Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori was born in Ishikawa Prefecture on July 14, 1937. He graduated in 1960 from the School of Commerce of Waseda University. He then joined the Sankei Shimbun in April 1960. In December 1969, he was elected to the House of Representatives (now serving his tenth term). In November 1977, he was appointed as Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary. In December 1983, he was appointed Minister of Education. In January 1991, he became Chairperson, Committee on Rules and Administration, House of Representatives. In October 1991 he was elevated to the post of Chairman LDP Policy Research Council. In December 1992 he was appointed Minister of International Trade and Industry. In August 1993 he was made LDP Secretary General. In August 1995, he became Minister of Construction. In November 1996 he was appointed Chairperson, LDP General Council. In July 1998, he became LDP Secretary General. In April 2000 he was elected Prime Minister. In July 2000 he was reelected Prime Minister. He is married and has two children.

Dr. Najam Siddiqi

It is a great honour for the people of Pakistan to welcome H.E the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Yoshiro Mori to Islamabad on Aug. 20, 2000. His visit will strengthen the relations of the two countries which are strong partners in all the walks of life. Japan is the biggest business partner of Pakistan.

MAAP in particular thanks the Government of Japan, Ministry of Education, Monbusho, for allotting eleven scholarships for the talented students of Pakistan. We have all studied in Japan and have gained very useful experience which is helping us in serving our country. However, eleven scholarship per year is a very small number for this nation of 130 million people. We therefore request H.E Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Mori, to kindly increase the number of scholarships to at least twenty per year.

MAAP is not only serving Pakistan but also organizing many cultural programmes for better understanding of the cultures of the two nations. We also arrange Japanese language courses for the young people who are interested to visit Japan or to study in Japan. MAAP is playing a role to bring the two nations as close as possible.
The cherry blossom season in Japan ended in early April. Like the chrysanthemums, cherry is Japan's sacred flower. In fact when the word "hana", flower, is spoken without any qualifying word accompanying it, it means just one flower, the cherry blossom. Cherry blossoms are called "sakura" in the Japanese language which is a corruption of "sakuya" which mean "blooming".

Cherry blossoms have generally five petals, but there are also some double cherry blossoms that have more than five petals. A refreshing drink is made in Japan by preserving the double petal blossoms in salt and then, when desired, putting a few of such preserved blossoms in a cup of hot water. It is called "sakura yu" or cherry blossom hot-water drink. This is for special occasions such as "o-miai", or the first meeting of the intending bride and the bridegroom.

Cherry blossom tree belongs to the apple and cherry family. The fruit of the Japanese flowering cherry trees is very small and it is not edible. But the wood of the cheery trees is quite useful. It is hard, tightly grained wood, used for making high quality furniture. In olden times, cherry tree wood, because of its hardness, was used to make printing blocks for books and pictures.

Each year, the cherry blossom season starts from Okinawa which is the southernmost prefecture, or province, of Japan. Then the flowering starts moving northward, reaching Tokyo in March. In northern Honshu, which is the main island of the Japanese archipelago, and Hokkaido, which is the main northern island, the trees are in full bloom in April and even later, in May, in certain places. This northward "movement" of the flowers is called the "cherry blossom front". For the Japanese, the start of the cherry blossom season is a big event. The T.V. and the newspapers report almost daily about the "speed" at which the flower-front is moving northward.

When the season is on, the trees are covered with slightly pinkish white flowers in such great profusion that the branches are almost completely hidden under them. When the breeze blows the small white petals start falling, making a pearly white carpet on the ground below. It is a sight to behold. No words can describe the beauty and the ineffable sense of sadness that fills one's heart when one is viewing the flowering cherry trees.

Cherry flowers have a short life-span of about one to two weeks. They are often compared to the ancient 'samurai' warriors, who were so much engaged in fighting battles that their lives were often very short.

When I was a student at the University of Tokyo, I lived for a few years in the room 305 of the foreign students'
hostel at Komaba. Right below my window, there used to be a magnificent cherry tree that gave me immense viewing pleasure for about two weeks every year. I used to spend 10 to 15 minutes every blissful morning looking at its blossoms. My room was auspicious for another reason, too. Most days I could look out the window and gaze at the snow-clad, almost perfect cone, of the Mount Fuji at about six each morning. There are quite a few perfectly cone-shaped volcanoes in the world; there is one in the Phillipines; quite a few in Latin American countries, two or three in East Africa. The name of Ngorongoro comes to mind. But none can match the sublime beauty of the Fuji. The perfect shape of the snow-capped Mount Fuji and the short-lived grandeur of the cherry trees have become so ingrained in my heart that I only have to close my eyes and recall those scenes and become transported to that world of beauty and splendour.

The cherry blossoms are not gorgeous like the flame-trees, not large like magnolia, nor scented like the frangipani. They are merely tiny white five petalled flowers that bloom for a week or ten days and then the petals start falling to the ground one by one and are gone. Their life is so short and ordinary like the lives of the vast majority of human beings, ordinary and short. But they do have a mysterious charm. Cherry is a tree of hope. At the end of the cold, bleak and blustery winter, the row upon row of the flowering trees is a sight of matchless beauty. It brings hope of a bountiful harvest. The Japanese financial year starts about this time. This is the season of flower viewing. Large, boisterous parties are arranged under the flowering trees, where people drink innumerable cups of rice wine, sing songs and have a good time. But the sight of flower petals falling, falling, falling into the slush and being washed away in icy water is a saddening experience too. One begins to wonder why life is so short, beauty so ephemeral, and death so pervasive.

There are many places in Tokyo which are famous for cherry viewing parties, among these are the Shinjuku public park and the Ueno park. I personally used to go to the small park of the Komaba campus of the Tokyo University, which was only a few hundred meters from my hostel, early in the morning when not many viewers were present there, and again in the afternoon just after the sunset. That was a lovely, lovely experience. Looking back over my life, I can truly say that the few hours that I spent viewing the cherry flowers were some of the happiest moments of my life.

Japan donated thousands of cherry saplings to the United States of America in 1912 which even today can be seen in the Washington DC. Let us hope that some day Japanese government will donate some cherry trees to the Islamabad Development Authority to plant in and around Islamabad. This gesture will, I am sure, cement the ties of cultural friendship between our two countries by making our city the cherry blossom capital of South Asia.
Pak - Japan Cultural Events during 1999

The Embassy of Japan with the collaboration of Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Islamabad, organised a Japan Children Art Competition specifically for the school children of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on October 19, 1999.

Dr. Bashir Saifi, President of Pakistan Haiku Society addressing the participants of Haiku Mushaai held in Islamabad on December 3, 1999 at Holiday Inn Islamabad.

Inauguration ceremony of Annual Japanese Calendars Exhibition 2000, at Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar.


The participants of Japan Children Art Competition in Lahore on Oct. 26, 1999.
In Japan, like here in Pakistan, marriage of two persons is traditionally viewed less as a union of two persons in matrimony and more as an alliance of two families. But in Japan the trends have changed greatly since the end of the Second World War. According to the public data, in 1997 only about 10 percent of the marriages were arranged marriages; the rest of the 90 percent marriages were "love marriages". Only 18 years ago, in 1982, 29 percent of the marriages were arranged by the parents, but trends have been fast changing and it appears that very soon the "arranged marriages" will become a rarity.

Although the Japanese people believe in Shintoism-Buddhism, almost 53 percent of the marriage ceremonies are performed according to Christian rites, with a white bridal dress, etc. Why? Because, the bride in a white bridal dress and the bridegroom in a black coat and striped tie look romantic and the bridal pictures look more modern and beautiful. Japanese people have a great love for "modern" things.

Thirty two percent of the marriage ceremonies are performed according to the ancient "Shinto"—the way of the gods—tradition. Shinto is Japan's traditional belief system. Over 11.5% of the couples decide to shun the religious ceremony and marry in secular way by going to the city office and signing a few papers.

The marriage ceremony costs have also been going up, and now it costs around 8.1 million yen, which is about seventy thousand dollars or 38 lacs of rupees. Over half of this cost is borne by the bridegroom.

The average age of men at the time of marriage is over 30 years, and that of women over 27 years. In 1950, these figures were 26 years and 24 years. The number of persons below 50 years of age who have never married is 9% for men and 5% women. Comparative figures for 1950 were 1.7 percent for men and 1.4 percent for women. Divorce rates are also on the increase. In 1960, just over 8 percent marriages ended in divorce. The figure for 1997 is 29%. This is quite comparable to the divorce rates for the western European countries.
About 50% of the couples who go for honeymoon abroad prefer to go to the United States of America. Of which 26 percent go to Hawaii. Finally, today, 4% of all the marriages in Japan are international marriages. Cupid seems to be working overtime.

The whole of the marriage ceremony takes from two to three hours. The bridal couple change their dresses three times during this period, from western suits to western bridal dress and then to Japanese Kimono.

### How Couples Meet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>At work</th>
<th>Through a friend, brother</th>
<th>At school or university or sister</th>
<th>Arranged marriage</th>
<th>No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Cost of Getting Married

- **Total:** ¥8.08 million
- **(Man’s share, ¥4.39 million)**

- **Wedding ceremony and reception:** 38.0% (3,230,000 yen)
- **Engagement present related expenses:** 7.3% (280,000 yen)
- **Honeymoon:** 8.8% (720,000 yen)
- **Preparations for living together:** 5.3% (432,000 yen)

### Marriage Rites (1998)

- **Christian:** 2.3%
- **Shinto:** 32.3%
- **Secular:** 53.1%
- **Buddhist:** 0.8%
- **Other:** 11.5%

### The Launching of Aikido in Islamabad

The Launching ceremony of Aikido in Islamabad by Aikido Federation of Pakistan was held on 7 March, 2000 at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Hafiz S. A. Rehman became the President and Dr. Mujeeb Tahir, Secretary General of the Federation. Aikido was systematized by Ueshiba Morihei in 1922 from the daito aiki system of jujutsu. The object is to ward off an attack using the attacker's own force. Many moves involve joint techniques locking the opponent's wrist, elbow or another joint in a reverse position, then throwing or pinning him. Such techniques can be dangerous, so training sessions concentrate on practicing techniques in the prescribed order. Competitions are rarely held. Aikido is also popular among women and the elderly because it is a defensive art that requires little strength. About 600,000 persons practice Aikido in Japan, with another 1,200,000 followers abroad.

(Ref: NIPPONIA, No. 10, 1999)
On 20th Oct. 1986, I was on board the Japanese Air Lines for Osaka. It was a big challenge for me because Japanese language is said to be one of the most difficult languages of the world. For the next six months I was studying Japanese language at Osaka University of Foreign Studies.

After six months of hard work, we were able to speak Japanese. I had to go to Yamanashi Medical College for further studies. Located about two hours drive South West of Tokyo in the beautiful prefecture of Yamanashi. Yamanashi prefecture is surrounded by mountains, all lush green and the famous Mount Fuji could be seen peeping behind the other mountains. Dr. Yamaguchi, a young lecturer in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery received me very warm heatedly. My professor was Noryia Akamatsu, the head of Orthopedic Surgery. He welcomed me and introduced me to all the other doctors in his department. Soon my routine at the hospital started. We had to work daily from morning till eight or nine at night. I was very impressed by the hard work of all the staff at the hospital. Main topics of interest and research in the department was Total Joint Replacements. They have designed their own artificial hip joint through computer simulations and animal experiments. Prof. Yoshiki Hamada, a hand surgeon, very kindhearted person, taught me about hand surgery and later basic research on tendons. Dr. Takatoshi Ide was in charge of computer simulation, very hard working dedicated person. He had also developed a gait training robot, which was used daily for mobility of bedridden elderly patients.

Prof. Akamatsu was very fond of excursion trips, I was lucky to be in his department. We went to many places, most enjoyable was the experience of learning skiing. I also enjoyed hot spring bath which is very popular in Japan. During my stay I had many opportunities to introduce Pakistan in schools etc. We lived near Kofu city which was comparatively a small city with few foreigners, therefore we were mostly invited to introduce ourselves. After spending one year I got admission in "Diagaku in" which is a four-year postgraduate course. During these four years I learnt a lot and experienced treating Japanese patients by myself. Because the professional experience, I learnt many other things like working together as a group, punctuality, hard work, honesty, politeness, respecting others etc. Staying in Japan for more than five years was the most useful experience of my life which has trained me to work hard with honesty.
Dr. Ashraf Hussain
Memories of Osaka Gaidai
-Bara ga Saita
Kyushu University School of Medicine

If someone asks me about the best educational period of my life, my answer would be the period in "Osaka Gai dai". (Osaka university of foreign studies). Not only we learned Japanese language but we enjoyed the life and friendly atmosphere. Our section of the class comprised of students from countries like Thailand, Syria, Philippines, Burma, Israel, India, Bangladesh and England. Every one had its own pronunciation difficulties and sometime the class really became a replica of famous BBC TV. Serial "Mind your language". Our Japanese teacher, Mr. Yamaguchi was an open minded jolly fellow. He taught us the language through jokes. We learned the language while enjoying it. Beside this, university was also working hard to make us busy and enjoy. They arranged trips to Toyota City, Skiriosity Kanabe, Meiji Mura and Kyoto shrines. These trips were real learning opportunities. I realized that the Japanese people in core of their heart know that "Science of today is the technology of tomorrow", understood the importance of hard work and honesty in national development.

I wished this period would continue but finally the day came when our section of the class sang "Sayonara Tomodachi" on the stage of certificate distribution ceremony. We departed to join our Universities for professional studies.

RITSUMEIKAN ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
Oita, Japan

Degree Programs
- Bachelor of Social Sciences
- Bachelor of Business Administration

Japanese Not required for admission, Choice of April or October enrollment, 50% Japanese students, 50% international students, Dual-language education in Japanese and English, Various Scholarships available for international students, affordable housing.

How to Apply for Admission
Address: 1-1 Jumonjibaru, Beppu, Oita 874-8577, email: welcome@apu.ac.jp http://www.apu.ac.jp

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN
Graduate School of International Management
Tokyo, Japan

The International University of Japan, Tokyo, has recently started MBA course in English for international students and is also offering scholarships. In fact, 90% of the private students receive a scholarship, and the majority of those scholarships cover full tuition and living expenses.

Address: Yamato-machi, Niigata 949-7277, Japan
Tel: 81-257-79-1502, Fax: 81-257-79-4443
email: crosskm@iuj.ac.jp
Japanese Calendars Exhibition 2000

The Embassy of Japan and Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Islamabad, organized the annual Japanese Calendars Exhibition 2000, the ever-popular spring event in Islamabad, from 4-6 February 2000. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Minoru Kubota, Ambassador of Japan and Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi, President of Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Islamabad on 4th February 2000 at 4 p.m. at the National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad. The exhibition remained open to the public from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on 4th February and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 5-6 February, 2000.

The Embassy made special efforts to obtain over 140 beautiful Japanese calendars directly from companies and organizations in Japan, as well as Japanese trading houses in Pakistan. The calendars covered a wide variety of subjects including flower arrangements, costumes, scenery, art, photography, sports automobiles, etc. These calendars had been printed through the most modern printing process and provided a good opportunity for viewing the various aspects of Japan and its people and culture.

All the calendars displayed in the exhibition were later distributed among the visitors through a lottery held after the exhibition. The winners were informed by post, and were expected to collect their calendars from the Information and Culture Department, Embassy of Japan, Islamabad.

"Hidden Japan"

Exhibition of Photographs by famous Japanese contemporary photographer Mr. Kijuro Yahagi was held on 26 November 1999 at Foyer of Nishtar Hall, Peshawar.
MEMBERS OF THE MONBUSHO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

President:
Dr. Najam Siddiqi
#595, St. 69, I-8/3, Islamabad

Vice President:
Mr. S. Sikander Khan
#692, Double Road, G-9/1, Islamabad

General Secretary:
Dr. Tariq Mahmood
Senior Scientific Officer
NARC, Park Road, Chak Shazad, Islamabad

Joint Secretary:
Mr. Muhammad Akbar
# 882, St. 27, G-9/1
Islamabad

Treasurer:
Dr. Muhammad Ilyas
Associate Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Engineering & Technology
Baghbanpura, Lahore

Information Secretary:
Dr. Imad Ud Ullah
Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry
University of Engineering & Technology
Islamabad

Protocol Secretary:
Mr. Hyder Zaman
# 407, St. 15, Shazad Town,
Park Road, Islamabad

MEMBERS:

1. Dr. Abdul Haque
   (Osaka University, 1988-91)
   House No. 8, St. 12
   Block W, Madonna Town
   Faisalabad

2. Mr. Muhammad Youssaf
   (Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology, Yokohama
   Research Institute 1989-91),
   Lecturer in Botany
   Government Degree College
   Tank, NWFP

3. Mr. Muhammad Ahsan
   (International University of Japan,
   Nagoya)
   H. No. 736, St. 105
   I-10/4, Islamabad
   Presently in UK

4. Dr. Abdul Rashid
   (University of Tokyo)
   Asst. Prof. Dept. of Chemistry
   University of Peshawar
   Peshawar
   0525-9332, 0525-9405

5. Dr. Imad Ud Ullah
   (Hiroshima University, 1988-92)
   Asst. Prof. Department of Chemistry,
   University of Peshawar, Peshawar
   051-842446/3182 office,
   0525-510025 residence

6. Dr. Khaleq A. Chaudhry
   Asst. Prof. Dept. of Physics
   Islamia University
   Bahawalpur 63120

7. Dr. Zafar Ibqbal Bhatti
   (Osaka University, 1991-95)
   Dy. Director EPA, Punjab
   P.O. Box 7113
   Lahore 54500

8. Dr. Zafar Ibqbal Bhatti
   (Kyoto University, 1989-90)
   Director, Land Resources
   Research Institute
   National Agricultural Research
   Council, Park Road, Islamabad
   Tel: 240105, 240909

9. Dr. Qasim H. Shah
    Asst. Prof. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
    GIK Institute of Engineering
    Science and Technology
    Topi 23460, NWFP
    Tel: 05372-71858
    Fax: 05372-71889

10. Dr. Tanig Mahmood
   (Chiba University, 1989-94)
    Senior Scientific Officer
    Vegetable Crops, HRI

11. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar
    (Hokkaido University)
    Deputy Director Research (AP)
    PARC, Islamabad

12. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari
    (Kyoto University, 1991-94)
    Senior Scientific Officer
    National Herbarium
    NARC, P.O. Box NIH,
    Islamabad, Tel: 2401551

13. Dr. Islamullah Khan
    Asst. Prof. of Chemistry
    Government College,
    Faisalabad

14. Mr. Sheh Mohammad Ali
    (Kobe University, 1988-94)
    Deputy Director (SS) Plant
    Protection
    Adaptive Research Farm
    D.C. Road, Gujranwala
    Tel: 043-841929, 259422

15. Dr. Muhammad Ilyas
    (Tokyo University, 1991-95)
    Associate Prof. Dept. of Civil
    Engineering
    University of Engineering and Technology,
    Baghbanpura, Lahore
    54890
    Tel: 042-339296, 6864600

16. Dr. M. Naseer Ahmed
    (Tokyo Institute of Technology
    Tokyo Kogyo Daigaku, 1981-87)
    Associate Prof. Dept. of
    Chemistry, Peshawar
    25120
    Tel: 091-842294, (Res.)
    091-8429033 (off)

17. Mrs. Shamshad Fatima
    (Osaka University of Foreign Studies, 1986-87)
    House # 6, Bazer Road,
    G-6/4, Islamabad
    Tel: 817772, 9203852

18. Prof. Muhammad Ibqbal Tahir
    (Tokyo Institute of Technology
    Kyushu Institute of Technology, 1969-65 & 1973-75
    P-122, Staff Colony
    University of Engineering & Technology
    GT Road, Lahore 54890
    Tel: 8633397, 339350

19. Mr. Mirza M. Ajmal Baig
    414-C, Gulgasht, Multan

20. Dr. Najam Siddiqi
    (Yamanashi Medical University, 1986-92)
    Asst. Prof. of Orthopedic
    Surgery
    H. No. 595, St. 69, I-8/3,
    Islamabad
    Tel: 443999

21. Mr. Aamir Mahamood Mian
    (1985-1991)
    95-N, Defence Housing
    Society, Lahore
    Tel: 042-890721

22. Dr. S.M. Saqlan Naqvi
    (University of Osaka Prefecture,
    Feb-June 1995)
    Senior Scientific officer
    Agricultural Biotechnology
    Institute, NARC, Islamabad
    Tel: 241451-9/3009 (off),
    441795 (res)

23. Mr. S. Sikander Khan
    (Tokyo University, 1968)
    # 692, Double Road, G-9/1
    Islamabad
    Tel: 260755

24. Dr. Hadi Zaman
    (Kyoto University, 1991-96)
    Geo Science Laboratory
    # 407, St. 15, Shezad
    Town, Park Road, Islamabad
    Tel: 241063

25. Dr. Shuja Ali
    (Hokkaido University, 1991-96)
    # 1801-9/4, Islamabad
    Tel: 444635
The Pakistan Times

**MAAP to Start Japanese language classes**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Former Students of the Japanese Universities was held to discuss the plan Association’s activities for the year 2000.

The meeting unanimously decided to request the present President, Dr. Najam Siddiqui, to which he agreed. All other posts were also filled unanimously.

The Association is planning to start Japan for Higher studies. The Japanese Ministry of Education offers eleven scholarships to Pakistani students each year for pursuing their studies in the Japanese Universities. The scholarships are both for technical subjects and also for the arts and humanities.

The members of the Japanese Universities alumni Association regularly bring out a colourful newsletter which continue this activity in the current year also and to publish the new issues as soon as possible.

All the former students of the Japanese universities have been requested to contact Dr. Najam Siddiqui at House No. 595, Street No. 69, Sector 1-8/3 Islamabad for information about membership. - NNI (30-03-2000)

---

**Glimpses of Japanese Language Courses Organised by MAAP**

![Japanese language Course closing ceremony](Image)

*From R: Dr. Najam Siddiqui, Mr. Hitoshi Neb & Mr. Kokubo*

![Students of Japanese language Course with their teachers](Image)