**Present Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan**

**Brief Profile**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Seiji KOJIMA (Mr.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1970, Graduated from the Faculty of Law, Tokyo University</td>
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<td>Professional Career:</td>
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<td>Apr. 1972</td>
<td>Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>March 1989</td>
<td>Director, Development Cooperation Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau</td>
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<td>December 1990</td>
<td>Director, Research and Programming Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau</td>
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<td>January 1993</td>
<td>Director, Regional Policy Division, Asian Affairs Bureau</td>
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<td>January 1993</td>
<td>Director, Regional Policy Division, Asian Affairs Bureau</td>
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<td>August 1994</td>
<td>Counselor, Embassy of Japan, India</td>
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<td>January 1996</td>
<td>Minister, Embassy of Japan, India</td>
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<td>June 1997</td>
<td>Minister, Embassy of Japan, USA</td>
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<td>September 1999</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General, Economic Cooperation Bureau</td>
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<td>January 2001</td>
<td>Director-General, Abandoned Chemical Weapons Office, Cabinet Office</td>
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<td>February 2002</td>
<td>Ministre Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan, UK</td>
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<td>October 2004</td>
<td>Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</td>
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<td>May 2006</td>
<td>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan, Pakistan.</td>
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**H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima**

(Arrival on 26 May 2006)

Web: www.maap.edu.pk
On the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Gaimusho) of Japan, Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik, Research Fellow (East Asia), Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), and Dr Muslim Abbas Zaidi, Agriculture Engineer, National Agricultural Research Center, Islamabad, undertook a visit to Tokyo on 11-18 November, 2006. The visit was for a reunion of the former students of Japan from Asia. About 24 former students, who studied in Japan, participated in the program.

An orientation program was organized on 13 November, 2006. Dr Malik explained the activities of the Alumni Manbugakusho Association of Pakistan (MAAP) to the officials of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other participants. A Welcome Reception was hosted by Ms Matsushima Midori, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the Tokyo Prince Hotel on 13 November. The reception was attended by a large number of diplomatic corps in Tokyo, Diet members, 2006 journalists and other prominent figures. Mr Muhammad Abdul Wahid Khan, Press Counselor of the Embassy of Pakistan at Tokyo, Ms Takayasu Sachiko of the Japan-Pakistan Association Tokyo and Mr Malik Habibur Rahman, Correspondent of The Muslim World, Tokyo, and Secretary-General of the Pakistan Association of Japan, Tokyo, also attended the reception.

A lecture was delivered by Professor Seiichiro Yonekura, Institute of Innovation Research, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, on 14 November, 2006. The topic of his lecture was "Past and Future of Japanese Business System". In response to a question, Professor Yonekura agreed that the patterns of development in Japan and developing countries had been different. Japan's growth had been a state-led while many developing countries including Pakistan switched over to the private sector.

Another lecture was delivered by Professor Manabu Yamanaka, Senior Scientist, Hydrological Cycle Observational Research Program (PII), Institute of Observational Research for Global Change (JORGC), Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), Tokyo, on 14 November, 2006. The topic of his lecture was "Past and Future of Earth and Human Beings: Scientific Unknowns and Necessary Observations in Climate change Issues". Replying to a question, Professor Yamanaka said that Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey are located at high seismic zone that generates regular earthquakes in these countries. He advised that Pakistan needs to establish earth-quake-
related research institutes on Japanese patterns for obtaining scientific data.

A talk was given by Mr Yoichi Nishimura, Political Editor of the Asahi Shim bun, Tokyo, a leading Japanese newspaper, on 14 November, 2006. The topic of his talk was “State of Japanese Politics and Prospects of Diplomacy”.

A tour was organized to visit Panasonic Center (Matsushita Electronic Company), at Tokyo. The company gave practical demonstrations about their new and innovative electronic devices, state-of-the-art technology particularly ubiquitous to be used by the next generation. It was shown that in future, there will be a wide television screen at home where one can experience a versatile visual life that lets one view movies, images, interior designs, sports, etc (as musical instrument by simply touching the screen wall or remote controller) Future home appliances would also be different from the existing ones, as demonstrated by Panasonic Center.

A visit to the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTECH) was organized on 15 November, 2006. JAMSTECH’s scientists explained the marine-earth activities of their agency. It was told that Japan launched Shinkai 2000 in 1981, the deep submarine research vehicle with a depth capacity of 2000 meters. Shinkai enabled Japanese scientists to conduct deep-sea research around waters of Japan. Later Shinkai 6500 was launched in 2005. Japanese marine scientists conduct under-sea research such as earthquakes, volcanism, and deep-sea ecosystem.

A dinner was hosted by Ms Matsushima Midori, Japan’s Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs at New Otani Hotel, Tokyo, on 15 November, 2006. On this occasion Dr Malik explained his professional engagements in Pakistan and also introduced IPRi’s activities. He also made a quick review of the unique features of the Pakistan-Japan bilateral diplomatic and economic ties. For instance, Buddhism (Daijo Bukyo) reached Japan via Korea and China the present day Pakistan's historical place of Taxila in the 7th Century. After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, strong trading ties emerged between Japan and parts of British India such as Punjab and Sindh and East Bengal as raw cotton and jute were exported from these areas to Japan that helped build Japanese textile industry, the backbone of Japanese economic strength up to 1945. After Pakistan's independence in 1947, the foundation of new relationship was laid down between Pakistan and Japan. Japan's first postwar trade agreement was signed with Pakistan in May 1948. Japan's first trade delegation visited Pakistan in the same year and commercial liaison agency was also established in Pakistan in the same time. Pakistan donated over 60,000 tones of Basmati rice to the Emperor of Japan in 1953. Pakistan was regarded as a 'tower of strength on the Japanese peace treaty signed at San Francisco on 8 September 1951. Pakistan and Sri Lanka were also the countries that waived war reparations to Japan. It was Pakistan's Prime Minister Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy who made a visit to Japan in April 1957, the first ever visit by an Asian leader after World war II that paved the way for Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi (maternal grandfather of present Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe), in May 1957 to visit Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and Taiwan a first-ever visit by a Japanese Prime Minister after World War II. Both Pakistan and Japan emerged each other's major trading partners in the 1950s. When Japan commenced its aid program in 1961, Pakistan was one of the early recipients of Japanese aid and received around 20 percent of Japanese aid during 1961-71. Moreover, President Ayub Khan was the only leader who was received by Emperor Hirohito at Haneda Air Port, Tokyo, in December 1960. Replying to such unique features of Pakistan-Japan relations, Parliamentary Secretary Matsushima Midori asked participants from Pakistan to enhance close friendship between two countries through exchange of cultural and academics activities that can further cement both countries' ties.

Japanese Film festival in Islamabad

A Japanese Film Festival showing English subtitled versions of three Japanese films was held at Islamabad between 22-24 August, 2006. The festival was inaugurated on Tuesday, 22nd August 2006 at Islamabad Serena Hotel by Mr. Kamran Lashari, Chairman, CDA who was the chief guest on the occasion. Mr. Seiji KOJIMA, Ambassador of Japan, to Pakistan and his wife also graced the occasion with his presence.

The inaugural film was “Sumo Do, Sumo Don’t” and the other two films “Robocon” and “Sanjuro” were screened at the Islamabad Club Auditorium between 23-24 August 2006. Another Japanese Film session was also held in
Peshawar from 4-5 September 2006.
The Japanese Film Festival is among one of the most popular cultural events of the Japan-Pakistan Friendship Fest and has been organized by the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (Islamabad), MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) and Serena Hotel Islamabad. The purpose of organizing this festival is to provide a great opportunity for the people of Pakistan to learn about the cultural life of Japan and to experience some aspects of Japan and its society.

The films have been selected to portray the socio-cultural developing of the Japanese people. The festival for enriching the knowledge of the viewers about the techniques, treatment of the subject and the art of direction in the Japanese film industry. The Japanese Film Festival has become a regular feature in the cultural activities of Islamabad and Peshawar and people from all walks of life come and enjoy these films.

Japan Children Art Competition and Speech Contest

To promote creative sensitivity among the talented and budding child artists of Pakistan and as a part of the Japan-Pakistan Friendship Fest, the Embassy of Japan, in collaboration with Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA), Islamabad and MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP), organized a Japan Children Art Competition and Speech Contest which took place among 103 enthusiastic students from over 39 different schools in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, on Wednesday, 13th September, 2006 at Aabpara Community Center, Islamabad.

H.E. Mr. Seiji KOJIMA, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi, President, PJCA Islamabad, and Mr. Sultan Sikander Khan, President MAAP awarded prizes to the winners of the speech contest and art competition. All students were given certificates of participation. The children from underprivileged areas were also invited to join the event so that the sense of creativity among these children can be promoted.

The theme of the Children's Art Competition was “Future Vision of Pakistan” whereas the theme for the Speech Contest was “Japan-Pakistan Relations and the Challenges of the 21st Century”. Students between 12-14 years of age participated in the art competition and speech contest.

The purpose of organizing this event was to appraise the children about the friendly relationship existing between Japan and Pakistan for more than five decades and at the same time it was an attempt to familiarize them about some aspects of Japan, its people and its culture. The (youth) new generation of Pakistan thus was able to gain an idea about the social and cultural life of Japan in this era of modern technology.

This art competition and speech contest has proved to be very popular among school children for the past several years, mainly because of the interesting subject and the opportunity for the children to freely express themselves.
A Japanese Language Speech Contest was held on Wednesday, 29th November 2006 at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. The contest was organized by the Japanese Language Department of NUML. H.E. Mr. Seiji KOJIMA, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Six students participated in the speech contest and delivered well-prepared speeches in a good Japanese accent. The Ambassador distributed the prizes to the winners of the competition. At the occasion, the students and some members of Japanese community also entertained the audience with melodies of Japanese songs and Pakistani folk dance.

(Mrs. Tami Kojima also joined in) The panel of judges comprised of Mr. Sultan Sikandar Khan, President, MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan, Mr. Zafar Mehmoood, Member MAAP and Mr. Arata Mizukami, Third Secretary, Press, Information & Culture Department, Embassy of Japan, Pakistan. H.E. Mr. Seiji KOJIMA, Ambassador of Japan said in his address that the Japanese Language Department of NUML has maintained its standard of excellence in imparting Japanese language instruction. In fact NUML has become a hub for Japan-Pakistan cultural exchange through the development of language skills.

The Japanese language would prove to be a means for student's success as more Japanese corporations invest and more Japanese tourists visit Pakistan in the future, added Mr. Kojima.

He appreciated the teachers and the staff of Japanese Language Department of NUML, for their valuable contribution for providing the opportunity to Pakistani citizens to learn the Japanese language.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Rector NUML Brig (Retd) Aziz Ahmad Khan, while thanking the Ambassador for sparing his busy time to grace the occasion said that students had worked hard to learn the difficult Japanese language and there by a part of Japanese culture in the given short period of time.

Japanese Language Class at UET, Lahore

We have learned that Dr. Masood Tindyala who joined UET, Lahore two years ago as a professor has been conducting Japanese language classes as an extra curricular activity. At one time, there were sixty six students learning conversational Japanese. However, the number of more committed students usually ranges from 15 to 20. Dr. Tindyala believes that a number of students who likely to go to Japan for graduate studies, attend short language courses and gain only rudimentary command of the Japanese language. In Japan, these students use English the books and converse in English with their teachers/advisors. The end result is that they come back with degrees but without getting real education in "Japanese" way of thinking and doing things. He believes that exposure to language courses like the one he has started, will give a firm footing to students who have serious intentions to study in Japan. Dr. Tindyala who is a 1969 Tokodai graduate, has been using forty years old Mombusho books for his Japanese language classes. It should be pointed out that Dr. Tindyala started this language program without any outside help. Dr. Tindyala's field of expertise is Ceramics and High-Temperature Composites.

AN UPDATE

The list of the MAAP Members till December 2006 is being updated. All the MEXT Scholars who are going to graduate in 2007 are requested to register with MAAP Association after there safe return to Pakistan.
As informed earlier to all MAAP members through E-group communication, the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad has agreed to earmark a piece of land measuring 4.5 acre (approx.) in the Fatima Jinnah (F-9) park, Islamabad.

The CDA leadership principally agreed upon the development of such a unique typical Japanese garden in the heart of city (F-9 Park) as part of the theme of gardens being developed there. During the meeting held in the last quarter of 2006 between Chairman CDA (Mr. Kamran Lashari) and honorable Ambassador of Japan, Mr Seiji Kojima, they discussed the possibility to initiate this project. According to the understanding of the meeting, the CDA will provide all services including cost for developing infrastructure and O&M in-short everything, except the design of the proposed garden which is a specialized job and may require assistance from the Japanese embassy for providing technical support to arrange layout plan and landscape etc. We hope and wish for the speedy progress and follow-up from CDA in this pleasant addition in the capital for the community.

An update about the background; earlier in Sept. 2005 a coordination committee was formed by the CDA officials and MAAP executive members in a joint meeting held on Sept. 19, 2005 in the office of Mr Mazhar Hussain, D.G (Environment) CDA. Three members committee consists on Mr. Hassan Malik (P.D, F-9 Park), Mr. Naeem (Architect, CDA) and Dr. Nasir M. Khan (JS MAAP) were given the assignment to conduct physical survey for the site selection in F-9 Park. Accordingly, the survey was carried out along with the representative of Nayyer Ali Dada Assoc. (NADA) for bench marking of the site. Consequently, a piece of land along the rain-drain near the entrance gate located on Khayaban-e-Iqba road was recommended to CDA to earmark as suitable area. The location is shown in the picture.
On behalf of the embassy of Japan, Islamabad, I would like to appreciate the kind presence of MAAP Alumni and wanted to thank you for your cooperation at the annual "MAAP Orientation" meeting and reception held at the embassy of Japan and the Ambassador’s residence respectively on 7th March, 2007. I would also like to thank and appreciate all the MAAP members who joined the reception meeting and interacted with new MEXT scholars 2007, especially the cooperation for the orientation presentation by Mr Sultan Sikandar Khan, MAAP President, Dr. Nasir M. Khan, and Mr. Zafar Mahmood.

In fact, it was a good opportunity for all MAAP Alumni to meet each other and at the same time a great occasion for the fresh Grantees-2007 to interact with the Alumni in order to prepare for the change and differences they would encounter during their stay in Japan in their academics and social life. Since the Japanese embassy also invited some journalists to the reception, it proved to be a good opportunity for publicizing MAAP activities and the Japanese scholarship programme in the leading newspapers of the country. We hope that all scholars will return back after completing their education in Japan and serve Pakistan with their knowledge and expertise. The scholars were also asked to join MAAP activities to promote friendship between two countries after their successful return from Japan. With sincere thanks for all the help extended by MAAP alumni, we wish all the best to new Grantees 2007 for their endeavor.
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Dr. Iftikhar Azim Niaz
(M.Sc, M.B.A, PhD Engg.)

Dr. Iftikhar was born in Rawalpindi. He completed his B.Sc. from Pakistan Marine Academy, Karachi in 1998 and was awarded with President's Gold Medal for being Best All round Cadet. He served for two years in Cargo vessels as Deck Officer. He did his M.Sc. in Computer Science from Quaid-i-Azam University in 1994 and MBA from Allama Iqbal Open University in 1999. He joined as Lecturer in the Department of Computer Sciences of Quaid-i-Azam University in 1995. He went to Japan in April 2000 and joined University of Tsukuba. He completed his PhD in Engineering in November 2005. His PhD title was "Automatic Code Generation From UML Models". He visited many Japanese cities during his stay and found the Japanese people to be very courteous, helping, hardworking and peace loving people. He studied the Japanese language at the University of Tsukuba for more than 2 and half years and completed all the levels of Kanji and 4 level of Grammar and loves to communicate in the Japanese language. Currently he is serving Islamabad.