Japanese artist's exhibition draws huge crowds in Lahore

Mr. Ikuo Hirayama, a renowned Japanese artist, visited Pakistan in March 2003 to exhibit his paintings showing the culture of the East, Silk Road, and Buddhism etc. He also delivered a lecture entitled "Cultural Exchange of East and West". Mr. Hirayama was born in Hiroshima in 1930 and graduated from the Tokyo University School of Fine Arts. He visited the Silk Road more than 100 times and captured its landscapes on canvas. For Mr. Hirayama, the impetus for painting came from a year of ill health resulting from radiation sickness, which he suffered as a result of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945. He thinks art promotes peace and also has religious significance. Over 16 international and Japanese awards have been conferred on Mr. Hirayama. His paintings exhibition was organized at the Alhamara Art Gallery, Lahore from March 6-24, 2003, by the Embassy of Japan as part of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. A large number of people from all walks of life enjoyed his paintings, which exhibited various cultural aspects of Silk Road.

Calendars and Photographic Exhibition in Islamabad

Commemorating 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan, Pakistan National Council of the Arts, MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan and the Embassy of Japan arranged an Exhibition of Japanese Calendars & Photographs at National Arts Gallery, No. 77, Street 48, F-7/4 Islamabad from 23rd - 25th January, 2003. The inauguration ceremony was held at 4:00 p.m. on 23rd January 2003. H.E. Mr. Minoru Shibuya, Ambassador of Japan was the chief guest.

Starting from 1987, the Japanese Calendars' Exhibition has now become a popular spring cultural event in many major cities in Pakistan. The aim of exhibiting Japanese calendars is to demonstrate the state-of-the-art of printing...
MEXT Alumni Association Annual Get Together

MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) celebrated their annual get together which was followed by dinner at Holiday Inn, Islamabad, on 1st March 2003. Mr. Hajime Kido, Director Press, Information and Culture, Embassy of Japan was the chief guest on this occasion. The meeting was attended by more than fifty members from Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. Dr. Najam Siddiqi, President MAAP, presented report of the Association's activities. During his speech he emphasized the need for more active participation by all the MAAP members. The future activities were also discussed. Recently MEXT is in the process of developing a network among different Japanese Alumni Associations in the Asian countries. Mr. Hajime Kido, in his speech, said that alumni association is doing a great job in bringing Japanese qualified Pakistani people together, and helping the Japanese Embassy in arranging various cultural activities throughout the year. And in this way it is performing the function of a bridge between the people of Pakistan and Japan. He further said that the quarterly newsletter of the Association is worth mentioning as it reflects the image of the Association not only in Pakistan but abroad also. Alumni Association decided to hold seminars in future in different universities of Pakistan on 'Studying in Japan' to familiarize the students with Japanese education system and life style. The newly elected scholars proceeding to Japan in April 2003 also attended the meeting. During the dinner, the members revived their reminiscences of Japan, and enjoyed meeting each other after almost a year.

Mr. Hajime Kido, Director Press, Information & Culture, Embassy of Japan addressing the members of the MEXT Alumni Association. Dr. Najam Siddiqi, President, MEXT Alumni Association presenting the yearly report of the activities of the Association

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http://www.maaD.edu.pk
Election was held on 5th April 2003 for all the office bearers and following were elected as the new office-bearers. They will assume their duties from 1st May 2003 till 30th April 2005.

President
Mr. S. Sikandar Khan
Director, PAEC (Rtd.)
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General Manager / Engineer
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2200476 (R), 0300-8500366

Secretary General
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Associate Professor,
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
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0333-5116146, 9267430 (O)

Information Secretary
Mrs. Zobaida Chaudhry
Scientific Officer, Plant Genetic Engineer
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9255217 (O), 2240042 (R)

Finance Secretary
Dr. Ashraf Hussain
Cardiac surgeon
Hearts International Hospital
pk_hussain@yahoo.com
510888 (O), 051-2260532 (R)

The outgoing President, Dr. Najam Siddiqi congratulated all the members elect, and hoped that the new team would work together with zeal and enthusiasm for the progress and development of the Association.

Technology and techniques used in Japan. The imprints of unforgettable impressions, which it leaves on the viewers' mind, have made it a much-awaited event. Whether artistic or scenic, the essence of all of the wonderful images exhibits a constant message of love and peace from the Land of the Rising Sun, as a blessing to the beholder. These impressions are categorized into various sections that include Ikebana, Japanese and international scenery, Japanese traditional and contemporary art, photography, sports, communications, seasons, fashion and many more. Seventy-nine calendars were displayed at the exhibition by the courtesy of Japanese companies in Japan and Pakistan.

In the photographs exhibition, 65 photo panels were displayed, showing historical photos of Pakistan-Japan cooperation over the past four decades, as well as some of the major projects that have been undertaken through Japan's Official Development Assistance. Japan is one of Pakistan's major aid donors and trading partners for the past many decades, and these photographs give some idea of Japan's cooperation with Pakistan.

Japanese Government Scholarships

Contact The Embassy of Japan, Islamabad for details regarding the Japanese Government Scholarships

Latest list of MEXT Alumni Association Members is available on the Embassy of Japan's website at:

http://www.pk.emb-japan.go.jp/
E-mail: japanemb@comsats.net.pk
Orientation Course for the Scholars Proceeding to Japan in 2003

Orientation Course was organized by the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan on 1st March 2003 at Holiday Inn, Islamabad. The president of MEXT Alumni Association, Dr. Najam Siddiqi gave a presentation entitled "Studying and living in Japan" In his presentation, first he described the system of education in Japan, mentioned the ways and means to get admission, and finally different aspects of Japanese life. He said that the secret of success in Japan depends on hard work, good Japanese language speaking ability, honesty and punctuality. After his presentation, the session was open for discussion. Mr. Sikander Khan, the Vice President, and many other senior alumni members were also present at this occasion. In the end the newly selected scholars thanked the Government of Japan for providing them this unique opportunity to study in Japan. They also thanked the Japanese Embassy and the Alumni Association, for arranging this orientation program for their valuable guidance, and said that they were going to Japan with high hopes and would return to Pakistan to serve their homeland after completing their courses and training.

Mr. Hajime Kido (4th from right-sitting row) Director Press, Information & Culture, Embassy of the Japan with newly selected scholars

LIST OF MEXT SCHOLARSHIP GRANTEEES 2003

Congratulations: You were selected by the Japanese Government to receive the scholarship for the year 2003. I wish you good luck and a very nice trip to Japan. I hope that you will work hard and bring good name to Pakistan. After completing the course, bring back the technology. The MEXT Alumni Association will welcome you as a member on your return to Pakistan. "Minna san, Gambari Mashiyou" The President, MAAP

Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed
LRRI, NARC
Islamabad
Email: iftikharnarc@hotmail.com
University of Tokyo
(April 2003 - March 2005)

Mr. Tahir Muhammad
Faculty of Animal Husbandry
NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar
Email: tahir065@yahoo.co.uk
Kagoshima University
(April 2003 - March 2005)

Preliminary candidates selected for MEXT Scholarships for Research Students 2004 appearing in Japanese language written test at the Embassy of Japan on 2 May 2003

http://www.maap.edu.pk
Pakistan National Council of the Arts, MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan, Pakistan Haiku Society and Embassy of Japan jointly organized Haiku Mushaira on Saturday, 1st February 2003 at 4:00 PM at Holiday Inn, Islamabad. Fifteen poets took part in this Mushaira. It was presided over by Mr. Iftekhar Arif. Haiku is a 17-syllable verse-form comprising three metrical units of 5,7 and 5 syllables respectively. Haiku was established in the era from 1867-1902 by the efforts of Shiki Masaoka. Haiku Mushaira is organized consistently every year in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta. For more information on Haiku, please contact: Pakistan Haiku Society, 288-A, Lane 4, Aslam Shaheed Road, Lalazar, Rawalpindi. Tel. 5563653, email: kej@hblpk.com

http://www.maap.edu.pk
Japanese Traditional Taiko Drummers (AUN) in Lahore

Japanese traditional Taiko Drummers AUN performed a splendid show on 15th of Feb, 2003 at Alhamra Hall, Lahore. The hall was jam-packed. The ceremony started with the speech from Mr. Hayat Ahmad Khan, who is the President of Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Lahore and President, of All Pakistan Music Conference. He described the melody of drummers as unique form of music and compared the Japanese drums with the Pakistani dholls. Mr. Hajime Kido had earlier introduced the AUN group to the audience. Ryouhei and Kohei are twin performers who were born in Osaka in 1969. For the last 12 years, they have performed more than 1000 shows all over the world. They are on the top of Japanese Drum scene in 2003 and are considered as one of the pioneers to the music in the world.

The drumming of the twin Japanese Drum artists fascinated the crowd of Lahore. They also performed with Pakistani drummers & played few traditional Punjabi drum tunes.

Visiting Japan After 30 Years: Sanju Nenburi

The 2nd Reunion of former students of Japanese universities from the Southwest Asian countries afforded me an opportunity to meet old friends and renew contacts with classmates. I met my Bangladeshi friends twice and my Japanese classmates once.

The pleasure of meeting old friends after a lapse of over three decades cannot be expressed in words. The bracingly cold December evenings, the convivial ambience, the sumptuous food, the enjoyable company and the nostalgia-tinged conversation about our bygone student days was a blissful experience. I visited the Tokyo University, and also met my then supervisor Professor Masayoshi Kanno. Roaming about in Komaba, Shibuya, Shinjuku and Hibiya Koen was a dream-like experience. I found that Tokyo had even more skyscrapers, the streets were even more crowded, the young people had grown taller than what I remembered of Tokyo of 35 years ago. I noticed that many Japanese people, especially the young ladies, were attired in designer clothes. The legendary fast Japanese trains had become even faster. There were no visible signs of the so-called decade-long economic down-turn.

The kindness and generosity of my Japanese, Bangladeshi and Thai friends made my stay in Tokyo, Dhaka and Bangkok a memorable experience. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Ikeda, Mr. Saito, Mr. Mori, Mr. Vithit and Mr. Momtazuddin Bhuiyan for their friendship and overwhelming generosity. But above all, I must thank my Bangladeshi friends Anwar, Rafi, Zia and Eskander Chowdhuri for two memorable evenings in Tokyo. Without them it would not have been the same.

Since I had the feeling that I would not return to Tokyo again, my few days spent there had an existential sharpness. I experienced and enjoyed every moment like it was the last time-which it was. To Thai and Bangladshi friends I promised to return at least one more time along with my family and they too promised to visit us here in Islamabad.

Thank you friends. And thank you, Anwar, for the “Monburans”.

http://www.maap.edu.pk
Traditional Japanese Woodblock Prints Exhibition in Lahore

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan, an exhibition of Traditional Japanese Woodblock prints was jointly organized by MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan, The Lahore Arts Council and the Embassy of Japan from 16th-28th Feb. 2003 at Ustad Allah Bux Art Gallery, Allhamra, in Lahore. Mr. Hajime Kido, Director Press, Information & Culture, Embassy of Japan was the chief guest. The President and Vice President MEXT Alumni Association were also present.

The art of woodblock printing originated in the South Asian sub-continent. Buddhist scriptures were carved on blocks in one colour and were used for religious propaganda. This technique of printing arrived in Japan in the early 8th century via China and Korea with Buddhism.

The curator of this exhibition was Ms. Sabah Husain, a renowned artist of Lahore. She studied art at Kyoto City Art College from 1984-1988 and later at a Institute of Technology in Kyoto. She is an Associate member of MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan.

Few MAAP members' Profile - "Minna San Gambarimasho"

Dr. Rauf-I-Azam
Ph.D. (Optimization)
Currently Assistant Professor of Mathematics at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad. Did MSc & MPhil in mathematics from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad in 1990 & 1992 respectively. Won S&T scholarship for PhD. in a countrywide competition. Joined Nara Institute of Science & Technology, Nara, Japan in 1994 and completed PhD from there in 1998. Research work has been published in professional journals of international repute. His study/research interests include Linear programming, Non-linear programming, Mathematical programming and Network flows.

Mr. Zulqarnain Hussain Anjum
Admin/Finance Officer
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sub Office Showak, Sudan
anjum@unhcr.ch, zanjum@hotmail.com
Mr. Zulqarnain received his Masters degree in International Development (Focus on Finance & IT) from International University of Japan, Niigata, in Sept 1998-June 2000. He was Bachelor of Civil Engineering from University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Lahore, Pakistan. From 2000 to 2001, was an employee of Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Communications & Railways, Islamabad, Pakistan. At present he is working at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Showak, Sudan as Admin/Finance Officer(P-3). He had special training in 1998 in Economic Development Institute (EDI) of The World Bank, Washington D.C., USA and later at The Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland at College Park. In 1996 he also received special training by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), in Tokyo, Japan, regarding Highway Construction, planning, financing and management of highways, expressways and motorways.

To his credit he had various awards & honours. In 1989 he was awarded merit certificate from University of Engineering & Technology, in 1984 awarded Silver Medal from University of Engineering & Technology and in 1983, awarded Gold Medal from...
Islamia College Civil Lines Lahore.

Dr. Mohammad Saeed Vohra, MBBS, PhD
vohra66@hotmail.com
Born in Hyderabad, Pakistan, received PhD degree in Anatomy from Chiba University in 1998. Did his MBBS from Sindh Medical College, Karachi University, Karachi in 1991. He is a Petrian and at present serving as Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Isra University, Hyderabad. He presented papers at International conferences in San Francisco in 1996, Washington DC in 1997, Chiba, Japan in 1997 and Lund city, Sweden in 1998.

Dr. Muhammad Mujahid Khan
mujahidkhankk@hotmail.com
Born in Hyderabad, a Petarian, did his MBBS from Liaquat Medical College, Jamshoro in 1992. Proceeded to Japan for post graduation and received the degree of PhD in Anatomy from Chiba University, Japan in 2002. Presently he is working as Assistant Professor at Isra University in the Department of Anatomy. He presented his research papers at San Francisco in 1998, Washington DC in 1999 and Padova, Italy in 2000.

Mr. Taj Muhammad Khan
Proceeded to Japan in April 1999 on Monbusho scholarship and got admission in Professional training school course in Civil Engineering from Yomiuri Institute of Engineering, Tokyo.

Dr. Javed Iqbal
B.Sc. (Civil Engineering), M.Sc. (Public Health Engineering), Ph.D.
javeddr@hotmail.com
Graduated as Civil Engineer from University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, in 1985 and received M.Sc. (Public Health Engineering) degree in 1991. He proceeded to Japan in 1995 as a Monbusho Scholar to study at Hokkaido University and was awarded Ph.D. in 1998. He is presently working as Director, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), Ministry of Environment, Islamabad. Before joining Pak-EPA he was teaching as Assistant Professor at Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering (ISEE) National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Rawalpindi.

Dr. Imdad Ullah Mohammadzai
imdadmo@yahoo.com
A chemist by profession, with a deep love for arts, from the valley of Charsadda (Historically called Pushkalawati, the capital of Gandhara). He graduated from the University of Peshawar, studied chemistry at the UNSW, Sydney, Australia and did his Ph.D. from Hiroshima University Japan. He was a Fulbright Fellow at Wake Forest University, NC, USA and was a AIEJ Fellow at Hiroshima University. Currently he is on the Faculty of the Department of Chemistry, University of Peshawar.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER
This is newsletter of the Monbukagakusho Alumni Association of Pakistan, published from Islamabad. It is intended to provide an update of the activities of the Association and to help its readers to understand the Japanese society and its traditions.

A LETTER FROM BANGLADESH
My dear Sikandar Sahib,
Assalam Alaikum.
Happy New Year.
Thanks for your warm New Year greetings. Really, it was a very happy occasion for both of us to meet after long 35 years. It made me Natsukashii (pining for good old days) about our Komaba Ryugakusei Kaikan life during late sixties. Then you were a young man and I was in my early middle-age. Today you are retired from service and I am a good old man. How fast does the time pass!
I live in a village about 30 km from Chittagong city. I pass my time looking after my school, tending my garden and reading books, magazines and newspapers. I am now trying to establish a technical training centre. All my best wishes for you and your family.

Yours
Eskander Chowdhury