.



The Federal Minister also addressed a large number of Pakistani community members in Tokyo. He deliberated on the role of Pakistani community in promoting the interests of the country abroad. He said that the Pakistani diaspora has an important role as they can promote positive image of Pakistan in the country of their residence in an effective manner. He said, the present Government was people centric and its socio-economic agenda aimed at bringing job opportunities and economic benefits to the people. The Government was committed to enhance productivity in the country to give a new impetus to economic-development. He said that the Government is trying to ensure all possible facilitation for the overseas Pakistanis. He said that necessary instructions have been issued to Pakistani Missions abroad to facilitate/assist the community to address their genuine concerns in an effective manner.



Federal Minister for Economic Affairs interviews to local media



Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Muhammad Hammad Azhar interacted with the Japanese media. During his interaction with Nikkei Asian Review and NHK, the Minister deliberated on the socio-economic agenda of the Government.

Tourism Seminar at the Embassy

To promote and encourage group tourism in Pakistan, the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo organized a seminar in collaboration with Saiyu Travel agency of Japan. A large number of Japanese visitors were in attendance. The Ambassador welcomed the guests and briefed the audience about the potential which Pakistan offers in tourism. He said that the Government is ensuring that maximum possible facilitation is extended to tourists visiting Pakistan so that they can witness the diversity, culture, landscape, Food and hospitality of Pakistan. The visitors were given presentations on the huge tourism potential in all the provinces of Pakistan. The guests were later served Pakistani food. It is important to note that the influx of Japanese tourists has increased with record number of Japanese tourists visiting Pakistan in the last two years. Such seminars will help Pakistan to revive the group tourism in Pakistan.



Kashmir Solidarity Day observed at Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo

In order to express solidarity and to reaffirm steadfast support for our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in distress, the Mission observed Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Chancery today.



A broad cross section of Japanese society comprising of academics, journalists, think tanks, business persons, government officials and members of the Pakistan Community were in attendance. Messages of the President and Prime Minister in support of the Kashmir cause were read out. The National Anthem of Azad Jammu & Kashmir along with our National Anthem was played on occasion. Members of the Pakistan Community also made speeches in support of our Kashmiri brethren. Earlier in the day, Pakistan Community members with banners and placards in hand marched towards the UN Representative Office in Tokyo and submitted a resolution on behalf of the “Kashmir Solidarity Forum in Japan” reminding the United Nations of its pledge made to the people of Kashmir accepting their right of self determination.

The Ambassador in his key-note address shed light on India’s illegal and unilateral actions of August 5 last year and emphasized that despite turning Kashmir into a large prison, India has not been able to dampen the indomitable spirit of the freedom loving Kashmiri people. He enumerated the steps taken by the government of Pakistan at various international forums to highlight India’s unacceptable actions and gross human rights violations. The Ambassador specifically mentioned that in the last six months, the UN Security Council on 3 different occasions has taken cognizance of the matter and has discussed the prevailing situation in the area, thereby belying India’s claims that the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is India’s internal matter.

The Ambassador concluded his speech by reaffirming government of Pakistan’s continued full political, diplomatic and moral support to the oppressed Kashmiris in their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination, promised to them by the international community through numerous UNSC Resolutions.



Separately in the evening, the Ambassador interacted with prominent Japanese media persons and select think-tanks of Japan and discussed the recent situation in IOJ&K.

Seminar on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)

A seminar on “Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) with the collaboration of Japan International Train JITCO) was held in the Embassy. A large number of Japanese companies / receiving organizations along with the delegates of JITCO and representatives from NUTECH, Pakistan were in attendance.



Speaking at the seminar, Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad welcomed the audience and said that this event marks a very important step in the bilateral relationship between Japan and Pakistan as the two countries have been great friends with economic cooperation being the main driver of the relationship. He added that Pakistan values Japan as one of its main economic partner and the people of Pakistan hold Japanese people in high esteem. He also referred to the initiatives of Government of Pakistan regarding human resource development and Japan’s cooperation to this cause. The Ambassador underscored that the recent signing of MOCs on TITP and Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) is a milestone in bringing the Pakistani work force to Japan. The Ambassador gave a presentation on the potential of Pakistan’s labor market and the status of its emerging economy. He further stressed that such arrangements would help to reduce the deficit of workforce in Japan and both countries would benefit. The Ambassador also appreciated the support of JITCO and hoped that the cooperation would continue in future to make the process a complete success. The Senior Vice President of JITCO, Mr. Matsutomi also expressed the desire to make the process beneficial for both the countries and making it a significant step in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Detailed presentations were also given by Mr. Tahir Habib Cheema, Trade and Investment Counsellor and Dr. Aamir Murad, Executive Director on behalf of NAVTTC and NUTECH respectively. The Ambassador and the Senior Vice President of JITCO also replied to the queries / questions posed by the audience.



Ceremony to Declare Suginami City as the Host Town for Pakistan's Olympic Contingent

A ceremony was held in the Embassy of Pakistan, announcing Suginami City as the Host Town for Pakistan's Olympic Contingent for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games.



The Mayor of Suginami City was the Guest of Honour during the occasion. Other guests included members of the Suginami City Assembly as well as prominent members of the Pakistan Japan Association; Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan including select members of the Pakistan Community were also present. The Ambassador in his welcome address expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan and the City of Suginami for hosting the Pakistan Olympic contingent. He identified the different sports fields in which Pakistani athletes were expected to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games. While highlighting the importance of sports in furthering bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Japan, the Ambassador mentioned that this collaboration would be a stepping stone towards deepening cultural ties between the two countries. He added that Pakistan can learn a great deal from Japan's know-how and high standards of excellence in the fields of sports. He also specifically spoke about how the Pakistan community had been instrumental in popularizing cricket in Japan as a result of which the Japan under-19 cricket team had qualified for the under-19 Cricket World Cup for the first time in its history. The Mayor in his address thanked the government of Pakistan for accepting Suginami City as the Host Town for Pakistan's Olympic Contingent. He mentioned that this was a great opportunity for residents of Suginami City, especially children to interact first hand with Pakistani Olympic athletes, the memories of which they will cherish throughout their lives. According to him, the initiative would go a long way in promoting sports cooperation between the two countries. The ceremony concluded with a formal announcement declaring Suginami City as Pakistan's Host Town for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic games.

Showcasing art of Wax painting at the Embassy of Pakistan

As part of its public diplomacy initiatives and efforts to promote art and culture, the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo organized an event to showcase Pakistani Art of Wax Painting. Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad, an acclaimed wax painting artist, exhibited his unique art before the Japanese dignitaries and prominent members of the Pakistani Community. The live demonstration of this exquisite art form was very well received by the audience.



Speaking to the audience, Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad described the origins and development of a wax painting in Pakistan. He added that wax painting could be put to good use in traditional Japanese dresses like Kimono. He stressed on the importance of promoting such art forms for the benefit of cultural cooperation between the two countries. The exhibition generated a keen interest from the visitors including Japanese officials. Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad will also be invited during Silk Road Exhibitions scheduled to be held in Tokyo in September 2020.